

CCAR PRE TRIP
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE RABBIS -
BET SHEARIM AND TZIPPORI
SPONSORED BY NFTY IN ISRAEL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

The Oral Law *Tiyul* engages us in the evolution and development of the Halacha through the ages, continuing to reform and remain relevant to the physical and spiritual lives of world Judaism.

Begin at Bet Shearim just east of Haifa, one of the four seats of the Sanhedrin. This is an important site for studying the development of the Oral Law through the codification of the Mishnah, and its evolution into the Talmud. Visiting the very impressive catacombs and the funerary remains at Bet Shearim, we will better understand and imagine their very rich material and spiritual lives.

Following lunch we travel to Tzipori discovering a Roman town, with its theatres, shops, colonnade streets, and amazing mosaics, where Jews and pagans lived together in harmony. The last site of the day is a 6th-century synagogue with striking mosaic floors.

The synagogue has a mosaic scene which includes a zodiac sandwiched between a scene of “the sacrifice of Isaac” at the bottom and the Holy Ark of the Temple and menorahs at the top. We will use Talmudic texts revealing the rabbis’ understanding that a form is not necessarily an idol, that art can also be appreciated as décor and not only through religious and ritual eyes. You will see how reformation has allowed us to live in a multi-cultural society and retain our cultural and religious uniqueness at the same time.

Visit Kibbutz Tzuba, home of NFTY in Israel programs for dinner. Baruch Kraus, Principal of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel will serve as Guide-Educator for the entire day, along with teachers Josh Weinberg (son of our colleague Michael) and Gadi Ben-Dov, NFTY Director of Short Term Programs in Israel.

8:30am depart Jerusalem for Bet Shearim
10:30 Arrive and tour
12:00 lunch
1:00pm arrive at Tzipori
4:00pm Depart for Tzuba
6:00 meet with students
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Depart for Hotels in Jerusalem.