



The World is your classroom!

Upcoming Tours led by **Professor Stephen Berk**



EASTERN EUROPE

Prague, Budapest, Krakow, Warsaw

June 14 - 26, 2014

November 2 - 12, 2014

June 16 - 28, 2015 (Plus Germany Extension)



RUSSIA

Moscow and St. Petersburg

June 26 - July 2, 2014



100 YEARS LATER: TRACING TWO GREAT WARS

Bosnia, France, and Belgium

July 24 - August 6, 2014



NEW ZEALAND / AUSTRALIA

Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown,
Christchurch, Melbourne, Cairns, Sydney

December 3 - 28, 2014

* Visit www.ayelet.com for details & pricing.

Upcoming Tours

Follow your heart...
unique tours with a beat!

European Jewish Heritage Tour

Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest & Prague
and Vienna Extension - with **Annette Meskin**

May 4 - 15, 2014

A Jewish Journey to Berlin & Israel

- with **Cantor Joseph Gole**

August 31 - September 12, 2014

Israel Beneath the Surface:

A Unique Trip for "Repeaters" - with **Sophie Gottlieb**

October 19 - 30, 2014

What our travelers are saying...

The trip was wonderful. The Israel experience was amazing. **Your staff and tour guides were fantastic!** The accommodations were top notch, we could not ask for better.

- Bob Crystal

Federation of Northeastern NY Mission to Israel, Fall 2013

It was truly a **"trip of a lifetime"**. Absolutely fascinating country from Tiananmen Square in Beijing to the Great Wall to the Terracotta Solders to the Shanghai skyline. Professor Berk was great...

- Bruce A. Wolpert, Esq.

China Jewish Heritage Tour with Prof. Stephen Berk, Fall 2013

I want to thank you for all your help in making our recent travels with Ayelet one of our **best trips ever**. The trip clearly exceeded all expectations.

- Robert & Marilyn Israel

Spain Jewish Heritage Tour led by Rabbi Amy Sapowith



Looking Back, Then To The Future

For 28 years and counting, Ayelet Tours has created unique travel experiences in Israel and around the world. The thousands (or maybe millions) of moments of connection created on these tours are our "raison d'être." One of the great challenges for a company like Ayelet Tours is that we are always spending our (mental) time in the future. As I write this at the start of 2014, we are working to create groups that will travel in 2015, 2016, and even one for 2017. I can remember clearly the twinkle of wonder I felt in the mid 90's as we signed our first contract for an event we would coordinate in the far off future 'Year 2000' – it seemed forever away!

The challenge of spending so much mental time in the future, is that it makes it difficult to be present in the moment and to be able to appreciate all that is going on around us right now, and all we have accomplished in the past. How ironic that those are exactly the types of "be here now" experiences we are helping to create for others! In the age of the smart phone and continuous partial attention (are you still with me?), the types of hands-on, personal connection experiences that travel creates are more important than ever.

The *Ayelet's World* newsletter gives us a forum to take a mental break from the future, a chance to catalogue our recent accomplishments if only for a moment. We ran trips near and far in 2013 – China, The Galapagos, Peru and Ecuador, Spain and Europe, and of course many, many trips to Israel. We ran several large scale Christian Pilgrimage tours, each with hundreds of participants traveling to the Holy Land to stand with Israel, something of which we are extremely proud. We even ran a very successful Jewish Heritage tour to the Southern USA!

The opportunity to experience the world around us is one of the great joys of life. We hope you'll join us in 2014, 2015 and beyond, in exploring the magic, the connection, the life affirming joy of being in the moment that travel affords us. As all our itineraries say - the memories last forever!



Shalom,

Diane Rubtchinsky
President



Shalom, from China!

This year the Ayelet's Traveling University went to China! Accompanied by our scholar in residence, Prof. Stephen Berk, 35 participants toured the top spots in this amazing country, delving into over 4,000 years of history and unique culture.

The group also **met with the Jewish communities in both Beijing and Shanghai**, highlighted by Shabbat dinner with the Beijing community. In Shanghai, they **visited the Ohel Moshe Synagogue** built in 1927, along with the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum where 25,000 Jewish refugees made their way to safety during World War II.

POP QUIZ:

What were two of the only ports that accepted Jewish refugees during WWII without Visas?



The Answer:

Shanghai, China and Quito, Ecuador

As it happens, Ayelet Tours sent groups to both destinations this year! Twenty participants on an Ayelet clergy familiarization tour visited the **Jewish community of Quito**, sharing Shabbat dinner and learning about the history of this unique community so close to the equator. They also visited the (Jewish?) giant tortoises of the Galapagos, and some even visited Peru to **climb the ancient Inca ruins at Machu Picchu**. Thanks to Doug Kohn for the group photo – do you recognize any of the rabbis or cantors in the group?



