



**Christmas, Hanukah and Holiday of Holidays with Servas in Israel
22-27 December 2019
(changes may occur)**

Date / Time	Program	Details
20-23 December	Stay at hosts' houses in Haifa area – arranged by Servas Israel organizers.	Please check public transportation from Ben Gurion airport or from wherever you arrive to Haifa - see separate Practicalities document. Coordinate your arrival with your hosts.
Sunday 22 Dec		
Free morning	Experience and visit Haifa city and surrounding sites with hosts.	Coordinate with your hosts. See Christmas festivities in Haifa: https://igoogleisrael.com/get-festive-at-the-holiday-of-holidays-in-haifa/
17:30 – 19:00	Meeting at Abba Hushi Center, Haifa. Register for the activities and pay for the event and optionals. Welcome presentation of program & practicalities. Sign up for guests' presentations & volunteering.	Welcome meeting starts at 17:30 - Abba Hushi Center, 71 Abba Hillel Silver St., Neve Shaanan, Haifa. http://www.visit-haifa.org/eng/Abba_Hushi_Center_for_Culture_and_Society/ Arrive with your hosts. Payment for event - 750 shekels per person. Payment for Tower of David Sound and Light show, Jerusalem (optional) - 60 NIS per person, children (3-18 years old) 55 NIS.
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome party at Abba Hushi center - singing, dancing, getting to know each other.	Guests, organizers and hosts. 1 st Hanukkah candle lighting. Bring national costumes, musical instruments, Back to hosts' houses at the end of the party.
Monday 23 Dec		
8:00-10:30	Travel to Nazareth guesthouses. (Details will be provided)	Hosts will bring you to meeting points in - Kiryat Motzkin, Haifa, Kiryat Tivon - for traveling to Nazareth together. We will leave the luggage at the guesthouses and walk to Mary of Nazareth Center.
10:30- 12:00	Guided visit to Mary of Nazareth Center	See: https://il.chemin-neuf.org/en/home/locations/mary-of-nazareth-international-center
12:00-15:00	Free time, lunch (purchased individually)	In the Old city

15:00-16:00	Check in at Nazareth guest houses in the old city (the guesthouses are near each other).	Booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in. Al Mutran hostel, Nazareth: http://www.al-mutran.com , 04-6457947 Al Hakim guesthouse, Nazareth: http://www.alhakim.co.il , 04-6545990
16:00 – 19:30	Short get-together meeting at Al Hakim hall. Walk in old town. Taste local delicacies en-route (purchased individually)	After the meeting, walk to enjoy Christmas festivities and market in the old city - together with Servas organizers and our guide - Iris Salomon , Servas member. https://igoogledisrael.com/the-christmas-market-in-nazareth-an-awesome-slice-of-christmas-in-israel/
19:30 – 22:00	Evening meeting at Al Hakim hall. Guests' presentations.	Meeting at Al Hakim hall. Light Buffet. 6-7 guests' presentations (as time allows) - 10 minutes each family
Tuesday 24 Dec		
7:00 - 8:00	Morning activity - optional	Like – yoga, meditation (on chairs). Guided by one of the guests and our guide Iris Salomon , Servas member.
7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast at Nazareth guest houses	
9:00 – 13:30	Guided walking tour in Old Nazareth. Lunch en-route in the Old market (purchased individually)	Our guides – Iris Salomon, Yafa Kfir , Servas members, local guide at Peace mosque . Mary's well, Greek-Orthodox Church, along the Pilgrim's Path, all the way to Basilica of Annunciation, the lit Christmas tree and Old Market. Peace Mosque.
13:30 – 15:00	Free time.	
15:00 – 17:00	Afternoon meeting at Al Hakim hall. Guests' presentations.	Meeting at Al Hakim hall. Light Buffet. 6-7 guests' presentations (as time allows) - 10 minutes each family
17:00 – 19:00	Walk to the Basilica of Annunciation in the old town.	Walk in groups with Servas Israel organizers and see festivities on the way.
19:00 – 22:00	Mass at the Basilica of Annunciation	Servas Israel organizers will provide the tickets to the Mass for guests who wish to attend the Mass.
22:00 - 24:00	Christmas celebration at Al Hakim hall.	Celebration including Christmas light buffet as locals celebrate. Each guest should bring a small Christmas present for the celebration.
Wednesday 25 Dec		
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast and check out at guest houses in Nazareth	
8:00 – 11:00	Guided tour by bus and visits to holy sites near the Sea of Galilee	Our guide – Iris Salomon Har-Even , Servas host. We will stop and visit Holy sites around the Sea of Galilee – Capernaum, Tabgha (as time allows).

