Kehilat Makom NY Israel Trip February 9-21, 2026

Led by Rabbi Debbie Bravo, Linor Ein Gedy and Sherry Gutes

Updated as of 10.11.2026

Tuesday, February 9: ***Depart USA***

Depart JFK to TLV - flight information to be advised.

Wednesday, February 10: ***Welcome to Israel!***

Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport.
Meeting and assistance through customs. Transfer to Tel Aviv.
Check in to hotel and time to freshen up.
Welcome dinner at local restaurant.
Optional: Deep toes in the Mediterranean Sea.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, February 11: ***Tel Aviv: Past meeting the Future***

Breakfast at hotel. Tour the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**; The center, founded by Nobel Peace Laureate and former Israeli President, Shimon Peres, explores Shimon Peres's vision for peace in the Middle East and Israel as a leading start-up nation. Brief stop at the overlook of Tel Aviv from **old Jaffa**. Lunch on your own.
Tour of Tel Aviv, Israel's Metropolis of one million people. In 1909 a handful of Jews living nearby Jaffa, purchased land and converted sand dunes into a city, which became Israel's center of culture and commerce. Walk through **Neve Tzedek** neighborhood to **Rothchild Blvd**. and see Nachum Gutman Wall displaying the early history of Tel Aviv.
Dinner on own and shopping around Tel Aviv.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, February 12: ***Ayalon - Nachalat Binyamin - Kabbalat Shabbat***

Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Giv'at Hakibutzim **Ayalon Institute** to reveal its pre-state secret. Return to Tel Aviv. Visit the **Carmel Market** and **Nachalat Binyamin** arts and crafts market.
Lunch on your own.
Kabbalat Shabbat in Tel Aviv.
Shabbat Dinner and overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv
Shabbat Shalom

Travel Israel

Saturday, February 13: ***Masada - Dead Sea - Mitzpe Ramon***
Breakfast at Hotel. Depart Tel Aviv, driving through **the Judean Desert** along the **Dead Sea shores**. View Qumran caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls lay hidden. Visit **Masada National Park**; ascend by cable car to King Herod's fortress and Jewish Zealots last stronghold. Proceed to one of the Dead Sea Spa Hotels. Float in the Dead Sea followed by **buffet Lunch**.
Make Havdalah overlooking the Dead Sea.
Drive via the **Negev Desert** to Mitzpe Ramon.
Dinner and Overnight: Daroma Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Sunday, February 14: ***The Negev and its Wonders***
Optional view of the sunrise overlooking the Crater in the desert.
Breakfast at Hotel. Introduction to the desert at **Ramon Visitor Center**; learn about Ilan Ramon space heritage and the formation of the Machtesh (the Crater).
Take a **Jeep Tour** to explore the hooks and nooks of the internationally renowned Ramon Crater.
Lunch on Own. **Camel ride** through the Negev at Mamshit Ranch. Return to hotel.
Dinner at hotel.
Night activity: Private **stargazing** activity with **bonfire and marshmallow**.
Overnight: Daroma Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Monday, February 15: ***Gaza Envelope***
Breakfast at hotel. Depart Mitzpe Ramon for the **Gaza Envelope**.
Agricultural **volunteering** at Meshek Hajaj, Moshav Gilat, Gaza Envelope.
Visit the **Burnt Cars** site at Moshav Tkuma. Proceed to **Re'im Forest** to visit the site of the Nova Music Festival. Brief ceremony and pay tribute to the fallen.
Stop at one of the on-road **Shelters**, where victims hoped to find safety.
Proceed to **Jerusalem**. **Shehecheyanu ceremony** on
Mount Scopus overlooking the "Golden City'.
Check in to hotel. Dinner on own in Jerusalem neighborhoods.
Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

Travel Israel

Tuesday, February 16: ***Jerusalem Old City***
Breakfast at hotel. Visit **Yad L'kashish**, Lifeline for the Elderly. See the workshops, bring them a morning snack, and have an opportunity to shop in their gift shop**.**
Today we experience the thrill of entering the **Old City**.
Walk along old city **various quarters**; Jewish, Christian, Arab and Armenian. Visit **Davidson Center** to explore the Southern Wall excavations from Second Temple time. Walk to the **Western Wall** and have first visit to the Kotel. Walk through the Cardo – the "ancient Mall" of the Old City with time to shop. Quick lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter.
Guided tour of the **Westen Wall Tunnels**.

Dinner on own in Jerusalem neighborhoods.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 17: ***New City of Jerusalem***
Breakfast at hotel. View the Knesset and the Israel Supreme Court. Guided tour of **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust memorial including the Children's Pavilion. Special **B'nai Mitzvah Twinning project**, followed by ceremony and certificate presentation. Visit to the **Valley of the Communities** with a brief ceremony.
First timers: Visit the new Herzl Museum on Mount Herzl, burial place of Israel's founding fathers and leaders and the site of Jerusalem military cemetery, symbolizing the fulfilment of national aspirations.
Returnees: Detailed tour of Mount Herzl Cemetery.
Entire group: Culinary tour of the famous Machane Yehuda Market.
Dinner on your own.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, February 18: ***Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah students and their families!***
Breakfast at hotel.
Overlooking Jerusalem Old City, Rabbi Debbie Bravo will lead **B'nai Mitzvah Service and Ceremony** - A lasting memory you will always treasure.
Festive B'nai Mitzvah lunch.
Mitzvah project at **Pantry Packers**; Packing food for people in need.
Dinner on own - Explore the street of Jerusalem.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Travel Israel

Friday, February 19: ***Archeological Dig and Getting ready for Shabbat***
Breakfast at hotel. Drive through Ella Valley where David fought Goliath to Tel Maresha for a most fascinating experience; digging our roots at Beit Guvrin with the guidance of the Archeological Seminars experts. We will learn about past civilizations and visit the Roman Columbarium. Return to Jerusalem.
Returnees: Visit Begin Museum or Museum for Islamic Art
Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall with Rabbi Bravo.
Shabbat Dinner and Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem
Shabbat Shalom

Saturday, February 20: ***Shabbat Options***
Breakfast at hotel.
Optional **Shabbat Services** at Shira Chadasha (Egalitarian Orthodox community).
Optional visit to Israel museum and the Shrine of the Book.
Farewell Dinner.
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, February 21: ***Departure and arrival USA***
Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for your departure home. Airport assistance.

Shalom Ul'hitra'ot (See You Next Time!)

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