



Let's Discover Diversity in our Small Country - ISRAEL

17-26 December 2017

Servas Israel invites you to a guided tour across Israel, which will provide the unique opportunity to see for yourself, first-hand and up-close the diversity in our small country – Israel:

- Negev desert and the Dead Sea, with its ancient agriculture and modern research, its various communities (Kibbutz, Bedouin family, independent farm), exquisite landscape and geology.
- Jerusalem, the city of the three monotheistic religions.
- The Sea of Galilee and its Christian sites.
- Nazareth -the Christian & Muslim sites, Christmas Eve festivities.
- Mount Carmel - Druze village, Haifa during Holiday of Holidays festival including panoramic views of the Bahai gardens and the bay.

The timing of this tour is specially scheduled to include Hanukah and Christmas celebrations as well as the multi-cultural Holiday of Holiday festival.

Servas Israel members will be happy to host you at the start and end of the tour.

Come enjoy the Holidays with us in Israel.

Write to: israel@servas.org for details and registration.

DIVERSITY IN OUR SMALL COUNTRY - ISRAEL

Date	Week day	Description	Remarks
17/12/2017	Sunday	Arrive at homes of Servas hosts in Tel-Aviv or Jerusalem area	List of inviting hosts will be provided to confirmed guests after they send flight bookings and LOI to israel@servas.org
18/12/2017	Monday	Free day alone or with the hosts. Welcome meeting in the evening at Harel family in Sde Warburg , together with the hosts - Background information about the program, lighting the 6th candle of Chanukah, singing and dancing. Light dinner at party	Stay with your hosts as coordinated.
19/12/2017	Tuesday	By bus from Tel Aviv to Mitzpe Ramon youth hostel. On the way: Kibbutz Sde Boker, Midreshet Ben Gurion including lecture. Walk with view of Zin river to Ben-Gurion grave site. Visit Bedouin site near Avdat, including light meal. Learn about the ancient Nabatean agriculture and view ancient rock art nearby. Visit small farm that manufactures Argan oil. Evening meeting at hostel, Guests' presentations. Self-paid dinner in town.	Bus pickup point early morning: Tel Aviv Savidor Merkaz train station. Mitzpe Ramon youth hostel: http://www.iyha.org.il/hostels/south-hostels/mitzpe-ramon/?lang=en , Nahal HaEla 4, 02-5945713 Kibbutz Sde Boker: https://www.touristisrael.com/sde-boker/5947 Midreshet Ben Gurion: http://www.boker.org.il/english/aboutmidrasha.htm
20/12/2017	Wednesday	Guided tour by bus - Makhtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater) - Visit at Mitzpe Ramon visitor center, then - along and inside the crater - HaMinsara, Ammonite Wall, Ein Saharonim - Evening meeting at hostel , with African Israelite community members. Guests' presentations. Self-paid dinner in town.	Mitzpe Ramon visitor center. 08-6588691, https://www.touristisrael.com/mitzpe-ramon-visitor-center/11166 Makhtesh Ramon: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makhtesh_Ramon ,
21/12/2017	Thursday	Guided tour by bus to Jerusalem via the Dead Sea. On the way: visit desert agriculture site at Neot Hakikar, stop at Ein Bokek beach including self-paid lunch. Optional: Tower of David in Jerusalem - night spectacular 19:00. https://www.tod.org.il/en/the-night-spectacular . Dinner and Evening meeting at Beith Ben-Yehuda hostel. Guests' presentations.	Ein Bokek, the Dead Sea: http://www.einbokek.com/deadsea.htm Beith Ben-Yehuda hostel , Jerusalem: http://www.beit-ben-yehuda.org , 28 Ein Gedi Str. 02-6730124, info@beit-ben-yehuda.org . Jerusalem Garden Home: http://jerusalemhotel.co.il , 74 Derech Beit Lehem, 050-5240442

