

Congregation Gates of Prayer

Led by Rabbi David Gerber

June 2 – 11, 2019

Version #1 10 October 2018

Sunday, June 2, 2019

DEPARTURE

- Departure from the United States.

Overnight: In Flight

Day 1: Monday, June 3, 2019

Note: The first day itinerary is subject to change depending on the flight arrival

BRUCHIM HABAIM- WELCOME!

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport and meet your Makor tour educator.
- Proceed to **Neot Kedumim**, the Biblical Landscape Reserve, which is a living museum of Israel's "green archeology" for the heritage tied to the Land and the People of Israel, for an interactive Shavuot-themed program to see the ripening of the first fruits of the Seven Species and experience the harvesting of the wheat fields and the work on the threshing floor, like in the story of Ruth and Boaz.
- Proceed to Tel Aviv.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Walking tour along the **Tel Aviv** Promenade to **Jaffa**, followed by a guided tour through the Old City of Jaffa, tracing its story from the days of the Bible through the Jaffa Port.
- Dinner and introduction at a Jaffa restaurant.

Overnight: Melody Hotel, Tel Aviv



Day 2: Tuesday, June 4, 2019

COASTING ALONG

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Photography workshop** using your own personal cameras (including smart phones), while exploring the street art of the unique **Florentine** neighborhood, filled with interesting things to trigger, and discuss some of the politically-, socially-, culturally- and comically-charged graffiti around the area.
- Head to the **Nachalat Binyamin** market, which has become synonymous with quality Israeli crafts and folk art, with lunch on own in Nachalat Binyamin.
- Proceed to Caesarea.
- Visit **Caesarea**, where both the Romans and Crusaders built large and significant cities, to explore the vast reconstructions and artistic interpretations of the original archaeology.
- Proceed to Haifa and stop at the **Louis Promenade** for a panoramic overview of Haifa
- Check in to the hotel.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Bay Club Hotel, Haifa

Day 3: Wednesday, June 5, 2019

THE WESTERN GALILEE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Proceed to Kibbutz Evron.
- *Mavrhatay (My Light)*: In a full-size **Ethiopian tukul** (hut), visitors will receive an insight into the aliyah experience of Ethiopians and Ethiopian-Jewish culture, with a chance to taste the traditional injera sourdough flatbread and participate in the preparation of Ethiopian coffee with Ethiopian-Jewish music that heightens the experience.
- Ride down the cable car to **Rosh Hanikra** for a guided walk through the grottos.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Participate in a rappelling experience at the **Keshet (Arch) Cave**, a huge arch that is the only remaining element of the collapsed ceiling of a cave.
 - **Note:** Possible for all ages and abilities. The Keshet Cave can be reached from a nearby parking lot, from which a paved path enables easy access to physically-challenged visitors. Those who don't rappel can enjoy watching the others and we can provide watermelon/popsicles.
- Participate in an authentic **Arab or Druze cooking workshop** that affords you a hands-on, true-to-life cultural immersion that's not just about good eating, but also about exploring foreign cultures through taste, smell, and experience.
- Return to Haifa.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Bay Club Hotel, Haifa



Day 4: Thursday, June 6, 2019

JUDAISM IN THE GALILEE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Travel to **Har Halutz**, a community settlement in the Upper Western Galilee, originally settled by American Jews during the early 1980s under the auspices of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, for the **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony**, which will be held in the communal synagogue or at a site with a magnificent view, with Kiddush and a discussion with the residents following the ceremony.
- Proceed to Safed.
- *Lost in Safed – Interactive Map Quest* through the alleyways and synagogues.
- Lunch on own in Safed.
- Proceed to Jerusalem by way of the Great Rift Valley.
- Stop at **Mount Scopus**, overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem, for an opportunity to recite the traditional Shehecheyanu prayer, upon arrival in Jerusalem.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 5: Friday, June 7, 2019

THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided visit of the **Old City**, beginning at Jaffa Gate and walking along the rooftops of the Old City for a glimpse at the multi-ethnic weave of the city, followed by a guided visit through the **Jewish Quarter**, including the Cardo, Hurva Square and the Herodian Mansions, concluding at the Davidson Archaeological Park.
- Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter.
- Rest of the afternoon at leisure.
- Attend Friday night services at **Kol HaNeshama**.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem



Day 6: Saturday, June 8, 2019

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning for rest, reflection and/or prayer.
- Shabbat Options (*leadership to choose one option for the entire group*):
 - *The Poet and the Windmill* – Guided walk through **Yemin Moshe** using the poetry of Yehudah Amichai as a guide
 - *The German Colony of Jerusalem* – Walk through the **German Colony**, built by the German Templars in the late 1800's, with their unique buildings and stories that have become part of Jerusalem's lore
 - *Jerusalem: A City of Many Traditions* – Return to the Old City for a tour of **Mount Zion**, walk along the Ramparts and free time in the Old City Market – the Shuk
- Dinner at the hotel.
- **Leil Tikkun Shavuot**: Special after-dinner Shavout study session led by Rabbi Gerber, overlooking the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, June 9, 2019

SHAVUOT IN THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Proceed to the Dead Sea Basin.
- Ascend **Masada** via cable car or on foot for a guided visit through the site and an exploration of the symbolism and questions that arise from the Masada story and their implications for Jewish life today.
- Ride the cable car down and continue to **Ein Bokek** for an opportunity to float in the Dead Sea and swim in the hotel pool, followed by lunch.
- Nature walk through **Nachal David** at **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve**, while listening to stories about and the Psalms of King David, while walking through natural springs and enjoying the cool waters of Ein Gedi's famous oasis.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem



Day 8: Monday June 10, 2019

MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *The Memory of the Holocaust in Israeli Society Today*, a presentation by Holocaust scholar **Dr. Rachel Korazim**.
- Visit **Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center**, the national memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, including the Avenue of the Righteous, with parallel programming for adults and youth.
- Lunch on own in the **Machane Yehuda** open-air market.
- Visit the **Israel Museum**, its model of Jerusalem during the days of the Second Temple and the Dead Sea Scrolls, followed by an opportunity to visit the Jewish Life and Living, Archaeology, Israeli Art and Design exhibits and much more.
 - Parallel programming for adults and youth.
- Rest of the afternoon and evening on own.

Overnight: Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

IN AND AROUND

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Head towards **Beit Guvrin**, where hundreds of underground caves date back to the time of the Phoenicians, and become an archaeologist for a day by taking part in the ongoing digs at the caves, which served as storerooms, burial crypts and safe havens.
 - **Note:** Possible for all ages and abilities.
- Enjoy a **festive farewell lunch** at Kibbutz Palmach-Tzuba and fun activities:
 - **Adults:** Wine tasting
 - **Youth:** Chocolate workshop
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Rest of the afternoon and evening on own.
- Depart for Ben Gurion Airport for return flight to the United States.

Overnight: Flight

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

DEPARTURE

- Return flight to the United States.

ARRIVE BACK IN THE UNITED STATES

