

Catch the Sparks: Celebrating Our Strength and Bonds as Women in the Homeland of Our People

Great Neck Women's Journey to Israel led by Rabbi Tara Feldman

July 14—25, 2019

Sunday, July 14, 2019

- Depart NY for Tel Aviv

Monday, July 15, 2019

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport, with assistance by a Makor Educational Journeys representative.
- Drive to the Upper Galilee to **Kibbutz Kfar Blum**, for a luxurious stay at the kibbutz movement's flagship guest hotel.
- Check in to the hotel.
- **Festive Welcome Dinner** at the kibbutz.
- Welcome to Israel, Trip Orientation, and Opening Ceremony.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Kfar Blum

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the kibbutz hotel.
- Morning hike at the **Tel Dan Nature Preserve** and walk along one of Tel Dan's ancient trails, weaving around the waters of the Dan River and nearby bubbling brooks, enjoying the tall treetops, exploring a few of the extraordinary archaeological sites from the time of Abraham through the period of the First Temple.
- Drive to the magical, mystery city of **Tsfat** and explore the alleyways, art galleries, ancient synagogues and stories that have made Tsfat the city of secrets.
- More secrets revealed with a **Tsfat Mikvah Experience**.
- Lunch on your own in Tsfat.
- Ascend to the top of **Mt. Bental** on the **Golan Heights** for a view into Syria and a short security seminar for an update on the latest developments. Possible meeting with a female intelligence officer in the IDF.
- Visit the award-winning **Golan Winery** for wine tasting and a tour of the winery.
- Dinner at the kibbutz hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Kfar Blum



