

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



איגוד
עולמי
יהדות
תקדמת



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, Germany

See the World with the World Union for Progressive Judaism!

Participate in a Jewish travel experience like no other!

WHY ARE WORLD UNION (WUPJ) TRIPS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER TRIPS?

...all WUPJ trips are focused on **sites of Progressive (Reform) Jewish interest** while including the important secular ones as well.

...all WUPJ trips are **led by and feature renowned Progressive Jewish clergy** and scholars from around the world.

...all WUPJ trips provide opportunities to **'Eat, Pray, Study' with Progressive Jewish congregations in their own communities**, often also in conjunction with a major international or regional WUPJ conference.

...all WUPJ trips **promote the cause of Progressive Judaism**: ensuring the future of a vibrant contemporary Diaspora! You travel with, meet, and form life-long friendships with Progressive Jews from all over the world who are committed to this mission.

Berlin to London - Celebrating 90 Years

Led by Rabbi Daniel Frelander: April 7-14, 2016

Reform Judaism in Israel: An Insider Perspective

Led by Rabbi Steve Burnstein: May 18-25, 2016

Amazing African Adventure: South Africa

Led by Rabbi Lennard Thal: July 6-17, 2016

Exotic Asian Experience: China

Led by Rabbi Joel Oseran: November 9-18, 2016



HADASSAH



HADASSAH

It feels good to be home! All of us at Ayelet Tours are beaming with pride at the announcement of our programs and continued partnership with our dear friends at Hadassah. Hadassah is the largest Jewish organization in America, and among the largest Women's organizations in the world, counting over 330,000 women (and men!) as members. Together we have sent literally thousands of people to Israel on life-changing specialty missions and tours for doctors, nurses, associates, donors, innovators, Hadassah regions and more. The 2015/2016 tours are now open for registration. **Explore the full list of Hadassah Missions on page 6!**

Check www.ayelet.com for details & to sign up today!



The World is your classroom!

*Upcoming Traveling University Tours**



EASTERN EUROPE
with Prof. Stephen Berk
June 14-26, 2016



The Ashkenazi Story Through GERMANY & THE BALTICS
with Prof. Jeremy Leigh
July 11-25, 2016



CUBA
with Prof. Stephen Berk
Dec 4-11, 2016

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

As time goes by...

In the summer of 1989, just three years after I founded Ayelet Tours, we watched with pride as our son, Jeff, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Masada. (Some of you may know him!)

In February 2015, over 25 years later, we celebrated the B'nai Mitzvah of two of our grandchildren at Hebrew Union College, overlooking the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Eliana (my daughter Stacy's oldest) and Danny (my daughter Jodi's youngest) led Kabbalat Shabbat services, read beautifully from the Torah, and impressed us all with their maturity, dedication and poise. (A bubbe can brag!)

I marvel at the years that have passed between these two events - life spins by so quickly. As my husband Ira is fond of saying - these life cycle events, much like experiential travel, stand as punctuation marks that help prevent life from being one long run-on sentence.

Celebrating your child or grandchild's B'nai Mitzvah in Israel is an opportunity to reach the potential of this coming of age rite. This is L'Dor V'Dor, from generation to generation, come to life. It highlights the importance of connection - to Judaism, to Israel as a land and a people, and to each other as a family.

I invite you to join us in Israel, to share these magical experiences as a family, and to make memories together that will last forever.



Shalom,

Diane Rubtchinsky
President

What our travelers are saying...

This was truly the best trip/tour we've ever taken (my husband's words as well as mine)! Our guide, was absolutely amazing - his knowledge of Jewish, Christian, historical and archeological sites was incredible, and he shared just enough for us to retain much of what we saw without overwhelming us!

- Alice G.
Israel Tour - Oct 2014

This was a wonderful trip from beginning to end. I was very impressed with the organization of the trip. Every detail was attended to. The guides were superb. [Tour Escort] Irina was a standout. She took care of everything, from hotel check-in to making sure that our time was used to maximal efficiency. The hotels were fantastic, especially the Bristol in Warsaw. I would also like to mention the private Chopin concert. What a nice touch. We all loved it. Probably no need to mention Professor Berk, but he is clearly an outstanding talent.

