

Hadassah's 2nd Geopolitical Mission to **ISRAEL**

A tour with more Questions than Answers...

Led by Natalie Silverman

(As of 1/17/18)



Day 1: Monday, February 19, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Depart JFK on our overnight flight to Israel (*group flight departs at 7:00PM*).

Day 2: Tuesday, February 20, 2018: WELCOME TO ISRAEL: "THE QUIET BEFORE THE STORM"

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in the late afternoon, where we are met and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home! (*Group arrival at 1:00PM*).
- We begin our tour at the **Biblical Gardens**, where we **plant trees** and take in the panoramic views of Tel Aviv to the east and the Mediterranean to the west.
- Drive to **Jerusalem** along route 443, crossing the green line for the first time!
- Upon arrival, we stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- Check in to our hotel and refresh.
- We enjoy a **welcome dinner** and orientation at a Jerusalem restaurant. The **Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem** joins us and will provide a briefing on where Jerusalem is today after 50 years of reunification.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Wednesday, February 21, 2018: JERUSALEM THROUGH THE TRUMP-NETANYAHU PRISM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Miriam Peretz**, the mother of two fallen IDF soldiers, and learn how she was able to make something good out of something terrible. Miriam has become a public speaker, teaching soldiers, bereaved families, parents of incoming IDF soldiers and Jews around the world about the importance of her sons giving their lives to defend Israel.
- Visit the **Knesset** and meet with members from the government party and the opposition.
- Drive to the top of the **Mt. of Olives** for an introduction to the landscape of Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own en route.
- We stop at Hadassah founder **Henrietta Szold's grave** to pay our respects.



- This afternoon, we are joined by **Retired Colonel Miri Eisin**, a former international media advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel and a former Israeli government spokesperson.
- **“Defining the Line on the Outskirts of Jerusalem”**: Drive to **Mount Scopus** for a look toward Maaleh Adumim to the east and the Shuafat Refugee Camp to the north. Drive through the neighborhoods of **Pisgat Ze’ev** and **Beit Hanina**.
- Spend the afternoon at the **Hartman Institute** learning about and discussing relations between Israel and the diaspora, and how the dissolution of the Western Wall compromise has placed an unprecedented strain on the relationship.
- Enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 4: Thursday, February 22, 2018: OUR CUTTING-EDGE HOSPITAL



- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Gil Hoffman**, chief political correspondent of the Jerusalem Post, to discuss Israeli politics today.
 - Continue with a visit to **Ein Karem Hadassah Hospital**, where we tour the **Sarah Wetsman tower**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region. Meet with staff and patients and see how Hadassah can be a guiding model of how all people can work and live together in this region.
 - Visit **Har Adar** for a unique view point of Jerusalem and the surrounding area, presented by **Mr. Avi Lavsky**.
 - Lunch on own this afternoon.
- Visit the moving **9/11 Memorial**, the only memorial to 9/11 outside of the United States, and pay tribute to those who perished on that fateful day.
- Visit the newly opened **Remembrance Hall** at **Mt. Herzl** in memory of over 23,000 fallen soldiers and victims of terror in Israel.
- Later this afternoon, we explore **Machane Yehuda**, Jerusalem’s outdoor marketplace, filled with foods of every variety. **Dinner** this evening at the market.
- Enjoy a **late night walking tour** through **Mea Shearim**, Jerusalem’s Orthodox neighborhood, to see the challah bakeries, busy with preparation for the coming Sabbath.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 5: Friday, February 23, 2018: SHOAH TO SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we meet with Holocaust survivor, **Rena Quint**, followed with a group debate: “Seventy years later – have we made the survivors proud in Israel and the diaspora?”
- Continue to **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Visit the Children’s Memorial and walk the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. End the visit with a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Communities**.
- Explore the amazing archaeological wonder of **Ir David (City of David)**, a meticulously preserved site dating back to the time of King David.
- Spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
- We join together at the **Western Wall** for some reflection as **Shabbat** arrives. Within minutes you will hear the siren of Shabbat sounding, the bells of the churches and the muezzin calling the Muslims for prayer. This is Jerusalem!
- We join together for **Oneg Shabbat** and **home hospitality dinner** with **Barbara Sofer**.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Saturday, February 24, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning for Shabbat services at one of the nearby synagogues; list and maps will be provided; OR join our guide to visit a number of typical synagogues in the area.
- Lunch on own.
- Following lunch, we meet with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli-Arab journalist, lecturer and documentary filmmaker.
- As Shabbat comes to an end, we come together for **Havdallah** at our hotel overlooking Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, February 25, 2018: ESHKOL & BE'ER SHEVA ON THE GAZA BORDER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we drive to **Netiv HaAsara**, located next to the Gaza Strip, where an electric fence and concrete walls were built for protection from Palestinian fighters. We visit the Peace Wall and hear how residents chose to deal with this challenging situation.
- We stop at the **Erez crossing** to see how trucks with goods cross in to Gaza every day from Israel.
- We travel south to the **Eshkol Regional Center** at the Command Center for a security briefing.



