

Honeymoon Israel

Colorado

July 18th - July 28th, 2024





Day 1: Thursday, July 18, 2024

6:33 AM Depart Denver Airport on DL4272

5:30 PM Depart JFK Airport on El Al flight #002

Overnight: FLIGHT

Day 2: Friday, July 19, 2024

BRUCHIM HABAIM! (WELCOME TO ISRAEL!)

11:00 AM Arrive to Ben Gurion Airport

Meet the Routes representative for assistance with arrival formalities after passport control

Meet the group tour educator in the arrivals hall

Depart to Jerusalem

Lunch en route on own

Welcome to Jerusalem: For thousands of years, tourists, travelers, and pilgrims have celebrated as they take in the first view of Jerusalem. Together, we will stop at the **Haas Promenade**, a scenic overlook of Jerusalem for a stunning overview of the city. We will be able to see the walls of the Old City and the surrounding neighborhood, getting our bearings before exploring them in the coming days, and we will celebrate our arrival with special rituals and blessings, reminding us of how lucky we are to have arrived at this moment.

Check into the hotel and prepare for *Shabbat (the Jewish day of rest)*

Shabbat Candle Lighting & Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcome to Shabbat) together with your new friends overlooking the Old City.

Shabbat Dinner at the hotel with other HMI groups. We will hear welcoming remarks from the Honeymoon Israel team and [Avraham Infeld](#), leading Jewish educator, President Emeritus of Hillel International, and member of the Honeymoon Israel Advisory Board

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 3: Saturday, July 20, 2024

CONSTRUCTING A FIVE-LEGGED TABLE - SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

Breakfast at the hotel

The 5-Legged Table - Reflections of the Jewish Family: Avraham Infeld, leading Jewish educator, President Emeritus of Hillel International, and member of the Honeymoon Israel Advisory Board; will share the vision that Judaism is more than a religion, a guiding framework to our trip together.

Kiddush (late morning snack) at the hotel and processing session

Shabbat Walk: A Shabbat walk is one way to embrace the rest and relaxation of the day of Shabbat. Together we will stroll through the city's neighborhoods, noticing unique historical markers as we make our way to the Gan Sacher Park into Jerusalem's Capitol Hill, called Nayot.

Explore the wonderful **Israel Museum** which houses more than 5,000 years of cultural treasures. Together we will visit the open-air **Model of Jerusalem** during the Second Temple period. A massive scale model of the city as it existed 2,000 years ago, to consider the ways the ancient Israelites practiced their faith and to prepare us to enter its modern version tomorrow. We will visit the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscripts, a reminder of the covenant of Israel. And we will explore the modern sculpture garden, stopping at the famous **Ahavah (Love) Sculpture**.

Return to the hotel by foot or by bus

Honeymoon Israel Conversation at the Hotel: Over the course of our trip together, there will be 4 Honeymoon Israel Conversations, times for the group to join together in a safe and brave space to debrief our experience and consider our future together. This will be followed by a memorable **Havdalah** (Separation ritual to differentiate the week from Shabbat) ceremony to end Shabbat together.

Dinner on own and evening at leisure

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 4: Sunday, July 21, 2024

EXPRESSIONS OF COVENANT: HOLY CONNECTIONS IN THE OLD CITY

Breakfast at the hotel

Geopolitics in the Middle East: Michael Bauer, an educator and the author of “Israel Journey - Eight Days In One Of The World’s Most Complex Countries,” specializes in geopolitical tours in Israel and will give us an update on current geopolitical dynamics in Israel and the region.

Four Quarters, Three Religions, One City: Enjoy a walking tour through **the Old City of Jerusalem**, we will explore the **various Quarters**, to witness diverse communities, their history and holiness. This will include:

- The **Kotel** (Western Wall), Judaism's holiest site on the exterior of the ancient Temple. Each year over one million visitors place notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the Wall. Be sure to bring a pen and paper if you want to participate in this ritual by placing your own prayers in the Wall.
- Experience the Egalitarian Kotel as a group.
- The **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, which is traditionally identified as the site of the crucifixion of Jesus; the church is one of Christianity's greatest pilgrimage sites and a testament to the remarkable diversity of the Christian world.

Lunch on own in the Old City

- Ascend to the rooftops to see and discuss the ties and tensions between the different faith groups and communities of the Old City.
- King Hezekiah's "**Broad Wall**," a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
- **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.

There will also be time to do some shopping while bargaining in the **Old City Shuk** (market) before returning to the hotel; dinner on own

Songs of Hope: When we run out of words, we turn to songs that touch our souls and speak for us when we need it most. After October 7th, Beit Avi Chai began a new series called **Shir Tikva (“Song of Hope”)** that showcases prominent Israeli musicians. Musicians **Maya Belsitzman** and **Matan Ephrat** will share songs that bring them comfort during trying times.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 5: Monday, July 22, 2024

ISRAEL: THE LAND AND STATE

Breakfast at the hotel and set off to explore **Eastern Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.**

Dive into the Complexities of the Israel-Palestinian Conflict: Meet with **Ibrahim Abu Ahmed**, an Arab-Palestinian-Israeli who is a peace advocate, educator, and co-host of the war time podcast “Unapologetic: The Third Narrative,” who will address Palestinian identities and narratives in the conflict, the challenges of the Arab minority living in Israel, and the role of the broader Arab world.

