



PDX → Israel 2020
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
Community Trip to Israel
March 19-28, 2020

(Draft itinerary as of September 2019; subject to change)

Day 1: Thursday, March 19th-Arrival in Israel

- Evening **individual arrivals** at Israel's Ben Gurion international airport.
- Transfer to **Tel Aviv**.
- Hotel check-in. Have a chance to rest and relax following the long journey.

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 2: Friday, March 20th-Explore Tel Aviv

- **Optional:** Early morning outdoor activities along Tel Aviv's iconic 'tayelet' beachfront promenade. Activity choices can include (choose one per person): Energetic walk or run, Yoga or Krav Maga.
- Breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, meet with **Alon Ben David** for a briefing on **The State of the State**.
Alon Ben-David is a television and print journalist who has been covering the Middle East conflict for the last three decades. Specializing in defense and military issues, Mr. Ben David is currently Senior Defense Correspondent for Israel Channel 14 and a contributor to several international publications. He used to anchor the network's Friday news magazine. Mr. Ben-David has covered all major events in the region in the last three decades, including the first and second Intifada, the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Disengagement from Gaza, Israel's wars in Lebanon and the recent Gaza conflicts. He has reported from scenes of major global events, such as the 9/11 attacks in NY.
Alon Ben-David holds a BA in political science from Tel Aviv University and a master's in public administration from Harvard University. He is a senior research fellow at the Center for International Communication at Bar-Ilan University. Mr. Ben-David frequently lectures throughout the world on topics relating to the Middle East.
- **Youth Counselors program, in a separate room**
- Depart the hotel
- Visit the **Old City of Jaffa** and experience the charms, history, and unique heritage of what is argued to be the world's oldest port city (dating back over 4,000 years!).
- Stroll through the fashionable and upscale neighborhood of **Neve Tzedek**, the first Jewish neighborhood to be built outside the ancient port of Jaffa.
- Afterwards, stroll through the famed **Nahalat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Market**. Located adjacent to the bustling **Carmel Market**, this lively street fair provides a location for local artists and craftspeople to display their crafts. Stroll amongst hundreds of locals and visitors alike as we take in the festive atmosphere which prevails here, as well as watch the city of Tel Aviv come to life around you.
- Have lunch on own at either the **Carmel Market**, **Jaffa Flea Market**, **or** the **Levinsky Market**, both featuring a fantastic selection of the very best of Israel's local produce and culinary creations, representing the country's diverse and multi-ethnic population.

- Return to the hotel and have the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to rest, relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- Optional **Kabbalat Shabbat** services will be available for participants to choose from at a selection of different locations and in a variety of formats.
- **Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel. Upon return from Kabbalat Shabbat services, there will be opening remarks to be given by the trip's professional and lay leadership. The evening's entertainment program will be led by musical accompaniment provided by the popular **Kippa Live** acapella ensemble.

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 3: Saturday, March 21st-Shabbat in Tel Aviv

- A list of shabbat morning services will be provided by the on-site coordinators.
- Breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, enjoy your choice from the following morning options (choose one per person):
 - Visit **BINA-The Jewish Movement for Social Change**. BINA combines Jewish learning, social action and community building running cultural, social and educational programs that reach more than 50,000 from Israel and abroad each year. With a range of activities that is broad and diverse, all their programs work together to serve its mission; to strengthen Israel as a democratic, pluralistic and just society. There, participate in an interactive **Limmud Workshop- Shabbat, Social Justice, and Modern Israel**.
 - Visit the recently renovated **Beit Hatfutsot-Museum of the Jewish People**. Beit Hatfutsot is a global center for Jews worldwide that plays a pivotal role as a vibrant, dynamic and interactive educational and cultural institution, strengthening Jewish identity and perpetuating Jewish heritage globally. Teens will especially love its new exhibition, **Heroes – Trailblazers of the Jewish People**, providing a refreshing view of what it really means to be a hero. Visitors will meet different types of Jewish heroes throughout our history including scientists, intellectuals, leaders, revolutionaries, cultural figures, athletes and more – men and women with unique talents. This remarkable and diverse selection represents the heroism of our people through history, while showing that success has many different faces.
 - Explore the renowned **Tel Aviv Museum**, widely considered to be the most important museum for contemporary art in Israel. Guided by one of the museum curators, we will explore the museum collection and the architecture of its award-winning new wing.
 - Tel Aviv, Israel's 'Capital of Cool', is also the home of a large, vibrant and colorful LGBTQIA community. Embark on a walking **Rainbow tour** of the White city and discover the secrets of the largest LGBT community in Israel. Walk through all the important '*pink points*' while learning about the events that shape and continue to impact this unique community.
 - **Surf's Up!** Spend a fun day relaxing at Tel Aviv's award-winning **Mediterranean Beach!**

