

# Join Midway Jewish Center's Family Bar and Bat Mitzvah Israel Tour With with Rabbi Rafi Rank August 19 - September 2, 2012



## Tour Highlights:

**EL-AL Air Line Newark NJ to Tel Aviv - Return - Non Stop Flights**

**Hotels: Mount Zion Jerusalem, Isrotel Dead Sea, Leonardo Plaza Eilat and Tel Aviv**

All Breakfasts, 2 Shabbat Dinners and Lunches, 6 Week-Day Dinners as per itinerary

Touring with one of Israel's Top Tour Guide Educators in Deluxe Motor Coach

Opening ceremony, Ancient Caesarea, Galilee region, Mystical city of Tzefat,

Distribute schoolbags filled with school supplies to the children of Neve Hana, Dalton Winery,

Kayak on the Jordan River, Tiberias promenade, Golan Heights by jeep, Gamla,

Golan Antiquities Museum, Talmudic Village, Sachne, Israel's border with Jordan, Jerusalem,

Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Masorti Kotel, Southern Wall Excavations, Davidson Center,

Kotel Tunnels, Jewish Quarter, Plant a tree in Israeli soil, Dig for a Day, Tel Azeka,

Kabbalat Shabbat at Robinson's Arch, Shabbat walking tour fascinating Jerusalem neighborhoods,

Havdalah with Rabbi Rank, Sound and Light Show, Tower of David Museum, Yad Vashem,

Herzl Exhibit, Har Herzl Military, Machaneh Yehuda, Dead Sea Region, Masada; Amazing Dead Sea,

Arava Desert, Eilat, Kibbutz Ketura's Arava Institute, Underwater Observatory,

Delights of Eilat or The Wonders of Petra, Mitzpeh Ramon,

Air Force Museum OR Volunteer at "Table to Table;" Na Laga'at, Palmach Museum,

Independence Hall, Nahalat Binyamin, Masorti Center ITC full color source book,

A fantastic tour filled with meaningful experiences and fun!

(check payment) Land Only \$3795 - Air\* and Land Package \$5345 - Single Supplement: \$1285

**Reductions** - Third person over 18 in triple room: subtract \$350

Child, age 2-12 as third person in a triple room: subtract \$570

Bar/Bat Mitzvah, age 12-13 as third person in a triple room: subtract \$690

Child, 14-18 as third person in a triple room: subtract \$520

Reduction for child 3rd or 4th in quad room \$430

Price is based on 25 full paying participants

Added to cost pre collected tips for Guide, Driver and Restaurants \$195 per person

Included in air price - airport tax and fuel surcharge \$570 \* Fuel and Tax surcharge are subject to change

\*Optional Petra excursion Please add \$235 plus border tax of \$50-\$55. Advance registration required.

For information, Itinerary and Application Please call Rabbi Rafi Rank (516) 938-8390

e-mail Rabbi Rank at rafirank@mjc.org

itinerary and application see - [www.israel tours.com/rrank2012.php](http://www.israel tours.com/rrank2012.php)

ITC Tours 1 800 247-7235 - 973 535 2575 [info@israel tours.com](mailto:info@israel tours.com)

**Sunday, 19 August - Israel Pilgrims Overnight flight to Israel**

**Monday, 20 August - When You Come Into the Land (Deut. 26:1)**

Morning arrival (ideally) at Ben Gurion International Airport, to be met and assisted by your ITC representative. Visit the wonderful excavations of ancient Caesarea, including an impressive amphitheatre and aqueduct and the newly-opened multi-media center, where ancient history comes to life. Continue to the Galilee region. Hhotel check-in, a Lake Kinneret or pool swim, and dinner (included) Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar Guest House (or similar)

**Tuesday, 21 August - In the Footsteps of Pioneers and Mystics**

Distribute schoolbags filled with school supplies to the children of Neve Hana at their summer center near Rosh Pina. Tour the courtyards, synagogues, and alleyways of the mystical city of Tzefat. Enjoy a tour and taste the fruits of the region at the lovely Dalton Winery. Glide down the Jordan River in a kayak. Free time for dinner (on one's own) on the Tiberias promenade. Overnight: Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar Guest House

**Wednesday, 22 August - The Golan Heights** - Travel through the Golan Heights by jeep (Shvilim), off the beaten track, and stop to gaze down over the Galilee as the Syrians once did. Please choose two of the following three: Learn about the history of the Golan Heights and the valiant story of Gamla, called the "Masada of the North," at the lovely Golan Antiquities Museum. Travel back to the time of the Mishnah as you visit the excavated Talmudic Village in Katzrin. Swim in the wondrous natural pools at the Sachne. Travel south, along Israel's border with Jordan, for the ascent to Jerusalem. Take in a breathtaking view of the Old City Hotel check-in and dinner (included) Overnight: Har Tzion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Thursday, 23 August - Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem**

