

The three Rabbis are once again leading a tour Join us for an amazing Israel tour on Israel's 70th Independence Day

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin - Israel Center of Conservative Judaism

Rabbi Manes Kogan - Hillcrest Jewish Center

Rabbi David Wise - Hollis Hills - Bayside Jewish Center

April 15 - 25, 2018

"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."

Tour package includes: Hotels: Dan Panorama Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and Kibbutz Nof Ginosar in the north. All breakfasts, Shabbat Dinners and Lunch, 5 Week-Day Dinners, plus 4 week day lunches as per itinerary. Touring with Rabbi Kogan, Rabbi Fryer Bodzin and Rabbi Wise and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled Deluxe Touring Motor Coach. Round trip flights JFK to Tel Aviv "Air pricing will be available Aug. 2017"

Tour Highlights: Independence Day in Israel, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, celebrates Israel's declaration of independence in 1948. It's a day of fun, picnics, BBQ food, and parties. And lots of blue and white flags everywhere! on this amazing tour that has been designed to include attractions and sites for Israel travelers of all levels. If this is your first time in Israel you will be fascinated by the sites and history that surround you. Coming back to Israel again? We have designed an experienced Israel traveler track in the itinerary that will add depth to previously visited sites like the artist colony in Tzfat and the Multimedia tour of the Menachem Begin Museum. While the first timers visit Yad Vashem and the Israel Museum returnees will visit Ketef Hinom - A First Temple Period burial site on the grounds of the Begin Center where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found! Everyone will enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of Israel on this fantastic adventure. Your senses will be filled with the life, smells, tastes, sounds, and textures of modern Israel, along with an appreciation of the connections of our Jewish roots, biblical history and greater awareness of contemporary events and challenges facing Israel today. An amazing tour filled with meaningful experiences, fun and much, much more!

Trip costs and reductions

Full Cost (credit Card payment)

Land only \$3198. per person in double room Single room supplement \$894

Third person in a triple room: subtract \$300

Added to the above costs are tips for guide, driver restaurants and portage \$190

Air pricing will be available Aug. 2017 - Tour price is based on 30 paying participants

Discounted cost (check payment)

Land only \$3075 per person in double room Single room supplement: \$860

View itinerary and download application or register online: www.israeltour.com/3rabbis

Call or email Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin 718.591.5353 - email - rabbirfb@iccj2004.org

Tour arranged by ITC Tours llc 800.247.2575 or email Yafa@israeltour.com

Sunday, 15 April – Depart U.S.A. on an overnight flight to Israel

Monday, 16 April – Going up into the Land – Afternoon arrival in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative. *Time permitting:* Tour historic "Little Tel Aviv" to discover the quaint **Neve Tzeddek** neighbourhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years". Check-in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**. Welcome dinner at **Liliyot Restaurant**. Liliyot is run by **Elem**, to train at risk youth for careers in the restaurant trade. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 17 April – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State (Erev Yom Hazikaron) – Multimedia tour of the **Palmach Museum** to learn about the elite underground organization that played a critical role in founding the State of Israel. Meet new immigrants from France and other countries at **Ulpan Neve Tzeddek**, where they are learning Hebrew and beginning their absorption into Israeli society. At **Independence Hall** relive David Ben Gurion declaring the new State of Israel. Hear about the establishment of **Tel Aviv** standing at the **Founders' Monument** on **Rothschild Boulevard** and see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch on your own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin** crafts fair. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** and bohemian **Sheinkin Street** – All three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the "**Magen David Junction**". Free time to **swim** in the **Mediterranean Sea** and enjoy beachside Promenade. Dinner at hotel. Evening: **Yom Hazikaron program** (at Masorti synagogue or at a neighborhood memorial service). Participate in the meaningful **Shirim Bakikar** musical memorial for Israel's fallen soldiers. Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, 18 April – People, Pioneers and Geopolitics in the Western Negev – (*Yom Hazikaron – Memorial Day for Israel's Fallen Soldiers*) Travel to **Ashkelon**. Visit the **Netzach Yisrael Masorati** congregation in **Ashkelon** to make our first personal acquaintance with Masorati/Conservative Judaism in Israel. At **11:00** stand in solemn memory of Israel's fallen soldiers as sirens sound throughout the country (Possibility of attending a Yom Hazikaron service). Lunch at Salad Trail (Sandwiches). Follow the **Salad Trail** as you tour and taste in hi-tech greenhouses featuring the best of Israeli ingenuity in battling desert conditions to produce delicious vegetables and herbs. Learn the story of the brave 1948 Western Negev battle with Egyptian troops as you gaze at both Egypt and Gaza (from a secure setting); release a **homing pigeon** carrying your special message, as Jewish fighters did to communicate with their Tel Aviv compatriots during the **War of Independence**. Travel to Jerusalem. Check in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** in Jerusalem. **Evening:** As Memorial Day transforms to **Independence Day** join the evening's festivities as Israelis "switch" from mourning to revelry. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, 19 April – Independence Day in the Rebuilt Jewish Quarter – Celebratory Yom Ha'atzmaut Shacharit service at the Masorati Kotel. Discover the archaeological story of the Western Wall and episodes from rabbinic texts while standing where Jewish pilgrims walked 2,000 years ago at Robinson's Arch and the Southern Wall Excavations. Discussion of the Masorati Kotel (Ezrat Yisrael) and the Women of the Wall movement. Tour of Jewish Quarter including the Cardo, Broad Wall and Rooftops followed by free time to shop and explore on own. Afternoon picnic lunch – A Yom Ha'atzmaut tradition. Dinner on own. Watch the Night Spectacular – Sound and light show at the Tower of David. Overnight: Dan Panorama Jerusalem

