See the World with the World Union for Progressive Judaism!
Participate in a Jewish travel experience like no other!

WHY ARE WORLD UNION (WUPJ) TRIPS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER TRIPS?

…all WUPJ trips are focused on sites of Progressive (Reform) Jewish interest while including the important secular ones as well.

…all WUPJ trips are led by and feature renowned Progressive Jewish clergy and scholars from around the world.

…all WUPJ trips provide opportunities to 'Eat, Pray, Study' with Progressive Jewish congregations in their own communities, often also in conjunction with a major international or regional WUPJ conference.

…all WUPJ trips promote the cause of Progressive Judaism: ensuring the future of a vibrant contemporary Diaspora! You travel with, meet, and form life-long friendships with Progressive Jews from all over the world who are committed to this mission.

Berlin to London - Celebrating 90 Years
Led by Rabbi Daniel Freelander: April 7–14, 2016

Reform Judaism in Israel:
An Insider Perspective
Led by Rabbi Steve Burnstein: May 18–25, 2016

Amazing African Adventure: South Africa
Led by Rabbi Lennard Thal: July 6–17, 2016

Exotic Asian Experience: China
Led by Rabbi Joel Oseran: November 9–18, 2016

* Visit www.ayelet.com for details & pricing.

EASTERN EUROPE
with Prof. Stephen Berk
June 14–26, 2016

The Ashkenazi Story Through GERMANY & THE BALTICS
with Prof. Jeremy Leigh
July 11–25, 2016

CUBA
with Prof. Stephen Berk
Dec 4–11, 2016

It feels good to be home! All of us at Ayelet Tours are beaming with pride at the announcement of our programs and continued partnership with our dear friends at Hadassah. Hadassah is the largest Jewish organization in America, and among the largest Women’s organizations in the world, counting over 330,000 women (and men!) as members. Together we have sent literally thousands of people to Israel on life-changing specialty missions and tours for doctors, nurses, associates, donors, innovators, Hadassah regions and more. The 2015/2016 tours are now open for registration. Explore the full list of Hadassah Missions on page 6!

Check www.ayelet.com for details & to sign up today!
On a recent bicycle tour of the Netherlands, I asked myself “Is this view; the flower fields, the canals, the windmills, the narrow brick buildings, what my mother saw out the train window when she left Germany on the Kindertransport?” And the thought of a tour, primarily by rail, that followed a route of the Kindertransports started to take shape.

Kindertransports, German for “Children’s Trains” rescued about 10,000 Jewish children from Nazi occupied Europe between December 1938 and September 1939, when war began. Many people and organizations cooperated in the Kindertransport effort. Children boarded transports in Berlin, Vienna and Prague, and some other cities. Children from smaller towns, like my mother, went to these cities to begin their journeys. They went by train to the Hook of Holland and then by ferry to Harwich, England. Then another train took them to London. Refugee organizations in Great Britain helped to arrange housing in boarding schools or private homes. Many children saved by the Kindertransports never saw their parents again, although some, like my mother, did.

I felt that a tour following the route of the Kindertransport would give me a greater appreciation for this particular aspect of my mother’s life experience. So I contacted Ayelet. Viola! More information about the tour is available at www.ayelet.com/KindertransportJuly2016.aspx.

For anyone with interest about the Kindertransports, I invite you to join this extraordinary experience!
Ayelet's January 2015 Clergy Familiarization Tour to Israel

In January 2015, Ayelet hosted a group of clergy for a study trip to Israel in conjunction with Makor, the educational travel division of our partner IGT. Titled “Creativity in Innovation”, the trip focused on individuals and places in Israel that show the depth and breadth of contemporary Israeli creativity, some new and some known, but all with a deeper story to tell. Our group visited places like Google Lab Tel Aviv, Beer Sheva’s Saroka Hospital, and new excavations in Jerusalem’s Old City. We met with Gaza border communities, and scholars like Rachel Korazim, Paul Liptz, and Alick Isaacs (author of a Prophetic Peace). We held high level discussions with Palestinian and Israeli journalists, the IMPJ, HUC rabbinic students, and the Israel Religious Action Center. We enjoyed an amazing evening at the Beresheet resort in Mitzpeh Ramon, with an early morning jeep ride…and even got to experience snow in Jerusalem!

Most of all, it was our pleasure to host such an outstanding group of people, committed to Israel and to sharing its triumphs, challenges, nuances, love of life and desire for Peace. The group was escorted by our own Seffie Epstein, who now represents Ayelet in Israel full time from his base in Jerusalem.
Travel with the legendary Prof. Berk to Eastern Europe, Spain or Cuba in 2016!

Dr. Stephen Berk, who after working with us for more than 20 years needs no introduction, will be our Scholar in Residence once again in 2016. Dr. Berk’s March 2016 to Cuba is already sold out, so we’re adding another departure date. Dr. Berk will return to Cuba Dec. 4–11, 2016, but act now, and sign up before there is yet another waiting list!

