



Vance family at Masada

Shalom!

As you peruse this 2019 edition of Ayelet's World we hope you remember that FaceTime still pales in comparison to, well, face to face time. Said another way, there remains no digital or virtual equivalent for true experience, and there is no better opportunity for personally and spiritually enriching experience than travel.

We have amazing opportunities on hand for this year – a Rabbinical Familiarization Tour to Eastern Europe, Jewish singles trips to Spain and Yellowstone, scholar-led trips to Cuba and Europe, Congregational Tours, Hadassah missions, Ayelet B'nai Mitzvah trips to Israel and beyond, cruises with a Jewish perspective and so much more. The common thread through all of these incredible travel experiences, beyond being run by Ayelet Tours, is their focus on Transformative Travel. Each trip brings people together, opening eyes and making connections and memories that will last long beyond the trip itself.

On behalf of the entire Ayelet family, we invite you to join us, and experience just how transformative travel can be.

- Jeff & Diane



The adventure is 9 or 10 days, but the gift lasts a lifetime. Ayelet is the master!

- Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman, Larchmont Temple
(2019 will mark our 10th trip together!)



Ayelet's World

MAKING THE JOURNEY YOURS

2019
Vol. 33

TRAVEL TO CUBA!

How can travel make a difference? Come with us to Cuba and find out! Going to Cuba with Ayelet Tours is unlike seeing it any other way. Our hand-picked guides will share with you Cuba from the inside. You'll **meet with the small Jewish communities in Havana and the interior**. You'll **interact with local artists**, meet and help support young students learning traditional dance or playing guitar. You'll **volunteer at the only Jewish Senior Center** in Cuba. You'll see the **classic cars, drink rum, channel Hemingway, and try a cigar!** Most of all, you will make a difference through the gifts you bring and you will come home with a deep appreciation for the gifts we have in North America – from free speech to personal economic opportunity.



Then in January 2019, a group of over 70 participants, led by 7 cantors from the **American Conference of Cantors**, brought their voices to the Cuban Jewish community, giving a rousing concert at the Patronato / Beth Shalom synagogue in Havana, free for all to come and enjoy. The joyful, live, professional quality Jewish music in this small community was like nothing they had experienced in decades...if ever!

Travel to Cuba as part of a group is legal for US citizens. Upcoming trips open to the public can be found on our website. Don't miss your chance to step back in time and experience the unique and largely untouched world that awaits, so close at hand!



Recently, Ayelet Tours coordinated a familiarization mission to **Cuba in partnership with the Central Conference of American Rabbis**. Led by **Rabbi David Stern of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, TX**, the 30+ participants experienced this "world apart" together. We brought gifts for the various communities, shared meals with their members, and heard from their leaders about the struggles of maintaining a Jewish presence in Cuba through decades of isolation and national atheism.



BEST-DAY ADVENTURES (JEWISH SINGLES)

Picture yourself leisurely sipping wine while overlooking the Portuguese countryside from the deck of an exclusive luxury cruise ship. Then imagine hiking through the ancient ruins of Tel Dan in northern Israel. Finally, envision standing on the edge of Old Faithful as the geyser erupts right on schedule. All of these unforgettable experiences are enjoyed in the company of a group of like-minded travelers.

“Everything was taken care of for us: great hotels, excellent comfortable transportation, fun, informative tours and insights, made terrific friends, and just so much more! Traveling with Best Day Adventures was the Best Decision Ever!!”

– Linda R.

Single Jewish Travelers in their 40s, 50s and 60s have discovered that our **Best-Day Adventures** program offers them exclusive access to amazing sights, great people, and an enhanced activity program resulting in an “above and beyond” travel experience.



Tour Leader Bill Cartiff has led tours for Jewish singles through over 60 countries around the globe, touching all seven continents. Bill is committed to providing a carefree travel experience with personalized attention, action-packed itineraries and a warm & welcoming environment. These trips create meaningful memories meant to last a lifetime.

Each trip is unique, but what remains consistent is our commitment to providing all our guests with an unparalleled travel experience and a passion for sharing our expertise with you, that will make every day “the Best-Day of your trip...so far”.

