

ISRAEL | YOUR WAY

March 31–April 7, 2019

MAIN MISSION

program dated: March 18, 2019

Day One: Monday, April 1, 2019

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport on individual flights.
- Transfer to the hotel in **Tel Aviv** for check-in.

Special Tour for Early Arrivals

- 1:30 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the hotel and depart for afternoon tour.
- 2:00 p.m. ***Have You Heard the One About...?*** Experience the diversity and dynamism of Jewish life at the renovated **Beit Hatfutsot - The Museum of the Jewish People**. Among the highlights are the new **Synagogue Exhibition** and the interactive and inspirational “**Heroes: Trailblazers of the Jewish People**” which appeal to younger visitors. Get ready to laugh and learn with “**Inside Out and Outside In**” - a celebration of Jewish humor from Sholem Aleichem to Seinfeld.

Official Opening

- 7:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the hotel and depart for evening event.
- ***Living in the Land of Milk and Funny***: Laugh along with American-born stand-up comedian **Benji Lovitt**. Participate in an opening event, including cocktails and welcome remarks.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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Day Two: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

- Breakfast will be open from 7:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. **To be a Free People in Our Land - Challenges and Triumphs**: Meet with an Israeli scholar **Dr. Zohar Raviv**, recognized as “one of the most influential Jewish educators in the world” and the **International VP of Education Taglit-Birthright Israel**; the meeting will be over **private breakfast** at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel by track:

Track 1 | Tapestry for the Senses: Arts, Food & Culture

- 9:00 a.m. Depart the hotel for the day.
- Take a **photographic voyage** through Tel Aviv before the Instagram and Facebook era. We'll see how the city has changed and how it was depicted in old photos. We will explore how to **use our phone** and create meaningful frames and photos.
- Engage in a contemporary Israeli **cooking workshop** at **Dan Gourmet** cooking school. Enjoy the fabulous **lunch** you've prepared and compliment it with some of Israel's best wines.
- **Israeli Literature Translated**: Talk with award-winning author **Dorit Rabinyan**, whose best-selling novel *All the Rivers* created a considerable discussion for its focus on the love between a Palestinian man and an Israeli Jewish woman.
- A tasting tour of the **Milk & Honey**, Israel's first whiskey distillery. Learn about the history and process of distillation, walk through the various stages of making spirits – from grain to glass – and then participate in a cocktail making workshop led by a mixologist.
- 5:00 p.m. Arrive to the hotel.

Track 2 | Advancing Israel: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- 9:15 a.m. Depart the hotel for the day.
- Visit **Israel Tech Challenge** for a glimpse of one organization's solution for keeping up with the need for more techies in a hi-tech economy. Following our visit, we'll meet with **Dov Moran & Lotan Levkowitz** from **Grove Ventures** to hear one success story of building early stage companies through cutting-edge technology.
- Lunch on own in Tel Aviv.
- Visit **Monday.com** for a look an inside look at a thriving Tel Aviv start-up.
- Arrive to the hotel.

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Day Two: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – cont.

Track 3 | Israel in Motion: Outdoor Adventure & Eco-Action

- 9:15 a.m. Depart the hotel for the day.
- **“It’s All Good, I Trust You”:** Join **Etgarim** for a tandem bike ride where one of the riders is blindfolded and relies on support and assistance from their friend. The experience offers amazing insight into the world of the blind and the power of partnership. Get to know **Etgarim**, an organization empowering people with physical disabilities by encouraging them to face the challenges of outdoor and extreme sports.
- **Group lunch** en route.
- **The Journey of an Israeli Champion:** Have you ever trained with an Olympian? Hop on the mat with Olympic-medal winning **Judoka, Arik Zeevi**, and some young champions in the making at a judo training studio in the Ben Shemen youth village. Participate in this sport of unarmed combat derived from jujitsu and intended to train the body and mind.
- **It’s as easy as riding a bike (or building one!):** Volunteer with a **bicycle building program** together with students from Totzeret Haaretz, an organization working for social change in Lod. Together we’ll build bicycles which will be given to a local community center at the end of our visit.
- Arrive to hotel.

Track 4 | Beyond the Headlines: Politics & Security

- 9:30 a.m. Depart Tel Aviv and drive south.
- **The Balance of Power on Israel’s Southern Border:** Dialogue with **Brig. Gen. (Res) Nitzan Nuriel**, former Director Counter Terrorism Bureau. The discussion will end with an overlook from **Sderot**, located close to Israel’s border with the Gaza Strip, for an insight into the security complexities of the area following Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza in 2005.
- Stop for an overlook to the **Erez Crossing** Point into the Palestinian Authority area of Gaza.
- **Living on the Edge:** Proceed to **Moshav Netiv Ha’asarah**, also located on Israel’s border with the Gaza Strip, meet with residents over **lunch** and discuss the security implications of Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, as well as the more recent security threats of balloons and fire.
- Meet with **Dr. Tali Levanon** from the **Israel Trauma Coalition**, helping local residents deal with the short and long-term impact of life on the border.
- Arrive to the hotel.

