



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

INTERFAITH TRIP: ISRAEL

*Co-sponsored by The Academy for Jewish Religion
and the College of Mount Saint Vincent*

*In association with Keshet: The Center for
Educational Tourism in Israel, and Field Travel, Inc.*

June 29 - July 9, 2014

TRIP ITINERARY

DATE	PROGRAM
June 29 - July 9, 2014	
Sunday, June 29	Arrive at JFK Airport between 11:00 pm-12:00 am
Monday, June 30	Depart New York City at 2:30 am (EST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in Tel Aviv at Ben Gurion International Airport at 7:55 pm. • Nocturnal Outlook over Jaffa and Tel Aviv. • <i>Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv</i>
Tuesday, July 1	Topic of the Day: "Backwards in Time, Deeper in Space" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. • Visit to the Diaspora Museum. • Walking tour and Lunch on own in Tel Aviv • Descend to the Negev. • Discussion on "Abraham at Tel Sheva." <p>Description: "Particularism vs. Universalism" - "Genesis 12" vs. Genesis 18:25." Compare two visions of Abraham - the prophecy that propelled him to the Land of Israel and the roots of a universal ethical monotheism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunset outlook over the Ramon Crater. • Dinner at hotel. • <i>Overnight: Ramon Inn, Mitzpeh Ramon.</i>
Wednesday, July 2	Topic of the Day: "A Still Small Voice" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early meditation exercise in the Central Negev Highlands. Exercise on "Why was the Torah given in the desert"? • Return to the hotel for Breakfast and check out. • Visit to the grave of David Ben Gurion, with magnificent overview of the Wilderness of Zin. • Meet with Rabbi Sharon Shalom in Kiryat Gat. <p>Description: Rabbi Sharon Shalom walked from Ethiopia to Sudan in 1985 and came to Israel as a child during the clandestine immigration. Today he</p>

	<p><i>is the rabbi of a synagogue in the town of Kiryat Gat and a doctoral candidate in Jewish philosophy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free time for Lunch en route. • Continue to Jerusalem, stopping first at the Benedictine monastery in the Arab community of Abu Gosh. <p>Description: <i>Meet with monks who chose to fulfill their life mission in the Judean Hills.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlook on Jerusalem from Mt. Scopus. • Check-in and Dinner at hotel. • <i>Overnight: Prima Royale Hotel, Jerusalem.</i>
<p>Thursday, July 3</p>	<p>Topic of the Day: “Rome and Jerusalem”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin the day with cool breezes and the panoramic outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade. • Discussion on the “Binding of Isaac,” in Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. • Visit the City of David to view the latest excavations and what could be King David’s palace. • Visit to the Temple Mount Excavations, Robinson's Arch and the Davidson Center. • Free time for Lunch in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. • Walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. <p>Description: <i>Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the traditional site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Dinner at hotel. • <i>Overnight: Prima Royale Hotel, Jerusalem.</i>
<p>Friday, July 4</p>	<p>Topic of the Day: “From Out of the Crucible”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Rabbi David Rosen. <p>Description: <i>Rabbi David Rosen played a key role in establishing diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the Vatican.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Yad Vashem - including the historical museum, Avenue of the Righteous, Children's Memorial and Summary. • Free time for Lunch. • Afternoon in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda Vegetable Market and free time to prepare for the Sabbath in Jerusalem. • In evening, join the throngs of thousands welcoming the Sabbath at the Western Wall, or participate in services in a local synagogue (such as Shira Hadasha or Kol Haneshama). • Festive Shabbat Dinner - either in hotel or with home hospitality at Jerusalem homes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overnight: Prima Royale Hotel, Jerusalem</i>
Saturday, July 5	<p>Topic of the Day: "Sabbath in Jerusalem"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a variety of Jewish prayer services. <p>Description: <i>Each Jewish prayer service will represent different ethnic and liturgical traditions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Israel Museum, including the Shrine of the Book exhibit on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Second Temple Period Model (on foot or by taxi). • Festive Lunch at hotel. • Late afternoon an <i>optional</i> trip to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. • In evening, a nocturnal walk through the Old City of Jerusalem. • Free time Dinner. • <i>Overnight: Prima Royale Hotel, Jerusalem.</i>
Sunday, July 6	<p>Topic of the Day: "Social Justice and Fixing the World"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Mass (TBA). • Visit to Kibbutz Reishit. <p>Description: <i>Kibbutz Reishit is the first of the pioneering movement of "urban kibbutzim" focusing on social justice and breaking the cycle of poverty.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the St. Louis Catholic Hospice in Jerusalem. • Free time for Lunch. • Travel to the Galilee via the Jordan River Valley. <p>Description: <i>Stopping at Qasr el-Yahud (in the Jordan River Valley), a site traditionally associated with John the Baptist).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check into guest house. • Dinner and summary session at the hotel. • <i>Overnight: Nof Ginnosar Kibbutz Guest House.</i>
Monday, July 7	<p>Topic of the Day: "Mystics and Mountains"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus in the Galilee - visit to Capernaum (Kfar Nahum) and the Mt. of Beatitudes. Discussion on "Faith and Works" - the divergence of Ancient Judaism and Christianity. • Drive north through the Upper Galilee to the Golan Heights. Walk through the springs of the Banias to Caesarea Phillipi. • Visit to old Syrian bunker at Tel Facher for a briefing on the history of the Golan Heights. • Free time for lunch. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the mystical city of Zefat - trace the rise of Kabbalah in this city to the Expulsion from Spain in 1492.

	<p>Description: Zefat is the center of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) since the 16th century.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to Ginnosar for program with kibbutz members. • <u>Dinner</u> summary session at the hotel. • <i>Overnight: Nof Ginnosar Kibbutz Guest House.</i>
Tuesday, July 8	<p>Topic of the Day: "Galilee Mosaics"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning at leisure for breakfast and to swim in the Sea of Galilee. • Checkout at 11:00 am. • Visit to the Chemin Neuf Community in Nazareth. Meditation in the Church of the Annunciation. • Free time for Lunch en route. • Visit the ancient city of Zippori. <p>Description: Zippori is where the Oral Law was redacted into Mishna, and site of some of the most beautiful mosaics in the Middle East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary session and <u>Farewell Dinner</u> in Caesarea by the Mediterranean Sea. <p><i>Transfer to the Ben Gurion International Airport.</i></p>
Wednesday July 9	<p><i>Depart Tel Aviv at 12:30 am for an early morning arrival in Newark, NJ (5:40 am).</i></p>

›Overnight accommodations are noted, based on the day and location. The following meals are included: All breakfasts, plus the eight meals that are underlined – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday dinner, and Saturday lunch.

›Listed activities and speakers' participation subject to change. In addition to our leaders, the program by Keshet will be staffed by senior tour educators.

AIR TRAVEL - JUNE 30, 2014 TO JULY 9, 2014

June 30th depart JFK at 2.30 am (that is June 29th after midnight) to arrive Tel Aviv the same evening at 7.55 pm (El Al # 12)

July 9th depart Tel Aviv at 12.30 am (that is July 8 after midnight) to arrive Newark the same day at 5.40 am (El Al # 27)



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