



From
POLAND
to **ISRAEL:**
Stepping Into Our Future

Led by Cathy Olswing
September 15 - 27, 2024



Embark on a transformative journey with Hadassah as we explore the rich tapestry of history and culture From Poland to Israel. This mission is a unique opportunity to delve into the profound narratives of resilience and heritage, tracing the footsteps of our shared Jewish history. Join us in fostering connections, deepening understanding, and celebrating the enduring spirit of our community across time and place.

DAY 1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
WELCOME TO POLAND!

- Morning arrival in **Warsaw, Poland** where we are met and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We explore the **POLIN Museum** (The New Museum of the History of Polish Jews). The Hebrew word Polin means either Poland or “rest here” in English and is related to a legend of the arrival of the first Jews in Poland. The museum sits on the former site of the Warsaw Ghetto and features a multi-media narrative exhibition about the vibrant Jewish community that flourished in Poland for a thousand years.
- Lunch on our own.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a sightseeing tour that includes the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the sole surviving synagogue in Warsaw, founded in 1900.
- We walk by **Umschlagplatz**, where thousands of Warsaw Jews were gathered for final transport to Treblinka.
- We continue to the **Warsaw Ghetto**, the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18** and the **Stawski Street buildings** where the SS had their headquarters.
- Next, we visit the story-filled **Gesia Cemetery**. This cemetery was established in 1806, contains the graves of about 250,000 people and is known as the largest cemetery in Poland.
- This evening, we check into our hotel and enjoy a **welcome dinner**.

Overnight in Warsaw

Physical Activity Scale





DAY 3

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
HISTORY IN KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we board our train to **Krakow**.
- Upon arrival, we are guided on a **Jewish Heritage tour of Kazimierz**, the old Jewish district, where among other sites and stories told, we see the **Old Synagogue**, a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th to 16th centuries, the **Tempel Synagogue**, and the **Ramuh Synagogue**.
- Lunch on our own.
- We continue to **Apteka pod Orlem**, the **“Under the Eagle” Pharmacy Museum** inside the Jewish Ghetto and hear the story of **Tadeusz Pankiewicz**, recognized as **“Righteous Among the Nations.”**
- We also pass by **Oskar Schindler’s Factory** before checking into our hotel.
- Free evening to enjoy Krakow’s culinary scene and dinner on your own.

Overnight in Krakow

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
FROM ASHES TO REBIRTH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camp, using personal stories and texts as a guide. We begin our visit with a **memorial service**, followed by a visit to the **museum**. We participate in a guided walk through **Birkenau** with time for personal reflection, then join as a group at the end of the train tracks for a powerful memorial prayer.
- **Boxed lunch** is included.
- This evening, we will have **dinner** with **Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director** of the **JCC Krakow**, who will update us on the many exciting projects they have undertaken in what is now a growing and flourishing Jewish community in the heart of Galicia. Beyond supporting a pre-school and Holocaust survivors, the JCC Krakow has taken an active role in supporting refugees from Ukraine.

Overnight in Krakow





DAY 5

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
ASCENDING TO ISRAEL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the former site of the **Plaszow Concentration Camp** constructed on the grounds of two Jewish cemeteries in a suburb of Krakow. The camp was populated by Jewish prisoners when the Krakow ghetto was liquidated in March 1943. A large and imposing memorial stands on a hillside marking the site.
- Time permitting, we stop to see the famous **Wawel Castle**, once home to the kings of Poland and now one of the country's premier art museums.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight 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.
- Those on the Israel only tour will arrive and meet us at the airport.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the *"Shehecheyanu"* as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before our **welcome dinner**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 6

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024
WE REMEMBER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Rena Quint**, Holocaust survivor and author, to hear her story of survival.
- Next, we tour **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
 - Exhibit of children's drawings
 - Children's memorial
- We complete our visit at Yad Vashem with a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Lost Communities**.
- We enter the **Old City** and head underground for a tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that remained untouched for centuries.
- We continue with a walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter**, including time to shop in the **Cardo Market**.
- As the sun begins to set, we join to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel (Western Wall)** with the people of **Jerusalem**, followed by a private **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 7

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out on a walking tour to the **Mt Zion Hotel** to see the **Cable Car Museum** used to secretly transport supplies for residents and defenders of the Old City and commemorating Israeli ingenuity during the War of Independence.
- Atop **Mt. Zion**, we take in the panoramic view of Jerusalem and the Kotel, then walk to the bottom to visit the **Dormition Abbey**.
- We return to our hotel for **Havdalah**, marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week.
- After Havdalah, we meet with the Jerusalem Post Palestinian Affairs correspondent, **Khaled Abu Toameh**, for a lecture entitled "**A Snapshot of Palestinian Society.**"
- Dinner on your own tonight.

Overnight in Jerusalem

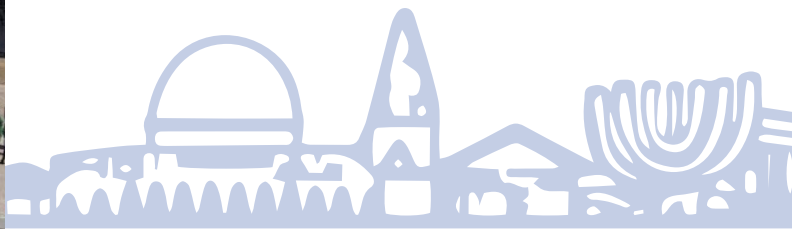


DAY 8

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
DISCOVERING JERUSALEM

- 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.
- Tonight, a chef accompanies us through the famed **Machane Yehuda Market** for 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 the Israeli food habits, while we prepare **dinner** together with our purchases.

Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 9

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
ESHKOL REGION AND THE
GAZA BORDER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel south to visit one of the **border villages** and learn about living on the 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.
- 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 outlook 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**.
- 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 on our own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 10

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
YOUTH ALIYAH AND
TRAVEL NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We travel north on Route 6 and pass the **security fence**, where we learn and hear about the barrier’s importance to the safety and security of the people of Israel.
- We arrive at **Hadassah’s Neurim Youth Aliyah Village** where we will enjoy an insider’s tour of the facilities, including the opportunity to meet with staff and students.
- Next, we visit the **Crusader port of Akko** and tour the massive **Hospitaller Fortress** and **Knight’s Hall** that stood here. We learn about this historically important port through its use during the British Mandate.
- Lunch on our own.
- We continue to **Rosh Hanikra**, where we descend to the inviting seaside grottos by cable car.
- We arrive in the mystical hilltop city of **Safed**, where we check into our hotel.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** at the **Bat Yaar Ranch**.

Overnight in Safed



DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
MYSTICAL 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 cobblestone streets to view 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 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.
- We return to our hotel for **dinner** together.

Overnight in Safed



DAY 12

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
TEL AVIV AND L'HITRAOT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Tel Aviv**.
- We start our day with a special 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**.
- Lunch on our own.
- Next, we stroll through the **Florentin neighborhood** to see the **artistic graffiti** painted on the walls and buildings and learn how it is an important form of expression in the community.
- Our next stop is at the **Agam Museum** to view the abstract kinetic artwork of **Yaacov Agam**. His work has been described as a "visual symphony" of images, based on Jewish-Kabbalistic iconography.
- As our day comes to an end, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner**, recounting all we have experienced together.
- After dinner, we transfer to the airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

DAY 13

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024
WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