- Visit **Sarona**, a newly renovated neighborhood that combines a unique architectural history with a dynamic urban experience. The renewed colony includes an urban park, surrounded by accurately restored original buildings of the initial German Templar settlement which have been transformed into elegant cafes, ritzy restaurants, high-end art galleries and an assortment of specialty shops. At the trendy Sarona Market, have an opportunity to grab lunch from one of the many terrific food stalls featuring the best artisanal culinary selections
- On a walking tour, discover the **hidden gems** of Tel Aviv (*Shomer Shabbat-friendly*).
- Return to the hotel.
- **Spirit of Shabbat: Participate in a special Jewish study session led by Portland clergy.**
 - **For youth:** Participate in an interactive and fun Israel 101 session, to be led by your youth counselors.
- **Havdalah** around the pool at the hotel
- Free evening at leisure; dinner on own (restaurant recommendations and reservations to be provided by the on-site coordinators).

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 4: Sunday, March 22nd-Go North! Discovering the Galilee & the Golan Heights

- Breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, check-out from your hotel accommodations and board your assigned bus.

Gems of Tel Aviv:

- Discover Tel Aviv's **Independence Trail**. Learn about how **Tel Aviv** became known as the "White City" and a UNESCO World Heritage Site as you explore **Rothschild Boulevard** and the beautiful architecture surrounding you
- Visit the **Yitzhak Rabin Center**, built in a downward spiral and presenting two parallel stories: the history of the State of Israel and the biography of Yitzhak Rabin. The museum's exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country's development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time
- Explore the **"State of Mind" Israel Innovation Center**. This 'Start-Up Nation' museum highlights Israeli achievements in entrepreneurship, innovation and technology in a variety of sectors including agriculture, medicine, defense, cyber security, science, transportation, aerospace and more
- See a different side of Tel Aviv on a **graffiti tour** through the streets of south Tel Aviv. Learn about the influence that Israel's social and political voices has on artistic expression by deciphering the incredible graffiti on the walls
- **Visit one of the federation-funded programs below**
 - **Leket Israel** – take part in a hands-on volunteering activity – fresh produce packaging at the Leket factory in Raanana (**limited to 2 buses**)
 - **House of Wheels** – take part in a "Rolling Experience" - a group workshop created and delivered by alumni of the Wheelhouse Association, which enables you to experience the world of people with disabilities. The workshop includes a hands-on and meaningful experience in the daily experiences of people with disabilities and gives room for a structured encounter with them. The activity is divided into three parts: Practical experience in the day-to-day life of the disabled person, exposure to alumni personal stories and activity processing. The experience is carried out on a wheelchair and the use of special facilities that simulate everyday life tasks such as: supermarket shopping, bank service, computer work, ATM, shoe tying, zipper shopping and more. In the personal story, the adults reveal their personal inner world as people like everyone else and not just as "disabled".
 - **Neve Michael Youth Village** – Visit this safe-haven for over 280 needy children at risk (ages 6 to 18 from all over Israel) whose biological parents can no longer care for them. Recognized for its professionalism and effectiveness by the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and Social Services, the program provides sustenance, education, therapy and a warm, caring, family-like environment for children from broken homes who have suffered physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Take a tour of the village, visit "The Portland Petting Zoo" within the Emergency Crisis Center, which provides animal therapy for dozens of severely abused children each year and have the opportunity to have lunch with together with the children of the village.

