

ISRAEL

@ Our Pace



Led by Debbie Kessler
September 3 - 17, 2024

Experience the beauty of Israel at a leisurely pace with this specially crafted tour. Immerse in the impactful work of Hadassah through visits to hospitals and inspiring youth villages, gaining firsthand insight into our commitment to healthcare and education. Delight in Israel's varied cultural tapestry as we explore art and history, discovering the vibrant narratives that shape Israel's identity. Indulge with the finest cuisine, savoring the flavors of this extraordinary land. This journey features an attractive blend of relaxation, exploration, and the heartwarming embrace of Hadassah's impactful legacy in Israel.

Physical Activity Scale



DAY 1

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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.
- Lunch on our own.
- We transfer to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to check in and refresh.
- We set out to visit **Old Jaffa** for a walking tour and **welcome ceremony** overlooking the sea in this ancient port city.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant with Hadassah friends.

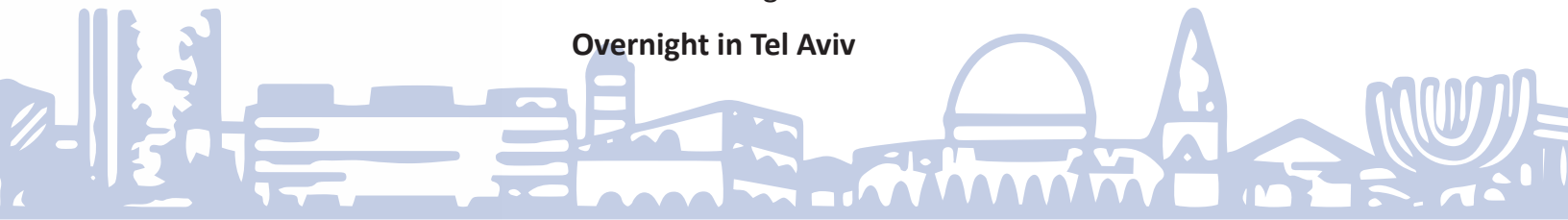
Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
TEL AVIV NOW AND THEN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day at the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** founded by former President Shimon Peres. The center is a non-political, non-governmental organization focused on building a more prosperous Israel and a more peaceful Middle East through innovation, technology and cutting-edge coexistence programs.
- Our next stop is the **Agam Museum** to view the abstract kinetic artwork of **Yaakov Agam**. His work has been described as a "visual symphony" of images based on Jewish-Kabbalistic iconography.
- Lunch on our own. We recommend stopping at Abulagia Bakery in Jaffa.
- Free evening and dinner on our own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 4

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024
TEL AVIV:
PREPARING FOR SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with entrepreneur **Rony Rozen** to hear her story and learn about high-tech innovation in this start-up nation.
- Next, we stroll through the **Florentin neighborhood** to see the **artistic graff** painted on the walls and buildings and learn how it is an important form of expression in the community.
- **Lunch** on our own.
- We visit **Battae**, the first of its kind, interactive **Ethiopian Heritage Center**. Here, we have the opportunity to explore and appreciate the story of Ethiopian Jews in Israel.
- This afternoon, we visit **Nachalat Binyamin** to browse the local crafts and watch the entertainers who bring the streets of Tel Aviv alive.
- As the sun begins to set over Tel Aviv, we enjoy **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in the Tel Aviv

DAY 5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Optional **Shabbat services** this morning at a local synagogue on your own.
- We take a guided walk through the neighborhood of **Neve Tzedek**, one of the first neighborhoods built outside of Jaffa in the late 1800's.
- As Shabbat comes to an end, we join for **Havdalah** on the shore of the Mediterranean.
- Free evening to discover Tel Aviv and enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight in the Tel Aviv

DAY 6

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
TRAVELING NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We start our day with a docent-led tour of the newly designed **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People**, which tells the 4,000-year-old story of the Jewish people and now houses the world famous **Codex Sassoon**.
- We travel north to **Haifa** and drive to the top of **Mt. Carmel** for panoramic views overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Gardens**.
- Lunch on our own.
- Next, we have the opportunity to sample some excellent Israeli wines with a visit to a **local winery for a tour and wine tasting**.
- We continue to the mystical hilltop city of **Safed**, where we check into our hotel, followed by **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Safed



DAY 7

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
KABBALAH AND MYSTICAL
ENERGY OF SAFED

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a tour of Safed one of four holy cities in Judaism and the center of Kabbalistic practice. We stroll through the beautiful ancient synagogues, join a **Kabbalah workshop** and learn about the special art of mini-calligraphy drawing (pictures made of words). We also take time to shop in the artist's quarter and walk into the studios.
- Next, we visit the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve** and enjoy a **surrey ride** through the bucolic scenery.
- Lunch on our own.
- Later, we enjoy a lovely concert in the nearby **Birya Forest** accompanied by wine.
- We enjoy **dinner** tonight at the **Bat Yaar Ranch**.