UPCOMING BEST-DAY ADVENTURES

Israel Adventure

May 27 - June 7, 2019

Flavors of Spain and Portugal Cruise

July 2 - 9, 2019

Yellowstone and Montana Dude Ranch

September 5 - 12, 2019

New Year's 2019-20 Holiday Getaway

December 2019

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

COMING SOON! BDA & BEYOND

BDA & Beyond Tours are open to ALL adults - singles, couples, married... and beyond!

Cuba

Feb 17 - 24, 2020

Alaska Cruise

Summer 2020

HADASSAH'S "MILESTONE MISSION" – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

In October of 2018 more than 200 dedicated individuals from across North America traveled to Israel with Ayelet Tours to participate in Hadassah's "Milestone Mission". We celebrated 70 years of Israeli Independence as well as 100 years of Medical Innovation.

When you go to Israel with Hadassah, it's not just a mission. It's an emotional, cultural, and spiritual adventure!

UPCOMING HADASSAH MISSIONS

"Celebration Across The Nation"

Yom Ha'atzmaut Mission

May 6 - 17, 2019

"Refresh & Recharge: Return to Israel with Hadassah"

September 4 - 15, 2019

"Takin' It Easy Hadassah Mission"

October 30 - November 10, 2019

"The Land, The Heart & The Soul of Israel" **Hadassah Interfaith Mission**

December 2 - 13, 2019

"Hadassah & Jewish National Fund Israel Family Tour" Celebrating Hanukkah & our B'nai Mitzvah in Israel

December 25, 2019 - January 2, 2020

Visit <https://ayelet.com/hadassah-travel/> to learn more about these exciting programs. 2020 missions coming soon!



BAR / BAT MITZVAH TOURS IN ISRAEL: A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE



Celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is always memorable. To celebrate in Israel provides an experience for generations to bond as they rediscover their shared heritage. In addition to the ceremony, you will participate in an **archeological dig, float in the Dead Sea, take a jeep tour to the Golan Heights**, and make new friends that will last a lifetime. Our guides are known for their outstanding ability to make each child feel special and significant, as well as their amazing knowledge about the people, history and heritage of Israel.

We are filled with joy! Thank you for helping us plan a meaningful and fun B'nai Mitzvah trip for our family. It was the perfect mix of history, spirituality, and fun activities. It was just terrific.

– Fran F.

And, as our gift to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, we are delighted to provide one free land tour!

We had a perfectly amazing experience on the Bar Mitzvah tour to Israel. It was especially meaningful to experience our grandson's Bar Mitzvah at the western wall. The Rabbi was wonderful, and made the experience more than just a Bar Mitzvah.

– Marcia and George C.

UPCOMING DEPARTURE DATES

June 20, 2019

July 18, 2019

August 15, 2019

December 19, 2019

February 13, 2020

June 18, 2020

July 16, 2020

August 13, 2020

December 17, 2020

Or contact us to plan a private B'nai Mitzvah tour just for your family!



AYELET'S TRAVELING UNIVERSITY



Imagine the smell of challah wafting through the air as we light Shabbat Candles with members of the Jewish Community Center of Krakow, a community now reemerging and growing in the heart of Poland.

Picture singing "Oseh Shalom" in a humble living room in Cienfuegos, Cuba, where Rebecca Langus regularly turns her home into a make-shift sanctuary, offering a warm, welcoming place for Cuban Jews to go for holidays, celebrations and a sense of community.

Visualize standing on a bluff in France overlooking the beaches of Normandy, as we recall the epic struggle of D-day, and learn from our scholar of the Jewish contributions to the Allied forces on that fateful day.

Let Ayelet Tours take you there!

We have traveled extensively, but there has never been anything like this experience. It compares to nothing else in our lives. It was a trip that stands alone as the most meaningful of our existence on this planet. As for Dr. Berk, there is no one like him. He is magnificent.

– Paul C.

Ayelet's Traveling University is the premier Jewish Scholar travel program. Featuring tours to Jewish Heritage destinations worldwide, our Traveling University offers participants the chance to not just explore, but also enrich – through **insightful scholarly presentations**, as well as **interactions with the local Jewish communities**. For decades, we have connected discerning travelers with outstanding scholars, resulting in travel experiences that simply cannot be matched.

An extraordinarily interesting, memorable, and at times emotional journey through cities and towns with Jewish heritage... During the trip, Prof. Meir was inspiring, frequently providing insights given the breadth and depth of his knowledge of the religious and political history and the sociology of the Jewish life in the area.

