

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Suggested Program – Hayward and Moline / February 2020 - Revised

Sunday, Feb 16, 2020

Arrival to Israel! Welcome!

Meet your tour guide at Ben Gurion Airport

Transfer to our hotel in Tel Aviv for late dinner and Overnight

Monday, Feb 17, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

Drive north along the Mediterranean Sea to the **ancient city of Caesarea**, built by Herod the Great and once the seat of Roman rule. View the excavated Roman Theater, with its acoustic and theatrical sound, which was used for many performances throughout the centuries. We will walk through the excavated fortress and view the aqueduct, once used for transporting water to the city.

Continue to a unique **Community Art Gallery at Umm el-Fahem** which was founded in 1996, initiative of local residents and artists who wanted to bring quality contemporary art to the city and its population and to exhibit original Arab and Palestinian art. With a lack of other art galleries in the Arab sector in Israel, the gallery has become an important social and cultural meeting place.

Drive to **Megiddo**, the site of "Armageddon" battlefield, where archeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilizations. On to the city of **Nazareth** and stop at **Mt. Precipice** for a grand view of the Jezreel Valley, and of Jesus' own home town. Walk through the colorful Nazareth marketplace to the **Church of the Annunciation** and if time permits visit the Wedding Church in Cana before heading to our hotel in the north of Galilee.

Check in to the Hotel.

Dinner at the Hotel (main dining room)

Hagoshrim Hotel

Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020

Begin the day in **Safed**, which is also the birthplace of Kabbalah and one of the Four Holy Cities according to tradition. Stroll through the narrow, winding alleys; visit some of the beautiful synagogues and browse through the artists' workshops and galleries found in the flourishing artists' quarter. **Hear from the artist Avraham Lowenthal, and learn how Kabbalah can be embedded in art.**

Avraham was born in the United States in Michigan. He studied psychology at the University of Michigan and later studied painting at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Avraham then made Aliya and came to live in Israel. Avraham's extremely inspirational artwork expresses universal spiritual concepts of the Kabbalah.

Next ... Visit Caesarea Philippi (Banias), the site where Jesus revealed his mission to his disciples and proceeds to a Jeep Tour through the cinerary of the Golan Heights.

Stop for a winery tour, lunch and tasting at one of the Golan Wineries.

Proceed to **Mount Bental** and hear from **Avi Melamed**:

The Golan Heights has been Israel's calmest border. Current events put the future of the security future of this area in question. The war in Syria, one of the most significant events in the history of the Middle East, has been brewing for generations – it is ripping apart the fabric of the society and putting the future of the region in question. Standing on the border, a mere twenty miles from Damascus, we will explore in depth the war in Syria, discuss the potential for the "Sinaization" of the Golan, understand the sources and impact of Assad's allegiances and alliances from the Russia to Turkey to Iran, and how the war impacts Syria, the region including Israel's current and future behavior and outlook and the world.

Dinner at the Hotel (main dining room)

Overnight: North

Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

Spend the day around the Sea of Galilee, visiting some of the Christian Holy Sites:

- The **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Continue to **Tabgha**, traditional site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; the modern church preserves fine 5th-century mosaics.
- **Capernaum**. The ancient Jewish town, with its remains of an ancient synagogue, was the base of Jesus' Galilean ministry.
- **Lunch - St. Peter's Fish**
- **Magdala** was an ancient city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is believed to be the birthplace of Mary Magdalene.
- Drive via Tiberias, an ancient/modern city located on the shores of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). One of Israel's four holy Jewish cities, this is where the Jerusalem Talmud was codified and where Maimonides is buried.
- Stop to reflect along the shores of the Sea of Galilee at the **Kinneret cemetery**. Read the words of Rachel the poetess who beautifully articulates the dreams of Israel's pioneers and visit the gravesite of Nomi Shemer who penned the famous Yerushalayim shel Zahav.
- End the day with a **boat ride on the Sea of Galilee**, in a craft inspired by those used by Jesus and the disciples. View the **1st-century AD boat, located at the Yigal Allon Museum** on the shores of the lake.

Return to the Hotel

Dinner at Dag Al Hadan

Overnight: North

Thursday, Feb 20, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel and Check Out (All Luggage on the Bus)

Meet your tour guide

Drive towards Jerusalem.

Drive through the lush Jordan Valley where the desert now blooms with flowers and vegetation of every description (Isaiah 35:1-2). We'll drive south to the ancient remains of **Beit Shean**, the city where Saul and his sins were hung up on the city walls by the Philistines. The Talmud mentions this city as being the "entrance to paradise." We will tour one of the biggest excavated sites in Israel with its bathhouse and Cardo.

On the way to Jerusalem visit **Genesis Land** where we will have the opportunity to ride a camel and enjoy Bedouin style hospitality by Abraham in the tent as well be served lunch.