11:00 – 12:30	Lunch break and shopping.	Light lunch (purchased individually) at Migdal. Shopping for self-cooking at hostel in Jerusalem (on 25 and 26 December)
12:30 - 14:00	Continue by bus and visit Yardenit baptism site.	Yardenit Baptism site on the Jordan River: https://www.yardenit.com/about-us (bring swimsuit and towel)
14:00 – 18:00	Continue guided tour by bus to Jerusalem check-in at hostel and rest.	Guided by Iris Salomon Har-Even , Servas host. The hostel is booked by Servas Israel and paid by yourself at check in. Beit Ben-Yehuda hostel Jerusalem: http://www.beit-ben-yehuda.org , 28 Ein Gedi Str. 02-6730124
18:00 – 22:00	Dinner – cooking and eating together at the hostel. Guests' presentations.	Meeting at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall . 6-7 guests' presentations (as time allows)) - 10 minutes each family
21:00-22:00 Optional	Tower of David Sound and Light show at 21:00 - 21:45. Details about public transportation will be provided.	Prior registration and payment on 22 Dec at welcome meeting - Tower of David Sound and Light show, Jerusalem https://www.tod.org.il/en/the-night-spectacular/ Please bring warm clothes. Capes will be provided in case of rain Transportation from/ to hostel by public transportation.
Thursday 26 Dec		
7:00 – 8:00	Morning activity – optional.	Walk to Armon Hanatziv promenade (750-850 meters walk each way) or Yoga / Meditation (on chairs) in the hostel's hall. Guided by one of the guests.
7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast at Beit Ben-Yehuda hostel	
9:30 - 13:30	Arrive at Jaffa Gate by public transportation at 9:30, the latest. Organizers will join you. Guided tour in the Old city of Jerusalem, the three religions sites, the walls, alleys and bazaars.	Local authorized guide: Eldad Brin - eldadbrin@gmail.com 054-4991800, http://allaboutjerusalem.com/tour_guide/eldad-brin Guided walking tour in the Old city: the sites on top the thrice-holy Mt Zion, the Western (Wailing) Wall, a lookout over Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the city's walls and gates, its' quaint, labyrinthine stone alleys and colourful bazaars. Lunch break (purchased individually after the tour) (bring comfortable walking shoes and warm clothes).
13:30 – 16:00	Back to the hostel and rest	Back to Beit Ben-Yehuda by public transportation. Take a rest. (as time allows)
16:00 – 20:00	Social meeting at the hostel's hall. Cooking and eating together.	Meeting at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall - with organizers and Jerusalem members. Beads necklaces preparation (with the beads you should each bring from home - typical of your country) and Farewell party preparations.
20:00 - 22:00	Farewell party at the hostel's hall. Hanukkah	Farewell party at Beit Ben-Yehuda hall - Organized by guests. Guests' performances, by individuals or family or country.

	7 th candle lighting. Farewell presentation.	
Friday 27 Dec		
7:00 – 8:00	Morning activity – optional.	Walk to Armon Hanatziv promenade (750-850 meters walk each way) or Yoga / Meditation (on chairs) in the hostel's hall. Guided by one of the guests.
7:30 – 9:00	Breakfast and check out of at Beit Ben-Yehuda hostel	Say Goodbye to each other and leave for home or continue to tour Israel by yourself, staying with hosts in other areas ...
	For more information - write to israel@servas.org	Visit: Servas Israel website LIKE Servas Israel Facebook page

We look forward to seeing you in Israel

WELCOME, See you soon
Claudia Sagie 052-2554314,
Nurit Elvia Finkel 054-3907790,
Myriam Dan 054-4200495,
Varda Muhlbauer 054-4560271
... and more

Servas Israel Organizing Team

Write to: israel@servas.org

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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 - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Documents/VisaRequirements-Tourists.pdf>), or if you cancel one month before the event starts or later, for any other reason.
 - b. Arranging and paying for your own transportation from/to airport and/or to hosts/meeting points (you may need ILS cash for taxi or Rav Kav for public transport (to be purchased at the train/bus station at airport).
 - c. Please notice that public transportation from/to Ben Gurion airport during the weekend is different than during the week (use Neshet and Amal taxis during the weekend): <http://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Transportation/Pages/default.aspx>
 - d. Purchasing your own health and travel insurances at home, before arrival and tourist visa, if necessary - see: <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>.
 - e. Paying individually for your stays at guesthouses, for your own meals, drinks, etc. during the tours, at kiosks, cafes, restaurants, market, etc.
 - f. Please send your valid Letters of Introduction (LOI), to potential hosts when you contact them.
2. On the opening night of the event, Servas Israel will collect **ILS 750 (Israeli shekels)** from each participant to cover **program expenses**: entrance fees to sites, guides, lecturers, bus hire, printed/art materials and refreshments (unless specified as "self-paid" in the program), and some unexpected expenses.
3. Estimated self-paid expenses:
 - a. **Accommodation** in guesthouses: Four nights at approximately **ILS 250 per night per person**, depending whether the stay is in a double, triple, or dormitory room (as available) - paid directly at check-in at the guest houses - in ILS cash or credit card.
 - b. For food and public transportation: Approximately **ILS 100 per day per person**.
 - c. In conclusion, to be on the safe side: (based on the current exchange rates) **Pocket money - 5 days multiplied by 25 euros = 125 euros**

**Program expenses (to be collected by Servas Israel - see above) -
190 euros**

Accommodation 250 euros (in a double room)

Total - up to 550 euros, for 5 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. (no need to sign if not possible to add digital signature on Word)
5. **Registration has ended on May 15, 2019, after more than 30 participants applied.**
6. **Registration will be confirmed to each participant after receiving evidence of your flights' booking evidence and registration form to israel@servas.org.**
7. Servas Israel organizers will arrange hosts for you for two-three nights before 22 December 2019, in Haifa area. You will be able to choose hosts for additional days before and after the event using Servas Online - Find members <https://www.servas.org/en/find-members>
8. Certificates of attendance will be provided upon request.

We look forward to seeing you in Israel

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