

ISRAEL TOUR CONNECTION (ITC)

**RODEF SHOLOM TEMPLE &
TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL
ISRAEL TOUR**

with Rabbis Gilah Dror and Amy Levin

18 – 28 April 2010
(draft 13 Aug. 2009; subject to change)

Eilat Extension: 27 April – 2 May 2010

“The Land That I Will Show You” *(Gen. 12:1)*

Sunday, 18 April – USA Departure

- Overnight flight to Israel

Monday, 19 April – When You Come Into the Land (Deut. 26:1)

Yom Hazikkaron

- Late afternoon arrival in **Israel**, to be met and assisted at Ben Gurion Airport by your ITC representative
- Proceed to **Tel Aviv** for hotel check-in
- **Welcome dinner** at the hotel
- Participate in **joyous celebrations** as Yom Hazikkaron gives way to Yom Ha'atzmaut (venue to be determined)
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 20 April – Forging Israel's Independence

Yom Ha'atzmaut

- At **Independence Hall**, relive Ben Gurion's moving declaration of the State
- Visit **Sara Ahronson House** in Zichron Yaakov to learn about the valiant underground work and personal sacrifice of this freedom fighter and her Nili compatriots
- Take part in Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities with **V'Ahavta** Masorti congregation in Zichron (picnic? bbq? tiyyul?)
- In **Atlit** walk through the detention camp that held Holocaust refugees denied entry into Eretz Yisrael by the British
- Hotel check-in, followed by a free evening on **Nahariah's lovely promenade**
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Nahariah

Wednesday, 21 April – *In the Footsteps of Mystics and Pioneers*

- Visit the **Keshet Cave** (near Nahariah) for a wonderful view into the Western Galilee and Lebanon; nature trail also available
- Take the cable car to the mesmerizing ocean grottos of **Rosh Hanikra**, at Israel's border with Lebanon
- Enjoy a tour of the synagogues, courtyards, and alleyways of the mystical city of **Tzefat**, including free time for shopping
- Visit the quaint and lovely town of **Rosh Pina**, one of the earliest settlements in modern Israel
- Free evening in Nahariah
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Nahariah

Thursday, 22 April – *Layers of History*

- Explore the fascinating sarcophagi of **Beit Shearim**, where sages from the Mishna were buried; option to study Mishna in small groups by candlelight in the ancient catacombs using ITC's interactive discussion guide
- Visit **Kibbutz Hanaton** to hear about the new programs underway there
- Lunch at Hanaton
- Travel south along Israel's **border with Jordan**
- Stop to tour the remarkable excavation of the ancient Roman city of **Beit Shean**, including a magnificent Cardo, many residences, and amphitheatre
- Hotel check-in and dinner
- Overnight: Dead Sea Resort Hotel

Friday, 23 April – *Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?*

- Ascend **Masada** by cable car. Tour this impressive excavation and discuss the terrible dilemma faced by its Jewish population during Roman times. Then return to the hotel for a **Dead Sea dip OR** Remain at the hotel to enjoy its pool, **spa** facilities, and the amazing **Dead Sea**
- Take a guided tour of the very lovely **Kibbutz Ein Gedi Botanical Gardens**
- Ascent to **Jerusalem**
- Hotel check-in to prepare for Shabbat
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** at Congregation Moreshet Yisrael
- Delicious **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel to be joined by Rabbi Andy Sacks, who will speak about the Masorti Movement in Israel
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat, 24 April – *Sacred Time in Jerusalem*

Parashat Aharei Mot - Kedoshim

- Shabbat services at a choice of neighborhood synagogues (suggestions, walking instructions to be provided)
- Sumptuous **Shabbat lunch** buffet
- Shabbat afternoon at leisure
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Dror
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 25 April – *The Hills Surrounding Jerusalem*