Arrive in Jerusalem! Welcome and Shehechyanu from Mt. of Olives

Overview from the **Mount of Olives**, overlooking the Old City, the Mount is covered partly in olive trees, cemeteries and churches - commemorating the Christian events of Jesus. Descend via Palm Sunday Way to visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Enter the Garden of Gethsemane, with its ancient olive trees believed to date back to the times of Christ.

Check in to the Hotel.

Group Dinner at Hatzot

After dinner ... **Machane Yehudah Night Shuk Tour**. Machane Yehuda at night is a whole different story. After all the shop owners close down, a new, young alternative Machane Yehuda comes to life. On this tour, you'll learn who is responsible for the **new graffiti paintings** appearing every night on the shops shields. We will take you to see some of the most impressive street art the market has to offer in all kinds of corners.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Friday, Feb 21, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

Meet with Colonel Danny Tirza, architect of the security barrier who will explain how Israel still works to assist Arab farmers who need to reach their fields. Since it was first erected, the security barrier has been under global scrutiny. Learn about the many factors were taken into account when building the barrier to ensure the safety of the Israelis and to preserve the dignity of the Arabs.

Continue to the City of David houses the newest and most exciting excavations of Jerusalem during the time of the first Temple period. Uncover the most recent finds!

Spend the rest of the day, touring the **Old City with Rabbi David Rosen.**

Rabbi David Shlomo Rosen CBE, born in 1951 in Newbury, Berkshire, England, is the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and currently serves as the Director of the American Jewish Committee's Department of Interreligious Affairs and the Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding. In the past, he served as the Anti Defamation League's Director of Interfaith Relations in Israel and as the ADL's co-liaison to the Vatican.

- Walk through the **Armenian and Jewish quarters** to the recently excavated and restored Cardo, the Roman road. See the **Jewish Wailing Wall**, the Kotel.

To welcome Shabbat with Jerusalem ... go to the Western Wall and participate in this wonderful experience!

Dinner at the Hotel (main dining room) with Lone Soldiers. Meet soldier who have joined the Israeli Defense Forces, and who do not have family living in Israel. Hear about their time in the IDF.

Dinner at the Hotel (main dining room)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Saturday, Feb 22, 2020

Option #1: Masada / Dead Sea / Qumran

Ascend the legendary mountaintop plateau of **Masada by cable car** to the ancient synagogue of Masada and explore the ancient fortress. Here, was the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. The Zealots held out for three years against the legions of Flavius Silva and chose to die as free men at their own hands rather than submit to Roman slavery.

Visit Qumran where hidden scrolls found in the caves in 1947 exposed the secret life of the Essenes, a small ultra religious sect, who hid there from the Roman enemy and the burial place of the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Lunch is included at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** on the shores of the Dead Sea. Cover yourselves with mud (found on the shores) and enjoy the unsinkable therapeutic waters of this mineral-rich Sea.

Option #2: Walking Tours in Jerusalem

Yemin Moshe & Mishkenot Sha'ananim. These were the first neighborhoods built outside the Walls of the Old City and therefore they were open to Bedouin raids, pillage and general banditry that was rampant in the region at the time, the Jews were reluctant to move in, even though the housing was luxurious compared to the derelict and overcrowded houses in the Old City.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Sunday, Feb 23, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

Start the day at Yad Vashem / Har Herzl (two groups):

1. **First timers: Yad Vashem** is considered the first and most famous memorial to mankind's darkest period. We will visit the very moving exhibit at the Children's Pavilion, commemorating the death of over 1.5 million Jewish children in the Holocaust. Also the Valley of the Communities - a man-made valley in the form of the European Map built in remembrance of where over 5000 names of communities are engraved on the stone walls, each one remembering a Jewish community that was damaged or destroyed during the Holocaust. (docent lead tour)
2. **Second Timers:** Visit **Mount Herzl** for a special **Esther to Esther** tour about **women bravery**. The group will visit women graves and tell the stories of these courageous figures of history; many unknown.

Machane Yehuda Market. This bustling Jerusalem marketplace and neighborhood, incorporates food, drink, shopping, bars, and restaurants. The market is an exciting venue to experience the colors, aromas and flavors of Israeli food and more!

Lunch on own

There is a saying in Israel that only rightwing government can make peace. Similar to that, there is good chance that the only way to create Jewish pluralism in Israel is by orthodox forces that will promote it from within. On this panel we will meet **three orthodox leaders, representing three different initiatives** that successfully challenge the chief rabbinate monopoly and the hegemony of men in religious leadership.

- **Aaron Leibowitz** is a rabbi. He is a noted educator, and started Hashgacha Pratit, a kosher certification independent of the Rabbinate. He is also a counselor for the Jerusalem municipality for the Yerushalmim party.
- **Elad Caplan**, Legal Adviser in "itim" – organization that helps people navigate the depths of the religious authorities' bureaucracy in Israel, providing information, mediating, representing them, and working to simplify the process and solutions to complex problems.
- **Tali Farkash** an ultra-orthodox journalist and social activist involved in promoting woman rights in the ultra-orthodoxy.