Join Dr. Berk in the Jewish heartland of east central Europe, June 14–26, 2016. We will visit Warsaw, Krakow, Prague and Budapest, cities that possessed, before WWII, vibrant and creative Jewish communities. We’ll learn about prominent Jewish religious and secular personalities as well as important movements and parties. The destruction of these centers of Jewish life and the attempts to revive them after the Holocaust will be examined. Please note that when we are in Warsaw, we will visit the magnificent new POLIN museum, dedicated to the history of Jews in Poland. Prof. Berk will also be accompanying the Cantors Assembly Spain tour in July 2016.

We invite you to join Dr. Berk for an adventure in learning and enjoying!

Introducing...

Best-Day Adventures; a new division of Ayelet Tours

Welcome to Best-Day Adventures, the newest endeavor of Ayelet Tours, serving single Jewish travelers in their 40s, 50s and 60s. Here you will find a series of highly organized, destination-oriented travel packages where group camaraderie, participation, choices and lots of fun are in order.

Our trips are chock full of interesting sights, great people and an enhanced activity program to give you an “above and beyond” experience...icebreakers, special events, dining arrangements, organized tours, travel assistance, custom gifts and lots more. Our mantra “…The Best Day of your trip…so far.” is meant to express our ultimate goal of providing you with a travel experience that will be etched in your heart forever.

Bill Cartiff, our tour leader, brings 22 years of Jewish singles tour leadership experience. Since 1993, Bill has led tours – specifically for the Jewish singles demographic – across the globe, touching all seven continents. He has traveled the world – to India, Israel, Africa, Vietnam, Brazil and even Spitsbergen (the Arctic) and Antarctica!

Best-Day Adventures’ heads off to adventure in Costa Rica this May! Also coming up in July, is a tour of Israel that will touch the heart & soul of first time and repeat visitors alike.

Each trip is unique, but what remains consistent is our commitment to provide all of our guests an unparalleled travel experience. Our expertise in planning with single Jewish travelers in mind, coupled with our decades of experience and our passion for sharing that expertise with you, will make every day…the Best-Day of your trip…so far.

For more information on what Best-Day Adventures is all about, and upcoming trips, email us at: info@bestdayadventures.com or visit www.bestdayadventures.com.

Upcoming Tours for Jewish Singles in their 40s, 50s & 60s with Bill Cartiff

New Year’s Eve Caribbean Cruise
Ring in the new year with fun in the sun!

Costa Rica
Enjoy rainforests & cloudforest, try zip lining, go rappelling - adventure awaits!
May 12–22, 2016

Journey to Israel
First-time & return travelers.
July 10–21, 2016
Recently, my wife Julie and I enjoyed two awe-inspiring weeks hiking in Patagonia, at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile - it was glorious. We saw spectacular viewpoints, walked on breathtaking glaciers, encountered amazing wildlife and discovered ancient cave art. Somewhere along the trail I was reminded of the adage I share with others as I plan their tours to Israel and other destinations worldwide - Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.

These experiences, be it hiking through Patagonia, or up Masada, or hearing the horn announcing the arrival of Shabbat in Jerusalem, or wine tasting in the Golan, or collecting fruits for Israel’s needy…these are the moments that fill up our lives - the memories we recall with great joy. There is simply nothing more valuable. How lucky we are in the travel industry, to be able to help others create these memories! As we start 2016 - our 30th year coordinating travel worldwide - we want to say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to fulfill our mission, and share our love for Israel and the wider world with you - our clients, our partners, our friends.

Inside this issue of Ayelet’s World, you’ll find many new ways to visit Israel, including a Jewish Singles tour, part of our new Best-Day Adventures Tour Series - focusing on Single Travelers in their 40s, 50s and 60s. You’ll find Traveling University tours to Eastern Europe, Cuba, Germany, and more. You’ll see a trip this summer to Europe for Kindertransport descendents - tracing their train ride to freedom, over 75 years ago, from mainland Europe to England. These will be moving, in some cases life changing, experiences for those that join. All of us at Ayelet Tours are here to help you invest in memories - and may the banks of your memory overflow!

Shalom,

Jeff Rubtchinsky
Vice President
These are the letters we work so hard for...thank you to Channa and her family for allowing us to help her Make-A-Wish of visiting Israel come true!

Hi Jean/Ayelet Tours,

I don’t even know where to begin. To say that our trip exceeded expectations is an understatement. To start with, our guide Aaron was the best of the best...So many beautiful places that were backed by such moving stories. These stories were even more meaningful because they were being brought to life by a man so filled with passion and love for his people and his country. The hotels, bus driver, Channa’s gifts, birthday celebration. Everything, top notch!!!

My only complaint? Having to leave! Again, we cannot thank you all enough for giving my family such memories. Most of all, my daughter is ready for her future in Israel!

Many thanks,
Ben, Kelley, Max and Channa