- **IGY (Israel Gay Youth)** The only nation-wide organization in Israel dedicated to meet the needs of LGBT (Lesbian, Homosexual, Bisexual & Transgender) youth. IGY was founded in 2002 with the aim of creating an equal and Democratic society in Israel, where being different will not be grounds for humiliation and oppression. IGY operates dozens of social groups and youth centers all around Israel and works with all the social sectors in the society: Jews, Arabs, religious & Orthodox, secular, periphery, and immigrants. The groups are led by trained counselors (youth guides), in order to provide LGBTQ young people with a supportive, accepting and empowering space, in which they can discuss their dilemmas, meet other young people and express themselves in a safe, accepting and non-judgmental environment. IGY youth groups give their members the opportunity and tools to be leaders and active citizens in the society.
 - **Dror Israel** – 16 Educator's Kibbutzim and 1500 kibbutz members involved in education run a wide range of both formal and informal educational projects, geared to more than 4,000 youth from all sectors of Israeli society – new immigrants, youth at risk, Jews, Arabs, and Bedouins.
- **Explore the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, Crusader harbor and 12th-century ramparts at Caesarea.** Constructed by Herod the Great, this ancient port was one of the most formidable cities in the empire and the capital of the province for nearly 600 years
 - Travel across the northern Galilee region to our Kibbutz hotel accommodations.
 - Hotel check-in. Have a chance to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
 - **Dinner** at the hotel.
 - This evening, gather together for a **Kibbutz-style 'kumsitz'** bonfire
 - **Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum OR Hagoshrim Hotel, Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

Day 5: Monday, March 23rd-Discovering the North-Your Way!

- Breakfast at the hotel

Participants to choose from one of the following five tracks:

Participants to choose from one of the following seven tracks:

1. Track One: Israel's Northern Borders-A Beautiful Home in a Tough Neighborhood *Family Friendly*

- Depart the hotel, meet with **Col. (Res.) Kobi Marom** and begin the day with a visit of **Metula overview** – a scenic view towards Israel northern city, Metula, Lebanon's Ayun Valley and Mt. Hermon
- Drive to the nearby community of **Sha'ar Yishuv**, and experience a moment of memorial and reflection at the serene Helicopter Memorial, commemorating the tragic loss of 73 IDF soldiers in 1997 when their helicopters, transporting them to combat operations in Lebanon, tragically collided mid-air. Together with Kobi, who was the commander of many of the soldiers, explore the history and heritage of the disaster and its place in the modern Israeli narrative.
- Next, participate in a thrilling **ATV tour** of the **Golan Heights!** Stopping at important locations along the way, learn about the history of Israel's possession of the strategic plateau during the Six Day War and its retention of it during the Yom Kippur War. Hear why, despite efforts to the contrary, the Israeli consensus is to hold on to the region in any future peace accord.
- Have **lunch** in a local **Druze Village**. Learn about the intriguing history and heritage of the Druze in this region of the country while enjoying a home hospitality **lunch**.
- Visit the Screaming Hill, Syrian border
- Afterwards, travel to **Kibbutz Ein Zivan** and visit the award-winning **Pelter Winery** for a delicious **wine tasting**.
 - **For families:** Visit the adjacent **De Karina Chocolate Factory** and enjoy a chocolate-making workshop.