WUPJ Connections 2013

Ayelet Tours once again coordinated the **World Union for Progressive Judaism's** 36th biennial convention - Connections 2013 - which took place May 1-5 in Jerusalem, Israel. Over 300 representatives from over 30 countries attended, from as far away as Brazil and Argentina, Hong Kong, and even Indonesia! Speakers included Ruth Messenger of American Jewish World Service, the URJ's Rabbi Rick Jacobs, and many other outstanding presenters.

Conferences

Ayelet Tours is proud to be the most trusted name in Jewish conference coordination.

Upcoming conferences include:



Central Conference of American Rabbis

March 30 - April 3, 2014: Chicago, IL
March 15 - 19, 2015: Philadelphia, PA



Cantors Assembly

May 18-22, 2014: Weston, FL
May 3-7, 2015: Chicago, IL



American Conference of Cantors/ Guild of Temple Musicians

June 30-July 8, 2014: Tel Aviv & Jerusalem, Israel
June 28-July 2, 2015: Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

March 14-18, 2015: Toronto, Canada

Ayelet Tours, Ltd is delighted to welcome Susan Rosenberg Feldman

as our new Conference Services Manager. For the past six years, Susan has run the national conferences for the Jewish Federations of North America and JSTREET and she brings over 18 years of Jewish Communal meeting and event planning experience to Ayelet and our clients. Susan shares, "This position is a perfect fit for me! I love being able to combine my passion for Judaism, Jewish Communal work and high level organizing and meeting planning (both kosher and kosher-style) into one role. I couldn't be happier!"

Susan lives with her husband and two children in Dallas, Texas and can be reached at: 1-800-237-1517, Ext. 318 or susanf@ayelet.com.



Thinking of planning a congregational tour to Germany?

Contact Ayelet Tours for expert advice on creating a moving, meaningful - and yes, fun - journey through Germany.

Exploring Germany's Jewish Heritage

This past November, Ayelet Tours was proud to host a dynamic group of Rabbis and Cantors on a **familiarization tour to Germany**. Accompanied by Seffie Epstein of Ayelet Tours, clergy from all over the United States met with leaders and members of the local Jewish communities of **Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin** to experience the revitalization of Jewish life as it is happening today in Germany.

Here's what one participant had to say:

"How blessed I feel to have shared this incredible journey to Germany with all of you. What an incredible gift ... our journey was such a wonderful combination of seriousness, learning, laughing and crying. So many of my assumptions about Germany need to be adjusted. I feel so inspired by the Jewish renaissance in Germany. I have such a desire to share that dimension of our trip with my congregation."

- Rabbi Alan Londy
Ayelet's 2013 Clergy Familiarization Tour to Germany

Celebrate your **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** in Israel!



Searching for a Tour?

You're GUARANTEED to find one with us!

Ayelet Tours offers guaranteed departures weekly - check out the options for Jewish Heritage In-Depth, Israel Highlights (General) and Biblical Journey (Christian) tours on www.ayelet.com and get packing!



Ever wonder what happens to all the notes put in the Western Wall?

Well, every six months they are removed and buried on the Mount of Olives, making room for new prayers, hopes and wishes for the millions who visit it each year!



We look forward to a wonderful year traveling with you!
- The Ayelet Tours Team

Bar/Bat Mitzvah RATES & DATES	Tour Ends	Extension Ends
2014		
Feb. 13, 2014	Feb. 23, 2014	No Extension
Jun. 8, 2014	Jun. 20, 2014	Jun. 22, 2014
Jun. 22, 2014	Jul. 4, 2014	Jul. 6, 2014
Aug. 10, 2014	Aug. 22, 2014	Aug. 24, 2014
Dec. 21, 2014	Jan. 2, 2015	Jan. 4, 2015
2015		
Feb. 12, 2015	Feb. 22, 2015	No Extension
Private tours with similar itineraries can be arranged for your family. Contact Ayelet Tours at 800-237-1517 for details!		

Did you know the first trip to Israel that Ayelet Tours ever ran, was an Inter-Faith tour?

Back in 1984, founder Diane Rubtchinsky coordinated a tour to the holy land for Bishop Howard Hubbard from the Albany Diocesis and Rabbi Martin Silverman from Temple Beth Emeth in Albany, NY. It was on this tour that Diane's dream of an agency specializing in Israel and open to every faith and nationality was first conceived.



That tradition of outreach and cross cultural partnership continues today, just on a larger scale! Ayelet handled numerous large scale Christian tours in 2013, among them pilgrimages led by Pastor Benny Hinn and a major tour run with our partners at God- TV. The year 2014 features many Christian groups as well as an even more ambitious project. We look forward to partnering with Promise Keepers | One Message on a global scale event this September. The event and surrounding tour promises to bring thousands of Christian Pilgrims to the Holy Land to stand with their Israeli brothers and sisters. We are honored to be playing an integral role in coordinating this extraordinary global happening!