Wednesday, July 17, 2018

- Breakfast at the kibbutz hotel and check out.
- Begin the journey to Jerusalem.
- Stop at the **Kinneret Cemetery** to visit the graves of Zionist pioneer and poet laureate Rachel (*There are the Golan Hills...*) and modern Israel's Naomi Shemer (*Jerusalem of Gold*) for a glimpse at the power of the poem in contemporary Israeli life.
- Drive into the **Carmel Mountains**.
- Visit the **Druze town** of Daliat a Carmel for lunch at **Nura's Kitchen**, hosted by **Nura Husaisi**, who worked at the Carmel Forest Spa with some of Israel's leading chefs until she opened her home to guests.
- Continue south to **Caesarea**, with its excavated Roman Theatre, Hippodrome and Bath House, including a walk on the shores of the Mediterranean to the renovated Crusader city with its cafes and galleries.
- Ascend to Jerusalem with a stop at the **Tayelet** for an overview of the city and an opportunity to recite the traditional Shehecheyanu blessing upon arrival in Jerusalem.
- Dinner on your own at the **Tachana**, the refurbished Turkish Railroad Station.
- Free evening in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, July 18, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided walk through the **Old City of Jerusalem** with a chance to explore the Jewish, Christian, Armenian, and Muslim Quarters. See the archaeological remains that date back 3,000 years to the days of the First Temple, including the Nea Church, the Biblical, Hasmonean, and Roman remains in the open Cardo and the Broad Wall.
- **Western Wall Tunnel Tour**
- Lunch on your own in the Old City.
- Drive just south of Jerusalem to **Kever Rachel** in **Beit Lechem (Bethlehem)**, where our mother, Rachel, is buried. Rabbi Tara will share prayers, texts, and insights into the life and impact of Rachel Imanyu.
- Dinner with **Zohar scholar Melila Helner, Rabbi Yael Karrie, and Rabbi Chen Zfoni**, who join in conversation on the subject "*The Birth of Israeli Judaism.*"
- Optional: Late night visit to a Jerusalem **Challah Bakery**.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Friday, July 19, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's official memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.
- **Hike in the Jerusalem Hills**, followed by lunch at one of the wineries that celebrate the return to wine making after a several thousand year pause.
- Return to the hotel for free time and a chance to get ready for Shabbat.
- Meet **Rabbi Bill Berk**, who will help create a transition to Shabbat, teaching *The Magic of Jerusalem's Shabbat Culture*.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat**, followed by "Shabbat of a Lifetime" for a taste of Jerusalem Shabbat culture in the home of Rabbi Bill and Batya Berk.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat (Saturday), July 20, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- "Trail to Tefilah"—walking meditation, reflection, singing, silence, Torah learning—all in preparation for morning prayer at the Azarot Yisrael Plaza next to the Kotel.
- Shabbat morning prayers and Torah reading.
- Shabbat lunch at the hotel.
- Free time to enjoy Shabbat afternoon.
- **Shabbat afternoon walking tour (possibilities include):**
 - **Agnon in Jerusalem**—Walk the streets of Central Jerusalem, using the writings of Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Israel's first Nobel Laureate as a guide, exploring the Jerusalem of over 100 years ago, its differences and similarities to today.
 - **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**—Tour of **Mt. Zion**, walk along the ramparts and free time in the Old City Market—the Shuk.
- Seudah Shlishit—a time for singing and a third Shabbat meal on the balcony of the Feldman's Jerusalem home.
- Night time program by Rabbi Tara and Rabbi Chen Zfoni, *Understanding Each Other Across the American/Israeli Divide*.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Sunday, July 21, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided walking tour of the ancient **City of David**, including the story of the women who helped shape ancient Judaism.
- Lunch on own in the Old City.
- *The View from Inside the Government*—meet **MK Rachel Azaria** of the Kulanu Party.
- *The View from the Other Side of the Mechitza*—Orthodox women making waves and fending for a feminist spiritual Judaism—meet two of the following: **Mish Kosoy (Pardes)**, **Rachel Berkowitz (Pardes)**, **Racheli Frankel (Matan)**, **Rabbanit Carmit Fientuch (Ramban Shul)**, **Esti Rosenberg (Roshat Midrasha Migdal Oz)**, **Tehila Friedman (Modern Orthodox activist)**, **Yedidah Koren (Hartman Institute)**.
- Following a break, meet **Racheli Ibenboim**, who works for the empowerment of women in her society, *The View from the Haredi World*.
- Free evening and dinner on your own.
- Optional: **Night visit to Shuk Macheneh Yehudah**, one of the most famous markets in the Middle East, with a bustling night scene capturing the attention of Jerusalem's younger crowd.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, July 22, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to **Ein Karem** for a walking tour of beautiful Ein Karem, with its rich history dating back thousands of years and including its most famous son, John the Baptist.
- Be invited into the homes of **Niflaot Ein Karem**, a group of women from across the Middle East who take you into their homes and invite you into their stories, their culture, their music, and on tours of the historical houses they call home. Enjoy their coffee and Middle Eastern baked specialties.
- Lunch with the Niflaot women of Ein Kerem.
- Afternoon Encounter with **New Spirit at Beit Alliance** and meet **CEO Inbar Weiss** for a tour and explanation of the efforts of a new generation to breathe life into the old heart of ancient Jerusalem.
- Drive to **Tel Aviv**, the first Hebrew city built in 2,000 years.
- Late afternoon meeting with **Pnina Falego AGENCYAHU**, an Ethiopian woman who shares her immigrant story.
- Free evening and dinner on your own.
- Optional evening walks to Rothschild Blvd., Neve Tzedek, the Tachana, old Jaffa, and the promenade along the beach.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Tuesday, July 23, 2019

- Optional early morning pre-breakfast **Bike Ride** along the Tel Aviv Promenade.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Encountering Israel's Toughest Issue—The Settlements.* Spend the day in and around **Gush Etzion** and meet settlers and Palestinians for a chance to hear firsthand the dreams and the frustrations of those caught in the middle of one of the most challenging conflicts in the world. Meet **Rabbinit Hadassah Froman** from Tekoa, who has been intimately involved in the effort to bring Muslims and Jews together around spiritual, religious issues, as well as being a pioneer in Jewish/Muslim peacemaking. Speak with settlers from Efrat. Meet **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger**, who work in an organization called **Shorashim (Roots)** and are involved in front line co-existence work.
- Return to Tel Aviv for rest, free time, and then a chance to process the day with Rabbi Tara and Ferry.
- Dinner on your own and free evening in Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

- Optional early morning Torah Yoga.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Short drive to Alma and a chance to meet **Ruth Calderon**, founder, and former MK: *Taking Back Our Holy Texts.*
- At Alma meet **Shirel Horovitz**, who leads an *Art Tour: Art, Jewish Values, and Israeli Public Culture.*
- Lunch on own at **Sarona Market.**
- Time to shop and prepare for the return to the U.S.
- Concluding Dinner—Sharing Impressions, Sharing Dreams

Overnight: Return Flight to the U.S.

Thursday, July 25, 2019

- Arrive back in the United States.

