

Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties Present: A Musical Journey through ISRAEL

(including Hanukkah!)

December 3 – 12, 2018

(As of 12/28/17)



**Note: Hanukkah is December 2-10, 2018. Related musical events will be added to program as they become available (and many sufganiot and latkes will be eaten along the way!)*

Day 1: Monday, December 3, 2018: DEPARTURE

- We travel by bus to the **Miami Airport** for our non-stop flight to Tel Aviv (departing around 1pm).

Day 2: Tuesday, December 4, 2018: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel this morning and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- This morning, we visit a **violin restorer** who works out of Tel Aviv restoring Holocaust violins (he was featured in the recent PBS documentary “Violins of Hope”), including a chance to hear one of the violins being played.
- We continue to **Beit Hatfutsot** for a program about Jewish music around the world.
- Later this afternoon, we check in to our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- We travel to **Old Jaffa** to enjoy a **welcome dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Wednesday, December 5, 2018: OUR SISTER COMMUNITY: HADERA

- Breakfast at and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we visit our sister community in **Hadera** for a special half day program, including a **music-filled Hanukkah celebration** in the town and **lunch** with community leadership.
- We begin traveling north along the Mediterranean coast.
- We stop in **Daliyat al Carmel**, a **Druze village** near Haifa, where we enjoy **home hospitality** and an introduction to their traditional music.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check in to our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** here together this evening.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 4: Thursday, December 6, 2018: THE MYSTICAL NORTH



- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we take part in a special session with **Eyal** at the **Kabbalah Center**, focused on the ultimate Kabbalistic prayer-Lecha Dodi. (Potential meeting with a spiritual band).
- Free time for lunch
- Later this afternoon, we visit the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve**, where millions of migrating birds come to rest and eat each year. We enjoy a **surrey ride** through the heart of this beautiful and bucolic scene.
- We return to our kibbutz for a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Friday, December 7, 2018: NORTHERN MELODIES

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We begin our day in the gorgeous village of **Rosh Pinna**, where we visit **Pete Isacowitz** - originally from South Africa where African sounds and rhythm were part of his daily life, Pete has established a musical instrument workshop in Rosh Pinna, **Woodsong**. We see a wide variety of his marimbas, didgeridoos and Celtic harps along with a large range of door harps, musical sculptures and musical tables. We are treated to a brief musical performance by his daughter, played on Pete's instruments.
- We get a glimpse into the visions of the early Zionist pioneers at the **Kinneret Cemetery**, through original poetry and music at the graves of Rachel the Poetess and Naomi Shemer, the author of Yerushalayim Shel Zahav.
- We continue to the nearby village of **Kfar Kama** where we meet with member of the Circassian community and have a chance to hear about their heritage and how they ended in Israel, and are treated to a sample of their unique musical traditions.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**. Upon our arrival, we stop at the **Haas Promenade** to say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We enter the Old City and proceed to the Western Wall plaza where we have time for reflection. At the adjacent Southern Wall Excavations, we gather for a festive Kabbalat Shabbat service led by a Progressive local rabbi.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy Shabbat Dinner together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6: Saturday, December 8, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the morning at leisure attending Shabbat services or discovering Jerusalem on own during the calmness of Shabbat. A list of Shabbat service options will be provided.
- This afternoon, we visit the **Museum of Islamic Art** for an introduction to Islamic music and the traditional sounds of the mosque.
- Enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure with dinner on own

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, December 9, 2018: FOLLOWING THE MELODIES OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out on a “*Follow the Melody*” walking tour. In Jerusalem’s diverse **Nachlaot neighborhood**, we travel from shul to shul to meet the Hazzan and hear their version of Adon Olam. We will explore the endless variations within a single prayer and how various communities have adapted it to fit their unique sub-culture.
- This afternoon, we visit the church in **Abu Ghosh** for a **private concert** in this beautiful space.
- Dinner on own
- Tonight, we enjoy a **Mormon choir concert** at the **BYU Jerusalem campus**.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday, December 10, 2018: THE MUSIC OF ETHIOPIA (AND BEYOND)

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Our day begins with a special program with **Ethiopian young adults** in nearby **Talpiot**, including a sample of traditional **Ethiopian music**, instrumentation and dance. We learn more about the challenges of fitting into the Israeli cultural mosaic, and may even learn some traditional dances!
- Visit the **Israel Museum** for a special program exploring the **history of Jewish music** from the time of the Bible until Today.
- Discover Tel Aviv and enjoy dinner on own. For the hearty among us, we’ll head out late tonight to explore Tel Aviv’s vibrant club music scene!
- **Optional:** Evening performance by the **Mayumana Dance Troupe**.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 9: Tuesday, December 11, 2018: SINGING IN THE SOUTH

- Breakfast at our hotel. Check out and store luggage.
- Travel south, where we hear the stories of **Sderot’s** flourishing music scene, as depicted in the 2014 documentary *Rock in the Red Zone*.



- Visit a **Bedouin “city”**, for a treat of traditional music, accompanied by tea and coffee in a desert tent.
- Return to Tel Aviv for last minute free time.
- This evening, we delight in a festive **farewell dinner**, as we recall all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.

Day 10: Wednesday, December 12, 2018: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in Miami this morning and transfer home by bus.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

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