- Gila & Bruce G
Prof Berk E. Europe Tour - Nov 2014



Honoring the Kindertransport A tour of Europe in July 2016

Article by K2 Rachel Rubin-Green

On a recent bicycle tour of the Netherlands, I asked myself "Is this view; the flower fields, the canals, the windmills, the narrow brick buildings, what my mother saw out the train window when she left Germany on the Kindertransport?" And the thought of a **tour, primarily by rail, that followed a route of the Kindertransports** started to take shape.

Kindertransports, German for "Children's Trains" rescued about 10,000 Jewish children from Nazi occupied Europe between December 1938 and September 1939, when war began. Many people and organizations cooperated in the Kindertransport effort. Children boarded transports in **Berlin, Vienna and Prague**, and some other cities. Children from smaller towns, like my mother, went to these cities to begin their journeys. They went by train to the **Hook of Holland** and then by ferry to **Harwich, England**. Then another train took them to **London**. Refugee organizations in Great Britain helped to arrange housing in boarding schools or private homes. Many children saved by the Kindertransports never saw their parents again, although some, like my mother, did.

I felt that a tour following the route of the Kindertransport would give me a greater appreciation for this particular aspect of my mother's life experience. So I contacted Ayelet. Viola! More information about the tour is available at www.ayelet.com/KindertransportJuly2016.aspx. For anyone with interest about the Kindertransports, I invite you to join this extraordinary experience!

SHALOM, RABBI!

Bring your Congregation to

ISRAEL in Feb 2016

& Travel FREE!

Contact jeff@ayelet.com for details.

Conferences

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

Upcoming conferences include:



Central Conference of American Rabbis
March 19–22, 2017: Atlanta, GA



Cantors Assembly
May 21–24, 2017: Galloway, NJ



**American Conference of Cantors/
Guild of Temple Musicians**
June 26–30, 2016: Philadelphia, PA

Celebrate your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel!



The perfect way to mark your simcha - Celebrating in Israel!

Bar/Bat Mitzvah DATES	Tour Ends	Extension Ends
2015		
Dec. 20, 2015	Jan. 1, 2016	Jan. 5, 2016
2016		
Feb. 11, 2016	Feb. 22, 2016	Feb. 26, 2016
Jun. 30, 2016	Jul. 11, 2016	Jul. 15, 2016
Jul. 21, 2016	Aug. 1, 2016	Aug. 5, 2016
Aug. 18, 2016	Aug. 29, 2016	Sep. 2, 2016
Dec. 22, 2016	Jan. 2, 2017	Jan. 6, 2017
Private tours with custom itineraries can be arranged for your family. See rates & full itinerary at www.ayelet.com or contact Ayelet Tours at 800-237-1517 for details!		

Conferences Are We!

While Ayelet Tours is best known for helping travelers explore and discover destinations throughout the world, **we also offer conference planning expertise to many organizations** in the United States, Israel, Eastern Europe, Spain, Germany, and beyond. Ayelet's Conference Services division prides itself on customer service and attention to detail for meetings of all sizes. It is our mission to assist our clients in creating and executing successful events by focusing on the site selection, planning, housing, registration processing, accounting, VIP management, on-site execution and more. Our services allow our clients to focus on what is most important - the program content itself. We provide the behind the scenes help and conference coordination that results in stress-free and memorable events.

2015 started with many busy months of outstanding conferences. These included the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) meeting in Philadelphia in March, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) meeting in Toronto in March, The Cantors Assembly (CA) in Chicago in May and the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) in Ft. Lauderdale in June.

For information on how we can help you execute flawless meetings, please contact Susan Feldman, Conference Services Manager, at susanf@ayelet.com or 1-800-237-1517, ext. 318. We look forward to your call!

Ayelet's January 2015 Clergy Familiarization Tour to Israel

In January 2015, Ayelet hosted a group of clergy for a study trip to Israel in conjunction with Makor, the educational travel division of our partner IGT.

Titled "**Creativity in Innovation**", the trip focused on individuals and places in Israel that show the **depth and breadth of contemporary Israeli creativity**, some new and some known, but all with a deeper story to tell. Our group visited places like **Google Lab Tel Aviv**, **Beer Sheva's Saroka Hospital**, and new excavations in Jerusalem's Old City. We met with Gaza border communities, and scholars like **Rachel Korazim**, **Paul Liptz**, and **Alick Isaacs** (author of a Prophetic Peace). We held high level discussions with Palestinian and Israeli journalists, the IMPJ, HUC rabbinic students, and the Israel Religious Action Center. We enjoyed an amazing evening at the Beresheet resort in Mitzpeh Ramon, with an early morning jeep ride...and even got to experience snow in Jerusalem!

