



**Awesome Israel
from North to South
Led by Michelle Conwisar
October 11-21, 2021
Extension to Eilat and Petra
October 21-24, 2021
(As of 7/7/21)**



Day 1: Monday, October 11, 2021: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Tuesday, October 12, 2021: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time together.
- Next, we visit **Mt. Scopus Hospital** for a tour of the facility.
- This afternoon, we have time for personal reflection at the **Western Wall**.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before our **welcome dinner** this evening.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Wednesday, October 13, 2021: TIKKUN OLAM / WE REMEMBER

- 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. We also visit the synagogue featuring the famed **Chagall windows**. Lunch is included with our visit.
- We continue to **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**.



- Later this afternoon, a chef accompanies us to the famed **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 **dinner** together with our purchases.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 4: Thursday, October 14, 2021: THE NEGEV & ESHKOL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We travel south to **Moshav Nativ HaAsara** and learn about the **Path to Peace**, a community-created mosaic along the border wall separating Israel from the Gaza Strip. We have an opportunity to **add a piece to the mosaic** and put our own imprint on this project of hope.
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- We travel to the Negev Desert and meet with **Rotem** to hear his story at **Cafe Gotha** in **Sderot**, a social café that employs young people with disabilities and at-risk youth.
- We continue to 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 continue with a tour of the **Eshkol border**, located just a few miles away from Gaza, and learn how the residents cope with living in this community.
- Our final stop is 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 return to Jerusalem for an evening at leisure and dinner on our own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Friday, October 15, 2021: A COMMON FUTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Gush Etzion** for a dialogue with **Ali Abu Awaad** and **Rabbi Shaul Yudelman**, the founders of **Shorashim / Roots**, a program that fosters a grassroots movement of understanding, non-violence and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.
- This afternoon, we have the ultimate adventure at **Caliber 3**, where we learn some of the Israeli methods of shooting and combat. We learn from the experts about weapons handling, counter-terrorism tactics and the values that guide the Israeli Defense Forces.
- We return to our hotel for time to relax and refresh.





- As the sun begins to set, we join together to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel** with the people of Jerusalem.
- Later this evening, we enjoy **Shabbat of a Lifetime**, an exceptional authentic cultural experience in the heart of Jerusalem. We join together with local families to take part in the weekly Jewish rituals and savor the many flavors that Jews around the world have enjoyed for thousands of years.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Saturday, October 16, 2021: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the morning at leisure attending Shabbat services or just relaxing.
- This afternoon, we return to the **Old City** for a walking tour through the different neighborhoods. We begin in the **Jewish quarter**, followed by the **Arab market (shuk)**, then continue along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in the **Christian quarter**.
- We return to our hotel for **Havdalah**, followed by a dialogue with Jerusalem Post Palestinian Affairs correspondent, **Khaled Abu Toameh**.
- Dinner on own this evening.
- **Optional:** After dinner, we walk to the **Tower of David** to watch the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, October 17, 2021: THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart early and travel south to **Eretz Beresheet** for an authentic Bedouin experience, including a **camel ride and traditional tea ceremony**.
- We continue to the **Dead Sea basin** and ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouses, 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**.
- This afternoon, we travel north, stopping at **Beit Shean** to see the ancient Roman ruins (time permitting).
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and enjoy time to relax and refresh before **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in the Galilee



Day 8: Monday, October 18, 2021: MYSTICAL ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- We begin our day in the mystical city of **Safed**, one of four holy cities in Israel and the center of Kabbalistic practice. We stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the beautiful ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter.
- 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.
- Time permitting, we visit the famous **Naot factory** with time to shop for shoes and sandals.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 9: Tuesday, October 19, 2021: THE ROAD TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we travel west to **Akko** for a tour of the Crusader-era fortress and British prison, as we learn about this historically important port.
- Our next stop is atop **Mt. Carmel** in **Haifa**, where we take in the panoramic views overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Gardens**.
- Time for lunch on own nearby.
- We continue to **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the kids and staff and visit the village, including their working farm and winery.
- Next, we visit **Atlit**, a former detention compound for Jewish immigrants who arrived in Israel illegally during the British Mandate period.
- We travel along **Route 6** and the barrier to **Tel Aviv**.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and refresh before setting out for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 10: Wednesday, October 20, 2021: TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we stroll through **Neve Tzedek** to see the artistic graffiti painted on the walls and buildings and learn how it is an important form of expression in the community.
- Next, we follow **Independence Trail** for a walking tour through the **Ahuzat Bayit** neighborhood, where the city was originally developed.
- This afternoon, we visit the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center** for a glimpse into Israel's high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space at the interactive exhibition, followed by a meeting with one of Israel's up and coming entrepreneurs.
- Our next stop is at the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- We check out of our hotel and join together for a festive **farewell dinner** 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. We also reminisce about all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flights back to the United States, landing tomorrow morning.



OR JOIN OUR EILAT & PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION

Overnight flight or Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 11: Thursday, October 21, 2021: TO EILAT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we transfer to airport for our short flight to Eilat.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure relaxing by the pool or on the shores of the Red Sea.
- Dinner on own tonight.

Overnight in Eilat



Day 12: Friday October 22, 2021: PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we cross the border into Jordan and begin our full day tour of **Petra**, the Red Rose City. We explore the Nabatean City (as seen in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade), then walk through the Siq and view the ancient temples. We also discover the famous Treasury, the Roman Theater, and more at this, the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- On our way back to the border, we pass **Wadi Rum**, a desert wilderness with sandstone mountains and natural arches.
- We return to our hotel in Eilat to refresh before Shabbat dinner together.



Overnight in Eilat

-----Day 13: Saturday, October 23, 2021: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Enjoy the day at leisure relaxing at the pool, on the beach or exploring the Underwater Aquarium.
 - Early this evening, we check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Tel Aviv, connecting with our flight back to the United States.
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Day 14: Sunday, October 24, 2021: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

*itinerary subject to change

