

Temple Beth Or of Dayton Ohio
Mission to Israel
October 12 – 22, 2009

SUGGESTED ITINERARY OF THE MISSION:

Monday, October 12: "Welcome to Israel." Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. A member of our staff will meet you upon arrival at Passport Control in Ben Gurion Airport to assist you with arrival procedures. He will then see you to your driver and guide who will transfer you to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Relax and freshen up before taking a walk to Maganda Restaurant for an authentic Middle Eastern welcome dinner and orientation (The final program will depend upon exact and final flight arrangements). Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Tuesday, October 13: "An Introduction to Israel". After breakfast meet your guide and driver this morning. Drive to the new spectacular "Palmach Museum". Through a modern multi-media presentation view the history of the Palmach from 1941 to the War of Independence and the establishment of the State of Israel. On to the Independence Hall, located in the house of Meir Dizengoff, the first Mayor of Tel Aviv. Here on May 14th, 1948, David Ben Gurion, who became the first Prime Minister, declared the independence of the new Jewish State. "On the Basis of our historical rights (biblical rights) we are building today a democratic Jewish State. We extend our hands to our neighbors for peace, because it is our belief and legacy as well", said Ben Gurion, and everyone responded with "Amen". While in Tel Aviv visit Rabin Square, the site where Yitzhak Rabin, the late Prime Minister of Israel was assassinated on October 4, 1995 when leaving a peace rally. Pay a moment of homage. On to Jaffa (Joppa), one of the oldest biblical cities in the world and an important seaport since antiquity. It was from here that Jonah embarked for Tarshish and was swallowed by a great whale. Tour Jaffa's restored Old City including the artists' colony and the quaint historic harbor. Jaffa has much to offer in the way of art galleries, gift-shops and restaurants found tucked away amongst the winding, cobblestone streets. Your next stop is the famous Shenkin Street which is considered the "Greenwich Village" of Tel Aviv, with its unusual coffee bars, boutiques and restaurants. End the day with a stroll along Tel Aviv's popular Nahalat Benjamin Pedestrian Mall. On Tuesdays, the mall is transformed into an artisan's paradise with performing street entertainers; music and an array of hand made crafts and jewelry stalls. Evening at leisure in Tel Aviv. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, October 14: "Touring along the coast of Israel." Check out of the hotel and travel to the ancient city of Caesarea built by Herod the Great and once the seat of Roman rule. Visit the beautiful excavated Roman Theater echoing theatrical performances of long ago. Today, this theatre still serves as an unusual and spectacular venue for concerts and music festivals. You will also be able to view some of the most recent excavations including the newly uncovered hippodrome. View the Caesarea Harbour project where this fascinating cinematic exhibition will take you on an enchanted voyage throughout the thrilling history of Caesarea. As you journey through the various eras, you will encounter the breathtaking diversity of the magnificent cultures that ruled the city at different points throughout history. Enjoy a new audiovisual experience that will take you on a majestic virtual tour of the site. Along the route you will be exposed to the various civilizations which ruled the city from the Herodian period on thorough the Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Crusaders and up to the early days of the Zionist movement In Israel and the Rothschild settlement project. Drive along Haifa's Panoramic Road from where you will be able to see the golden dome of the Bahai Shrine that is set amid beautiful gardens, and serves as a significant landmark of the city. On a clear day, you can see everything from the Haifa Bay to as far north as Mt. Hermon, all the way across Israel. Further along the coastline, visit the ancient city of Akko (Acre), once the Crusader capital of the North and now a city of mixed Arab and Jewish populations. Walk on the city walls to the harbor, and through the colorful markets, to visit the huge underground Crusader Halls. These Halls were once part of the hostels established by the Crusaders as accommodations for their pilgrims and used as a hospital for their injured warriors. Situated above these halls is the notorious prison that was built by the Turks and later used by the British, to imprison Jewish underground fighters during their struggle against British rule. Here, Jewish freedom fighters were led to the gallows with Hatikvah, the Israeli National anthem, on their lips. The big escape by the Jewish underground from the Akko Prison was one of the most influential events that changed the British public's opinion and aided to the removal of their military forces from Palestine (pending upon renovations being finished). Travel on along the Lebanon border and arrive at Kibbutz Misgav Am situated on the border. Meet with locals there who will explain about the growth of the Kibbutz from its establishment to the present and explain what it was like to live there during the Second War with Lebanon. Arrive at your hotel and check in. Dinner has been included tonight for you at the hotel. Overnight – HaGoshrim Guest House, Galilee.

