

Refresh & Recharge: Return to Israel with Hadassah

Led by Aileen Bormel

September 4-15, 2019

(As of 8/13/19)

See Israel from a totally new perspective. From new sites to people to people visits, to seeing popular sites in a totally new way, this tour is designed to challenge, engage and delight participants in unexpected ways.



Day 1: Wednesday, September 4, 2019: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Thursday, September 5, 2019: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home!
- Our first stop is at the biblical botanical gardens of **Neot Kedumim**, where we see life as it was lived by our ancestors 3,000 years ago.
- We continue to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we look out over the **City of Gold**.
- We check into our hotel and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** together, marking our first night in Israel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Friday, September 6, 2019: A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet Holocaust survivor **Rena Quint**.
- Next, we see **Yad Vashem** in a completely new light, as we view the moving exhibitions focusing on children’s drawings and art created during the Holocaust. We complete our visit with a **memorial ceremony** at the **Valley of the Communities**.
- 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 and hear important stories about the life and work of Israel’s past leaders, as well as those of lesser known heroes.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Saturday, September 7, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the morning at leisure attending Shabbat services on own or relaxing.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a guided stroll along **Hanevi'im Street**, one of the first streets built outside the city walls and formerly the site of many hospitals, churches, government offices and homes of wealthy citizens of all faiths. This is also the former site of Hadassah College.
- We enjoy **Havdalah** together later this evening.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure to discover Jerusalem and have dinner on own as the city comes back to life after Shabbat.
- Option to attend the spectacular **Sound and Light show** at the **Tower of David Museum**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Sunday, September 8, 2019: MODERN ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We visit **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 visit the synagogue featuring the famed **Chagall windows**.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a special VIP visit to the newly renovated **Israel Museum** to see the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, as well as many of the new exhibits.
- A chef leads us through **Machane Yehuda**, for a sensual immersion, engaging with the vibrant colors, smells and flavors that will be found in this bustling marketplace. We wander through the pyramids of spices, bright-colored exotic vegetables, nuts, olives, and delicious halva creations. Our chef will introduce us to the most characteristic ingredients of the local cuisine and to the Israeli food habits, while we prepare **dinner** together with our purchases.
- After dinner, we stroll through the market again, this time to view the artistic **graffiti** on the closed shutter stall doors.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Monday, September 9, 2019: DIGGING ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff and visit the village, including their working farm and winery.
- We enjoy lunch en route on own.
- We travel to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in a hands-on archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past.

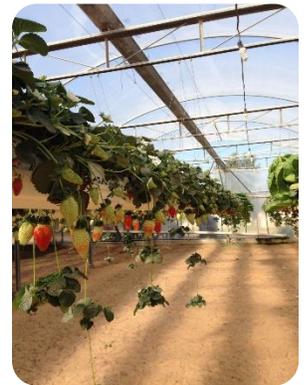


- This afternoon, we visit a local **winery** for a **tour and tasting**.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Tuesday, September 10, 2019: SOUTHERN EXPLORATION

- Breakfast and check out of 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 incursion. We visit the **Peace Wall** and hear how some residents choose to deal with this challenging situation.
- 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 participate in a **MasterChef style cooking competition** ending in a delicious **lunch**.
- Later this afternoon, we meet **Yaron Bob** at his workshop. Struck by the terror of shell attacks, Yaron decided to transform something horrible into something beautiful, and so began his artwork known as “**Rockets to Roses**”.
- We drive south to **Yerucham** to meet **Mayor Michael Biton**, called by some the small-town mayor who just might “rekindle Zionism” with his work inspiring many to acts of chesed and social justice.
- We enjoy a special program with **Midreshet Be’er**, a pre-women’s study and volunteer academy, or the Yerucham pre-army **Mechina**.
- We check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in Yerucham



Day 8: Wednesday, September 11, 2019: INTO THE NEGEV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Sde Boker** to see David Ben Gurion's gravesite and original hut.
- We continue with a hike in the **Ein Avdat Nature Reserve**, stopping for a chance to cool off in the **Ein Avdat springs** along the way.
- This afternoon, we check into our resort in **Mitzpe Ramon** and spend the remainder of the day relaxing and being pampered at the spa.
- We enjoy **dinner** together at our resort this evening.
- Later tonight, we lay under the beautiful desert night sky for a **stargazing experience** (weather and visibility permitting).



Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Day 9: Thursday, September 12, 2019: DESERT ADVENTURES

- We set out early this morning for a **sunrise jeep tour and hike** in the **Ramon Crater**, as the landscape is bathed majestically in the first light of day.
- We return to our resort for breakfast and check out.
- After breakfast, we stop at the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitor's Center**, where we learn about the area and the home of former resident and astronaut, Ilan Ramon.
- This afternoon, we visit a **Bedouin community**, for **lunch and hospitality**, as we learn about this unique culture.
- In nearby **Be'er Sheva**, we visit the **Hadassah/JNF Forest** to **plant trees** as part of an initiative to make the desert greener.
- We travel north to **Tel Aviv** to check into our hotel.
- Spend the evening at leisure discovering all that this metropolitan city has to offer and enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 10: Friday, September 13, 2019: TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit 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.
- At the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center**, we catch 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.
- This afternoon, we meet fashion designer **Reuma** to learn about her work and the fashion industry in Israel today.



- We continue to **Old Jaffa** for a tour of this ancient port city, strolling through the cobblestone alleyways admiring the cafes and crafts in the artist's colony. We also take in the sea views.
- As night falls, we come together for **Shabbat** and a festive **farewell Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 11: Saturday, September 14, 2019: DAY AT LEISURE/DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Spend the day at leisure relaxing at the beach, by the pool or doing some last-minute shopping.
 - We check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport this evening for our overnight flights back to the United States.
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Day 12: Sunday, September 15, 2019: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