Friday, 20 April – Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity – Tour of Yad Vashem Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial. Meaningful visit to the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery to discover chapters in the history of Israel while visiting the graves of our fallen soldiers, among them Yoni Netanyahu, Mike Levin and Hannah Senesh. 2nd Timers Option – Multimedia tour of the Menachem Begin Museum to see its presentation on the history of Israel as seen through the life of Menachem Begin. Visit Ketef Hinom – A First Temple Period burial site on the grounds of the Begin Center where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found. Walking tour of the quaint Nachalot neighborhoods to discover a world of history, folklore and ethnicity just blocks from downtown Jerusalem. Explore the raucous Machane Yehuda Market and take in a slice of local life as you see Jerusalemites begin preparing for Shabbat. Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat. Attend Friday night services at Kehillat Zion, a local Masorati synagogue (Subject to availability/space). Festive Shabbat Dinner at hotel. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat/Saturday, 21 April – And on the Seventh Day... in Jerusalem – Optional Shabbat morning services at your choice of local synagogues Study session at the Conservative Yeshiva. Lunch at the Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism. Free time to relax and explore on own. Late afternoon walking tour to Mishkenot Sheananim, the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City. AND/OR: Walking tour to First Temple period burial site at Ketef Hinnom – Where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found. Havdalah with Rabbis Kogan, Fryer Bodzin and Wise. Free evening. Dinner on own Overnight: Dan Panorama Jerusalem

Sunday, 22 April – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics? – Set out across the Judean Desert and ascend Masada by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence. Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne? 2nd Timers Option – Walk in Ein Gedi Nature Reserve opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul. Swim in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, at the Ein Gedi Spa. The Ein Gedi Spa also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense. Lunch at Ein Gedi Spa. Travel north through the Jordan Valley. Time permitting: Visit the Kinneret Cemetery, final resting place of early Zionist thinkers and pioneers, to discover their stories and the poetry of Naomi Shemer and Rachel the poetess. Early evening boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, followed by dinner at Decks lakeside restaurant. Check-in to the Nof Ginosar Hotel on Kibbutz Ginosar by the Sea of Galilee. Overnight: Kibbutz Nof Ginosar

Monday, 23 April – Ancient and Modern Geopolitics and Israel's Finest – Walk in the lush Tel Dan Nature Reserve, one of the sources of the Jordan River, where you'll discover biblical intrigue and one of the oldest arches in the world. Lunch on own. Tour of the strategic Golan Heights to visit bunkers where the Syrian army used to look down at Israel below. Then look out from the peak of Mt. Bental to gain a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics. Please choose one of the following two "touring and tasting" options. Both located on nearby Kibbutz Ein Zivan. Chocolate making workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory. OR: Guided tour of the boutique Bahat Winery including wine tasting. Barbeque dinner with Israeli soldiers. First hand encounter with young people who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel. Return to hotel. Overnight: Kibbutz Nof Ginosar

Tuesday, 24 April – Builders of Jewish Life in Ancient and Modern Times – Explore ancient Tzippori and study Jewish texts in the ruins of the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna. Discover its magnificent mosaics, including Mona Lisa of the Galilee and ponder why an ancient synagogue floor features a wheel of the zodiac. Lunch and learn with Rabbi Yoav Ende on Kibbutz Hanaton, Israel's only Masorati kibbutz. Walking tour of Zichron Yaakov, an early Zionist pioneering settlement (Moshava), now an upscale community. Farewell dinner at Bistro 56. Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – See you again soon!

Wednesday, 25 April – Arrive in U.S.A. – Begin planning next Israel trip with Rabbis Kogan, Fryer Bodzin and Wise and ITC Tours!