

Pre GA Mission to Israel

The Four Corners of Israel Celebrating 70 years

Proposed Itinerary
October 14-25, 2018

Sunday, October 14, 2018

DEPARTURE

- Arrival and assistance at Ben Gurion International Airport

Monday, October 15, 2018

ARRIVAL

- Arrival and assistance at Ben Gurion International Airport
- Depart for Northern Israel.
- *From the Four Corners of the World*, Stop at the Caesarea Aqueduct for a festive Welcome Ceremony.
- *Understanding Jewish Peoplehood*, continue to **Atlit**, site of a pre state detention camp established by the authorities of the British Mandate for Palestine at the end of the 1930s to prevent Jewish refugees from entering Palestine, with Murray S. Greenfield who was one of the US volunteers on the illegal immigration boats in the Pre-State days
- Check in to Galilee Hotel.
- Group dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Galilee

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SECURITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Israel's Northern Borders @2018*, geopolitical update with **Maj. Res. Sarit Zahavi**.
- Visit the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** for a walk along the Dan River, one of Israel's major sources of water and the site of the famous Biblical city of Dan.
- Ascend to the **Golan Heights**.
- Drive along the Syrian border on **Jeeps**, exploring the complex relationship between Israel and Syria, with intelligence expert **Ilan Shulman**.
- Lunch on your own en route in Katzrin, followed by a visit to one of the Golan's leading wineries for wine tasting.
- Conclude the day with a visit to Safed, and explore the quaint alleyways, art galleries, and synagogues of the mystical city of Tzfat, including a dialogue with **Kabbalistic artist**.

- Dinner at Decks restaurant in Tiberias including a boat ride in the Kinneret (weather permitting).

Overnight: Galilee

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

A MOSAIC OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Meet with students and staff during a special program at the **Ramat Hadassah Szold Youth Village** in Kiryat Tivon, which provides support and opportunities to youth-at-risk.
- Get a unique insight into the realities of Arab women in Israel at the home of **Amna Kamaana**, who founded an organization for the empowerment of Muslim women.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Stop at Neot Kedumim for a special tree planting ceremony.
- Drive to Jerusalem and stop at the Haas Promenade for short Shehechianu overlooking Jerusalem with the traditional bread and wine.
- Check in to hotel, followed by time to freshen up.
- Enjoy a dinner of biblical cuisine at the **Eucalyptus Restaurant**, including a meeting with chef **Moshe Basson**, who specializes in preparing foods based on ingredients native to the Land of Israel.
- Optional late night visit to the **Machane Yehudah Market**, as it comes alive with music and food.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Thursday, October 18, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Explore the multi-ethnic weave of the **Old City**, beginning with the **Ramparts Walk** along the rooftops from Jaffa Gate to Zion Gate, through the **Jewish Quarter**, including the **Cardo**, the **Hurva Square** and the **Herodian Mansions**, concluding at the **Davidson Archeological Park**.
- Lunch on your own.
- *All Jews are Responsible for One and Other*, **JAFI** or **JDC** site visit.
- Optional visit to the Israel Museum or free time in Jerusalem.
- Dinner on your own at the Mamilla Mall.
- View the **Jerusalem Night Spectacular** music and light show on the walls of the Tower of David, telling the story of Jerusalem in animation and music.
- Optional night guided visit through the **Western Wall Tunnels**. (additional cost)
- See how Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat with an optional late night visit to a **challah bakery**.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Friday, October 19, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Israel and the Memory of the Holocaust* with scholar **Rachel Korazim**.
- Visit **Yad Vashem** with options for First Timers and Returnees.
- Free time at **Machane Yehudah** with lunch on your own, followed by free time to explore Jerusalem as it prepares for Shabbat, and your own Shabbat preparations.
- Kabbalat Shabbat as a community at the **Kotel**.
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel with members of **Ruach Chadasha** and possible speaker (*Eilon Schwartz of Shaharit, Avraham Infeld, Leon Morris of Pardes*)
- Optional evening walk through the streets of Meah Shearim to experience an Ultra Orthodox “Tisch”.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Saturday, October 20, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Free morning with and optional **Synagogue Hop** or services at one of Jerusalem’s Synagogues.
- Lunch at the hotel.
- Free afternoon to explore Jerusalem on your own or afternoon guided walks:
Options include:
 - The winding alleyways of **Yemin Moshe**, the first neighborhood built outside of the walls of the Old City, using the poetry of Yehudah Amichai as a guide.
 - The **German Colony**, built by the German Templars in the late 1800s, with their unique buildings and stories that have become part of Jerusalem’s lore.
 - The upscale neighborhood of **Rechavia**, originally modeled after the “garden cities” of Europe.
 - A guided walk through the **Christian Quarter** of Jerusalem.
 - The winding alleyways of the eclectic **Nachlaot** neighborhood.
 - The **Valley of Hinnom** to the top of **Mount Zion** and continuing to the **Jewish Quarter**, using the Bible and ancient archeological remains as guides.