2. *Track Two: Rising from the Battlefield* **Family Friendly**

- Begin the day at the ancient biblical city of **Tel Dan**. Positioned at what was the northernmost extent of the Kingdom of Israel, Tel Dan will expose us to a pristine display of excavated city walls and buildings, some of which date back to the city's inception during the Bronze Age.
- From the vantagepoint of Tel Dan, look over the border with **Lebanon**. There, **Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman** will brief you on the numerous strategic and geopolitical challenges facing the region. See the nearby divided Shi'ite Muslim village of **Ghajar**, through which the international border passes.
- Next, ascend the **Golan Heights**.
- Drive to nearby Kibbutz Merom Golan for a delicious **hospitality lunch OR picnic lunch** (subject to availability).
- Next, participate in a thrilling **Jeep tour** of the **Golan Heights!** Stopping at important locations along the way, learn about the history of Israel's possession of the strategic plateau during the Six Day War and its retention of it during the Yom Kippur War. Hear why, despite efforts to the contrary, the Israeli consensus is to hold on to the region in any future peace accord.
- Conclude the day at Katzrin's **Kesem Hagolan** center and enjoy a **beer tasting** at the on-site **Golan Brewery**.
 - **For families and teens:** Get a taste of what ancient Jewish life on the Golan Heights was like at the **Park Katzrin Talmudic Village**, where you will have a chance to don period-era clothing, make olive oil and meet some of the locals!

3. *Track Three: Tastes of the Galilee* (Kosher-Style – winery not kosher)

- Depart the hotel for an unforgettable day with **Galileat** dedicated to authentic culinary experiences, exclusively designed to show you a side of the Galilee that even many locals don't know.
- Begin the day at **Ein Camonim's goat cheese dairy**. Tour the goat herd and production facility, followed by a **cheese tasting**.
- Next, visit the **Jahashan olive press** at Moshav Calanit for a series of **olive oil tastings** and an explanation on the production process.
- Continue to the village of **Deir Hanna** and visit the **El Balad flour mill & bakery**. See how local bulgur wheat is made, flour is milled, and real pita bread is baked (with tastings, of course!).
- Travel to the village of **Salame** and visit the home of **Ziad and Zaada Sueid** for an explanation about local Bedouin traditions and lifestyle followed by an **authentic Bedouin meal**.
- At the nearby community of Lotem, enjoy a tour and tastings at the **Lotem organic winery**, one of only 3 certified organic wineries in Israel (winery – non-kosher).

4. *Track Four: Active Outdoor* **Family Friendly**

- Depart the hotel and **hike** around the **Banias**, one of Israel's most beautiful nature reserves. The Banias spring feeds into the Jordan River, the reserve's large waterfall tumbles down a 33-foot precipice year-round, a nearby cave houses remains of a temple to the Greek god Pan. In the wars of 1948 and 1967, when the Golan was held by Syria, the site housed a Syrian officers' club.
- Take a lively **bike ride** along the paths adjacent to the Upper **Jordan River**, as it makes its rolling way south.
- **Enjoy a picnic Falafel lunch**
- At a certain point, transferring our method of transportation, we enjoy a **kayaking adventure** as the river winds its way towards the Sea of Galilee.
- Conclude at the **Agamon Hahula Nature Reserve**. This fertile landscape serves as a way-station and home to a myriad variety of migrating birds as they make their way from the northern Europe and Asia towards their winter homes in Africa (and vice versa). Experience the sight of literally thousands of different species of birds large and small as we transverse the expanse of the park in a safari wagon with a local naturalist. Learn about the draining projects conducted here by Israel in its early days and their long-term effects on the local and national ecosystem.

5. Track Five: The Spiritual Experience *Family Friendly – moderate accessibility issues*

- After breakfast, have a chance to center yourself and get into the spirit of the day with a special **outdoor meditation activity** at Kfar Blum hotel. Center on your breath and movement as you enlighten your body, mind, heart, and soul.
- Drive to the mystical city of **Tzfat**, one of the Four Holy Cities according to tradition, and the birthplace of Jewish Mysticism.
- Together with your guide, walk through the city's narrow, winding alleys. See a selection of its beautiful and historic synagogues, as well as have a chance to browse through some of the many workshops and galleries found in the artists' quarter.
- Next, enjoy a "couscous" lunch at the historic **Tet Vav House**, an ancient stone house set in the heart of the artists' quarter.
- While in Tzfat, meet with **Rabbi Eyal Reiss**, Director of the International Center for Tzfat Kabbalah for an introduction into the secrets of the Kabbalah **OR** participate in an interactive '**Sofer STaM**' workshop. Led by an experienced scribe, learn about the secrets of Jewish numerology and the hidden meaning behind Hebrew letters and texts.