All Tracks:

- Return to **Tel Aviv** and to the hotel.
- **Dine Around the Town:** Explore Tel Aviv’s vibrant culinary scene with reservations and recommendations made by our team (*on own account*).

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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Day Three: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel; breakfast is open from 6:30 a.m. in the main dining room.
- Depart the hotel by track:

Track 1 | Tapestry for the Senses: Arts, Food & Culture

- 8:00 a.m. Depart the hotel for the day.
- **Jewish History and Satire:** Program with **Natalie Marcus** and **Asaf Beizer**, creators and head writers of “haYehudim Baim,” The controversial Israeli TV show that gives a new spin to historical events in Jewish history.
- Drive to **Netanya** for an art or theatre program with **Tarbut**, a movement of pioneering young artists who reside and work as Tarbut Communities (“urban kibbutzim”) in weakened towns and cities throughout Israel.
- Lunch on own.
- A special window into the world of Israeli fashion, visiting design houses and designers in Tel Aviv’s leading fashion districts.
- Arrive to hotel and prepare for evening activity.

Track 2 | Advancing Israel: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- 8:00 a.m. Depart the hotel and drive north to Haifa.
- VIP visit to the **Rambam Hospital** for an insider glance at the latest research and innovations in the medical industry. Possibilities for the visit include:
 - Meet the heads of **Rambam MedTech Ltd**, who is authorized by the Israeli government to handle all innovations and intellectual properties (IP) generated by Rambam physicians and scientists.
 - Hear from **Professor Lior Gepstein** about his research on the potential use of human pluripotent stem cells for the treatment of post-myocardial infarction heart failure.
 - Gain a deeper insight into the cooperation between the hospital and the Israel Defense Forces as we tour the underground wartime hospital followed by a visit to the Children’s Ward.
- Take a walking tour through the streets of Haifa to hear about urban renewal and real estate developments that have changed the scope of the city. During our visit, we’ll visit **Robin Food**, to hear about social change in the neighborhood and enjoy a **group lunch** with a social cause.
- Arrive to hotel and prepare for evening activity.

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Day Three: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – cont.

Track 3 | Israel in Motion: Outdoor Adventure & Eco-Action

- 7:30 a.m. Open your chakras for the day with a **yoga session** at the beach.
- **SUP on the Mediterranean:** Put on those wetsuits and conquer the waves of the Mediterranean while stand-up paddle boarding right outside your hotel.
- Depart the hotel for the day.
- **Ready-Steady-Cook:** Sharpen your knives and join Washingtonian Chef, Todd Gray, and a local Israeli Chef in an outdoor cooking competition, followed by a **lunch** of your own creation!
- **Those vegetables from lunch came from where?** Explore the **Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant**, which reclaims wastewater from high-density Tel Aviv for use in agriculture. One of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind in the world, its 44-mile piping system transports municipal wastewater from urban areas and industrial zones to the treatment facility at Sorek. Learn how this incredible Israeli innovation is building bridges all over the world. Our visit will be guided by **Tomer Malachi**, Executive Director of CultivaId, a nonprofit organization that is using technology to implement sustainable water solutions for agriculture around the world.
- Arrive to hotel and prepare for evening activity.

Track 4 | Beyond the Headlines: Politics & Security

- 8:00 a.m. Depart the hotel with *passports in hand* and drive south towards Lod.
- **The Arab Community and State-Minority Relations in Israel:** Just twenty minutes from thriving Tel Aviv is one of Israel's most impoverished and diverse towns. We'll walk through the streets of **Lod** with Israeli Arab activists and leaders and hear whether Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel is progressing or a pipe dream. We'll also meet **Avivit Hai**, program director of the **Inter Agency Task Force**, which is working to create civic equality and a shared future between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens and with **Faten Alzinati**, Director of a local community center.
- **Crossing Borders:** Meet with a **Rami Nazzal**, a Palestinian Jerusalemite reporter who writes for the New York Times, MSNBC, and Time Magazine and drive to the **Kalandia Checkpoint** to cross between **Israel** and the **Palestinian Authority**.
- Proceed to the Palestinian city of **Ramallah** and meet with **Sam Bahour**, American born businessman and entrepreneur for a conversation about economics in the West Bank and challenges that they face. The visit will include a **group lunch** in a local restaurant.
- Depart Ramallah and return to Tel Aviv.
- Arrive to hotel and prepare for evening activity.

