

HADASSAH



Israel Through Nature's Lens Tu Bishvat in Israel Led by CarolAnn Schwartz February 5-16, 2020

(As of 7/16/19)



Day 1: Wednesday, February 5, 2020: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Thursday, February 6, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport early this morning and are assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative. Welcome home!
- We begin our tour at **Neot Kedumim Biblical Gardens** for a special program connecting us to the biblical land, and enjoy a **shepherd's welcome snack**.
- Our next stop is at the **Agam Museum** to view the abstract artworks described as a "visual symphony" of images based on Jewish-Kabbalistic iconography and discover its connection to the land of Israel.
- We continue to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to check in and refresh.
- This evening, we join together for a tour **orientation and welcome dinner**.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Friday, February 7, 2020: EXPLORING THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a walking tour through **Neve Tzedek**, one of the first neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, then follow **Independence Trail** through the **Ahuzat Bayit** neighborhood, where the city was originally developed.
- We continue along **Bialik Street** for a visit to the **Bauhaus Museum** located on the ground floor of a building built in the Bauhaus style in 1934.
- At **Trumpeldor Cemetery**, we see the final resting place of Shoshana Damari, Arik Einstein, Haim Nachman Bialik and others. We hear music played by local musicians.
- Later this afternoon, we experience the multi-ethnic weave of Tel Aviv through tastings at the **Levinsky Market**, with flavors and aromas from all over the Balkans and Greek Isles. We explore the market and the dried fruit shops as Israelis prepare for Tu Bishvat.
- As the sun sets, we join together for **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at our hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 4: Saturday, February 8, 2020: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy Shabbat at leisure. Option to visit the Diaspora Museum or the Tel Aviv Museum of Art on own.
- Dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 5: Sunday, February 9, 2020: ECOLOGICAL ISRAEL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Ariel Sharon Park** to tour the three recycling facilities and learn about ecology in Israel.
- Our ecological theme continues at the **Shafdan** as we learn how water is recycled and used to make the desert bloom.
- Next, we visit the **Weizmann Institute**, where a scientist will speak about new water treatment plants and water usage in Israel.
- We spend our afternoon in the nearby Bedouin town of **Rahat**, where we visit the homes of some of the community's inspiring Bedouin women and families whose children attend Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village.
- We continue to **Sderot** for a **special dinner** prepared by "**Women Cook**" who come from different culinary traditions; Moroccan, Tunisian, Ethiopian and many more. This initiative was created to empower women and give them an opportunity to be economically independent and preserve their rich cultural traditions. During dinner, we will hear the story of the synagogue, we are dining in.
- We check into our hotel in **Be'er Sheva** later this evening.

Overnight in Be'er Sheva

Day 6: Monday, February 10, 2020: TU BISHVAT IN THE SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day **planting trees** at the **JNF/Hadassah park project**, blossoming amidst the desert sands around Be'er Sheva.
- We travel to the **Eshkol region** to visit the **Protected School**. Here, we witness the bravery and hope of the children and teachers and view the buildings used for both learning and shelter, followed by a **Tu Bishvat celebration** with the kids.
- We continue to the "**Salad Trail**" to 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 pick and taste fruits and vegetables from the self-picking farm and encounter flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herbal gardens. Our program also includes a **Tu Bishvat Seder lunch**.
- We complete our day at the workshop of **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 ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time together.
- We check into our hotel and refresh, followed by an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Tuesday, February 11, 2020: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Ein Kerem Hadassah Hospital** for a tour of the **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower**, 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.
- 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:
 - The Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations
 - The New Historical Museum
 - The Children’s Memorial
- We complete our visit at Yad Vashem with a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Lost Communities**.
- This evening, a chef accompanies us to the lively **Machane Yehuda** 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 a **vegetarian dinner** together with our purchases.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 8: Wednesday, February 12, 2020: THE BEAUTY OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel north and visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff and visit the village, including their working farm and winery.
- We drive through the **Jezreel Valley** and stop at **Utopia Orchid Park**, a tropical rain forest with thousands of orchids from around the world as well as a variety of other plants and animals.
- We continue to **Shiloh**, where Joshua divided the land between the tribes and where the tabernacle stood for almost 400 years.
- We return to Jerusalem for a relaxing evening and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Thursday, February 13, 2020: ANCIENT JERSUALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we enter Jerusalem's **Old City** and set out on a walking tour of the different neighborhoods. We begin in the **Jewish quarter** with time for shopping in the **Cardo market**, followed by the **Arab market (shuk)**. In the **Christian quarter**, we stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- This afternoon, over coffee and cake, we meet with scholar **Rachel Korazim** for a dialogue entitled "*Love to Hadassah, Jerusalem and Israel in Poetry*".
- Spend the evening exploring Jerusalem and enjoying dinner on own. We suggest a visit to Ben Yehuda Street or Emek Refaim.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10: Friday, February 14, 2020: NATURE & WINE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we set out on a short hike in the **Sataf Forest** in the Jerusalem mountains.
- At the nearby **Tzuba Winery**, we enjoy a **tour and tasting**.
- This afternoon, we visit the **Israel Museum** to view the exhibits leading us from biblical times to the present.
- This evening, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by a **Shabbat farewell dinner** in a private room at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 11: Saturday, February 15, 2020: A JERUSALEM SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the day at leisure attending Shabbat services, exploring Jerusalem or relaxing.
- Tonight, we join together for **Havdalah**, marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week.
- We check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

Day 12: Sunday, February 16, 2020: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