Most of all, it was our pleasure to host such an outstanding group of people, committed to Israel and to sharing its triumphs, challenges, nuances, love of life and desire for Peace. The group was escorted by our own Seffie Epstein, who now represents Ayelet in Israel full time from his base in Jerusalem.





Travel with the legendary Prof. Berk to Eastern Europe, Spain or Cuba in 2016!

Dr. Stephen Berk, who after working with us for more than 20 years needs no introduction, will be our Scholar in Residence once again in 2016. Dr. Berk's March 2016 to Cuba is already sold out, so we're adding another departure date. Dr Berk will return to Cuba Dec. 4–11, 2016, but act now, and **sign up before there is yet another waiting list!**

Join Dr. Berk in the Jewish heartland of **east central Europe, June 14–26, 2016**. We will visit Warsaw, Krakow, Prague and Budapest, cities that possessed, before WWII, vibrant and creative Jewish communities. We'll learn about prominent Jewish religious and secular personalities as well as important movements and parties. The destruction of these centers of Jewish life and the attempts to revive them after the Holocaust will be examined. Please note that when we are in Warsaw, we will visit **the magnificent new POLIN museum, dedicated to the history of Jews in Poland**. Prof. Berk will also be accompanying the **Cantors Assembly Spain tour in July 2016**.

We invite you to join Dr. Berk for an adventure in learning and enjoying!

Introducing...



Best-Day Adventures

A division of Ayelet Tours serving Jewish singles

Best-Day Adventures; a new division of Ayelet Tours

Welcome to Best-Day Adventures, the newest endeavor of Ayelet Tours, serving **single Jewish travelers in their 40s, 50s and 60s**. Here you will find a series of highly organized, destination-oriented travel packages where group camaraderie, participation, choices and lots fun are in order.

Our trips are chock full of **interesting sights, great people and an enhanced activity program** to give you an "above and beyond" experience...icebreakers, special events, dining arrangements, organized tours, travel assistance, custom gifts and lots more. Our mantra "...The Best Day of your trip...so far." is meant to express our ultimate goal of providing you with a travel experience that will be etched in your heart forever.

Bill Cartiff, our tour leader, brings 22 years of Jewish singles tour leadership experience. Since 1993, Bill has led tours – specifically for the Jewish singles demographic – across the globe, touching all seven continents. He has traveled the world – to India, Israel, Africa, Vietnam, Brazil and even Spitsbergen (the Arctic) and Antarctica!

Best-Day Adventures' heads off to adventure in **Costa Rica this May!** Also coming up in July, is a tour of **Israel** that will touch the heart & soul of first time and repeat visitors alike.

Each trip is unique, but what remains consistent is our commitment to provide all of our guests an unparalleled travel experience. Our expertise in planning with single Jewish travelers in mind, coupled with our decades of experience and our passion for sharing that expertise with you, will make every day...the Best-Day of your trip...so far.

For more information on what Best-Day Adventures is all about, and upcoming trips, email us at: **info@bestdayadventures.com** or visit **www.bestdayadventures.com**.



Upcoming Tours for Jewish Singles in their 40s, 50s & 60s with Bill Cartiff

New Year's Eve Caribbean Cruise

Ring in the new year with fun in the sun!

Dec 26, 2015–Jan 2, 2016

Costa Rica

Enjoy rainforests & cloudforest, try zip lining, go rappelling - adventure awaits!

May 12–22, 2016

Journey to Israel

First-time & return travelers.

July 10–21, 2016



JOIN THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY FOR THE SEPHARDIC SOUNDS OF SPAIN

On July 4–14, 2016, the CA will bring alive the voices of the past on their musical mission to SPAIN. The tour will feature moving concerts, in-depth touring and scholarly insight. Travel abroad never sounded so good! See ayelet.com for details!