Thursday, October 15: "The Golan Heights." This morning after breakfast, drive up to one of the highest mountains on the Golan Heights, Mt. BenTal for a view of the Israeli – Syrian lines. Continue to Kibbutz El Rom to experience the special and unique presentation of the heroic story of Brigade 7 fighting on the Golan Heights. While on the Golan Heights, you will have the very special privilege of being the guests of an Armored Brigade on their base. This Brigade has a heroic history of stopping the advance of the Syrian army during the Yom Kippur War. Upon arrival, you will be taken on a guided tour of the base, including the Heritage Room. During your visit meet and talk with soldiers and officers stationed there. If possible you may get to join the soldiers for lunch. (*All arrangements are pending Military Authorities' permission*). Onto the Golan Heights Winery, one of Israel's premier wineries, to enjoy a guided tour and tasting of their excellent produce. Continue to the mountain city of Safed. Although it is only in this century that Jews have begun to return to the land of Israel in large numbers, there has been a continuous Jewish presence in the mountaintop town of Safed for the past 2,000 years. Safed is one of the Four Holy Cities according to tradition and is known for its mystical atmosphere and Kabbalistic studies. This town was a center of 16th century mysticism and is still a magnet for spiritual 'searchers'. Absorb the special ambience of this town of contrasts, where ancient synagogues and modern art galleries exist side by side. As you wander through the narrow, winding alleys, visit some of the beautiful synagogues and browse through the artists' workshops and galleries found in the flourishing artists' quarter. Round off the day with a tasty fish dinner in the picturesque surrounding of the "Dag-Al-HaDan" restaurant located on the banks of the Dan River. Overnight – Ha Goshrim Kibbutz Guest House, Galilee.

Friday, October 16: "Along the Jordan Valley." After breakfast check out of the hotel and drive to Tiberias, capital of the Galilee, situated on the shores of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). This is one of the four Jewish Holy Cities and site of the tombs of Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva and many other outstanding Sages. Famous Hot Springs known throughout the ages for their curative powers are located in this scenic lakeside resort. Nearby are the ruins of the old Kibbutz "Gesher". Established near one of the bridges that once crossed the Jordan, the site was abandoned during the War of Independence. Hear the story of these defenders of a once strategic crossing point over the Jordan River. See a working model of the hydroelectric power station. Your next stop will be at Beit Alpha to view a very special audio/visual presentation that explains the process of making the mosaic floor of a 6th century synagogue. During the presentation we will see this beautifully preserved mosaic floor that depicts the sacrifice of Isaac as described in the Torah. In addition, there are zodiac signs and many Jewish motives, such as a shofar, menorah etc. Stop in Beit Shean for a Falafel lunch (own account). Ascend to Jerusalem. Upon your first view of the eternal Holy City stop for a moment's reflection and prayer. Participate in an age-old tradition by saying the "Shehecheyanu" and "Borei Pri Hagefen" blessing. Check into the hotel and freshen up before the Shabbat. Towards evening, head for Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall or at synagogue of your choice this evening. Dinner has been included tonight for you in a private room at the hotel. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem.

Saturday, October 17: "Shabbat in Jerusalem." (No tour bus service is provided today). Today your guide will take you on a walking tour through various neighborhoods of Jerusalem including Nachalat Shiva, where you will visit the Ma'ase Nissim and Nachlat Ya'akov synagogues. Continue to Yemin Moshe - the oldest neighborhood in New Jerusalem whose construction was funded by Sir Montefiore. In the heart of Yemin Moshe stands the famous windmill which served as an observation point for Jewish fighters during the siege of Jerusalem in the War of Independence. You could stop for lunch in the Old City (on your own account). Here in the Old City we will visit the superb Tower of David Museum, a museum located just inside of Jaffa Gate. As Shabbat expires, participate in a group congregation Havdallah service. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem.

Sunday, October 18: "The Old City of Jerusalem." This morning we start with an overview of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Enter through one of the famous gates and walk through the Old City, the axis around which the three great monotheistic religions revolve. View the reconstructed Jewish quarters. Tour the Jewish Quarter that was reconstructed after the city was unified at the conclusion of the Six-Day War in 1967. A special point of interest in the restored Jewish Quarter is the "Cardo", meaning the "heart" of this ancient Byzantine City. View the unearthed main Roman thoroughfare and ancient marketplace lined with columns. On to the excavations of the Herodian Mansions, located beneath the present-day Jewish quarter, showing how the high priests and wealthy Jerusalemites of old lived. Continue on via the broad, stone stairway down to the holy Western Wall - the "Kotel". Stop at the visitor's center at the Davidson Center located at the Jerusalem Archaeological Park. Guests visiting the center are able to learn, through ultra-modern audio visual presentations and other super high-tech mediums about 5000 years of archaeology history. Take time for a moments prayer at the holy

