TBE Women’s Trip to ISRAEL

Explore 70 Years of Challenges and Achievements by the Women of Israel

May 13-24, 2018
Led by Dr. Judy Avnery

(As of 8/7/17)

“Your name will scorch my lips forever,
Like a seraph’s kiss, I'm told,
If I forget thee, golden city,
Jerusalem of gold.”

- Naomi Shemer

Day 1: Sunday, May 13, 2018: DEPARTURE

- We depart from Boston this evening on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Monday, May 14, 2018: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel in this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We depart Ben Gurion Airport and travel to Tel Aviv via the Ayalon Valley.
- Upon our arrival, we enjoy a welcome ceremony with strawberries and champagne at the Jaffa Overlook on the shores of the Mediterranean.
- We check in to our hotel and have time to refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy a festive welcome dinner together.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Tuesday May 15, 2018: ARTISTS & ENTREPRENEURS IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our first full day in Israel begins with a meeting with author Dalia Betolin-Sherman, the first Ethiopian woman to publish a volume of short stories in Hebrew. “How the World Became White” won the 2014 Ramat Gan prize for debut literature.
- Tel Aviv: From the First Hebrew City to One of the Design Capitols of the World: we take a guided walk through Neve Tzedek and the old Ahuzat Bayit neighborhoods. (Returnees from last year’s tour will have other options at this time)
- This afternoon, we volunteer with the Jaffa Institute’s Chessed projects, packing supplies for Israel’s neediest families.
We visit south Tel Aviv, where Yael Gervitz introduces us to her organization, Elifelet, which helps African children seek asylum in Israel.

We enjoy dinner together at our hotel this evening.

Optional cultural performance this evening (Details and cost TBD.)

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Wednesday, May 16, 2018: TRAVELING SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Discussion with Rabbi Yael Karrie. Since 2013, Yael has been serving as the regional rabbi of the Sha’ar HaNegev regional council on the Gaza border. In this capacity, she acts as the Jewish leader for residents of ten kibbutzim and moshavim. In light of the unique region in which she is located, Yael has also dedicated herself to peace building in the region by initiating a number of projects to bring the Jewish and Arab residents of the region closer together.
- We visit the “Salad Trail”, where we will participate in a hands-on agricultural tour witnessing 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 straight from the kibbutz’s self-picking farm, and encounter flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herbal gardens. We have a light lunch on site.
- This afternoon, we meet Yaron Bob at his workshop. 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 Yerucham to meet with local women about how this dynamic desert city has become a great place to live and raise families with a Zionist spirit and a focus on tikkun olam. OR We enjoy a special program with Midreshet Be’er, a pre- women’s study and volunteer academy.
- Check in at Irus Hamidbar and enjoy dinner together.

Overnight in the Negev/Yerucham

Day 5: Thursday, May 17, 2018: DISCOVERING THE NEGEV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We enjoy a moderate level hike through the oasis of Ein Avdat, walking along the canyon bed to see the fresh water pools and the beautiful natural surroundings and the ancient archaeological site.
  - We visit Carmey Avdat Winery and Farm, which cultivates grapes and produces high-quality wine in their boutique winery. Entering the area of the farm is like driving into Tuscany or Napa, set in the middle of the Negev desert! A visit to the farm includes lunch, an explanation about the settlement, Zionist pioneering and initiatives, growing vineyards in harsh climatic conditions, wine tasting and a lecture on wine making.
- Stop at **Sde Boker**, where we visit the gravesite and original hut of David Ben Gurion deep in the heart of the Negev Desert.
- Spend the remainder of the day at leisure.
- We join together for **dinner** at our hotel this evening.

**Overnight in the Negev/Yerucham**

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**Day 6: Friday, May 18, 2018: PREPARING FOR SHABBAT**

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a moderate level guided **hike** into the beautiful **Ramon Crater**, the largest in the Negev.
- Travel north back to Tel Aviv to enjoy a guided visit through the **Levinsky Market**, where we have the opportunity to taste a myriad of ethnic foods.
- We begin our ascent to **Haifa**, and check in to our hotel upon arrival, with time to relax and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set over Israel, we share **Shabbat services** with Progressive congregation **Ohel Avraham**, led by Rabbis Gabby Dagan and Na’ama Dafni-Kellen, followed by a festive communal **Shabbat dinner** together.