All together:

- This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at former IDF base **Tsnobat** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired grilled meats and traditional and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines and diverse craft beers.

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum OR Hagoshrim Hotel, Kibbutz Hagoshrim

DRAFT

Day 6: Tuesday, March 24th - *Discovering the North-Travelling the Jordan Valley*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, we check-out of our hotel accommodations and depart the region.
- Enjoy a scenic boat ride at the Sea of Galilee
- **Spend the rest of the morning exploring the special history, heritage, communal ideology, and legacy of the Kibbutz experience at one of the following sites (lunch included):**
 - **Kibbutz Degania Alef:**
 - As the first Kibbutz, Degania is a landmark in the history of the Zionist movement and the state of Israel. It was there that the principles of independent work and collective life materialized. After Degania, hundreds of kibbutzim were established, drawing the borders of a state on its' way, the state of Israel. Some of those groups' members received their training on Degania.

Although Degania is known as "the mother of the collectives and the kibbutzim", Degania also differs some in her way of life from the other kibbutzim and collectives which arose after her. Contrary to the other Kibbutzim, Degania kept the children in the family core and never had separate sleeping quarters for the children - they always slept at home within the family unit. Hired labor always existed in Degania, and Degania was known in her liberal approach with understanding of the needs of the individual. From the beginning of its existence Degania was always evolving. During the past few years, this process has advanced quickly, of which at the end she will emerge as a different Degania.
 - **Kibbutz Degania Bet:**
 - Degania Bet was established in 1920 as a farming community, which is why it is surrounded by banana plantations, orchards, dairy farming and much more. To those who like the farming life – this is the perfect place and they will be happy to show you some of the farm. In addition to the farm, the kibbutz has two industrial factories. One manufactures silicon products for medical use and the other builds spraying machines for commercial farms. **During the tour, visit the house of prime minister Levy Eshkol, who was a member of the Kibbutz, and learn about the successful Israeli agriculture – 'Oasis in the middle of the desert.'**
 - **Kibbutz Ein Gev:**
 - Take a train tour through the Kibbutz, providing an introduction into the unique kibbutz way of life. The route passes through the school, communal dining room, farms and housing area. Along the journey we will descend from the train at the entrance to the banana groves. Here we will learn how bananas are cultivated on the kibbutz and taste the fresh fruit cut straight from the trees.
 - **Kvutzat Kinneret:**
 - Kinneret Courtyard is located at the entrance of the small town (Moshava) of Kinneret – one of the most important and interesting sites in the history of Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel. The Courtyard was established in

1908 on the lands of Dleika and Umm Djuni with the goal of training Jewish agricultural workers for permanent settlement. Kinneret Yard was a sort of a laboratory, a melting pot in which the first buds of social ideas appeared, such as the Kvutza, Kibbutz and Moshav. Central figures in the history of the Jewish settlement lived and acted here: A.D. Gordon, Rachel the poetess, the agronomist Hana Meisel, Berl Katznelson, Zalman Shazar and others.

- Visit Tamar Kinneret, 'where a Zionist legend comes in a jar.'
Kinneret Farm produces the full spectrum of date varieties, bursting with healthy and energizing nutritional qualities, including natural silan date honey and silan spreads in a range of wonderful flavors – halva, nuts, and chocolate mixed with pure date honey. Each of these represents the very essence of the dream that began in the hearts of the pioneers and today still inspires every kibbutz member.
And this is why Kinneret Farm products don't only contain the finest dates, but decades of history as well.

