

Detroit Hadassah Mission to Israel March 19-29, 2019

(As of 9/5/18)

Day 1: Tuesday, March 19, 2019: DEPARTURE

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



Day 2: Wednesday, March 20, 2019: ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home!
- We travel to **Jerusalem**. Upon arrival, we stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu!” blessing overlooking the **City of Gold**.
- We stop at **Hadassah Hospital** for a short visit to see its geopolitical location and reality.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before our **welcome dinner** and orientation this evening.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Thursday, March 21, 2019: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we take a **VIP** tour of **Hadassah Hospital** (Bat Mitzvah option).
- Next, we meet with **Miriam Peretz** to hear about life as the mother of two fallen IDF soldiers and learn how she was able to make something good out of something terrible.
- Atop **Mt. Herzl**, we visit the new **Remembrance Hall** built to honor those who gave their lives fighting for Israel. We'll take a walk through the military cemetery, where we pay our respects.
- Next, we tour the **synagogue** in the Old City.
- We visit a local resident in the **Old City** and learn about life inside the city walls.
- While in the Old City, we stroll through the **Jewish quarter** and have some time to shop in the **Cardo**.
- Later this afternoon, we visit a local synagogue for a **Megillah reading**, followed by a **Purim dinner party**. Chag sameach!

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Friday, March 22, 2019: WELCOMING SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Herb Keinon**, the diplomatic correspondent for the **Jerusalem Post**.
- Next, we take a **bus tour** with **Retired Colonel Miri Eisin**, a former international media advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel, and a former Israeli government spokesperson. We view the surrounding areas of Jerusalem including the newly opened **US Embassy**.
- Later, we visit **Gush Etzion**, visit the **winery**, meet with settlers and visit the **museum**.
- This evening we join the people of Jerusalem at **First Station** to celebrate **Purim**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel with Hadassah friends and **lone soldiers**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Saturday, March 23, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning for Shabbat services or just to relax.
- This afternoon, we set out on a guided tour of the historic neighborhoods around the hotel, including the **German Colony**, **Rechavia** and **Talbye**.
- Next, we join together for **Havdalah with Barbara Goldstein** on the rooftop of our hotel overlooking the Old City.
- Free evening in Jerusalem **OR** we have the option of attending the **Sound and Light show** at the **Tower of David**. The show is screened against the backdrop of antiquities, telling the story of the City of David through the centuries (additional cost of \$22 per person).

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Sunday, March 24, 2019: ESHKOL REGION

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart our hotel and travel to **Rahat** for a look at **Bedouin** life.
- Next, we visit **Tel Be'er Sheva**, one of the three UNESCO World Heritage sites in Israel dedicated to biblical times.
- We travel through **Sderot** with security personnel, including a briefing and a view into the **Gaza Strip** (security permitting).
- We travel to **Eshkol** to visit a secure school on the border and see how the students and teachers attend classes in buildings doubling as shelters.
- We enjoy a **picnic lunch** at the “**Salad Trail**” and see how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable.
- We continue south to **Mitzpe Ramon** to check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon



Day 7: Monday, March 25, 2019: RELAX AND REFRESH

- **OPTIONAL:** We set out on a **sunrise jeep tour** of the **Ramon Crater**, watching the sun reflect on the golden and red rock.
- We return to our hotel for breakfast.
- Morning at leisure to relax and enjoy the spa.
- This afternoon, we visit the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center**, which combines exhibits about **Ilan Ramon**, Israel's first astronaut, along with information on the natural creation of this massive crater.
- Next, we visit the unique original hut and grave of **David Ben Gurion** at **Sde Boker** deep in the heart of the Negev Desert. We learn about his dreams for the region and learn how they are becoming a reality.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together at our hotel.



Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Day 8: Tuesday, March 26, 2019: TO EILAT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Mitzpe Ramon, heading south, and stop at **Kibbutz Katura**, where we meet with members and take a tour, including a visit to their **solar fields** and **algae factory**.
- Our next stop is at **Timna Park** located in a majestic desert setting. Here, we discover the history and nature of this amazing place and take a hike through the park to see the ancient mines and beautiful wildlife, plants and trees that are able to survive in the arid desert conditions.
- We arrive in **Eilat** and check into our hotel.
- Dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Eilat



Day 9: Wednesday, March 27, 2019: LEISURE DAY – OPTIONAL PETRA TOUR

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **OPTIONAL:** Take a day trip to **Petra, Jordan** (additional cost)
OR
- Enjoy the day on your own. Visit the aquarium, trek in the desert (additional cost), or simply relax at the pool or on the beach.

Overnight in Eilat



Day 10: Thursday, March 28, 2019: TRAVEL TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our 9 A.M. flight to **Tel Aviv**.
- Upon our arrival, we tour the **Rabin Center**, where the spiraling exhibits lead us through the modern history of the state and broader world history through the prism of the life of one of Israel's most beloved leaders, Yitzhak Rabin.
- Next, we visit 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 exhibitions and continue with a meeting with one of Israel's innovative entrepreneurs.
- Later this afternoon, we take a guided tour through the bustling **Levinsky Market** to experience the multi-ethnic weave of Tel Aviv. We taste foods from all over the Balkans and Greek Isles.
- We check into our hotel and have use of the rooms to refresh ourselves before our **farewell dinner together** to reflect on the wonderful time we've had.
- We check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our overnight flight.

Day 11: Friday, March 29, 2019: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive in the United States this morning.

The Memories Last Forever!!

**itinerary subject to change*

