



**The Jewish Experience Couples Getaway:
Building our Relationship as a Couple
with our Homeland**

May 10 – May 20, 2021

Guide: Patrick Amar

(This is a preliminary version of the itinerary; it may be subject to revisions and change.)

Package Price Includes:

- ★ **Overnight Accommodations: 9-10 nights including 2-3 nights in the North (Galilee of Golan), 5-6 nights in Jerusalem, and 1 night at a Dead Sea Spa Hotel.**
- ★ **Meals: Daily breakfast buffet, 3-4 lunches and 4-5 dinners.**

- ★ **Guiding: Services of a professional guide from your first email until the end of the tour.**
- ★ **Transportation: Professional driver with a luxurious air conditioned bus, according to the needs of the itinerary.**

Sunday, May 9

Depart from Denver, Colorado to arrive in Tel Aviv on Monday. If you prefer, you may decide to arrive a few days earlier for touring on your own or relaxation.

Monday, May 10 (the schedule of this day will be determined by flight arrival times)

Our guide Patrick Amar and our driver -- with a private luxurious touring bus -- will meet us at Ben Gurion airport. Once everyone has gathered, we will hop onto the bus for a short ride to **Caesarea** by the Sea, the amazing 2,000 year old port city built by Herod. Here is where we will begin our journey, "Building our Relationship as a Couple with our Homeland."

Lunch/Visit Zicharon Yaakov. This funky town full of art galleries and eclectic shops was founded by the idealistic Jewish pioneers of the First Aliyah in 1882.

We will then travel to either Tzfat or Tiberias where we will settle into our accommodations for the next few nights, and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Plan for the evening is to relax and get to know each other.

(Lunch and dinner are included on this day).

Tuesday, May 11

Breakfast at the hotel.

We'll begin our day with a walk through Tzfat, seeing some beautiful historic synagogues along the way. We will visit with a world renowned **Kabbalist artist** (with Denver connections!) for a discussion of art & kabbalah.

We'll tour the **oldest mikvah** in use in Israel, and share ideas of how water can make us as holy as possible to fulfill our greatest purposes.

You will love just being in Tzfat, and will have plenty of **free time to enjoy lunch and shopping** in some of the best shops in Israel for handmade jewelry, art, and Judaica.

Make sure to stop into Tzfat's famous candle factory.

We will then head to **Rosh Hanikra**, on the border of Lebanon, with its exquisite views of the Mediterranean Sea. We will take a short cable ride down the cliff to see the grottos and caves at Rosh Hanikra that have been formed by thousands of years of the water making impressions on the rocks. For the adventurous, there's an option of an **ocean kayaking excursion**. We will top off this spectacular day with a **sunset dinner**.

Return to the hotel.

(Breakfast and dinner are included on this day).

Wednesday, May 12

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today will be an exciting day exploring the beautiful **Golan Heights** including **Mount Bental** near the border with Syria. Mount Bental - a key battle site in Israel's fight for the Golan in modern wars - has original army bunkers for visitors to explore as well as magnificent views of the Golan and Syria.

Next, we will put on our hiking shoes for a beautiful nature walk at the Banias springs. You will be amazed by the white water flowing in Israel! We will enjoy some local chocolates and wines at a Golan Heights **chocolate maker and winery**, and meet locals including visiting IDF soldiers on an **army base**.

Dinner at the hotel.

(Breakfast and dinner are included on this day).

Thursday, May 13

Breakfast at the hotel, check out.

We will stop on our way to Jerusalem today at **Shiloh**, one of the first spiritual centers of Israel, established by Joshua when he led the Jewish people into the Land of Israel. The Tabernacle that had been with the Jews in the desert found its home in Shiloh over 3,500 years ago, and there are still remnants there today! Over the years, Shiloh became known as a place where Hannah modeled for us Jewish prayer, and until today, the Jewish festival of love, Tu b'Av.

We'll visit the **Shiloh Winery** and chat with **Ami Lourie, founder and historian**.