- Visit Eshkol's **elementary school**, an amazing fortified campus and educational center, including the opportunity to celebrate Purim with the kids.
- Our next stop is at the "**Salad Trail**", where we will participate in a unique hands-on agricultural tour, and witness how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable. We will pick and taste fruits and vegetables straight from the kibbutz's self-picking farm, and encounter flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herbal gardens. We enjoy a **light lunch** here.
- We visit the **JNF/Hadassah park** in the desert in **Be'er Sheva**.
- Continue to the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, a massive water, environmental and economic development project that is transforming the riverfront into a 1,700-acre civic paradise.
- Visit one of the **Bedouin "cities"** built today to learn about their growing population.
- Return to Jerusalem for dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday, February 26, 2018: FROM THE SHOMRON TO RAMALLAH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a meeting with **Boaz Bismuth**, the Editor in Chief of *Israel Hayom*.
- Visit **Ramallah**, the current capital of the Palestinian Authority and meet with PA and/or financial leaders.
- We travel to **Rawabi**, the new Palestinian city north of Ramallah, for a glimpse at this unique project, a synthesis between private enterprise and public resources to create a new urban reality in Palestinian society. Meet with developer **Bashar el Masri**.
- Visit **Shilo**, one of the flagship settlements of the Gush Emunim Settlement Movement to meet with **Daniella Weiss**, one of the founders of the movement and enjoy **lunch** together.
- We close our day at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. We meet with **Akiva Tor**, Head of the Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions.
- Dinner on own tonight.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 9: Tuesday, February 27, 2018: THE EASTERN BORDER

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we drive north via Route 6, and stop for a visit and meeting with the Israeli-Arab leadership in **Um El Fahem**.
- Drive up to the **Golan Heights** and take an amazing **jeep tour** on the border with Syria. We receive a briefing regarding ISIS, and the many disparate organizations fighting in Syria today, and hear where we stand in relation to this situation.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check in to our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 10: Wednesday, February 28, 2018: THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Today, we drive along the Lebanese border, with views into Lebanon, stopping at **Kibbutz Malkia**, a strategic overlook. Here, we will meet with the IDF unit on the border and kibbutz security personnel to learn about the steps they take to protect a small frontier community.
- Time for lunch on lunch on own in **Zichron Yaakov**.
- Visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff.
- Visit the **Intelligence Museum** in Herzliya for a briefing on possible threats to Israel in the foreseeable future, and how we plan to cope with them.



- Check in to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** and enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 11: Thursday, March 1, 2018: INNOVATION CENTRAL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with young entrepreneur **Rony Rozen** to discuss her story, as well as hi-tech innovation in this start-up nation.
- We visit **Independence Hall**, site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948, including the special exhibits for Israel's 70th birthday.
- Moving from the history of Israel to the future, we visit the **Taglit Innovation Center** for a glimpse into Israel's hi-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space. We visit the interactive exhibition and continue with a meeting with one of Israel's leading entrepreneurs.
- Lunch on own at **Sarona Market**.
- Continue with a visit to the **Rabin Center**. Its spiraling exhibits lead us through the history of the modern state and broader world history, through the prism of the life of one of Israel's most beloved leaders, Yitzhak Rabin.
- We join together for a relaxing **farewell cocktail**, and the chance to reflect upon all that we have seen and experienced together.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to New York.



Day 12: Friday, March 2, 2018: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive at JFK at 6:00AM.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

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