

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: June 7, 2019

PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE YOUNG FAMILY ISRAEL TRIP June 14-24, 2020

Day One: Sunday, June 14, 2020

DEPARTURE

- 1:00 p.m. Depart Newark with El Al flight #028.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, June 15, 2020

ARRIVAL

- 6:25 a.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Depart the airport and drive north.
- Head north and back in time to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Stop at the Ancient Roman Aqueduct, located on the pristine beaches of Caesarea. With the ruins of a past empire to your backs, enjoy the power of the sand, the sea, and the rush of the water as you celebrate the beginning of your journey throughout Israel.
- **Lunch** at **Mataim** dairy restaurant in Zichron Yaakov overlooking **Hanadiv Gardens**.
- Check into the Kibbutz hotel in the **Upper Galilee**.

Adults:

- **Buza=Glida=Gelato=Ice Cream: Coexistence Never Tasted So Good:** Buza (Arabic for ice cream) is a joint operation by Alaa Sweitat and Adam Ziv. This Muslim-Jewish duo uses 100% natural products and Italian know-how to create Galilean glida (Hebrew for ice cream).

Children:

- Pool time, including Buza ice cream tasting.

All:

- **Dinner** at the hotel.
- **Bruchim Ha'Baim!** Opening activity with Park Avenue Synagogue staff and your tour educator.

Overnight: Pastoral Kfar Blum Hotel, Upper Galilee



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Day Three: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

NATURE AND SECURITY IN THE NORTH

- Morning moment followed by **breakfast** at the hotel.
- Begin the day with a nature hike to the new **Suspended Trail** above the spectacular canyon of the **Banias Stream**, at the foot of Mount Hermon.
- Take a **Jeep tour** off-road up the **Golan Heights** in the footsteps of Israeli soldiers and their battles in the Six Day War. Enjoy the beautiful natural scenery and gain an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- The panoramic views from **Mount Bental** (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) give sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights** and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- **The Syrians, the Soviets, and the Golan Today:** Our exploration of the role of the Golan Heights in Israel's history and security will include a visit to the former Syrian military headquarters in the area. We'll hear how this building, located near the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra, survived the brutal fighting that took place here in 1967 and 1973. We'll also find out what this structure has to do with the Soviet Union and the Israeli spy Eli Cohen as we learn about the impact of Syria's civil war in this area. A catered picnic **lunch** will be served in this abandoned location.

Adults:

- **Wine Tasting** at a local winery at Kibbutz Ein Zivan on the Golan Heights.

Children:

- Enjoy the culinary delight of a **chocolate workshop** at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** at Kibbutz Ein Zivan.

All:

- Back to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy some **pool time**.
- **BBQ dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Pastoral Kfar Blum Hotel, Upper Galilee



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Day Four: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

A MOSAIC OF ISRAEL

- Morning moment followed by **breakfast** at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Drive to **Kibbutz Afek** and visit the **Aluma Kindergarten**.
- Depart Kibbutz Afek.
- Guided visit to **Beit She'arim**, site of an 1,800-year-old Jewish necropolis and the graves of some of the most important codifiers of Jewish tradition. Beit She'arim has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Drive to **Alonim Junction**.
- Lunch (*not included in package*).
- **Tikkun Olam** hands-on experience with **Leket**, a volunteer organization that provides food for the needy by collecting excess produce from farms and food distribution companies.
- Depart for Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem:** Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Upon entering the city, stop at **Mount Scopus** for an overlook of the Old and New City of Jerusalem and to recite the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing and sing *Hatikva*.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner at **Black Bar and Burger**.
- Drive back to the hotel.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Five: Thursday, June 18, 2020

HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel for the **Old City**.
- Morning moment at the **Kotel** (Western Wall).
- Visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.
- Walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, with visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights.
- Walk through the **Cardo**, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th century.
- Lunch (*not included in package*) in the Old City.
- Drive to **Beit Guvrin**.
- Take part in an **archaeological dig** at the **Beit Guvrin Caves** and prepare to get your hands dirty as you uncover pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago, followed by a crawl through the **Maresha Cave Labyrinth** (*crawling is optional*).
- Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel with time to relax and enjoy the pool.
- Dinner on your own

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



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Day Six: Friday, June 19, 2020

MEMORY & RENEWAL

- Morning moment followed by **breakfast** at the hotel.