22/12/2017	Friday	On the way to the Old city of Jerusalem via Mahane Yehuda market, self-paid tasting local delicacies for lunch. Half day guided walking tour of Jerusalem Old city - Three religions in Jerusalem, watch Kabbalat Shabbat at the Wailing Wall. Dinner and Evening meeting at the Beith Ben-Yehuda hostel. Guests' presentations.	Mahane Yehuda market: Mahttp://en.machne.co.il Old City of Jerusalem: https://www.touristisrael.com/old-city-jerusalem/403
23/12/2017	Saturday	By bus to Nazareth. On the way - guided tour - Holy sites around the Sea of Galilee. Self-paid lunch / dinner in town. Evening meeting at Al Hakim hostel including guests from an Arab Christian community nearby. Guests' presentations.	Holy sites at the Sea of Galilee: https://www.israel21c.org/top-10-christian-sites-at-the-sea-of-galilee Al Mutran hostel, Nazareth: http://www.al-mutran.com , Al Hakim Guest House, Nazareth: http://www.alhakim.co.il
24/12/2017	Sunday	Guided walking tour of Nazareth old city - White mosque, Mary's well, along the Pilgrim's Path, all the way to Basilica of Annunciation, the lit Christmas tree and Old Market, self-paid tasting local delicacies for lunch. Christmas Eve in Nazareth - Christmas Parade, Mass. Self-paid dinner in town.	Old city of Nazareth: http://www.nazarethinfo.org/en/nazareth-old-city-tour Christmas in Nazareth: https://www.israel21c.org/celebrate-christmas-in-nazareth/
25/12/2017	Monday	By bus to Haifa. Short visit a Daliat El Carmel (Druze village) home, including refreshments. Haifa viewpoint, and Bahai center gardens, Holiday of Holidays festival in Wadi Nisnas. Hosts will join. In the evening - farewell meeting in Haifa , women making a necklace from beads you brought , while the men prepare the Guests' party program . Light dinner at party	Daliat El Carmel: http://www.visit-haifa.org/eng/Daliat_el-Carmel About Haifa: https://www.touristisrael.com/what-to-do-in-haifa http://www.carmelithaifa.com/solel-boneh-station/wadi-nisnas List of inviting hosts in all areas will be provided to confirmed guests after they send flight bookings and LOI to israel@servas.org
26/12/2017	Tuesday	Free day alone or with hosts. Enjoy Israel on your own - Akko and Kfar Masarik kibbutz nearby or elsewhere in Israel. Thank you for visiting us in Israel.	Stay with your hosts as coordinated.

Important information for preparing your trip to Israel:

1. Participants are responsible for:
 - a. Booking flights to and from Ben Gurion airport in Israel. Be ready to pay cancellation fee if you don't obtain tourist visa for Israel (in case it is required for your country), or wait until you are sure of obtaining visa, and only then apply for participation.
 - b. Arranging and paying for their own transportation from/to airport and/or to hosts/meeting points.

- c. Purchasing their own health and travel insurances and tourist visa (if necessary).
 - d. Paying individually for their stays at guesthouses; for their own meals, drinks, etc. during the tours and in guesthouses (excluding breakfasts) as well as in kiosks, cafes, restaurants, market, etc.
 - e. Bringing their valid Letters of Introduction (LOI), if they wish to stay with Israeli hosts.
2. On the opening night of the conference, Servas Israel will collect **NIS 1,200 (Israeli shekels)** from each participant to cover program expenses: **entrance fees to sites, guides, lecturers, bus rentals, materials and refreshments (unless specified as "self-paid" in the program), and some unexpected expenses.**
 3. Estimated self-paid expenses:
 - a. For guesthouses: Five nights at approximately **NIS 170-250 per night per person**, depending whether the stay is in a double, triple, or dormitory room (as available);
 - b. For food and public transportation: Approximately **NIS 100 per day per person**, assuming you will stay with Servas hosts at the start and end of the conference.
 - c. In conclusion, to be on the safe side:
10 days multiplied by 25 euros = 250 euros
Conference 300 euros
Accommodation 50X6 = 300 euros (in a room for two, while some guesthouses are even less)
Total - up to 850 euros, for 10 days
 - d. For paying without VAT at guesthouses, you will be asked to show your passport and the blue card received at the airport.
 4. Please send your registration form (attached separately) in Word format to: israel@servas.org. **Registration will end July 31, 2017.**
 5. Servas Israel organizing team will provide a list of hosts willing to host on the first two days at the start and end of the conference. You will be able to choose hosts for additional days before and after the conference from the host list received from your country's host list coordinator after LOI issuance.
 6. Certificates of attendance will be provided upon request.

See you in Israel

Servas Israel Organizing Team

Write to: israel@servas.org

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