All Tracks:

- 7:30 p.m. Meet in the hotel lobby and depart for the evening event.
- **Special program** and **dinner** in Jaffa.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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Day Four: Thursday, April 4, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel; breakfast is open from 6:30 a.m. in the main dining room.
- Check out of the hotel and depart by track:

Track 1 | Tapestry for the Senses: Arts, Food & Culture

- 8:00 a.m. Depart Tel Aviv and drive south to the Elah Valley.
- Visit the **Vertigo Dance Village** on **Kibbutz Netiv Halamed Heh** and meet with the dancers of **Vertigo Power of Balance** which connects people with various physical abilities, disabled and non-disabled, through movement, contact, and improvisation.
- **LaDa'at Central Israel Wine Route – כי יין ישמח לבב אנוש**: Travel on a Vintner's Journey along the Ella Valley and the Judean Hills wine route, exploring some of the new and successful wineries that have sprouted in recent years, including the **Elah** and **Kastel Du Monde Wineries**. Talk with winemakers and sample some of the best new Israeli wines.
- **Group lunch** en route.
- **Jerusalem's Art on Both Sides of the Tracks**: Experience the diversity of the city's art scene on either side of Jerusalem's light rail track. We'll start at a center of Jerusalem's secular and contemporary artists, the **Machaneh Yehuda** neighborhood. It is both the site of Jerusalem's famous outdoor market and a place of ceramics and painting studios and urban renewal art projects such as the **Alliance House**, a home and hub for Jerusalem's creative community. On the other side of the tracks, we'll enter the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of **Mekor Baruch**, home to some of the most important Haredi Yeshivot in Israel and of the Art Refuge gallery. Meet with artist **Caron Greenblatt** and hear how this municipality-supported gallery provides opportunities for religious artists and the ultra-Orthodox public isolated from mainstream galleries and museums.

Track 2 | Advancing Israel: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- 8:15 a.m. Depart the hotel and drive to Modiin Ilit.
- **Trends and Changes in the ultra-Orthodox World**: We'll start our visit with a walk through **Modiin Ilit**, an entirely Haredi city. Following our walk, we'll meet with **Eli Kazhdan**, CEO of **CityBook Services**, a turnkey real-estate business and employer to many local residents.
- **Beer tasting and group lunch** at **Mosco Brewery**, a microbrewery located in Moshav Zanuah, and partner with the Jewish Agency Loan Fund Foundation.
- **Beep, beep & beep, beep YEAH!** Traffic in any city can make you pull your hair out. What about traffic in a city that was built over 2000 years ago? Hear from transportation experts about what's going on in the streets of Jerusalem (and below them!).

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Day Four: Thursday, April 4, 2019 – cont.

Track 3 | Israel in Motion: Outdoor Adventure & Eco-Action

- 8:00 a.m. Depart Tel Aviv and head south towards the Elah Valley.
- Using Jewish texts and mindfulness techniques as our guide, we'll explore the Elah Valley on foot with a **meditative hike** through the beautiful and inspiring landscape of the outskirts of Jerusalem.
- Enter Jerusalem and stop for lunch on own.
- Experience a one-of-a-kind, breathtaking view in Israel while you **rappel** down the **walls** of Jerusalem's **Old City**.
- **Peace, Love & Basketball:** Strap on your hightops and hit the court with **Peace Players International**, an organization that uses sports to build bridges of friendship, trust, and leadership between youth who live in communities divided by conflict. The visit will include court time with Jewish, Muslim and Christian youth from the Jerusalem area who are active in the organization.

Track 4 | Beyond the Headlines: Politics & Security

- 8:00 a.m. Drive south towards the Etzion Bloc, located outside of Jerusalem.
- **Settlements & Settlers:** Drive to Efrat, the largest settlement in the West Bank, and meet with **Oded Revivi**, mayor of Efrat and Chief Foreign Envoy of the YESHA Council, which represents Jews living in the settlements for a conversation about the Jewish communities in the West Bank.
- **Creating A Joint Future For Palestinians And Israelis:** Meet with **Shaul Judelman** and **Noor Awwad** who live in the Bethlehem/Gush Etzion Area and founded the Roots coexistence project. The project draws Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living next to each other, are separated by walls of fear - not just of each other, but also of the price of peace. Without building trust, the suspicions between the two communities will suffocate the peace process.
- Continue to Jerusalem, and stop for lunch on own.
- **The Geopolitics of Jerusalem** - ירושלים, ובלבה חומה: Go beyond the headlines for an in-depth discussion on the political situation in Jerusalem with visits to some of its most talked-about areas, including the **Security Barrier**. Drive along the seam zone and delve into current developments with **Col. (Res.) Danny Tirza**, one of the seam zone's designers.
- **All Aboard!** A ride on the **Jerusalem Light Rail** provides a new perspective into the city and the diversity of its communities. We will alight the train in Pisgat Ze'ev and travel through the city until the Machaneh Yehuda Market. With guidance from our tour educator, we'll get a deeper look at differences and contacts between East and West Jerusalem.

