

Celebration Across the Nation: A Yom Ha'atzmaut Mission

Led by Aileen Bormel

May 6-17, 2019

(As of 5/14/18)

Join the celebration as Israel marks 71 years since her founding!



Day 1: Monday, May 6, 2019: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to Israel.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 7, 2019: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, where we are assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home!
- Our tour begins at the biblical landscape reserve, **Neot Kedumim**. Here, we **plant trees**, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**. Upon our arrival, we stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we take in the panoramic view of the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We check into our hotel, and after time to refresh, we enjoy an early **welcome dinner** together.
- We join the people of Israel at the **Western Wall** for the opening of **Yom Hazikaron**, Israel’s Memorial Day, including a ceremony featuring the President of Israel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Wednesday, May 8, 2019: YOM HAZIKARON

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Latrun**, Israel’s outdoor armored corp museum, for a **memorial service** in honor of **Yom Hazikaron**.
- Next, we return to Jerusalem and visit **Emek Tzurim** to take part in a sifting project digging through the Temple Mount rubble. New and important finds are made here every day!
- We continue to **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David.
- Tonight, we enjoy a festive **holiday dinner party** at a local restaurant, then join the people of Jerusalem to celebrate in the streets as **Yom Ha’Atzmaut**, Israel’s Independence Day, begins.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Thursday, May 9, 2019: YOM HA'ATZMAUT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Ammunition Hill**, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem. Its new multimedia film helps visitors better understand the events and battles of 1967.
- We enter the **Old City** for a tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- While in the Old City, we stroll through the **Jewish quarter**.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a **barbeque lunch** to celebrate in traditional Israeli style.
- Spend the evening at leisure and enjoy dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Friday, May 10, 2019: JERUSALEM WE REMEMBER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Miriam Peretz**, to hear about her life as 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.
- At **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, we engage in an eye-opening experience as we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. We end with a **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Communities**.
- We continue to **Mt. Herzl**, Jerusalem's military cemetery, where we pay our respects at the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. We also visit the new **Remembrance Hall** built to honor those who gave their lives fighting for Israel.
- This evening, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Saturday, May 11, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the morning at leisure attending Shabbat services on own or relaxing.
- This afternoon, we set out on a **walking tour** of the **Old City**, including visits to the **Arab shuk** and the **Christian quarter**, where we stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** and end at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- As Shabbat comes to an end, we join together for **Havdallah**.



- This evening, we meet with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli-Arab journalist, lecturer and documentary filmmaker, to hear about the current state of Israeli-Palestinian relations.
- Dinner on own this evening.
- Optional visit to the **Tower of David** for the spectacular **Sound and Light show** (weather permitting).

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, May 12, 2019: HADASSAH AND JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Ein Kerem Hadassah Hospital**, where we tour the **Mother and Child Pavilion**. We get an inside look at the **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region, and also visit the synagogue featuring the famed **Chagall windows**.
- Next, we meet with a **member of the Knesset** to hear about the current state of affairs in Israeli politics.
- We continue to the renovated **Israel Museum**, where we visit the famous **Shrine of the Book**, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the miniature scale model of Jerusalem from the time of the Second Temple.
- We end our day on a joyful note, with a visit to **Machane Yehuda**, Jerusalem's outdoor marketplace, filled with foods and spices of every variety. Together, we will take part in the **"shuk bites"** program, allowing us to enjoy a varied taste of the market. Remain at the market for dinner on own and see the artistic graffiti on the closed shutter stall doors.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday, May 13, 2019: THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon our arrival, we take a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- We ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the walls, synagogue and bathhouses, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- Later this afternoon, we make our way north through the **Jordan Valley**, stopping at **Dubrovin Farms** for an exciting **hummus making competition**.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee



Day 9: Tuesday, May 14, 2019: THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we set out on a thrilling **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, passing former Syrian bunkers on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views reaching far into Syria.
- Next, we visit a nearby **Druze village** for **lunch and home hospitality**, as we learn about their unique culture.
- We enjoy the remainder of our afternoon in the mystical city of **Safed**, where we stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and admire the crafts in the artist's quarter.
- We return to our kibbutz this evening for **dinner** together.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 10: Wednesday, May 15, 2019: THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Today, we drive along the Israeli-Lebanese border, with views into Lebanon, stopping at **Kibbutz Malkia**. Here, we will meet with an IDF unit on the border and kibbutz security personnel to learn about the steps they take to protect a small frontier community.
- We visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff.
- Time for lunch on own in the quaint village setting of **Zichron Yaakov**.
- We travel south along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, where we see the ancient theater and the aqueduct.
- We continue to **Tel Aviv** to check into our hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 11: Thursday, May 16, 2019: HIGH-TECH ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with young entrepreneur, **Rony Rozen**, to discuss her story as well as high-tech innovation in this start-up nation.
- Next, we visit **Independence Hall**, site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948, including the special exhibits in honor of Israel's birthday.
- Nearby, we tour the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center** for a glimpse into Israel's high-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 innovative entrepreneurs.
- We complete our tour in **Old Jaffa**, where we stroll through the cobblestone alleyways to see the crafts in the artist's colony, visit the ancient port and take in the views of the sea.



- We check out of our hotel.
- This evening, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner** as we recall all that we have experienced on this amazing journey together.
- We transfer to the airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

Day 12: Friday, May 17, 2019 WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

