

# Hadassah & Jewish National Fund

## Israel Family Tour:

### Celebrating Hanukkah and our B'nai Mitzvah in Israel

#### Led by Carol Rosenthal

#### Dec 24, 2019- Jan 2, 2020

(As of 8/13/19)

#### Day 1: Tuesday December 24, 2019: DEPARTURE

- We depart on our afternoon flight and travel overnight to Israel.

---

#### Day 2: Wednesday December 25, 2019: ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport early this morning and are met and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home!
- Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing overlooking the **City of Gold**.
- We check into our hotel and each family will receive a Hanukkiah that we will be lit each day for Hanukkah.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner, Hanukkah candle lightning and orientation** with Hadassah & JNF leadership.



#### Overnight at Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

---

#### Day 3: Thursday December 26, 2019: HADASSAH AND CITY TOUR

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Ein Kerem Hadassah Hospital**, where we tour the **Mother and Child Pavilion**. We also visit the new **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region.
- We celebrate our **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** at the Abbell Synagogue with its beautiful **Chagall windows**.



- Next, we experience **Machane Yehuda**, for a sensual immersion, engaging with the vibrant colors, smells and flavors that will be found in this bustling marketplace. We wander through the pyramids of spices, bright-colored exotic vegetables, nuts, olives, and delicious halva creations and enjoy a **tasting tour** along the way and enjoy some free time for lunch on our own.
- After lunch, we set out on a **walking tour** of the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Cardo**.
- This afternoon, we tour the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- For a different perspective, we enjoy a short **walk along the rooftops and ramparts** of the **Old City**, giving us a birds-eye view into the different neighborhoods.
- We visit **Ir David, the City of David**, just outside the Old City walls, where we wander through the carefully preserved archeological excavations dating back to the time of King David.
- We join together for **Hanukkah candle lightning**, followed by a **celebratory dinner** in honor of our B'nai Mitzvah.

#### Overnight at Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

---

#### Day 4: Friday December 27, 2019: WELCOME SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Gil Hoffman**, chief political correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, for an in-depth and entertaining look at Israeli current events.
- Next, we visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, where we explore some of the newly found materials relating to places, people, and events connected to the Holocaust, including:
  - The Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations
  - The New Historical Museum
  - The Children's Memorial

We end the visit at Yad Vashem with a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Communities**. (Young children will depart for a tour of the Biblical Zoo).

- Lunch on our own
- We explore the bunkers at **Ammunition Hill**, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem. Its new multimedia film helps visitors better understand the events and battles of 1967.
- Time to relax in the market or at our hotel before Shabbat.
- We join together for **Hanukkah candle lighting**.
- As the sun begins to set, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at our hotel with Hadassah & JNF friends.

#### Overnight at Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

---



## Day 5: Saturday December 28, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning for Shabbat services or just to relax.
- Participate in a **scavenger hunt** through the diverse **Nachlaot neighborhood**. It is one of Jerusalem's best-kept secrets. Along the way, we discover this colorful, surprising and eclectic neighborhood.
- We come together for **Havdalah** and **Hanukkah candle lighting** overlooking the Old City.
- Free evening in Jerusalem to enjoy a stroll along Ben Yehuda Street, through Emek Refaim Street, or through the Mamilla pedestrian walk, filled with shops and restaurants.
- **Optional** visit to the Tower of David to see the spectacular Sound and Light show (weather permitting).

## Overnight at Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

---

## Day 6: Sunday December 29, 2019: MASADA & THE DESERT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Jerusalem and drive south toward the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon our arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's palace and fortifications and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the approaching Roman armies. Learn about the new **JNF Torah Scroll** initiative on top of Masada and have your very own honorary letter written into a Torah by a Jewish Sofer (scribe). We descend via the Roman ramp.
- For an authentic desert experience, we visit a **Bedouin camp** and enjoy a **camel ride and hospitality** in the wilderness.
- We enjoy the mud baths and a float in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- This afternoon, we have **lunch** at a Dead Sea resort.
- Later this afternoon, we drive along the **Jordan Valley** to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz.
- We join together for **Hanukkah candle lightning** and **dinner**.