*The panel will be facilitated by **Tehila Friedman** research fellow in the Hartman institute and a program director in Shaharit, a think tank promoting new social covenant in Israel. And the outgoing chair of Neemay Torah ve'Avodah, a modern Orthodox movement promoting pluralism and democracy.*

Overnight: Jerusalem

Monday, Feb 24, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

First thing in the Morning, visit the **Garden Tomb**.

Continue to the **Christian quarter** - walk along the **Via Dolorosa** and visit the **Church of Holy Sepulcher**.

Proceed to Mount Zion and visit **Mount Zion (visit Oscar Schindler's Grave)**, King **David's Tomb**, **Room of Last Supper** and the **Dormition Abbey**.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel

Meet your tour guide

Before heading to Tel Aviv, stop at the **Latrun Armored Museum** which houses tanks of the IDF from the many of Israel's wars. You will learn about the road to Jerusalem and the battles relating to this road.

Proceed to the big city Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Visit the **Old Port City of Jaffa (Yafo)**, just south of Tel Aviv offers a beautiful panoramic view of Tel Aviv and a sense of the first Jewish city of the modern era, established in 1909. As one of the oldest port cities in the world, you can visit the ancient ruins and walk along the Artist's Quarter. The history of Jaffa is a long one. As of the world's oldest ports, Jaffa is thought to have been the port from which Jonah left in the story of the Whale! The port continued to be important through history, and served as the main entry point to the land of Israel through until the late 19th century when Jews from around the world began to return to Israel. It was through Jaffa that they entered the country and in Jaffa that many initially settled.

Continue to the **Innovation Center** in Tel Aviv located next to Rothschild Boulevard. This will highlight Israeli innovations and recent breakthroughs in technology. The excursion begins with scouting the interactive exhibition, and learning about the global advancements made by Israeli start-ups in various fields. The journey continues with a short movie that demonstrates the unique story of the Israeli hi-tech industry, and is concluded with a captivating overview lecture on the Israeli start-up ecosystem.

If time permits will enjoy a walking tour through Neve Tzedek and have a Levinsky market Tasting Tour.

Return to Jerusalem for Farewell Dinner

Overnight: Jerusalem

Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020

Breakfast at the Hotel and Check out

Depart / Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for the International Flight

Sunday, 5 May 2019

Proposal for Hayward – Moline Program, February 2020

I am pleased to send you a proposal for **Hayward-Moline Program, February 2020**. All rates below are per person, based on sharing a double room. Single supplement listed separately.

Based on the following hotels (or similar based on availability at the time of booking):

16-17 Feb 2020	Sun-Mon	1 night at Dan Panorama Tel Aviv – Standard Rooms
17-20 Feb 2020	Mon-Thu	3 nights at Kibbutz Hagoshrim – Classic Rooms
20-26 Feb 2020	Thu-Wed	6 nights at Herbert Samuel Jerusalem – Standard Rooms

Total of 10 overnights (not including early check in / not including late check out)

Price Per Person

25 – 29 Participants	30 – 34 Participants	35 – 39 Participants	40 – 45 Participants	Single Supplement
\$ 3,149	\$ 3,015	\$ 2,915	\$ 2,795	\$ 1,465

Quote Includes:

- 1 meet/assist upon arrival (including portorage) at Ben Gurion Airport
- 1 group transfer from Ben Gurion Airport upon arrival
- 10 days of private English-speaking tour guide
- 10 days of air conditioned vehicle
- Entrances as listed on program
- 10 overnights at above mentioned hotels (or similar)
- 4 frees (2 double rooms)
- 1 group transfer from Jerusalem Hotel to Ben Gurion Airport

Meal Arrangements:

- **Breakfast:** Daily Breakfast at Israeli Hotels
- **Lunches:** 1 Lunch at a Winery (or similar), 1 St. Peter’s Fish Lunch, 1 Lunch in Genesis Land
- **Dinners:** 1 Dinner at Hotel in the North, 1 Dinner at Dag alHadan (or similar), 1 Dinner at Hatzot (or similar), 1 Friday Night Dinner at the Hotel, 1 Farewell Dinner

Quote Does Not Include:

- Touring to Masada/Dead Sea on Saturday, Feb 22,
- Pre-arrivals and extensions,
- International Airfare,
- Travel Insurance,
- Mineral Water on the bus (additional \$2.50 per day for 1 liter per person),
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages,
- Expenses of a personal nature,
- Any activities/meals noted with “on own”,
- Entrances on days listed as “no guide/day on own”,
- Any meals not mentioned above,
- Tips to driver, guide, and hotel staff.