



Travel Home: A Hadassah Family Experience Led by Miriam Aron December 23, 2021 – January 2, 2022 (As of 8/13/20)



Day 1: Thursday, December 23, 2021: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Friday, December 24, 2021: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours' representative.
- We travel to **Neot Kedumim Biblical Gardens** for a special program about the ancient olive oil press, water gathering, and sheep herding!
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time together.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel and refresh.
- As the sun sets, we join together to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by private **Shabbat welcome dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Saturday, December 25, 2021: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning to attend Shabbat services on own or just relax.
- This afternoon, we set out on a **scavenger hunt** in the **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood; a great way to get to know the area.
- As day turns to night, we join together for **Havdallah** at our hotel, marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week.
- Dinner on own, followed by the spectacular **Sound and Light show** at the **Tower of David**.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Sunday, December 26, 2021: ISRAEL THEN AND NOW

- Breakfast at our hotel joined by a journalist who will speak about the current state of affairs in Israel.
- At **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, we explore:
 - 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**. (Small children and parents will visit the Biblical Zoo instead).
- We return to the **Old City** for a walking tour of the **Jewish quarter**, including time to shop in the **Cardo market** and a tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels!**
- From the streets to above the rooftops, we **walk the ramparts**, providing us a birds-eye view of the different quarters.
- We complete our day at **Ir David, the City of David**, to view the old and new excavations, followed by a viewing of the 3D movie about the history of ancient Jerusalem.
- Later this afternoon, a chef accompanies us to **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 5: Monday, December 27, 2021: ANCIENT JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we experience dynamic education and inspiration with a visit to **Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) at Ein Kerem**. While there, we enjoy VIP meetings with the medical staff and leadership. We visit the Round Building, the center of Covid-19 treatment and hear about plans for future expansion/renovation.
- **Optional:** We host a **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony** at Hadassah Hospital's **Chagall Synagogue**. Mazel tov!
- This afternoon, we visit **Ammunition Hill**, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem. Its new multi-media film will help us better understand the events and battles of 1967.
- This evening we celebrate the **B'nai Mitzvah** children at special party.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6: Tuesday, December 28, 2021: THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart early and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon arrival, we 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 travel to a nearby **Bedouin community** for an authentic desert experience, including a **camel ride** and traditional **lunch**.
- This afternoon, we enjoy an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- We travel north through the Jordan Valley to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and refresh before **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 7: Wednesday, December 29, 2021: NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Next, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights** to **Mitzpe Gadot** to take in the amazing views and see the memorial to those soldiers who lost their lives capturing this crucial spot from Syrian forces in 1967.
- We continue in our jeeps to **Har Bental** for views stretching far into Syria.
- Next, we enjoy a **chocolate workshop**, learning from the experts in a fun and delicious way at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory**.
- This afternoon, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter.
- Our final adventure today is at **Dubrovin Farms**, where we participate in a lively **hummus making competition**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 8: Thursday, December 30, 2021: THE ROAD TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we visit the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve** and enjoy a **surrey ride** through the bucolic scenery.
- We travel west to **Haifa** and drive to the top of **Mt. Carmel** for panoramic views overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Gardens**.
- At the nearby **Druze village** of **Daliyat el Carmel**, we experience **home hospitality** while learning about their unique culture and lifestyle.



- Later this afternoon, we visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we interact with the students and staff and visit the village, including its working farm and winery.
- We continue to **Tel Aviv** to check into our hotel and refresh before setting out for an evening at leisure to explore and enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 9: Friday, December 31, 2021: TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- At the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center**, we catch a glimpse into Israel's high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space in the interactive exhibit.
- Next, we travel to **Beit Guvrin**, for a hands-on archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past. Those who wish can participate in **cave crawling** through the underground tunnel.
- At the **Ayalon Institute**, we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- As the sun sets, we join together for **Shabbat services**, followed by a **New Year's Eve Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.



Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 10: Saturday, January 1, 2021: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we enjoy a day at leisure OR we have the option to:
 - Follow **Independence Trail** on a walking tour through the **Ahuzat Bayit** neighborhood, where the city was originally developed.
 - Explore the Heroes Exhibition at **Beit Hatfutsot**, the Museum of the Jewish People.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

Day 11: Sunday, January 2, 2021: WELCOME BACK!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

