

# Temple Beth Elohim Face to Face in **CURAÇAO**



Led by  
Rabbi Joel Sisenwine & Susan Alvares Correa  
**March 4-9, 2026**







Temple Beth Elohim בית אלהים

*Join Rabbi Joel Sisenwine and TBE congregant and Curaçao native, Susan Alvares Correa, as we embark on a remarkable journey to Curaçao, a Caribbean island rich with Jewish heritage, vibrant culture and breathtaking beauty. From the historic Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue—home to the oldest active Jewish congregation in the Americas—to the colorful streets of Willemstad, this immersive experience blends tradition, community, and adventure. Together, we'll explore colonial mansions, taste local flavors, and reflect on a unique Jewish legacy that continues to thrive. Whether this is your first visit or a return to paradise, the memories we make here will last a lifetime.*

## DAY 1

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2026

WELCOME TO CURAÇAO!

- We depart Boston early this morning on our flight to **Curaçao** via Miami.
- We land in **Willemstad**, the colorful capital city of Curaçao, a Dutch Caribbean island located off the coast of Venezuela.
- We board our bus and travel to our hotel, where we are greeted with a welcome drink at check in and a chance to refresh.
- This evening, we join together for our **welcome dinner and orientation** to kick off our journey.

### Overnight in Willemstad (D)



## DAY 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026  
COLORFUL HISTORY OF CURAÇAO

- Breakfast at our resort.
- We begin with a **drive through charming Willemstad**, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its vibrant colonial architecture and a popular destination for both cultural exploration and beach relaxation.
- We proceed to **Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue (SNOA)**, a remarkable historical and religious site. It is the oldest continuously operating synagogue in the Americas completed in 1732, connecting us to the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish roots that can be traced back to the Iberian peninsula of the 1500s. Here, we meet with **Rabbi Martin Hirsch** and enjoy a **presentation by Ron Gomes Casseres**, a Jewish historian in Curaçao.
- After a **taste of pastechi**, a crescent shaped deep-fried pastry similar to an empanada and commonly found in the Dutch Caribbean, we tour the **Jewish Museum** with Director Michele Russel-Capriles.
- We drive through **Scharloo**, a historic neighborhood known for its elegant colonial mansions, many of which were once owned by wealthy Jewish merchants in the 19th century. This area showcases the prosperity and cultural influence of Curaçao's Jewish community during that time.
- After **lunch** at a local restaurant, Rabbi Sisenwine will lead us in a **study session** together at our resort.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy our resort amenities.
- Dinner is on own this evening.

Overnight in Willemstad (B, L)

## DAY 3

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026  
ART & CULT

- Breakfast at our resort.
- Today, we set out for an **on-and-off bus tour**. Stops will include:
  - **Beth Haim Berg Altena**: The Reform portion of the Jewish cemetery where we view sepulchral art.
  - **Mongui Maduro Historic House**: An 18th-century plantation house meticulously preserved to showcase the legacy of the Levy Maduro family, a prominent Sephardic Jewish lineage that significantly influenced Curaçao's economic and social landscape over four generations.
  - **Chobolobo Distillery**: An immersive experience into the history and production of the iconic Blue Curaçao liqueur in a beautifully preserved 19th-century mansion.
  - **Cathedral of Thorns**: Located at **Landhuis Blemhoef** and conceived by Dutch artist Herman van Bergen, this illuminated labyrinth is constructed entirely from the thorns of the local wabi plant. The Cathedral serves as a powerful metaphor for Curaçao's complex history, including colonialism and slavery. Van Bergen designed it as a space for reflection and healing, with niches in the thorn walls housing contemporary artworks that symbolize unity, resilience and transformation.
- We enjoy **lunch at Komedor Krioyo** for a sampling of authentic local food.
- We return to our resort for a **study session** with Rabbi Sisenwine.
- Relax and enjoy the resort's amenities for the remainder of the afternoon.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for **Kabbalat Shabbat at SNOA**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at our resort.

Overnight in Willemstad (B, L, D)





## DAY 4

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026**  
A RELAXING SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our resort.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attend **Shabbat morning services** at SNOA. This is a very unique service featuring prayers in Papiamentu, Portuguese, Dutch, Hebrew, English and Spanish. The main service is in English and Hebrew and you will pray in the sanctuary that is nearly 300 years old.
- Lunch is on own today.
- Spend the afternoon at the pool, on the beach or enjoy a walking tour of Otrobanda.
- We join together for a **sunset study session and Havdalah** on the beach.
- This evening, we set out for **dinner** together at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Willemstad (B, D)

## DAY 5

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026**  
OUT TO SEA

- Breakfast at our resort.
- This morning, we set sail on a full-day trip aboard **Blue Finn catamaran** to the west end and **Cas Abao Beach**. Here, we will explore the reef with a variety of coral and marine life where wild dolphins, stingrays and sea turtles are known to be spotted. A **BBQ lunch** is included on the boat.
- We return to our hotel and have time to relax.
- On our final night in Curacao, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner at our resort**, recounting all that we have experienced together on this Caribbean journey.

Overnight in Willemstad (B, L, D)

## DAY 6

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026**  
L'HITRAOT

- Breakfast at our resort.
- Relax or enjoy the sun and surf before we check out mid-day.
- This afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the US. Time permitting, we stop to visit **Beth Haim Blenheim** along the way.

(B)

***THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!***

*\*itinerary subject to change*

