

SHIR AMI FAMILY ISRAEL TRIP- JULY 2026



July 2026

Prepared by: Rachel Gordon

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO ISRAEL!!! TRAVEL TO TEL AVIV- THE BIRTH OF STATE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, July 13 2026

- **Welcome to Israel!!!** Arrive at Ben Gurion where you will be escorted through passport control, baggage claim and customs. Meet guide and transportation
- **Welcoming ceremony** as we **Plant a tree** in the **JNF Ben Shemen Forest** to "replant life" after the forest fires in the last year and the challenging times in Israel.
- Transfer to Tel Aviv
- Trace the **Independence Trail** along the trendy **Rothschild Boulevard** with its buzzing cafes, famous Bauhaus architecture, historic landmarks & Innovation hubs
- Lunch on own in Tel Aviv
- 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
- Explore the vibrancy of Jewish Life & peoplehood at the ultra-modern, interactive **ANU Museum**
- Check into Hotel- settle in and relax
- Dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 2 - TO THE NEGEV- REBUILDING THE COMMUNITY (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, July 14 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Travel to the **Western Negev** - Gaza envelope
- Visit **Adi Benegev** - One-of-a-kind rehabilitation village is an innovative social center and the exemplar for a truly inclusive community.
- Lunch in Sderot (included)- OR - bring (donate) Shwarma lunch to soldiers in the Gaza area and hear from them about their service.
- Visit the site of the **Nova Music Festival** in the Re'im Forest and pay respect to the memory of those who were killed by the Hamas terrorists
- Enjoy the thrill of **sand-boarding** in the Negev Desert
- Dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Kedma Hotel - Negev

DAY 3 - SDE BOKER AND RAMON CRATER (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, July 15 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Lookout over the striking **Zin Valley** from the tomb of Israel's legendary prime minister - David Ben Gurion
- Enjoy a beautiful nature walk in the **Ein Avdat** desert oasis
- Participate in an immersive hands-on workshop at the artisan **Lasha Bakery** and experience the elemental power of baking bread (included)
- Learn about Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut at the **Ramon Visitor's Center**
- **Off road Jeep Tour** in Machtash Ramon see the beautiful formations of the crater.
- Dinner at hotel (included)
- **Star-gazing** in the Ramon Crater far away from the city lights

Overnight: Kedma Hotel - Negev

DAY 4 - JUDEAN DESERT (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, July 16 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and EARLY departure
- Don't forget towels, bathing suit, water, hats and sun screen on the bus
- Ascend the formidable **desert fortress of Masada** where the Zealots contested the might of the Roman Empire
- Lunch on own en route
- Explore the beautiful **desert oasis of Ein Gedi** where David fled from King Saul and cool off under a waterfall
- Experience the sensation of **floating in the Dead Sea** – the lowest place on Earth - at **Kalya Beach**
- 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 (included)
- Continue to Jerusalem

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 5 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG OR IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR SOLDIERS- JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, July 17 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Departure - Wear closed- toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty
- Re-enact the most famous battle in history when David killed the giant Goliath in the **Valley of Elah**
- Participate in a real-life archaeological excavation as you **Dig for a Day** in Bet Guvrin. This is followed by a spelunking adventure as you explore the underground caves & subterranean passageways.
- **OR**
Volunteer and visit to the **Michael Levin Center** in Jerusalem. Buy equipment for the lone soldiers and hear about the Center
- Experience the vibe at the **Machane Yehudah Outdoor Market**
- Lunch on own
- Visit the **Castel** - site of one of the most significant battles to lift the siege of Jerusalem during the War of Independence in 1948
- Enjoy an easy nature hike to the **Sataf** spring in the Jerusalem Hills
- Prepare for Shabbat
- Join thousands of Jews from around the globe in joyous celebration of Shabbat at the **Western Wall**
- Shabbat dinner at hotel (included)- Host lone soldiers for dinner

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

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

Saturday, July 18 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Day at leisure on own in Jerusalem. **Options include:**
- Morning at leisure to relax by the hotel pool
- Join morning services at **one of Jerusalem many synagogues**
- Visit the **newly renovated Tower of David Museum** and walk through the different eras of Jerusalem's fascinating history
- 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 in Jerusalem (available also at the hotel)
- **Meeting with the Rabbi and the guide** - reflection on the week
- Afternoon walking tour with guide: Enjoy walking through the beautiful **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood & **Montefiore's Windmill**
- Musical Havdalla!
- Watch the **Sound-&-Light Spectacular** screened on the walls of the **Tower of David**. (Show is outdoors. Please dress warmly & ensure to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start.)

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 7 - OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, July 19 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Departure from hotel - don't forget water shoes
- Meet some of the elderly at **Yad LaKashish** (Lifeline for the Elderly) and hear about this amazing establishment
- Walk in the footsteps of Prophets & Kings in the **City of David** & feel the Bible come to life. Wade through **Hezekiah's Water Tunnel** dug some 2700 years ago (prepare to get wet; maximum height of water is around 30 inches; bring flashlight & water-shoes)
- Explore the fascinating **Western Wall Tunnels** that unlock the secrets of Jerusalem's glorious past
- Time for reflection at the **Western Wall**
- Lunch in Jewish Quarter on own
- Experience the sites & sounds of the historic **Jewish Quarter** including the Cardo, Broad Wall, Batei Machase & more
- Summary of the day at the impressive **Jaffa Gate**
- Dinner on own in Jerusalem

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 8 - NEW JERUSALEM- TRAVEL NORTH (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, July 20 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Honor the Memory of Six Million at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** & Children's Memorial
- Lunch on own
- Pay tribute to the IDF heroes who are interred at the **Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery**. Hear some of the heroic stories from the soldiers from October 7th. Visit the grave of **Michael Levin**
- Continue North via **Jordan Valley**
- Dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Isrotel Gomeh Hotel

DAY 9 - GOLAN AND GALILEE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, July 21 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Depart for the Golan
- Lookout over the border with Syria from atop the former Israeli forward post of **Mt. Bental** & gain a deeper understanding of the complex & changing realities on the ground
- Explore the gorgeous **Hazbani** Nature Reserve where nature, history & hydro-politics come together. Bring water-shoes/ sandals & prepare to get totally wet.
- Lunch on own
- Discover the Mystical City of **Tzfat**, including the beautiful synagogues, artists' colony, candle factory & more
- **Evening boat ride on the Sea of Galilee**

Overnight: Isrotel Gomeh Hotel

DAY 10 - COASTAL PLAIN - DEPARTURE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, July 22 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Descend by cable car to the stunning **Rosh Hanikra Grottoes** where the azure waters of the Mediterranean meet the chalk-white cliffs.
- Visit the heavily fortified old **British Prison in Akko** where members of the Jewish Underground were incarcerated, and sometimes executed, prior to Independence in 1948
- Lunch on own
- **Summary of the trip** at the magnificent port city of **Caesarea** including the Roman Theater, Hippodrome, Palace of King Herod & more...
- Final dinner- Banquet - summary of the trip!
- Travel to **Ben Gurion Airport** - return flight to the USA

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