Adults:

- Visit the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**.
 - The new **Historical Museum**.
 - The **Children's Memorial**.
 - A concluding **memorial service**.

Children (accompanied by two youth counselors and Park Avenue staff):

- Visit the **Jerusalem Aquarium** – Don't miss this unique opportunity to see the wonders of the ocean in the heart of Jerusalem.
- Visit the **Biblical Zoo**, a beautifully landscaped habitat with a special focus on preserving biblical fauna, geared to children of all ages (2-80).

All:

- Lunch and shopping on your own at **Ben-Yehuda Street, Mahane Yehuda** open-air market, or **Mamilla pedestrian arcade**.
- Journaling time.
- Depart the hotel.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at **Ezrat Israel**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel (Western Wall) including an opportunity for family photos with our photographer.
- **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel, joined by **Lone Soldiers**.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Seven: Saturday, June 20, 2020

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Shabbat services** at Jerusalem synagogues.
- **Shabbat lunch** at the hotel.
- *(Optional)* **In the Footsteps of David**: Family team game in the **Yemin Moshe Neighborhood**.
- Free afternoon to relax and enjoy the pool or the **Teddy Park Fountains**.
- *(Optional)* Family learning moment with Rabbi Witkovsky.
- **Seuda Shlisheet** at the hotel.
- **Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah** overlooking the Old City, followed by a free evening.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



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Day Eight: Sunday, June 21, 2020

INTO THE DESERT: MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, then descend to the **Dead Sea Basin**.
- Ascend by cable car to **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and the site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defense and its current significance in modern Israel, including a morning moment.
- Lunch (*not included in package*).
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**.
- Visit **Genesis Land**, a biblical-style encampment in the Judean Desert. Delve into the Bible, take a camel ride, experience biblical hospitality and a drum circle, and enjoy a '**hafla**' dinner.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Journaling time.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Nine: Monday, June 22, 2020

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE

- Morning moment followed by **breakfast** at the hotel.
- Depart Jerusalem.
- Continue to the city of **Tel Aviv**, known as the "city that never sleeps," with its centers of culture, recreation, and national history, great beaches, and fine stores.
- 10:00 a.m. Visit the **Jaffa Overlook** for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.
- **From Hebrew City to Hebrew State:** Walk along the newly opened **Independence Trail** and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.
- Sample the remarkable food in one of the exciting restaurants of Rothschild Boulevard for lunch (*not included in package*).
- Stop at **Rabin Square**, a center of Tel Aviv's cultural and political life, named for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was assassinated here. Take a quiet moment at the Rabin Memorial.

Option 1:

- Explore two thousand years of rich Jewish culture and community at **Beit Hatefutsot** (the Diaspora house), the Museum of the Jewish People and Culture; visit the newly opened **synagogue exhibition** and the "**Heroes – Trailblazers of the Jewish People**" hands-on activities.

Option 2:

- **Fun in the Sun!** Splash in the waves of the Mediterranean at the famous **Metzizim Beach**.

All:

- Enjoy **dinner** at **Lehem Basar** restaurant located at the port of Tel Aviv overlooking the Mediterranean.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Journaling time.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



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Day Ten: Tuesday, June 23, 2020

ISRAEL – OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

- Morning moment followed by **breakfast** at the hotel and wrap-up session.
- **Hiking in the Hills:** Stretch your legs with a hike that will take you from the tree-laden beauty of the **Jerusalem Hills** down to the **Sataf Springs**. Along the way, witness how ancient methods of agricultural cultivation are being revived in modern Israel.
- View the **Knesset**, Israel's parliament, and see the big bronze Menorah (seven-branched candelabra), with its reliefs of events and personalities in Jewish history.
- Drive back to the hotel for free time, including packing, shopping, and lunch (*not included in package*).
- (*Optional*) Tour educator and a bus will be available for those who wish to stroll or dine at Machne Yehuda market (*Lunch is not included in package*).

All:

- Check out from the hotel.
- Depart for the Ayalon Institute.
- **Arming for Independence:** Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot and uncover its role in the establishment of the State of Israel. This secret ammunition factory produced millions of bullets for Jewish forces fighting for a Jewish State and the end of British rule over Palestine.
- Farewell **dinner** at **Ayalon Institute**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your midnight flight.

Overnight: Flight

Day Eleven: Wednesday, June 24, 2020

RETURN

- 12:05 a.m. Depart Ben Gurion Airport with EL AL flight #025
- 4:45 a.m. Arrive at Newark.



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