

Hadassah Cultural Curiosity Through Music, Art & Cuisine

ISRAEL

Led by Peg Elefant
November 10 - 20, 2024

Indulge your senses on Hadassah's exclusive Arts and Culture journey through Israel, blending creativity, gastronomy, and philanthropy. Immerse yourself in the world of Israeli art with visits to renowned galleries, participate in hands-on cooking workshops and spice demonstrations, as well as savoring the exquisite flavors of Israel's culinary scene at high-end gourmet restaurants. Elevate your experience by exploring Hadassah's impactful hospitals and institutions across the country. Join us for a unique fusion of cultural enrichment, culinary delights, and a celebration of Hadassah's enduring commitment to making a difference in Israel.

DAY 1

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024
DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024
WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- **Shalom and Bruchim Habaim** – Welcome to Israel! Our time in this incredible land has officially begun and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead. Just beyond passport control, an Ayelet representative will meet us in the baggage claim area and assist us through customs.
- We begin our journey together with a **welcome ceremony** overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.
- We drive north along the Mediterranean coast and travel to **Ein Hod**, the only artists village in Israel, where we visit a **music and art studio**, meet the artists and experience their creative work environment.
- We continue to **Safed** and check into our hotel.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant with Hadassah friends accompanied by a **Klezmer musician**.

Overnight in Safed



Physical Activity Scale



DAY 3

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Following breakfast, we hear a **briefing from an IDF spokesperson** on the northern border with Lebanon and Syria.
- We travel to **Kibbutz Malkia**, where we meet **Eitan**, a kibbutz member and Meir Shfeya graduate. Together, we will visit an army unit on the Lebanese border.
- Next, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, passing former Syrian bunkers on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in panoramic views of Syria and learn about the current geopolitical situation.
- We continue to the **Druze village of Buq'ata**, where we meet **Naseeba** and hear her story, while enjoying a **cooking workshop** of stuffed vegetables, grape leaves and a traditional **Druze hospitality lunch**.
- We visit the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve** during bird migration season and see how "birds of a feather flock together" in the land of Israel.
- Later, we tour a local **boutique winery**, which will include a **wine tasting**.
- We return to our hotel for **dinner** together.

Overnight in Safed



DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024
THE MYSTICAL CITY OF SAFED

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day with a tour of the mystical city of **Safed**, one of four holy cities in Israel and the center of Kabbalistic practice. We stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the beautiful ancient synagogues, join a **Kabbalah workshop**, and learn about the special **art of drawing** in Safed (pictures with words). We also take time to shop in the artist's quarter and walk into the studios.
- Next, we visit **Derech HaTavlinim (The Spice Way Farm)** and meet with founder, **Avi Zithershpieler**. We take a tour of the agricultural farm that grows over **50** different varieties of spices and learn about their amazing benefits.
- We travel to **Hadassah's Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village**, where we will enjoy an insider's tour of the farm, winery and music classes.
- As we travel south on **Route 6**, we will pass the **security fence** and hear about its importance to the safety and security of the people of Israel.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and upon arrival, we come together for a traditional **"Shehecheyanu"** ceremony at the **Montefiore Windmill in Yemin Moshe**, a historic Jerusalem neighborhood and today home to artists and musicians.
- We check into our hotel, then enjoy a **Biblical dinner** including a **Sofer Stam** scribe workshop to learn this amazing ancient art.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 5