- » **Celebrate Sephardic culture and song, with special CA Concerts and Events throughout**
- » Tour the world famous Prado Museum in Madrid
- » Visit the Grand Toledo Cathedral & the Transito Synagogue in the Imperial City of Toledo
- » Enjoy a special Ladino program at Casa De Sefarad in Cordoba
- » Discover the works of Gaudi, including the massive Sagrada Familia & Guell Park in Barcelona
- » Extend your adventure with post-tours to **PORTUGAL or ISRAEL!**



Fill Your Memory Bank...

Recently, my wife Julie and I enjoyed two awe-inspiring weeks hiking in Patagonia, at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile - it was glorious. We saw spectacular viewpoints, walked on breathtaking glaciers, encountered amazing wildlife and discovered ancient cave art. Somewhere along the trail I was reminded of the adage I share with others as I plan their tours to Israel and other destinations worldwide - **Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.**

These experiences, be it hiking through Patagonia, or up Masada, or hearing the horn announcing the arrival of Shabbat in Jerusalem, or wine tasting in the Golan, or collecting fruits for Israel's needy... **these are the moments that fill up our lives - the memories we recall with great joy.** There is simply nothing more valuable. How lucky we are in the travel industry, to be able to help others create these memories! As we start 2016 - our 30th year coordinating travel worldwide - we want to say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to fulfill our mission, and share our love for Israel and the wider world with you - our clients, our partners, our friends.

Inside this issue of Ayelet's World, you'll find many new ways to visit **Israel**, including a Jewish Singles tour, part of our new Best-Day Adventures Tour Series - focusing on Single Travelers in their 40s, 50s and 60s. You'll find Traveling University tours to **Eastern Europe, Cuba, Germany**, and more. You'll see a trip this summer to Europe for Kindertransport descendents - tracing their train ride to freedom, over 75 years ago, from mainland Europe to England. These will be moving, in some cases life changing, experiences for those that join. All of us at Ayelet Tours are here to help you invest in memories - **and may the banks of your memory overflow!**



Shalom,

Jeff Rubtchinsky
Vice President



Connect with Israel

When you tour Israel with Hadassah, it's not just a mission. It's a powerful cultural, emotional, and spiritual adventure.

Hadassah Mission to Jerusalem & The Blooming Desert

March 1–11, 2016

SOLD OUT! Hadassah Humanitarian Mission to Cuba

March 22–30, 2016

Hadassah Mission to Amsterdam & Israel (Including Yom Ha'atzmaut)

May 1–12, 2016

Hadassah Interfaith Mission to Israel

May 18–29, 2016

Hadassah Mothers & Daughters Mission to Israel

June 21–July 3, 2016

Indulge Your Senses On A Unique Hadassah Mission: Experience Israeli Fashion, Food, Wine & Design

August 30–September 11, 2016

Hadassah Nassau Mission to Israel

October 27–November 6, 2016

Hadassah Mid-Atlantic Mission to Israel

November 9–20, 2016

Hadassah: A Multi-Generational Experience

December 22, 2016–January 1, 2017

Did you know?

Ayelet's tours are IVY LEAGUE!



We are proud to coordinate graduate and undergraduate tours to Israel for **Harvard Law, Yale and UPenn**, as well as **West Point, Georgetown, Brandeis** and many more!



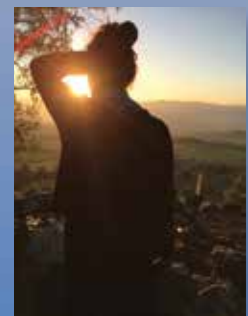
These are the letters we work so hard for...thank you to Channa and her family for allowing us to help her Make-A-Wish of visiting Israel come true!

Hi Jean/Ayelet Tours,

I don't even know where to begin. To say that our trip exceeded expectations is an understatement. To start with, our guide Aaron was the best of the best...So many beautiful places that were backed by such moving stories. These stories were even more meaningful because they were being brought to life by a man so filled with passion and love for his people and his country. The hotels, bus driver, Channa's gifts, birthday celebration. Everything, top notch!!!

My only complaint? Having to leave! Again, we cannot thank you all enough for giving my family such memories. Most of all, my daughter is ready for her future in Israel!

Many thanks,
Ben, Kelley, Max and Channa



We look forward to a wonderful year traveling with you!

- The Ayelet Tours Team