After lunch at Shiloh, we will continue our journey to today's spiritual center of the Jewish people, Jerusalem! We will check into the hotel, and then head out to the **Old City of Jerusalem** for a class at **Aish HaTorah** "The Jewish View of Marriage" with Speakers Rabbi and Mrs. Cowland (if available). We will spend a few meditative moments in the **Hall of Notes** writing our Kotel notes, and then have some time to approach the precious Kotel stones and to place our notes. Next to the Kotel, we can enjoy a **Virtual Reality experience** of ancient Jerusalem; you will feel as if you have walked inside the Beit HaMikdash, and can take a look around!

A free evening to go out with other couples or friends/relatives in Israel will be just perfect after this powerful day.

(Breakfast and lunch are included on this day).

Friday, May 14

Breakfast at the hotel.

It will feel so right to take some time on our amazing trip to volunteer in one of the **chesed projects** in Jerusalem. We can also visit the **Temple Mount Sifting Project** and have a part in uncovering Israel's incredible history!

Friday is the day for lunch and tastings in the **Mahane Yehuda Shuk (Market)**

We will make sure to have plenty of time to get ready for Shabbos.

Shabbat dinner will be in the Old City, with a visit to the Kotel, for a joyous welcoming of the shabbos as we share this special shabbat together in Jerusalem.

(Breakfast and dinner are included on this day).

Saturday, May 15

Breakfast at the hotel.

Shabbos services at one of the many **remarkable shuls** within walking distance. After the service, we will be treated to a special **Shabbos lunch** and discussion about life in Israel (hopefully at the home of a family who moved to Israel from Denver). We will take the afternoon nice and easy with a **walking tour of the Jewish Quarter** including the historic **Hurva Synagogue** - a powerful symbol of the return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem, and the 3rd meal of Shabbat hosted in a local home. **Ben Yehuda Street** is the place to be Saturday night for a free evening out on your own!

(Breakfast, Lunch and 3rd Meal are included in this day).

Sunday, May 16

Breakfast at the hotel.

We will travel to the Old City for **customized learning** in the local yeshivas of **Bircas Hatorah and Aish HaTorah**. Next, we will have a tour of either the **City of David** or the **Kotel Tunnels** where through the incredible archaeology we will see what set Jerusalem apart from other cities as a key spiritual center for the Jewish world and the world in general. Enjoy some free time in the Old City for lunch and shopping.

We'll reconvene to prepare for the Holiday of Shavuot.

Evening learning and **Shavuot programming** including dinner

(Breakfast and dinner included in this day).

Monday, May 17

Jerusalem is the best place to be on Shavuot! We will plan a special day with festive meals. Details TBD.

Tuesday, May 18

The second day of Shavuot is observed outside of Israel but in Israel it's a regular day.

This is a perfect day for everyone to have **free time in Jerusalem**.

(Breakfast is included in this day).

Wednesday, May 19

Late breakfast at the hotel, and check out.

We will drive to the Dead Sea spa hotel, and stop at some wonderful sites along the way. Enjoy a nature walk at **Ein Gedi's desert oasis**, a true getaway, where King David hid out in the ancient times, and the gentle mountain goats find a safe haven today.

The **Ahava Factory** is a must when in the area for some of the best Dead Sea products.

We will arrive to the **Dead Sea Spa Hotel** with plenty of time to dip in the waters of the Dead Sea and relax before dinner and an evening program.

(Breakfast and dinner are included on this day).

Thursday, May 20

Enjoy some time in the morning to sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast, perhaps a massage (best to pre-reserve).

We will visit with a local craft maker associated with **Lev Haolam**, an organization specializing in connecting Israeli products with the Diaspora.

Mid-day, we will check out and head to Tel Aviv for a **farewell dinner** as a group, before heading to the airport.

(Breakfast and dinner are included on this day).

Leave Israel with wonderful memories, deeper relationships and great inspiration.