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024
HADASSAH AND JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We visit **Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) Hospital Ein Kerem Campus** for a tour of the **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower** and the iconic **Round Building**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region. We will meet with staff and patients and take an in-depth look at this cutting-edge medical facility and how it has adapted to ever-changing needs. We continue on a special **art tour** of the hospital which houses many unique and original pieces of art!
- For **lunch**, we will visit the **Hadassah Mall** and food court where we will hear from the **hospital nutritionist** and discuss healthy eating.
- We end our tour with a visit to the **Abbell Synagogue**, home of the beautiful **Chagall windows**.
- We continue with a walking tour of the **Jewish Quarter** in the **Old City**, including time to shop in the **Cardo Market**.
- Later, we participate in a **challah baking workshop**, with time to bake, eat and talk as the smell of fresh-baked challah bonds us together.
- Dinner on our own in the Machane Yehuda Market.
- We conclude our day with a special nighttime tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**, including the **Newly Excavated Great Bridge Tour**, a unique and fascinating route underground below the tremendous bridge that led to the Temple during the Second Temple period.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024
ISRAEL THEN AND NOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Rina Quint**, a child Holocaust survivor.
- We travel to **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Here, we listen to a **speaker on the topic of music in the Shoah**, and explore some of the newly found materials relating to places, people and events connected to the Holocaust, including:
 - Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations
 - Exhibit of children's drawings
 - Children's Memorial
 - Holocaust Museum
- We complete our visit at Yad Vashem with a group **memorial service at the Valley of the Lost Communities**.
- Lunch on our own.
- Next, we meet with **Res. Col. Danny Tirza**, who served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active service at the rank of full colonel. After retiring from the military, Res. Col. Tirza served as the Israeli Prime Minister's International Media Advisor. We learn about the **current security and border issues** around Jerusalem as we view the widely discussed **security fence** that runs from Ramallah to Bethlehem.
- Before the sun sets, we join to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel (Western Wall)** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat of a Lifetime dinner** and home hospitality.

Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 7

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- You may choose to participate in “**shul-hopping**”, including visits to some of the city’s most interesting synagogues to take part in a variety of unique **Shabbat services** or spend the morning relaxing.
- This afternoon, we stroll through the **Nachlaot neighborhood**, considered by many to be Jerusalem’s most pluralistic community, mixing various streams of Orthodox Judaism with secular residents. Today, it has a trendy vibe and is home to many artists and musicians. We will end our tour at the **Ades Synagogue**, the Center of Syrian Chazanut in Israel.
- We return to our hotel for **Havdalah** joined by **Young Judaea Year Course students**, marking the end of **Shabbat** and the beginning of a new week.
- We will participate in an enlightening **dialogue with a local journalist** and hear an update on Israel today, from the past war and in the near future.
- Dinner on your own, followed by the **Sound and Light Show Spectacular** on the Old City walls at the **Tower of David**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024
THE NEGEV & ESHKOL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we travel south and visit one of the **border villages** to learn about living on the border following October 7, 2023.
- We continue to **Sderot** and meet with the children and community leaders in the Western Negev.
- We stop for a view into the **Gaza** of today.
- Our journey continues at the “**Salad Trail**”, where we 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 from the kibbutz’s self-picking farm, encounter flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herbal gardens. We complete our visit with a delicious **lunch**.
- We visit the **workshop of artist Yaron Bob**. 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 to **Ashkelon** for a local **dinner** in the most bombed city of the last war and meet with the residents.
- We continue to **Tel Aviv** and check into our hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 9

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024
A TASTE OF TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a tour of the newly designed **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People**, which tells the 4,000-year-old story of the Jewish people. We enjoy a special tour of the museum with a docent focusing on Jewish art, food and music.
- Lunch on our own at **Sarona Market**.
- Next, we enjoy a **chocolate tasting tour and workshop**, including liqueurs.
- Later, we will explore the amazing **Agam Museum to view the kinetic artwork of the legendary Yaacov Agam**, whose work has been described as a "visual symphony" of images based on Jewish-Kabbalistic iconography.
- Dinner on our own tonight.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 10

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024
TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We enjoy a walking tour of the **Neve Tzedek neighborhood** and the **Independence Trail** through the **Ahuzat Bayit neighborhood**, where the city was originally developed.
- We stroll through the **Florentin neighborhood** and see the **artistic graffiti** painted on the walls and buildings and learn how it is an important form of expression in the community. We will be looking for hints from the past war within the graffiti.
- We enjoy **lunch** at **Florentina**, a trendy vegetarian restaurant.
- Early this evening, we experience a **co-existence tour in Old Jaffa**, as a Jewish and an Arab tour guide lead us side by side as we trace the different historical narratives and explore the possibility of creating a common future and shared society.
- We take time to refresh, prepare for our flights home and check out of our hotel.
- As our day comes to an end, we join together one last time for a festive **farewell dinner** at **Goshen restaurant**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024
ARRIVAL BACK IN THE USA

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