Overnight in Safed

DAY 8

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We travel to **Kibbutz Malkia**, where we meet **Eitan**, a kibbutz member and **Hadassah Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village** graduate. 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**.
- Free afternoon and evening, with **dinner** on your own in **Safed**.

Overnight in Safed

DAY 9

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel west to the Crusader port of **Akko** and tour the massive **Hospitaller Fortress** and **Knight's Hall**. We learn about this historically important port, through its use during the British Mandate.
- We arrive at **Hadassah's Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village** where we will enjoy an insider's tour of the farm, winery and music classes.
- Lunch on our own.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and upon arrival we stop at the **Montefiore Windmill in Yemin Moshe**, a historic Jerusalem neighborhood and home to artists and musicians, where we have a "**Shehecheyanu**" ceremony.
- The balance of the afternoon is free to rest and relax.
- This evening, we enjoy a **Biblical dinner**, featuring spices and ingredients mentioned in the Torah, including a workshop with a **Sofer Stam (scribe)** to learn this amazing ancient art.

Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 10

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
CUTTING-EDGE ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) 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 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 end our visit at the **Abbell Synagogue**, home of the beautiful **Chagall windows**.
- Lunch on our own.
- Next, we set out on a **geopolitical bus tour with Res. Col. Danny Tirza** who served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active duty at the rank of full colonel. After retiring from the military, he served as the Israeli Prime Minister's International Media Advisor. During our tour, we will learn about the current security and border issues around Jerusalem as we view the widely discussed **security fence** that runs from Ramallah to Bethlehem.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on your own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024
REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- At **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, we engage in an eye-opening experience as we view the many moving exhibitions, including the **Hall of Names** and the **Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations**. We end with a **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Lost Communities**.
- Lunch on our own.
- We continue to **Mt. Herzl**, Jerusalem's military cemetery, where we pay our respects at the gravesites of **Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres**. We also visit **Remembrance Hall** built to honor those who gave their lives fighting for Israel.
- This evening, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel (Western Wall)** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by a festive **Shabbat dinner** with Hadassah friends.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 12

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the morning at leisure to relax or attend **Shabbat services** on your own.
- We embark on a guided walking tour of the **Yemin Moshe** and **German Colony** neighborhoods and hear stories about what occurred there.
- We return to our hotel to meet with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli-Arab journalist, lecturer and documentary filmmaker, to hear about the current state of Palestinian affairs.
- As Shabbat comes to an end, we join for **Havdalah**.
- 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

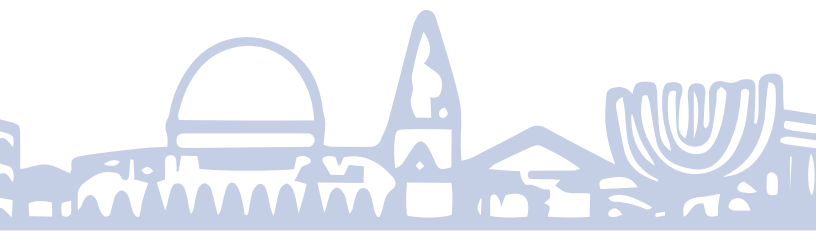


DAY 13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
ESHKOL REGION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel south and visit one of the **border villages** to learn about living on the Gaza border after October 7, 2023 and the will to endure. This will be an emotional morning, but an important one as we share our support with residents.
- Next, we visit **Sderot** and meet with the children and community leaders in the Western Negev.
- We stop for a view into the **Gaza** of today and discuss the fallout from the war and the long-term out look for the region.
- 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**.
- Later, 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 return to Jerusalem for **dinner** together at **Piccolino**.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 14

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
HMO

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) Mt. Scopus campus**. We will visit patients and staff and tour the facilities, including the old and the new rehab centers.
- We enter the **Old City** for a stroll through the **Jewish Quarter**, including the **Cardo market**.
- A chef accompanies us through the famed **Machane Yehuda Market**, where we will experience a sensual immersion, engaging with the vibrant colors, smells and flavors that are 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 Israeli food habits, while we prepare our **farewell lunch** with our purchases.
- Free afternoon and evening.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the USA.

DAY 15

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