- At the **Latrun** IDF Armored Corps center, review (or climb on) the tanks and learn about battles fought there for the road to Jerusalem
- Create your own beautiful painted wooden Judaica item, in an **enjoyable workshop** at the Kakadu studios **OR** Stop to see the famous Rappaport sculpture “**Scrolls of Fire,**” an artistic rendition of Jewish and Israeli history, in a scenic setting
- At the Masorti affiliated children’s home, **Neve Hana**, in Kiryat Gat, see the tremendously heartwarming work carried out there with children who have no other home
- Enjoy a winery tour and tasting at the very lovely **Ella Winery**
- Free evening in Jerusalem
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 26 April – *Jerusalem of Old*

- Take part in *shaharit* services at **Robinson’s Arch**, the “Conservative Kotel,” with Rabbi Dror
- Tour **David’s City**, the most ancient section of Jerusalem, built by King David, including recent excavations and the new 3-D presentation (latter, if available)
- Free time for lunch (on one’s own) and shopping in the **Jewish Quarter**
- Stumble across many archeological finds as you take part in a hands-on **dig through archeological matter** that has been dumped into Emek Tzurim **from under the Temple Mount**
- Free evening in Jerusalem
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 27 April – *The Modern City*

- Please choose two or three of the following visits, with the remainder of the day free for final shopping, packing
 - Visit the new Holocaust Memorial Museum at **Yad Vashem** (age 12 and up only); discuss how the State of Israel dealt with the legacy of the Holocaust as we visit monuments such as the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles, the Children's Memorial, the Valley of the Communities
 - Visit the **Menahem Begin Heritage Center** for a highly moving and informative presentation on the life of this inspiring leader
 - Be let in on a little-known secret from the War of Independence at the **Cable Car Museum**
 - Visit the **Rockefeller Archeological Museum**, housed in a spectacular building, featuring an impressive collection of finds from the British Mandate period
- **Farewell dinner** at Little Italy Restaurant in Jerusalem (dairy)
- Depart for the airport

Wednesday, 28 April – *A Temporary Departure*

- Arrive in USA
- Begin planning your **next Israel trip** with Rabbi Dror and ITC Tours!

Eilat Extension: 27 April – 2 May 2010

Tuesday, 27 April – *Remaining in Israel!*

- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 28 April – *Into the Desert*

- Depart for the **Negev Desert**
- Stop briefly at the impressive **Negev Brigade Memorial**
- Visit **Ben Gurion's Hut** in Sde Boker for personal insight into the life of this outstanding Zionist leader and Israel's first prime minister
- Continue south, stopping at Mitzpeh Ramon to gaze into the **Ramon Crater**, an other-worldly geological wonder
- Enter the crater and travel south through the Paran Wilderness to the resort city of **Eilat** for hotel check-in
- Free evening on Eilat's bustling boardwalk
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Thursday, 29 April – *Sun and Fun OR The Wonders of Petra*

- Spend the **day at leisure** sampling the delights of Eilat, including beautiful beaches, your hotel's pool and spa facilities, a Red Sea yacht cruise, water-skiing, paddle boats, wind-surfing, banana boats, snorkeling, a swim with the dolphins, or scuba- and "snuba"-diving to get up close and personal with Red Sea coral and fish (extra charges apply for some of these activities)

OR

- Early departure for **Petra** to explore the amazing decorated red rock formations of the ancient Nabateans. Enter Jordan at the Arava crossing and travel to the **Red Rose City** by bus (approx. 2.5 hours). Tour its treasury, the Roman theatre, and the impressive caves and rock formations of this **Nabatean City**; buffet lunch included (not included in the tour price)
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Friday, 30 April – *The Delights of Eilat*

- Day at leisure to enjoy the delights of Eilat
- Delicious **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Shabbat, 1 May – *Shabbat in Eilat*

Parashat Aharei Mot - Kedoshim

- **Shabbat at leisure** in Eilat
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Sunday, 2 May – *Departure*

- Morning departure on domestic flight to Tel Aviv
- Return flight to USA from Ben Gurion Airport