Processing session at the hotel

As Low as It Goes: We'll leave Jerusalem and drive to the **Dead Sea Basin**, 1,412 feet below sea level. This is the lowest place on earth. We will experience breathtaking desert landscapes as we make our way to Lunch in the Dead Sea

Muddy Good Fun: “Swim” in the **Dead Sea**, coat yourself in the world-famous mud, a time-honored tradition enjoyed by all ages. The mud and minerals of the Dead Sea have special healing and beauty qualities. See and feel for yourself. We will also enjoy a **buffet lunch.**

Return to Jerusalem and leisure time at hotel

Honeymoon Israel Conversation

Dinner on own and evening at your leisure

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 6: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

MEMORIES OF OUR PAST, QUESTIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national museum and memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Together we will remember the horror of the Holocaust and consider how it affects our future

The guided tour will include:

- The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave people who saved Jews during the Shoah.
- The **Historical Museum**, an exploration of the history of the Holocaust, the factors that allowed for the rise of the Nazis and the destruction of the Jewish communities.
- The **Children's Memorial**, a memorial to the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
- Time for your group to reflect and process on the powerful experience of visiting **Yad Vashem**

Lunch on Own at Machane Yehuda Market

Depart to Tel Aviv

Visit **Neot Kedumim Biblical Landscape Reserve**, located halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. This unique recreation of the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail allows visitors to see life as it was lived by our ancestors 3,000 years ago. We'll experience a unique **outdoor leadership program**.

Check in to the hotel

Got Questions?

Do you have any burning questions about Judaism? Have you learned something new this week that you want to know more about? Bring any questions you may have that have not been answered yet. Now is a time to have an open and honest dialogue as a group with your Jewish Educator

Dinner on own and evening at your leisure in Tel Aviv

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 7: Wednesday, July 24, 2023

FAMILY: THE ISRAELI MOSAIC

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit **Hostage Square** in Tel Aviv where Israelis, including the family and friends of individuals taken hostage into Gaza on October 7, have gathered since to express solidarity and raise awareness through art and advocacy. We will meet with a family member of an Israeli hostage held in Gaza or hear the testimony of a survivor of the October 7th attacks.

Free time and Lunch on own at the **Flea Market** in Jaffa (feel free to bargain!)

Tour Jaffa with [Abed Abu Shehadeh](#), a **Palestinian political activist** from Jaffa, will guide our group through Jaffa while discussing his identity as a Palestinian citizen in Israel, how the area has changed over the last 75 years, and how the civil unrest in 2021 and the current war impacts coexistence in his neighborhood.

Free time and rest

Put your dancing shoes and a fun outfit on and depart for a special **Dinner Party** where we will enjoy drinks, a lavish buffet, and a live band drawing us to the dance floor for Israeli and Jewish hits.

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 8: Thursday, July 25, 2024

EXPRESSIONS OF COVENANT: JEWISH VALUES IN ACTION

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart the hotel

Join the **Yahel Initiative Service Project** for a day of volunteering program with local communities where they train, support and inspire individuals and organizations to take part in responsible and sustainable volunteering in Israel alongside local community members.

Lunch on own

Continue volunteering with **Yahel Initiative Service Project**

Drive back to Tel Aviv

HMI conversation

Dinner on your own and evening at your leisure in Tel Aviv (Thursday is the start of the weekend in Israel!)

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 9: Friday, July 26, 2024

TEL AVIV: A MODERN HEBREW CITY

Breakfast at the hotel

Embracing the Diverse Israeli Family: Meet **Ashager Agaro**, who was born in Ethiopia and came to Israel as an infant on Operation Solomon. She will share the story of her family and community. Ashager is devoted to Ethiopian Jewish Heritage and sharing the memories of this important and inspirational community.

Visit **ANU – Museum of the Jewish People**, join a fascinating journey that portrays the memory of the Jewish people, a story that stretches across generations and up to the present time. The Museum represents the diversity of the Jewish people and highlights the creativity and culture that has allowed Jewish communities to thrive in different places and across different periods of history

What's Going on in Modern Tel Aviv? Enjoy a **tasting tour** through the trendy and colorful outdoor Levinsky Market in Tel Aviv to sample the diverse food and cultures that combine in this unique modern metropolis

Shabbat Candle Lighting & *Kabbalat Shabbat* (Welcome to Shabbat)

Private **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with the other HMI groups

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 10: Saturday, July 27, 2024

HOPE AND RESILIENCE: SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

Breakfast at the hotel

Experience the unique **Shabbat atmosphere** as many Tel Aviv residents head to the beaches and coffee shops after the work week. Enjoy the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea and the bustling Shabbat ambiance.

Lunch on own

Workshop with **Oded Adomi Leshem** on “Rethinking Hope” at the hotel. We all face challenges, be they big or small. In our families, communities, or professional lives, facing these challenges often requires a particular type of hope: strong, durable, and active. Oded’s presentation and workshop is designed to create a more intimate encounter with the concept of Optimal Hope and shed light on the presence and role of hope in Israeli and Palestinian society. To move forward, we will need to harness the power of hope in both peoples and in the Jewish people around the world.

Honeymoon Israel Conversation, followed by a memorable **Havdalah** (separation ritual to differentiate the week from Shabbat) service overlooking the beach.

Light dinner at the hotel

Havdalah & Closing

Transfer to the Ben Gurion airport and check in for your return flight

12:05 AM Depart Tel Aviv on El Al flight #003