

Jewish Federations of Heart of New Jersey & West Central New Jersey



April 2026

Prepared by: David Abraham

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary is not final and is subject to change based on time, weather, security and other considerations.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL & FIRST PIONEERS (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, April 13 2026

- Welcome to Israel!!! Land at **Ben Gurion Airport** on Flight # where you will be met by our **VIP service** representative once you exit the plane & escorted through passport control, baggage claim & customs. Please keep your blue slip from Passport Control throughout the trip.
- Meet your guide & driver and start your adventure together!
- Stroll through the immaculately maintained **Rothschild Gardens** - a tribute to the man who did so much to promote settlement & agriculture in the area, and have your opening session
- Lunch at Rothschild Gardens (included)
- Visit the **Illegal Immigrant Detention camp of Atlit**, where Jews attempting to reach the shores of the Land of Israel prior to Independence, were imprisoned by the British. This was also the site of a daring breakout orchestrated by Yitzchak Rabin in 1946.
- Continue towards hotel & check in
- Dinner at hotel (included)
- Participate in a self-organized **Yom HaShoah** ceremony

Overnight: Dan Carmel Hotel - Haifa

DAY 2 - YOM HASHOAH - REBUILDING FROM ASHES (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, April 14 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Lookout over the world-famous **Bahai Gardens** in Haifa
- **10:00 am:** Commemorate those who were killed in the **Holocaust** during the two-minute siren that marks **Yom Hashoah**
- Encounter the heroes who fought against the Nazis during the Holocaust, at the **Ghetto Fighters' Museum**.
- Meet students and hear the success stories of **Yemin Orde** - a home, school and safe haven to 440 at-risk and immigrant youth from around the world and enjoy lunch with the students
- Meet with **Sarit Zehavi** founder and president of the **Alma Research Education Center** for an in-depth analysis of Israel's security & geo-political challenges
- Take a scenic boat ride from **Akko to Haifa**
- Dinner on own in the Haifa Port
- Return to hotel

Overnight: Dan Carmel Hotel - Haifa

DAY 3 - TEL AVIV - START UP NATION (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, April 15 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out of hotel & depart
- Visit the state-of-the-art **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** which celebrates the vision of former President Shimon Peres & the incredible "blue-and-white" technological innovations that have changed the world we live in.
- Participate in a **Street Art Graffiti Tour** in downtown Tel Aviv commemorating the heroes of **October 7th** followed by a graffiti workshop where you get to leave your own mark on the urban landscape
- For lunch, enjoy a **cooking workshop** in Tel Aviv
- Behind the scenes tour of the state of the art **Marcus National Blood Services Center** in Ramle - the world's first underground anti-missile blood center
- Continue towards Jerusalem
- **Welcome to Jerusalem!** Enjoy a spectacular lookout over Jerusalem from the **Haas Promenade**
- Check in to hotel
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 4 - JERUSALEM - CITY OF 3 RELIGIONS (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, April 16 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Ascend the **Temple Mount** & see the Dome of the Rock & Al Aksa Mosque
- Time for reflection at the **Western Wall**
- **Option 1 (first timers):**
Explore the fascinating **Western Wall Tunnels** that unlock the secrets of Jerusalem's glorious past
- **Option 2 (returnees):**
Exclusive **VIP Tour** in the **City of David** highlighting the newest excavations & areas that are not open to the general public
- Everyone: Lunch on own in Jewish Quarter
- Everyone: Explore the **Christian Quarter** including the **Via Dolorosa** & **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**
- Summary of the day at the impressive **Jaffa Gate** and the newly renovated **Tower of David Museum**
- Host **IDF soldiers** for a **BBQ** on their base
- Return to hotel

Overnight: Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 5 - EREV SHABBAT - HEROES OF ISRAEL (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, April 17 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- **Option 1 (first timers):**
Pay tribute to the Memory of Six Million at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** & Children's Memorial
- **Option 2 (returnees):**
Volunteer assisting with **food preparation** for IDF lone soldiers
- Everyone: lunch on own
- Pay tribute to the IDF heroes who are interred at the **Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery**, including those who have fallen since October 7th
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat
- Join thousands of Jews from around the globe in joyous celebration of Shabbat at the **Western Wall**
- Shabbat dinner at the hotel, including hosting a few current **IDF Lone Soldiers**
- Evening speaker: **Aaron Leibovitz** - educator and started Hashgacha Pratit, a kosher certification independent of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate

Overnight: Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 6 - SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM (GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, April 18 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- **Morning at leisure on own in Jerusalem. Options include:**
- Relax by the pool
- Join morning services at a local synagogue
- Explore the impressive **Israel Museum** including the Shrine of the Book, Model of Jerusalem, Archeology Wing, Sculpture Garden & Wing of Jewish Life.
- Lunch on own
- **Afternoon walking tours**
- **Option 1 (first timers):**
Tour of the **Jewish Quarter** - synagogues, Cardo, broad wall and more
- **Option 2 (returnees):**
Tour of the **neighborhood of Talbiyah**- once a mixed neighborhood and now considered one of the wealthiest in the City. Home to the Prime Minister and President of Israel
- **Musical Havdallah**
- Evening & dinner on own

Overnight: Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- **Early departure:** Don't forget towels, bathing suit, water, hats and sun screen
- Everyone: Visit with the **Ma'ale Adumim Foundation**
- Lunch on own en route
- **Option 1 (first timers):**
Experience the sensation of **floating in the Dead Sea** – the lowest place on Earth - at **Kalya Beach**
AND
Ascend the formidable **desert fortress of Masada** where the Zealots contested the might of the Roman Empire
- **Option 2 (returnees):**
Discover the fascinating ruins of **Qumeran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Understand the life of the Essences
AND
Visit the site of **Qasr Al Yahud**, the place where the Children of Israel and Joshua crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land and the Baptismal Site
- Everyone: Transport yourselves to the Days of the Bible as you visit Abraham's Tent in **Genesis Land** - includes camel rides, pita-baking, traditional desert hospitality & dinner
- Return to Jerusalem

Overnight: Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem

- Check out of hotel & depart
- Visit the **Castel** - site of one of the most significant battles to lift the siege of Jerusalem during the War of Independence in 1948
- Explore the **Burma Road** by jeep. This secret passage helped ensure the survival of Jerusalem during the critical days of the War of Independence in 1948
- Visit a local **winery**, sample the local fare, and enjoy lunch there (included)
- Spend time at a **Federation-connected site**
- Continue to hotel & check in
- Dinner at hotel (included)
- Travel to Gvar'am for a **Yom Hazikaron** ceremony
- **8:00 pm:** One-minute siren sounds
- Return to hotel

Overnight: West All Suite Hotel Ashdod

DAY 9 - YOM HAZIKARON - REMEMBRANCE & REBUILDING (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, April 21 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Begin the day at **Gvar'am** commemorating **Yom Hazikaron**
- **11:00 am:** Two-minute siren sounds
- Visit **Sderot** including a lookout over Gaza, the site of the Police Station, & Children's Playground. Additionally, visit with local school children
- Enjoy lunch at **Hummus Shel Tehina** a bastion of delicious homestyle cooking and warm service that'll make you feel right at home (included)
- Visit the site of the **Nova Festival** & meet with **a survivor** of the attacks
- Stop by a **Migunit**, the small shelters people hid in during the attacks on October 7th
- Return to hotel
- Enjoy an evening at **Gvar'am** celebrating **Yom Ha'atzmaut** (includes dinner)
- Return to hotel

Overnight: West All Suite Hotel Ashdod

DAY 10 - YOM HA'ATZMAUT & DEPARTURE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, April 22 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out of rooms and leave bags at the concierge
- Yom Ha'atzmaut day with **Gvar'am** (includes lunch)
- Travel to Tel Aviv for last minute **shopping/free time**
- **Closing dinner** at local restaurant (included)
- Transfer to **Ben Gurion Airport** for your flight home
- Depart on flight #___
- **NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!! AM YISRAEL CHAI!!**

Mailing Address:
Phone & Fax - Toll free US & Canada:

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