

**Rice University**

***Jerusalem: Holy City in Time and Imagination***

**Faculty: Professors Matthias Henze and Melissa Weininger**

*February 27 – March 8, 2015*

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| **DATE** | **PROGRAM** | **MEALS/OVERNIGHT** |
| Friday, February 27 | ***DEPARTURE**** Departure from George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston on Turkish Airlines flight 34 to Istanbul at 8:30 p.m.
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| Saturday, February 28 | ***bruchim Habaim – welcome to israel**** Arrive Istanbul 4:00 p.m. Depart Istanbul on Turkish Airlines flight 788 to Tel Aviv at 6:00 p.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport at 8:10 p.m.
* Keshet transfer to Jerusalem and check-in
 | Overnight:Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Sunday March 1 | ***Welcome to Jerusalem (Jerusalem and Messianism on the Mount of Olives and Mount Scopus)**** **Overlook on to Jerusalem** and the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif from the Mount of Olives
* Consider history and traditions of the **Jewish cemetery** and possibly visit graves of personalities relevant to course material (e.g. Rabbi Kook, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, S.Y. Agnon, Henrietta Szold, or monumental 2nd Temple period Tombs, etc.)
* **Church of All Nations** and **Garden Of Gethsemane**
* **Church of the Assumption** and the **Tomb of the Virgin**
* Guided tour of the **Israel Museum** and the Model of Second Temple Jerusalem
* Walk through the **Hebrew University** campus on Mount Scopus and meet with students
* Welcome dinner
 | Welcome dinnerOvernight:Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Monday March 2 | ***Jerusalem: Cradle of Faith (Biblical and Second Temple Judaism)**** Tour of the **City of David** including the ancient water works, the possible site of King David’s palace, and the Second Temple Period Temple Mount Ascent
* Consider the origins of Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity in the **Jerusalem Archeological Park** (aka the Southern Wall excavations and the **Davidson Center**
* Explore the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City including the **Byzantine Cardo**, the **Rooftops View**, the **Wohl Archeological Museum** (aka **Herodian Quarter**) or the **Burnt House**, and one or two rebuilt synagogues (**Hurva and/or Ramban synagogues**)
* Visit the **Western Wall** and walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels**
* Evening speaker: **Alick Isaacs** with **Siach Shalom**
* *(Note: We have hired an expert in the field to guide a part of this day in the City of David)*
 | Lunch and dinner on ownOvernight:Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Tuesday March 3 | ***Jerusalem: Cradle of Faith (Christianity and Islam)**** Consider the historic connections of Islam to Jerusalem while walking in the **Haram al-Sharif/Noble Sanctuary**. Consider too contemporary attitudes to this site known to Jews and Christians as the **Temple Mount**
* In the **Muslim Quarter**, note the **Lions Gate** and the Crusader Period **Church of Saint Anne**.
* Lunch break and processing/discussion time or meet with scholars/clergy TBD
* Walk along the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at the nine Stations of the Cross along the route
* Tour of the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, including the final five Stations of the Cross located within the Church. Consider the Status Quo agreements that govern the relationships between Christian denominations in the Holy Land
* Evening: **Bereaved Families Forum** representatives
* *(Today too we have asked specialists in Islam and Christianity to guide the two segments of the day.)*
 | Lunch in the Old CityDinner on ownOvernight: Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Wednesday, March 4 | ***The dead Sea – Sects and Breathtaking Scenery**** Learn about Second Temple Period sects and the Dead Sea Scrolls *in situ* in the **Qumran National Park**
* Hike along the Waterfall Trail in the beautiful desert oasis that is the **Ein Gedi National Park**
* At the **Masada National Park**, consider 2nd Temple story of Masada and its meaning for Jews and Zionists in modern times
* Dinner with **Forsan Hussain**, former Executive Director of the Jerusalem YMCA.
* Free evening
 | Lunch on ownDinner (Location TBD)Overnight: Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Thursday March 5 | ***Judea/The West Bank – One Land, Two ethnicities, three religions**** Participate in the **Temple Mount Sifting Project** in the Emek Zurim National Park and meet with project director Professor Gabriel Barkai
* View of the Jerusalem – Bethlehem border including the **security barrier and by-pass road** to the Etzion Bloc
* Travel to Bethlehem, visit the **Church of the Nativity**
* Noon meeting and lunch with **Rev. Mitri Raheb** in Bethlehem
* Visit the **Herodian National Park** in the Etzion Bloc
* Free evening
 | Lunch and dinner on ownOvernight: Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Friday March 6 | ***Like a Phoenix from the ashes**** Guided tour of **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** and the **Children’s Memorial**
* Absorb the sights, sounds, and aroma of the bustling **Machane Yehuda Shuk** (souk/market) as Jerusalemites prepare for the Jewish Sabbath
* Experience an authentic **Shabbat (Jewish Sabbath) evening and dinner at the Western Wall and home of a host family** in the heart of Jerusalem (arranged through Shabbat of a Lifetime
 | Lunch on ownDinner with a host familyOvernight: Beit Shmuel Guest House, Jerusalem |
| Saturday March 7 | ***Sabbath in Jerusalem**** **Synagogue hopping** - visit one or two synagogues of different Jewish ethnic groups
* Visit the **Garden Tomb** where Christian Protestants remember the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
* In the evening, **Summary Discussion** and Farewell Dinner
 | Lunch at the Guest HouseFarewell dinner |

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| Sunday March 8 | ***Arrive in Houston**** Early morning transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for your flight home
* Depart on Turkish Airlines flight 811 to Istanbul at 7:40 a.m. Arrive Istanbul 9:55 a.m. Depart Istanbul on Turkish Airlines flight 33 at 1:20 p.m. Arrive Houston 7:40 p.m.
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* Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator
* All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
* This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet

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