- **Mount Zion**, the Hill of Three Religions, guided by poetry and midrash.
- **Havdallah** and Israel @70 celebration at David's Citadel, including a festive Israeli dinner.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Sunday, October 21, 2018

THE LURE OF THE DESERT

OPTION 1:

- Early morning departure for the Dead Sea Basin.
- Morning relaxation and float in the **Dead Sea**.
- Ascend Herod's mountain fortress of **Masada** and a guided visit through the last stronghold of the Zealots against the Romans. Study the texts of "Elazar Ben Yair and the Zealots of Masada" and "Yochanan Ben Zakai and the Rabbis of Yavneh" for an exploration of the questions that arise from the story and their symbolism in modern Israeli society. Descend via the Roman Ramp.
- Drive to Kfar Hanokdim.

OPTION 2:

- Early breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart for the south.
- Rebuilding the Zionist Dream in the Negev—socio-ethnic challenges facing the northern Negev, tensions with the Bedouin, balancing tradition and modernity. Meet **Hura mayor Dr Mohammad Alnabari** and learn about the extraordinary successes of his small city, the unfinished business that still beckons, and the serious challenges he and his community face, with representatives of Desert Stars hear the story of how they are working together to promote a better, more just and equal, Israeli society in the Negev.
- Continue to Tel Arad in the Yatir Forrest to visit the exclusive **Yatir winery** for wine tasting and a discussion with winemaker, **Eran Goldwasser**.
- Drive to Kfar Hanokdim.

EVERYONE:

- Experience Bedouin hospitality at the **Kfar Hanokdim Bedouin Encampment** in the Judean Desert for a camel ride and traditional "hafla" lunch, followed by an opportunity to learn about the culture of the Negev Bedouin, their relationship to Israel, and the challenges facing their community.
- Visit to **Hatzerim Airforce Base** to meet with soldiers. (*pending IDF confirmation*)
- Drive to Tel Aviv and check into hotel.

- Free night to enjoy Tel Aviv, with dinner on your own.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Monday, October 22, 2018

TEL AVIV, THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Adults: Breakfast at the hotel, followed by *A Look at Israel 70 Years Young*, with scholar **Paul Liptz**.
- *Tel Aviv: the First Hebrew City*: Begin with a walk through Neve Zedek, one of the first Jewish neighborhoods outside of Jaffa and today a re-gentrified neighborhood replete with galleries, cafes and trendy shops and continue along **Rothschild Blvd**, exploring the once small community of Ahuzat Bayit where Tel Aviv began, and its development into both the **UNESCO World Heritage White City** collection of Bauhaus

Monday, October 22, 2018 (Con't)

- buildings and one of the great global innovation hubs, concluding with a visit to the **Taglit Innovation Center**, which showcases Israeli innovation.
- Visit **Independence Hall**, where the State , of Israel was declared.
- Lunch on your own at the **Allenby-Rothschild Market**.
- Continue to the Florentine neighborhood for a **Graffiti Tour**, unveiling some of Tel Aviv's urban secrets and trends.
- Conclude the day in Tel Aviv at the Saron and Saron Market, once a German Templar community and today one of Tel Aviv's newest and trendiest areas.
- Wrap up discussion, followed by a **Festive Concluding dinner**.
- **Those returning to the united States**
 - Free afternoon to explore Tel Aviv, with dinner on your own.
 - Depart for Ben Gurion Airport.
 - Departure flight to the United States.
- **Overnight: Flight**
 - **Those staying for the GA**
 - Check in to GA hotel, followed by registration and beginning of the Assembly.
 - Please note, the GA package is not included.