Take part in a moving Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Robinson's Arch Explore the Southern Wall Excavations and the Davidson Center In the Kotel Tunnels, walk alongside the Western Wall's massive foundation stones. Free time for lunch (on one's own) and shopping in the Jewish Quarter. Travel through many centuries as you tour the Jewish Quarter Festive Bar/Bat Mitzvah dinner at Anna Ticho House (included) Overnight: Har Tzion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Friday, 24 August - Digging Israel** - Plant a tree in Israeli soil in honor or in memory of a loved one. At Archeological Seminar's "Dig for a Day" program at Beit Guvrin, uncover actual artifacts as you participate in an ongoing archeological dig. "Cave crawl" also available for the adventurous Stop at Tel Azeka and stand on the cliffs where the Philistines camped during the battle between David and Goliath. Gaze down over the battleground and review (or act out) the biblical story on site. Return to Jerusalem to prepare for Shabbat. Sabbalat Shabbat at Robinson's Arch or a synagogue of your choice (suggestions, walking instructions to be distributed) Delicious Shabbat dinner at the hotel (included) Overnight: Har Tzion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Shabbat, 25 August - Shabbat in Jerusalem - Parashat Shoftim**

Shabbat morning services at a synagogue of your choice. Sumptuous Shabbat lunch buffet at the hotel (included) Shabbat afternoon walking tour through fascinating Jerusalem neighborhoods. Havdalah with Rabbi Rank. Evening: Attend the fabulous new Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David Museum. Overnight: Har Tzion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Sunday, 26 August - Those Who Sacrificed.** Visit the new state-of-the-art Memorial Museum (12 and over only), Children's Memorial, and Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem; special tour geared for younger children on site. Take in a special multi-media presentation about the life of the Father of Modern Zionism at the new Herzl Exhibit (if available) At Har Herzl Military Cemetery encounter the "silver platter" on which the Jewish people have acquired - and continue to acquire - our state. Visit colorful, bustling Machaneh Yehuda open-air market - am yisrael chail! Depart for the Dead Sea Region for hotel check-in and dinner (included) Overnight: Isrotel, Dead Sea

**Monday, 27 August - Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?** Early departure for the ascent by cable car to Masada; tour this impressive excavation and discuss the terrible dilemma faced by its Jewish population during Roman times. Return to our hotel to spend some time enjoying its pool, spa facilities, and the amazing Dead Sea. Afternoon departure to travel south into the Arava Desert. Continue south to Eilat for hotel check-in followed by a free evening on Eilat's bustling boardwalk ON: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Eilat

**Tuesday, 28 August - The Arava Desert.** Take part on a workshop at Kibbutz Ketura's Arava Institute on the subject of kibbutz life and kibbutz dilemmas. Tour the Underwater Observatory, one of the largest seaquariums in the world, built into a coral reef. Evening: Enjoy a dinner cruise on the Red Sea (included) Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Eilat

**Wednesday, 29 August - The Delights of Eilat or The Wonders of Petra** Spend today at leisure sampling the delights of Eilat, including beautiful beaches, your hotel's pool and spa facilities, water-skiing, paddle boats, wind-surfing, banana boats, snorkeling, or scuba- and "snuba"-diving to get up close and personal with Red Sea coral and fish (extra charges apply for some of these activities) OR Early departure for Petra to explore the amazing decorated red rock formations of the ancient Nabateans. Enter Jordan at the Arava crossing and travel to the Red Rose City by bus (approx. 2.5 hours). Tour its treasury, the Roman theatre, and the impressive caves and rock formations of this Nabatean City; buffet lunch included (Petra excursion not included in the tour price) Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Eilat

**Thursday, 30 August - Desert Trails** Travel north through the Paran Wilderness and the Ramon Crater to Mitzpeh Ramon Stop to gaze into the other-worldly Ramon Crater from its northern lip; marvel at this unique geological structure and hear the story of its formation from your guide. Please choose one for the group: Visit Israel's Air Force Museum near Beersheva to view the planes and equipment and to hear the story of this brave fighting force OR Volunteer at "Table to Table;" participate in the important mitzvah of leket as you harvest crops for the poor. Continue to the modern Hebrew city of Tel Aviv for hotel check-in. Evening dinner theater: Enjoy dinner at Café Kapish, served by deaf waiters who will teach you sign language during your meal OR at Blackout, served by blind waiters who will teach you how to negotiate a completely dark world during your meal. Either dinner is followed by Na Laga'at, a unique play performed by actors who are both deaf and blind (dinner+play included; advanced registration for dinner choice required) Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Friday, 31 August - Foundations of the Modern State**

Enjoy an impressive presentation of the amazing achievements of the Palmach at the multi-media Palmach Museum. At Independence Hall, relive Ben Gurion's moving declaration of the State; discuss whether it seems that the vision of Israel's founding fathers - articulated in the Scroll of Independence - have come to fruition. Browse through unique craft items in Nahalat Binyamin's colorful, open-air market, and see modern Tel Aviv in action. Take part in a lively, musical community Kabbalat Shabbat at the Tel Aviv Port along with hundreds of Israelis. Delicious Shabbat dinner at the hotel (included) Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Shabbat, 1 September - Shabbat in Tel Aviv Parashat Ki Tetzei**

Shabbat morning services at the new Masorti Center in the historic Neve Tzedek neighborhood. Shabbat lunch buffet at the hotel (included) Remainder of the day at leisure to relax on the beach or explore Tel Aviv and Old Jaffa on one's own (latter is walking distance from our hotel) Farewell dinner at Maganda Yemenite Restaurant (included) Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Sunday, 2 September - A Temporary Departure** - Depart for Ben Gurion Airport for flight to JFK Arrive in New York Begin planning your next Israel trip with Rabbi Rank and ITC Tours!

**Itinerary subject to change**