Western Wall, and follow the tradition of many from around the world that placed their prayers in the cracks of the wall. Near the Western Wall view the archaeological discoveries excavated in a vast, concealed tunnel along the Western Wall. Inside, a most interesting model shows the different dwelling periods and history of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Digging at this site exposed a continuous historical chain wrought in stone, stretching from the Hasmonean era till our time. The wall, almost 448 meters long, has one stone reaching the weight of close to 570 tons. About 2,000 square meters of rooms and public halls were discovered, as well as a section of the Second Temple road, a Hasmonean water tunnel, a pool and many other finds. Accompanied by Dr. Daniel Rossing, the former advisor to the minister of Religion and an expert in Jerusalem minorities (not yet confirmed), enjoy an in depth tour of the Christian and Armenian Quarters. Dr. Rossing will show you the kaleidoscope of peoples that make up the Old City. During the tour, the guests will have the opportunity to meet with religious and community leaders from the different minority groups (not yet confirmed) and will view sites that the first time tourist doesn't see. Suggested dinner (not included) at the Ticho House. The Ticho House is a landmark 19th century building in Jerusalem that houses one of the city's premier dairy restaurants. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem.

Monday, October 19: "The New City of Jerusalem." Start the day with a visit at Yad Vashem, the memorial to the six million innocent victims of the Holocaust. With a local guide, walk through the new Historical Museum, the Children's Hall, the Memorial Hall and view the recently constructed Memorial to the Deportees. Continue the visit by descending to the Valley of the Communities - a man-made valley in the form of the European Map built in remembrance of over 5,000 European Jewish communities that suffered under the Nazis. Hold a memorial service led by Temple clergy and leaders and place a single flower at the community of your choice. Next stop will be at the new Herzl Museum, which provides a spectacular audio-visual encounter with the visionary of the Jewish State, and offers a thought-provoking portrait about the status of the Jews according to Herzl. Visit the Israel Museum and visit The Shrine of the Book, where you will be able to view the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Model of Jerusalem. This vast yet miniature model portrays the city as it was during the period of the Second Temple until the year 70 CE. Continue on by driving via the Knesset, the seat of Israel's Parliament, inaugurated in 1966. Standing opposite the building view the Menorah (Candelabra) symbol of Israel portraying important events in Jewish history. Suggested dinner (not included) at one of the family style restaurants across from your hotel. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem.

Tuesday, October 20: "Touring in the Foothills of Judea." This morning we will visit at absorption center to meet with members of the Ethiopian community to hear of their trials and tribulations, hopes and frustrations. Depart Jerusalem and head for the green Judean Hills to the Ella Valley to the top of Tel Azaka. From the peak of Tel Azaka, learn of the famous battle between "David and Goliath" which took place at the bottom of the Tel over three thousand years ago. North of the city of Rehovot stop off for a tour of the Ayalon Institute Museum,. This was the first "clandestine" bullet production factory operated by members of the "Hatzofim Aleph", "Palmach", and "Habonim" pioneer groups during the British Mandate rule. After viewing an audio-visual presentation we will discover the secret entrance to the underground bullet factory, which was so successfully disguised from the British! Continue to the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, a major center of original scientific research. Visit the home of the first President of the State of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, and then to his gravesite at Yad Weizmann. While here, also view the Science Garden, where you will be able to try your hand at understanding how some of the forces of nature (we so take for granted) work. Stop to see the Solar Valley, where the Weizmann Institute conducts some of the world's most advanced research in harnessing the power of the sun. This evening proceed to the city of Modiin to visit the Reform congregation and the local community there, for home hospitality (not included in the cost). Return to Jerusalem. Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem.

Wednesday, October 21: "Masada and the Dead Sea Region." (Please remember to bring your hats, swimming suits and suntan lotion with you today!) Early morning check out of the hotel and depart to the Dead Sea area traveling south through the Judean Wilderness - a place of refuge and shelter for Jews since time immemorial. Stop off at the desert oasis of Ein Gedi with its lush greenery and cool waterfalls. You will be able to appreciate the unique and flourishing flora and fauna of this area and you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a few beautiful ibex and hyrex hiding in the surrounding mountains. Hike deeper into the coolness of this desert oasis to enjoy the rush of a cascading waterfall in all its natural beauty. This is the place where King David hid from King Saul during Biblical times. Arrive at Masada and ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car. As you explore the ancient remains of fortifications, King Herod's palaces, storerooms and baths, you will hear about the spirit of its last Jewish defenders. These Zealots held out for three years against the legions of Flavius Silva and chose to die as free men at their own hands in preference to Roman slavery. From the top of Masada, the

outlines of the Roman encampments are still visible below. Descend by cable car. Continue along the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, and arrive at a lovely hotel, located on the shores of the Dead Sea. Here we will have lunch and enjoy a swim in the hotel's swimming pool or go down to their private beach to experience a therapeutic dip in the Dead Sea. Let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else but the sea and salt all around you. The hotel also provides excellent Spa facilities (Please note that entrance to the Spa and all Spa treatments are not included in the cost. It is advisable to reserve these treatments well in advance.) Drive south into the Negev Highlands to your hotel and check in. Dinner has been included tonight for you at the hotel. Overnight – Ramon Inn, Negev.

