

Olam Tikvah Israel Returnees Trip 2009 with Rabbi Kalender

Monday July 6

We will depart from Newark on El Flight #28 departing at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Tuesday July 7

Arrive Tel Aviv in the morning. We'll be met by our Israeli guide, Naftali Cohen, and head to Ben Gurion's house in Tel Aviv. We'll then make our way via the Mediterranean coast to Zichron Yaakov. Stop for lunch and a stroll on Derech HaYayin. There, we'll visit the Aharonson House and the N.I.L.I. Museum. Time permitting we'll wander through the Rothchild Gardens. Continue north to Haifa and check into the Dan Panorama Hotel.

Wednesday July 8

We'll start our day visiting the ancient Port of Acco, where we see the newly reconstructed Crusader Fort. Continue north to Rosh Hanikra where we descend by cable car to the beautiful grottos created by wind and sea. After lunch we will visit the Open Museum and the Industrial Park at Tefen. In the afternoon, we'll drive to the shores of the Kinneret and check into Kibbutz Ma'agan. Take time to enjoy a swim in the Kinneret before dinner and overnight at Maagan.

Thursday July 9

Our day starts with a drive to Tel Dan and a walk through this beautiful Nature Reserve. From here we drive to Kibbutz Malkiya which is located on the Lebanese border. Our tour of and the army base located there will help us develop a better understanding of the northern border. We'll be right there! In the afternoon, we'll make our way into the Golan Heights to Katzrin, and the Kesem HaGolan media show. Dinner on your own in Katzrin. Return to Maagan for overnight

Friday July 10

Leave the north and head toward Tel Aviv. Our first stop will be at the Museum Ha'arezt. From there we'll take in the sights, sounds and smells of the street fair in Nachalat Benyamin. After a nosh, we'll return to our bus and climb the hills of Jerusalem and check into the Inbal Hotel. Meet before sundown to get ready to welcome Shabbat. We'll eat as a group at the Inbal and enjoy Shabbat in Jerusalem.

Saturday July 11

Use the opportunity to visit local synagogues in the morning and the world famous Shabbat lunch at the Inbal is a highlight. Over the years, many of you have chosen to visit museums, take walks, visit family and friends while others lounge by the pool (the best one in Jerusalem). We'll gather for havdallah and you'll have a free night in Jerusalem. Overnight at the Inbal in Jerusalem

Sunday July 12

Drive to Beer Sheva, where we visit Abraham's Well, and Tel Beer Sheva, the site of Abraham's original settlement. Continue on to the Hatzirim Air Force Museum where we visit the base and see the exhibits there. After lunch, head over to Kibbutz Lahav (Joe Alon Center) for a program and museum introducing us the Bedouin – the nomadic desert people who are struggling with challenges of integration into Israeli society. We return to Jerusalem for a free evening and overnight at the Inbal in Jerusalem.

Monday July 13

We will make our way to Beit Shemesh, a city between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It's a town with a little bit of every ethnicity and socio-economic level. We'll join some talented cooks who will give a kosher Kurdish cooking class (including making our own lunch). Beit Shemesh is the sister city to Washington DC, so we'll see first-hand the impact of our Federation's work. The new NOVA shalicha is from Beit Shemesh so we hope to meet her. Finally, we'll make our way to Kella David, a relatively new winery, for a tour and tasting. Free evening and overnight at the Inbal in Jerusalem.

Tuesday July 14

The first half of today will be a special program which will begin at the Conservative Yeshiva. Our program will include text study on water resources in Jerusalem and agriculture during Biblical times along with a visit to the Sataf. There is an easy hike with an option for getting wet. We'll head back to Jerusalem for lunch and to change before we head out to Tel Aviv for see the unique show at Na Laga'at, followed by dessert in their special café. Finally, we'll make our way to Jerusalem and the Inbal.

Wednesday July 15

In the morning, we'll be met at the hotel by our special guest speaker, Professor Gerald Steinberg. Professor Steinberg is the Political Studies Department Chair at Bar Ilan University, the founder of the Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, the Executive Director of NGO Monitor and a columnist for the Jerusalem Post. He specializes in international relations, strategy, arms control, diplomacy, and "soft power." Before lunch, we'll visit Yad Lakashish. Free afternoon for shopping, museums and visiting your favorite sites. In the evening we'll walk down to the Sound and Light Show at the David Citadel Museum. Return to the Inbal Hotel – Overnight Jerusalem

Thursday July 16

With sadness, we'll say goodbye to the Inbal. Our first stop will be at the ALYN Children's hospital for a tour. After that we'll spend time with Steve Kerbel and a few unique Jerusalem mitzvah heroes. We'll tour the Begin Museum and bring our trip to a close with our farewell dinner at La Bocca. Transfer to the airport to check in for our departure flight.

Friday July 17

1am departure with return home on the same day.