○ **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu:**

- Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, located in the Valley of Springs in north the of Israel, is a religious kibbutz. They are the pioneers of commercial organic farming and biological pest control in Israel. Time-permitting, learn about a variety of topics:
- **Kibbutz life:** What does it mean to live on a communal religious kibbutz. Sde Eliyahu, founded in 1939, has a lot of history!
- **Organic farming:** Go out to our organic vegetable field, see and sense the beautiful expanses, and (in season) taste something straight from the field. Here you will learn about how we started organic farming in Israel, what makes organic farming "organic", and the importance of such methods to our health and
- **Date orchards:** What is unique about these trees? How are they grown? How do donkeys help us control the weeds?
- **BIOBEE** the first biological pest control facility in Israel, and a world leader in its field. See live samples of beneficial insects and bumblebees, which are used for pollination.

○ **Kibbutz Nir David:**

- **The Days of the Pioneers'** - experience the life and times of the pioneers of yesteryear. Through laughter and a great sense of longing and pride, step back into a distant era when, within a single day, the first of the Tower and Stockade settlements was built. Then it was called Kibbutz Tel Amal, today known as Kibbutz Nir David. Tel Amal was the first Tower & Stockade settlement in all of Israel. Imitating the model developed by the pioneers of Tel Amal, more than 50 settlements were established across Israel, each within a single day or night, using the same method.

○ **Gesher:**

- **From Desert to Oasis** - Learn about the story of the Kibbutz in the context of a young, pioneering Israel with special focus on 'building a home' and 'defending the borders.'

- **2:00-3:30pm** - Drive south through the **Jordan Valley**, forming Israel's border with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. En route, discuss the history of this region (both ancient & modern) and the strategic role it plays in efforts to reach a peace agreement. Make our way towards the **Dead Sea region**.
- **3:30-5:00pm** – Desert Activities
- **6:00-8:00pm** - Meet up with the remainder of the trip's participants at an exclusive location located off-the-beaten-path for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza!**

DRAFT

Day 4: Sunday, March 22nd-Visions of the Desert-Exploring the Negev

- After breakfast, check-out from your hotel accommodations and board your assigned bus.

Visions of the Desert-Exploring the Negev

Gems of Tel Aviv:

- Visit **Independence Hall**, the site where David Ben Gurion proclaimed Israel's independence on May 14th, 1948.
- Visit the recently renovated **Peres Center for Peace & Innovation**. The new visitors' center and hub presents the extraordinary story of how Israel came to be on the cutting edge of innovation the world over and will inspire and empower visitors to become positive agents of change.
- See a different side of Tel Aviv on a **graffiti tour** through the streets of south Tel Aviv. Learn about the influence that Israel's social and political voices has on artistic expression by deciphering the incredible graffiti on the walls.
- Depart Tel Aviv and drive south.
- Lunch en route.
- Travel to the nearby city of **Rehovot** and visit the historic **Ayalon Institute**, where the Hagana produced munitions in secret under the noses of the British authorities in pre-state Palestine.
- **Latet Youth** – take part in a hands-on volunteering activity – packaging food for impoverished families and Holocaust Survivors. Packing boxes is a physical, meaningful activity of bonding, and teaches about the social situation in Israel in an interactive way. Optional presentation about poverty and food insecurity in Israel with testimonials. Location: The Latet factory, Har-Tuv, Industrial Zone, Bet Shemesh
- Travel south into the **Negev Desert** and proceed to our Kibbutz guesthouse accommodation for check-in and **dinner**.
- This evening, visit **Kibbutz Gvulot**, located near Israel's southern borders with neighboring Egypt and the Gaza Strip.
- There, relax at a traditional **Kibbutz Kumsitz** bonfire, featuring an acoustic Israeli and folk song session, wine & beer and, of course, **smores!**

Overnight: Kibbutz Tze'elim Country Lodging

Day 5: Monday, March 23rd – Visions of the Desert-Exploring the Negev, Your Way!