All Tracks

- 5:30 p.m. We'll celebrate our arrival in Jerusalem with the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing of thanks.
- 6:30 p.m. Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on own account and evening at leisure.
- Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

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Day Five: Friday, April 5, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel; breakfast is open from 6:30 a.m. in the main dining room.
- 8:45 a.m. *Creating a Common Memory of Israel & the Diaspora*: Dialogue with **Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman** from the Hartman Institute.
- Morning activities include:

Activity 1

- 10:00 a.m. Depart the hotel.
- 10:30 a.m. **Pedal your way**: on a **mountain bike** through the paths and hills of the Judean hills and enjoy the spectacular sites and breath-taking views.

Activity 2

- 10:00 a.m. Depart the hotel.
- 10:30 a.m. **A Modern Way to Explore an Ancient City**: Glide along the promenades of Jerusalem's Old City on a **Segway**, two-wheeled, self-balancing electric scooters, stopping for spectacular sites and photos opportunities. Witness the wonders of Jerusalem without taking a single step!

Activity 3

- 10:00 a.m. Depart the hotel.
- 10:30 a.m. **A Multi-Cultural Tasting Journey**: Eat, drink and be educated at the **Machaneh Yehuda open-air shuk** (market) as we sample food and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East and try to figure out what is Israeli about Israeli food and a special look in to the secret of Israeli spices.

Activity 4

- 10:00 a.m. **Elections 2019 – what do you need to know?** Join **Professor Reuven Hazan** of the Political Science Department at Hebrew University for an introduction into Israel's turbulent political scene where coalition governments and powerful ideological divisions are a fact of life. Following our conversation with Reuven, we'll take to the streets of Jerusalem for a guided tour with a local journalist, learning about the campaigns and front runners for the upcoming national election.

All

- Lunch on own account, en route.
- Return to the hotel.
- 4:00 p.m. Depart the hotel for the Old City.
- 4:30 p.m. **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the **Hulda Stairs** in the Old City.
- 5:30 p.m. Depart Davidson Center and proceed to Kotel (Western Wall) for a few moments of reflection as we welcome Shabbat.
- 7:00 p.m. **Festive Shabbat dinner** overlooking the walls of the Old City with guests and acapella group **Kippalive**.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

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Day Six: Saturday, April 6, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel; breakfast is open from 8:00 a.m. in the main dining room.
- *Optional:* Shabbat services at a local synagogue.
- Morning at leisure to relax, enjoy the hotel pool and other facilities, or join one of the following options, **departing the hotel at 10:00 a.m.**

Option 1 | with a tour educator

- A walking tour of the heart of Jewish life, history, and holiness: The **Old City's Jewish Quarter**. Among the highlights:
 - Walking the ancient **ramparts**.
 - Climbing to the **rooftops** for a bird's-eye view of the diverse, yet closely bound, communities of the Old City.
 - Walking through the **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-ruled Jerusalem.
 - Experiencing the atmosphere at the **Kotel**, widely considered Judaism's holiest site.

Option 2 | with a tour educator

- Tour the **Tower of David Museum** where the story of Jerusalem, from the time of Abraham to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine, is told with exciting exhibitions and in an amazing location.
- A visit to the **Pool of Bethesda** and **St. Anne's** Crusader church, followed by a walk along the **Via Dolorosa**, passing by the **Ecce Homo Arch** and the **Sisters of Zion Convent**, ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

Option 3 | on own

- Visit the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum** with its fascinating collections that range from archaeology and the Dead Sea scrolls to Jewish life and art, and from an open-air model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple to contemporary Israeli and European art.

All

- Lunch on own account, en route.
- 3:00 p.m. **Israel and the United States: A Strategic Alliance for the Wider Middle East:** Discussion with **Ron Prozor**, former Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Israel's representative to the United Nations.
- 4:30 p.m. **Experiences, Emotions, and Thoughts for the Future:** Join your fellow group members for a **group conversation** to reflect on what has inspired and excited us on our mission to Israel.
- Return to your room and prepare for check-out.
- 6:30 p.m. **Farewell Seuda Shlishit** (light meal) at the hotel.
- **Ben Kodesh L'chol:** A community **Havdallah** ceremony.
- **Late check-out** from the hotel.
- Transfers to Ben Gurion International Airport for those departing on flights this evening. Hotel rooms are included for those that prefer to depart on Sunday, April 7, or those who are participating in the Israel First Timers post-trip.