



Feb 12

**Congregation Rodef Shalom  
Chanukah Mission to Israel led by Rabbi Bernard Gerson  
Draft Itinerary  
December 6 - 16, 2009**

**Sunday December 6 - Departure**

Depart US

**Monday, December 7 – Getting Started**

Afternoon      Arrival in Israel at Ben Gurion International Airport  
                    Drive south  
                    Check in to guest house  
Evening         Dinner at guest house  
Overnight      *Mashabei Sadeh* Guest House (tentative)

**Tuesday December 8 – The Negev**

Morning        Breakfast  
                    Panoramic view of area from David & Paula Ben Gurion's gravesite  
                    Short hike to spring at *Ein Avdat*  
                    Visit Nabatean ruins at *Avdat*  
Afternoon      Camel rides and Bedouin-style *hafla* lunch  
                    Tour and program in P2K region  
Evening         Dinner in region  
Overnight      *Mashabei Sadeh* Guest House (tentative)

**Wednesday December 9 – Yeruham & Ben Gurion University**

Morning        Breakfast  
                    Drive to *Yeruham*  
                    Volunteer project (to be determined) and meet with Mayor Amram Mitzna  
                    (tentative)  
Afternoon      Lunch in *Yeruham*  
                    Drive to Ben Gurion University for tour of campus  
                    Guest speaker: Israel Update  
                    Drive to *Neve Midbar* to swim in pools and enjoy spa  
Evening         Dinner at guest house  
Overnight      *Mashabei Sadeh* Guest House (tentative)

### **Thursday December 10 – Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea**

Morning	Breakfast; check out of guest house Drive to Dead Sea Hike at <i>Ein Gedi</i> Swim/float in Dead Sea
Afternoon	Box lunch Drive to Jerusalem <i>Shehecheyanu</i> ceremony celebrating group's arrival to Jerusalem at Haas Promenade with spectacular panoramic view of city Check in to hotel
Evening	Dinner in Jerusalem restaurant Continue to Jewish Quarter and <i>Kotel</i>
Overnight	Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (tentative)

### **Friday December 11 – Rosh Ha'ayin & Lod**

Morning	Breakfast at hotel Drive to <i>Rosh Ha'ayin</i> Learn about the Yemenite community, its <i>Aliyah</i> to Israel over 50 years ago and the issues it has confronted since then; visit the colorful Middle Eastern <i>shuk</i> (open-air market)
Afternoon	Lunch at Yemenite restaurant in <i>Rosh Ha'ayin</i> Return to Jerusalem Rest and prepare for Shabbat <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> at <i>Kotel</i> <b><i>First night of Chanukah</i></b>
Evening	Shabbat dinner at hotel
Overnight	Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (tentative)

### **Saturday December 12 - Shabbat in Jerusalem**

Morning	Breakfast Shabbat <i>tfillot</i>
Afternoon	Shabbat lunch at hotel Free time Study session at Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism followed by <i>seudah shlishit</i> and <i>havdalah</i>
Evening	Free
Overnight	Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (tentative)

### **Sunday December 13 – Memory and Continuity**

Morning	Breakfast; check out of hotel Visit <i>Yad LaKashish</i> (Lifeline for the Old), a non-profit organization that helps the needy elderly and disabled of Jerusalem Tour <i>Yad Vashem</i> Holocaust Museum and Memorial
Afternoon	Lunch in <i>Yad Vashem</i> cafeteria Visit Mt Herzl National Cemetery Drive to Tel Aviv
Evening	Dinner on own
Overnight	Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv (tentative)

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### **Monday December 14 – Or Yehudah & Kibbutz Gezer**

Morning	Breakfast Presentation by screen writer on Israeli society through film (tentative) Drive to <i>Or Yehudah</i> Visit Museum of Babylonian Jewish Heritage Drive to <i>Lod</i> to visit Denver Community Center
Afternoon	Lunch at community center Drive to <i>Kibbutz Gezer</i> , which was re-established by American <i>olim</i> on July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1974 in order to learn about "North American" <i>aliyah</i> experience. Jews from North America who have settled in Israel can be found throughout the country: on <i>kibbutzim</i> and <i>moshavim</i> , in settlements over the Green Line, in urban centers from <i>Metulla</i> in the north to <i>Eilat</i> in the south. They can be found in virtually every ideological sector from the left to the right, from the ultra-religious to the vehemently secular. However, what tends to unite this diverse group is a commitment to social action within Israeli society. Meet with American <i>olim</i> to learn about the challenges and difficulties of integrating into Israeli society as well as the ideological commitment that motivates them to stay and try and make a difference in Israel. Visit Rabin Square where Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin was killed by a Jewish fanatic on November 4, 1995
Evening	Dinner at Tel Aviv restaurant
Overnight	Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv (tentative)

### **Tuesday December 15 – Wrapping Things Up**

Morning	Breakfast; check out of hotel Continue to <i>Neve Tsedek</i> , Tel Aviv's first neighborhood Visit Independence Hall, where David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the state of Israel Free time in the arts & crafts fair on <i>Nachalat Binyamin</i> Street
Afternoon	Lunch on own in <i>Nachalat Binyamin</i> Free time in Old Jaffa to visit galleries Return to hotel for discussion summarizing trip
Evening	Festive final dinner at Tel Aviv restaurant Depart for airport

### **Wednesday December 16 – Back in the US**

Morning	Arrival in US
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#### **Pricing for the Land Portion of the Tour\* (based on double occupancy)**

20-24 paying participants \$1997 per person  
25-29 paying participants \$1877 per person  
30-34 paying participants \$1797 per person  
The single supplement is \$485.

\*once we have established a cohort of committed travelers, we shall investigate airfares to Israel; participants will be free to arrange their own air itinerary if desirable.

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