## Overnight at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Galilee

---

## Day 7: Monday December 30, 2019: THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we enjoy a **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**. Atop the Golan, we take in an amazing view and see the memorial to those soldiers who lost their lives capturing this crucial spot from Syrian forces in 1967 at **Mitzpe Gadot**.
- We take in the views stretching far into Syria from atop **Har Bental**.
- Next, we enjoy a **chocolate workshop** with one of Israel's top chocolatiers at **Ein Zivan's DeKarina Chocolate Factory**.



- Next, we cross the Galilee to visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we visit the ancient synagogues and have time to stroll along the shops in the artists' quarter. While the kids enjoy a **candle making workshop**, the adults will participate in a **Kabbalah workshop** and study.
- We continue to **Dubrovin Farms** for a lively **hummus making competition**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** and a meeting with kibbutz members and youth.

### Overnight at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Galilee

---

#### Day 8: Tuesday December 31, 2019: THE ROAD TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we tour the **Hula Valley Nature Preserve**, where millions of migrating birds come to rest and eat each year. We enjoy a **surrey ride** through the heart of this beautiful and peaceful scenery.
- We enjoy a fun hands-on visit to the **goat farm** at **Teva Ez**, located on Moshav Ben-Ami. **Rotem Boker**, third generation Teva Ez farmer, will guide us at the goat pen. Our visit includes milking the goats, feeding them and the baby goats and a workshop for making local Circassian cheese and pita bread straight from a Taboon oven.
- In **Haifa**, we stop atop **Mt. Carmel**, where we take in the panoramic views of the port city and admire the beautiful **Bahai Temple and Persian Gardens**.
- Our next stop is in a **Druze village**, where we enjoy the wonderful **home hospitality and lunch** as we learn about their unique culture.
- We complete our day with a visit to **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff.
- Later this afternoon, we continue to **Tel Aviv** to check into our hotel.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

### Overnight at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

---

#### Day 9: Wednesday January 1, 2020: ESHKOL REGION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we visit the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, a spectacular site co-sponsored by JNF and Hadassah. We learn how the project transformed this site into the warm and welcoming place it is today.
- Next, we stop in **Sderot** and visit the protected playground for kids.
- We drive south to the **Eshkol region** bordering Gaza, where we visit the **Regional Center** for a security briefing at the Command Center.
- While in Eshkol, we visit the **Protected School**, where we meet students and teachers and learn about their bravery. We also see the classrooms that double as shelters.



- This afternoon, we enjoy a **picnic lunch** at the “**Salad Trail**”. Here, we see how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable. We’ll pick fruits and vegetables from the self-picking farm, see flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herb gardens.
- We end our day with a visit to exquisite blacksmith, **Yaron Bob**. Struck by the terror of shell attacks, Yaron decided to transform something horrible into something beautiful – and so began his artwork “**Rockets to Roses**”.
- We return to Tel Aviv and spend the evening at leisure and enjoy dinner on own.

### Overnight at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

---

#### Day 10: Thursday January 2, 2020: HIGH-TECH ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with young entrepreneur and current **Google** employee, **Rony Rozen**, to discuss her story as well as high-tech innovation in this start-up nation.
- We continue to **Independence Hall**, site of the signing of Israel’s Declaration of Independence in 1948.
- We visit the **Taglit Innovation Center**, for a glimpse into Israel’s high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space. We see the interactive exhibit and continue with a meeting with one of Israel’s innovative entrepreneurs.
- This morning, we either explore the **Palmach Museum**, where we “join up” with the brave paramilitary forces from Israel’s pre-statehood days **OR** walk through the spiraling exhibits of the new **Rabin Center**, dedicated to commemorating the life and work of Yitzhak Rabin.
- Lunch on own at the **Sarona Market**, a world-class dining experience.
- Next, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory played a pivotal role in Israel’s fight for independence at the end of the British Mandate.
- We stop at **Neot Kedumim**, the biblical landscape preserve. Here, we plant a tree, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- We check out of our hotel.
- Tonight, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** with Hadassah and JNF friends.
- We depart for the airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.




---

#### Day 11: Friday January 3, 2020: ARRIVE HOME

- We land back in the United States this morning.

**The Memories Last Forever!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