Thursday, October 22: "The amazing Ramon Crater." This morning, following breakfast, meet the country's expert on deserts. He will descend with you by jeep in to the heart of the Ramon Crater, one of the most amazing places on Planet Earth. Here you will participate in workshops on botany, zoology, paleontology, geology and more. You may even have a chance to explore for dinosaur fossils. On to visit a Bedouin Encampment. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity of taking a short camel ride in the encampment. Enjoy the desert scenery as local Bedouins host you in their tents. Be enchanted by their warm hospitality, and their unusual lifestyle, which is quickly disappearing from the modern world. Stop for a picnic lunch on route. On to Sde Boker established in 1952. This pioneering settlement was the home of the first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion. He was an enthusiastic advocate for the population of the Negev. Pay a visit to Ben Gurion's gravesite overlooking the Zin Canyon and see the wooden shack and some of his belongings where he and his wife lived. Head for Tel Aviv for a farewell dinner. After dinner your guide and driver will transfer you to Ben Gurion Airport. A member of our staff will meet you there to assist you with departure procedures.

THE TOUR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MAIN ELEMENTS:

The price has been based on the following hotels: Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv (sea view rooms), HaGoshrim Guest House in the Galilee (deluxe rooms), Dan Panorama Hotel in Jerusalem (superior rooms) and Ramon Inn in the Negev (mini and family suites).

The complete Israeli breakfast is served daily along with six dinners and three lunches. Among the touring services that are included, you will find eleven days touring with a fully licensed English speaking guide, all entrance fees to sites visited with the guide, tour with a curator at Yad Vashem and at the Weitzman Institute as well as a kibbutz speaker in the Galilee and more.

PER PERSON COST SHARING A DOUBLE ROOM:

25-29 minimum paying guests sharing a double room, plus two frees	\$2,447 USD
30-34 minimum paying guests sharing a double room, plus two frees	\$2,334 USD
35-39 minimum paying guests sharing a double room, plus two frees	\$2,260 USD
40-44 minimum paying guests sharing a double room, plus two frees	\$2,161 USD
Single room supplement:	\$775 USD
Child as third person in a room:	\$1,622

TERMS AND RESTRICTIONS:

The above-suggested program includes many elements that have not yet been booked. They are pending final booking and confirmation. As such, there may be slight changes in the final program. The above cost is subject to change at any time as per notice from hotels and other suppliers of services. If number of participants and/or rooming arrangements and/or flights schedules are changed, the price will have to be revised. Note that due to the fluctuating rate of exchange between the US dollar and the New Israeli Shekel (NIS), cost adjustments may be made during the quotation process.

THE ABOVE TOUR IN ISRAEL DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Cost of round trip airfare from country of origin to Israel have not been included in the above costs, any expenses of a personal nature, any gratuities at all (\$12.00 - \$15.00 per person, per day), spa treatments are not included, personal health insurance, insurance for baggage, personal items, trip cancellation or interruption. Insurance for baggage, personal items, health coverage and trip cancellation and interruption is not included, but is highly recommended. We suggest obtaining coverage through your local provider.

PASSPORT VALIDITY:

All passports need to be valid for six months from the date of departure from the USA.

TERMS OF PAYMENT and CANCELLATION POLICY FOR THE LAND PORTION:

A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required to assure reservations, payable by February 1. Final and full payment is required 45 days prior to arrival. If cancellation is received in our office: Up to 90 days before arrival date - \$300.00 per person and hotel cancellation fees, if any. Between 90 – 45 days before arrival – additional cancellation fee of \$250.00 per person plus any hotel cancellation fees. Within 45 days of arrival - full payment will be charged.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Mabat Platinum Ltd., (hereinafter called the Tour Operator), acts only as an agent for the various companies, owners or contractors providing the means of transportation, accommodation and other services. All exchange orders, coupons and tickets are offered subject to the Terms and Conditions under which such services are offered or provided. The issuance and acceptance of such tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the further conditions that the Tour Operator shall not be in any way liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in any vehicle, or through the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger/s or of any hotel proprietor, personnel or servant otherwise in connection therewith.

The airline and transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act; omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The right is reserved to withdraw any tour announced in this program and to make such alterations to the itineraries as may be found desirable for the proper carrying out of the tours. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable in the Tour Operator's discretion to alter the arrangements or itineraries for the passenger/s comfort or welfare or for any reason whatsoever, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The Tour Operator reserves the right to change any hotel/s listed with one of a similar category if circumstances necessitate. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passenger/s. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of any group at any time.