**Overnight in Haifa**

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**Day 7: Saturday, May 19, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins with a visit to **Tzippori** to see the beautiful ancient mosaics known as the “Mona Lisa of the Galilee”.
- We continue to **Kibbutz Degania**, the first kibbutz in Israel, where we learn the stories of the early Zionist pioneers.
- On the shores of the **Kinneret**, we pay our respects and recite the songs and poems of Zionist pioneer poet laureate Rachel and modern Israel’s Naomi Shemer, for a glimpse at the power of the poem in contemporary Israeli life.
- We visit the **Druze** town of **Daliyat el Carmel**, where we enjoy **dinner** at Nura’s Kitchen, hosted by Nura Husaisai, who worked at the Carmel Forrest Spa with some of Israel’s leading chefs until she opened her home to guests.
- Return to our hotel for a short **processing session and discussion** about all we have experienced together thus far.
- **Possible late night study to mark the start of Shavuot, details TBD.**

**Overnight in Haifa**

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Day 8: Sunday, May 20, 2018: THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM (SHAVUOT)

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a fascinating meeting with Fania Oz-Salzberger, Israeli historian and writer, professor of history at the University of Haifa School of Law and Center for German and European Studies, and daughter Amos Oz.
- Explore the lands of the Bible come to life at Neot Kedumim. Together, we’ll experience how olive oil was created in ancient times during a hands-on workshop. We enjoy an included lunch on site.
  - We descend to Jerusalem, stopping at the Haas Promenade upon arrival, to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we look out over the City of Gold for the first time.
  - Women Behind the Scenes in the Old City: We enter Jerusalem’s Old City for a totally different experience. We will meet the women involved in community bridge building projects within the walls of the Old City, from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities.
  - Check in to our hotel and spend the evening discovering Jerusalem and enjoying dinner on our own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

NOTE: Based on Shavuot – we may make adjustments to the program, or simply flip this day with May 23 (Masada/Dead Sea) to better accommodate the holiday.

Day 9: Monday, May 21, 2018: HANDS-ON IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with scholar Rachel Korazim to discuss Israeli literature and poetry from the pre-1967 period, particularly the portrayal of women.
- We join together for a Literary Jerusalem walking tour. We will enjoy a guided exploration of the neighborhoods and places mentioned in our recommended fiction books, letting their pages act as our map.
- This afternoon, we meet with Racheli Ibenbaum, founder and CEO of Movilot: Employment Leadership for Haredi (Orthodox) Women.
- We enjoy dinner together at a local gourmet restaurant this evening.
- Later this evening, we take a tour of the Western Wall tunnels, discovering the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.

Overnight in Jerusalem
Day 10: Tuesday, May 22, 2018: ADDRESSING THE PRESENT, RECALLING THE PAST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins with a meeting with Rabbi Noa Sattath, Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC). We’ll discuss the latest political updates and progressive legal challenges in Israel, especially in light of the Kotel controversy.
- We visit 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 see the newly built Remembrance Hall in honor of those who have fallen fighting for Israel’s independence.
- This afternoon, we enjoy lunch and a program at Susan’s House, established in 2002 as an on-the-job training workshop for youth at risk. Teenagers ages 15 to 18 learn how to make beads, glass plates, necklaces, bowls and other decorative items, which are then sold worldwide.
- We continue to Yad Vashem, Israel’s memorial to the Holocaust. Here, we participate in a very special tour, focused on resistance during the Holocaust and the many forms it took, both among the Jewish population of Europe, as well as their Gentile countrymen. First timers may choose to instead visit the main memorial complex. We conclude our visit with a memorial ceremony.
- We gather back at our hotel for a processing session and discussion after this powerful day.
- Dinner together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 11: Wednesday, May 23, 2018: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we depart for the Dead Sea basin. (For those that have been to Masada previously, options for Jerusalem based activities will be provided).
- Upon arrival, we ascend Masada by cable car or snake path, to see the remains of King Herod’s fortress, including the walls, bathhouses and synagogue, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots’ last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for an “unsinkable” swim in the healing, salty waters of the Dead Sea.
- Return to Jerusalem for last minute time to shop or relax.
- Check out of our hotel and gather together for a farewell dinner, as we recall all that we have experienced together on our journey.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight to Boston.

Day 12: Thursday, May 24, 2018: ARRIVAL HOME

- We arrive in Boston this morning. Welcome home!

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

*Itinerary subject to change


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