

SUTTON PLACE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY ISRAEL MISSION 2026



December 2026

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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 JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, December 23
2026

- **Welcome to Israel!!** Arrive at Ben Gurion where you will be met by our representatives after you have gone through passport control, baggage claim and customs. Meet bus and tour guide.
- Travel to Jerusalem
- **Welcome to Jerusalem!** Enjoy a spectacular lookout over Jerusalem from the **Haas Promenade**
- Check into Hotel- settle in and relax
- Dinner at hotel- **opening and welcoming** by Rabbi Ain, Rabby Levy and tour guide

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 2 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AND OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, December 24
2026

- Overlook the site of 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.
- Boxed lunch (included)
- Introduction to the Old City of Jerusalem at the impressive **Jaffa Gate**
- Walk along the **Ramparts of the Old City Walls** from Jaffa Gate to Zion Gate
- Experience the sites & sounds of the historic **Jewish Quarter** including the Cardo, Broad Wall, Batei Machase & more
- Time for reflection at the **Western Wall- the Kotel**. Group Mincha at **Ezrat Yisrael** - Egalitarian section of the Kotel
- Dinner on own at the **Machane Yehuda Market**

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 3 - NEW JERUSALEM- PREPARE FOR SHABBAT (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, December 25 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Pay tribute to 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**
- Group photo and brief explanation about the Israeli political system as we overlook the **Knesset** from the **Menora**
- Return to prepare for Shabbat
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** at **Yemin Moshe** with Rabbi Ain and Rabbi Levy
- Shabbat dinner at the hotel (included)

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 4 - SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM (GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, December 26
2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Morning at leisure on own in Jerusalem. **Options include:**
- Join morning services at a local synagogue at **one of Jerusalem's many synagogues**
- Explore the impressive **Israel Museum** including the Shrine of the Book, Model of Jerusalem, Archeology Wing, Sculpture Garden & Wing of Jewish Life.
- Explore the **Christian Quarter** including the **Via Dolorosa** & **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**
- Rest at the hotel
- Lunch at the **Fuchsberg Center**- the Conservative Center in Jerusalem. Meet with a Masorti representative and hear about the community and organization today.
- Afternoon walking tour in the beautiful **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood & **Montefiore's Windmill**
- Musical Havdalla at the hotel
- Sing, dance and laugh through the midrachov (mainstreet) in Zichron Yaakov on a unique, **guided musical tour with Guru Zuzu**
- Dinner on own- **Ben Yehuda Street or Mamilla**

Overnight: Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

DAY 5 - JUDEAN DESERT- TO NEGEV (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, December 27
2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Don't forget towels, bathing suit, water, hats and sun screen
- 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 **Eion Bokek Beach**
- Continue to Negev
- Dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Kedma Hotel - Negev

DAY 6 - SDE BOKER- NEGEV (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, December 28

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
- Authentic lunch at the **Bedouin tent of Khan Shayarot**
- Camel riding in the Desert
- Enjoy the thrill of **sand-boarding** in the Negev Desert
- Dinner at the hotel (included)

Overnight: Kedma Hotel - Negev

DAY 7 - RAMON CRATER AREA (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, December 29

2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Learn about Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut at the **Ramon Visitor's Center**
- Off road Jeep Tour in **Machtesh Ramon**
- Picnic lunch
- **Options:**
 - 1) **Rappelling** off the walls of Machtesh Ramon
 - 2) **Alpaca Farm** in Mitzpe Ramon
 - 3) **Bow and Arrow workshop** in the Desert
- **Star-gazing** in the Ramon Crater far away from the city lights
- Dinner at the hotel (included)

Overnight: Kedma Hotel - Negev

DAY 8 - GAZA ENVELOPE - TO TEL AVIV (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, December 30

2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Travel to **Gaza Envelope**
- **Volunteer project** in the Gaza area - either in Agriculture or any other Tikkun olam (TBD)
- **Shwarma lunch together with soldiers guarding our border**
- Visit the site of the **Nova Music Festival** in the Re'im Forest and pay respect to the memory of those who who killed by the Hamas terrorists
- Continue to Tel Aviv
- Dinner on own in Tel Aviv

Overnight: Carlton Hotel - Tel Aviv

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out and depart
- Explore the story of the birth of Tel Aviv and the establishment of the State of Israel, at the **Independence Hall Exhibition** (hopefully reopened by then)
- 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
- Lunch on own at the **Carmel Market**
- Summary of the trip by exploring the vibrancy of Jewish Life & peoplehood at the ultra-modern, interactive **ANU Museum**
- **Summary of the trip** with Rabbi Ain, Rabbi Levy and guide
- **Final dinner** at a local restaurant in Tel Aviv (included)
- Travel to **Ben Gurion Airport** for return flight to the USA
- **NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!**

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