

Spinning Around
ISRAEL
A Hanukkah Family Tour

Led by Jill Sapperstein
December 22 - January 1, 2024



Our Hadassah Family Tour experience will provide a fun, interactive, hands-on Israel adventure for participants of every age. Generations bond together as they experience the magic of Israel with access only Hadassah can provide! Our handpicked guides will bring heritage & history to life as together we encounter and celebrate in this amazing land.

DAY 1

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024
DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 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 at **Neot Kedumim** to **plant trees**. It is a meaningful act to mark the start of our time together, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel and have a chance to freshen up.
- We enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant as we gather as a group and meet our Hadassah friends.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

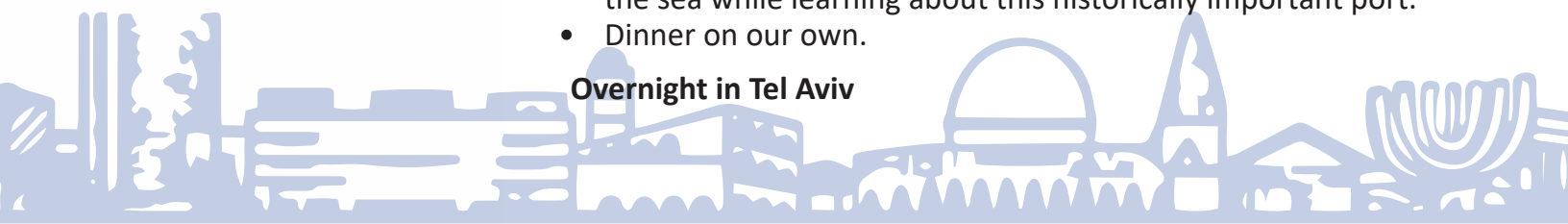
DAY 3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We **meet with a journalist** who will speak about the current state of Israel following the last war.
- We continue to **Independence Trail** for a walking tour through the **Ahuzat Bayit neighborhood**, from which the city was originally developed.
- Next, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- Lunch on our own.
- Next, we travel to **Beit Guvrin** for a hands-on **archaeological dig** allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past. Those who wish may participate in **cave crawling** through the underground tunnels.
- This afternoon, we continue to **Old Jaffa** and stroll through the winding streets to view the art galleries and take in the views of the sea while learning about this historically important port.
- Dinner on our own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Physical Activity Scale



DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024
ON THE COAST HEADING NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village**, where we see their working farm, winery and music classes.
- We travel to **Haifa** and drive to the top of **Mt. Carmel** for panoramic views overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Gardens**.
- Lunch on our own.
- This afternoon, we visit the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve** and enjoy a **surrey ride** through the bucolic scenery.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and refresh before the first night of **Hanukkah candle lighting** and **dinner**.

Overnight in the Galilee



DAY 5

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024
NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights** to **Mitzpe Gadot** to take in the amazing views and see the memorial of those soldiers who lost their lives capturing this crucial spot from Syrian forces in 1967.
- We continue in our jeeps to the top of **Har Bental** for views stretching far into Syria.
- Next, we enjoy a **chocolate workshop**, learning from the experts in a fun and delicious way at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory**.
- Lunch on our own.
- This afternoon, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter.
- Our final adventure today is at **Dubrovin Farm**, where we participate in a lively **hummus making competition** followed by **Hanukkah candle lighting**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner**.

Overnight in the Galilee





DAY 6

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024
THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We depart early this morning and begin traveling south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of **King Herod's** fortress, including the synagogue and bathhouses, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** along the Biblical northern route, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the "**Shehecheyanu**" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We join together in the lobby of our hotel for **Hanukkah candle lighting** and some hot, sweet sufganiyot.
- As the sun sets, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel (Western Wall)** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel in a private space.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 7

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning to attend **Shabbat services** on your own or just relax.
- This afternoon, we set out on a **scavenger hunt** in the **Yemin Moshe neighborhood**; a great way to get to know the area.
- We enter the **Ottoman** walls of the **Old City** via the **Jaffa Gate** and stroll past colorful and exotic vendors in the **Arab Shuk**. We continue into the **Christian quarter** and follow the **Stations of the Cross** along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- As day turns to night, we join for **Havdalah** with members of **Young Judaea Year Course** at our hotel, marking the end of **Shabbat** and the beginning of a new week followed by the fourth night of **Hanukkah candle lighting**.
- Following dinner on our own, we delight in the **Tower of David Night Spectacular**, a sound and light show that transforms the walls of **David's Citadel** into the living story of Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 8

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024
THE NEGEV AND ESHKOL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel south and visit one of the **border villages** and learn about living on the border following October 7, 2023.
- 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”**.
- 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 continue to **Sderot** where we will meet with the children and community leaders in the Western Negev and join them to celebrate **Hanukkah**.
- Dinner on your own in Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

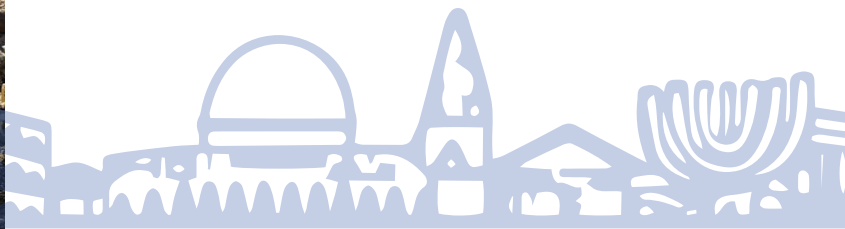


DAY 9

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024
JERUSALEM AND THE
BAR/BAT MITZVAH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Optional:** We host a **B’nai Mitzvah ceremony** at the **Hadassah Medical Organization’s (HMO) Ein Kerem Campus** in the **Abbell Synagogue**, home of the beautiful **Chagall windows**. **Mazel tov!**
- While on campus, we tour the **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower** and the iconic **Round Building**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region. We 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.
- Lunch on our own.
- This afternoon, we visit **Emek Tzurim** and sift through the Temple Mount rubble, where new and important finds are made every day.
- Next, we return to the **Old City** for a walking tour of the **Jewish Quarter**, including time to shop in the **Cardo Market**.
- From the streets to above the rooftops, we **walk the ramparts**, providing us with a birds-eye view of the different quarters.
- We complete our day at **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David, including **Hezekiah’s Tunnel**.
- This evening, we gather for **Hanukkah candle lighting** and enjoy a delicious **group celebration dinner** in honor of our B’nai Mitzvah.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024
ISRAEL THEN AND NOW -
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We start the day with a visit to a nearby **Bedouin community** for an authentic desert experience, including a **camel ride**.
- We visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Here, we 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
 - Children's Memorial
 - The Holocaust Museum
- Our time at Yad Vashem culminates in a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Lost Communities**. (Small children and parents will visit the Biblical Zoo instead).
- For **lunch** we participate in a tasting tour in the **Machane Yehuda Market** and have some free time to wander through the market.
- This afternoon will be free to refresh and do some shopping.
- This evening, we will enjoy a **farewell dinner** and final **Hanukkah candle lighting** before we transfer to the airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024
BACK TO THE US

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