– Art L.

Join **Prof. Berk and Prof. Meir** as they bring history alive and join us in supporting the communities of tomorrow around the Jewish world.





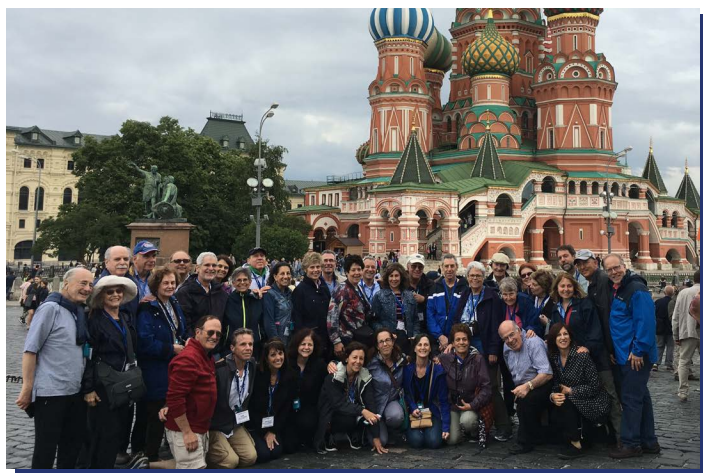
Dr. Stephen Berk is a Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, Chair of the Department of History, Director of the Program in Comparative Communist Studies and Faculty Advisor to

the Jewish Student Organization. He is author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* (Greenwood Press, 1985).



Prof. Natan Meir is the Lorry I. Lokey Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and Academic Director of the Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University. His research interest is modern

Jewish history, focusing on the social and cultural history of East European Jewry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the author of *Kiev, Jewish Metropolis: A History, 1859-1914* (Indiana University Press, 2010) and co-editor of *Anti-Jewish Violence: Rethinking the Pogrom in East European History* (Indiana, 2010).



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Humanitarian Mission to CUBA with Professor Stephen Berk

December 15 - 22, 2019

March 15 - 22, 2020

EASTERN EUROPE (Prague, Budapest, Warsaw, Krakow with optional pre-tour in Berlin) with Professor Stephen Berk

June 16 - 28, 2019

EASTERN EUROPE (Prague, Warsaw, Krakow) with Professor Stephen Berk

June 14 - 24, 2020

RUSSIA with Professor Natan Meir

Summer 2020

Visit: <https://ayelet.com/travel-university/> to "enroll" in your Journey Today!

INNOVATION ANCHORED IN TRADITION

LOTS TO CELEBRATE IN CINCINNATI WITH THE CCAR

Ayelet Tours is proud to have partnered with The Central Conference of American Rabbis (the CCAR) to help successfully execute their annual convention for more than 25 years. The CCAR is the Reform movement's Rabbinic leadership organization and is the principal organization of Reform Rabbis in the United States and Canada. It is the largest and oldest rabbinical organization in the world! This year they will return to Cincinnati where they were founded 130 years ago. Over 500 Rabbis will meet, mingle, and minyan March 31 – April 3 at the 2019 convention where many milestones will be marked including:

- The 200th Birthday of Rabbi Issac Mayer Wise whose major achievements include the establishment of Hebrew Union College and the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Convention attendees are invited to stop by the registration desk or the Ayelet Tours' booth to discuss new, exciting and innovative programs that will connect you and your congregation to the best of Israel and the Jewish World.

\$1,099 OR FREE*

Shalom Rabbi,

Join our **Familiarization tour to Eastern Europe** this October with:



Rabbi Daniel Freeland



Rabbi Elyse Frishman



Prof. Natan Meir

*If leading a congregational group to Europe through Ayelet Tours within 3 years, Ayelet Tours will REIMBURSE the land tour in full!

LIMITED SPACE – FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Email doron@ayelet.com to sign up!

MEET US IN PERSON! VISIT THE AYELET TOURS BOOTH AT:

Central Conference of American Rabbis

March 31 – April 3, 2019 (Cincinnati)

Rabbinical Assembly

May 3 – 9, 2019 (Montreal)

Cantors Assembly

May 19 – 23, 2019 (Louisville)

American Conference of Cantors

June 23 – 27, 2019 (Atlanta)

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

December 6 – 10, 2019 (Boston)

Union for Reform Judaism

December 11 – 15, 2019 (Chicago)