Participants to choose from one of the following two tracks:

1. Track One: Geopolitics and Security-The Western Negev

- After breakfast, travel to the "**Otef Azza**" (Gaza Perimeter) region. This area has been uniquely affected by the Hamas terror organization and government in the Gaza Strip; its residents often suffering from incoming rocket fire launched from Gaza into Israel.
- At the **Kerem Shalom** border crossing, see many of the hundreds of trucks which carry aid and supplies and which travel through Israel to the Hamas-controlled Gaza territory daily.
- Stop at **Kibbutz Nir Am**, where the first terror tunnel was discovered and destroyed in the July '14 war. At the **Assaf Sibony memorial**, view the northern Gaza Strip (visit subject to security conditions). Receive a briefing from **Col. (Res.) Grisha Yakubovich**, former Head of the Civilian Department in the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories unit. Col. Yakubovich led strategic dialogue between the international community, Israel and the Palestinian Authority on economics, infrastructure and foreign affairs.
- Lunch en route.
- Visit the **Yitzhak Shavit Sha'ar Hanegev School**, fortified to stand up to the threat of incoming rockets and mortars. Located on the outskirts of Sderot, this special school provides a safe and supportive environment for local youth to study in peace and security on a site which is often targeted for attacks by Palestinian militant factions in the Gaza Strip. While there, meet with teachers and students to hear about how the complex and challenging regional security realities impact their daily routine (subject to availability).
- Conclude the day with a visit to **Netiv Ha'Asara**. Tour this special moshav, located on the southern border with Gaza, and learn about the community's drive to continue to seek for peace with their neighbors despite, and in the face of the frequent missile and mortar attacks directed at it by Hamas in Gaza. See the moshav's border wall which has been transformed into a wall of peace with unique ceramics, as well as engage in an open conversation with local residents about the challenges and benefits of life in the region (subject to availability).
- Arrive back at your Kibbutz accommodations.

2. Track Two: The Great Outdoors

- Traverse the sands of the Negev desert south as you travel to the development town of **Mitzpe Ramon**, located on the edge of the **Ramon Crater** (Machtesh Ramon).
- **Rappel** down the face of the crater!
- Afterwards, board **off-road vehicles** to explore the area on a **4X4 excursion**. Have a chance to discover and learn about the intense geological forces which created it, as well as its natural environment, unique Israeli history, and the direction of its future.
- **Picnic lunch**.
- This afternoon, hike to the ancient **Nabatean city** & fortress of **Avdat**. See firsthand how this unique and vanished civilization once flourished amongst the most difficult conditions of the desert and see evidence of their once vibrant wine industry by viewing their ancient wine press.
- Arrive back at the hotel

All together:

- At the hotel, have a chance to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
- This evening at Kibbutz Gvulot, experience ***Pioneers in the Negev***-a unique, interactive and unforgettable reenactment of the frontier Kibbutz's 1943 establishment. During the experience, participants will partake in preparing the **evening meal** and will take part in a fun and creative drama activity whereby they reenact the living conditions and challenges of the era).

Overnight: Kibbutz Tze'elim Country Lodging

Day 6: Tuesday, March 24th-Visions of the Dead Sea

- After breakfast, check-out from your Kibbutz accommodations and travel across the Negev towards the **Dead Sea region**.
- Next, ascend cable car to **Masada**. Tour the remains of King Herod's desert retreat and fortress, whose condition is so well preserved by the arid conditions of the Judean Desert. Learn about the history of this fascinating place, a symbol of the ancient sovereignty of the Kingdom of Israel. Hear about the tale of its violent destruction and as the last stand of Jewish patriots in the face of the Roman legion. Additionally, explore the motif of collective memory in the Zionist epic as we discuss the notion of Masada as an ethos to the Zionist narrative and its place in Israeli society and collective identity.
- Stop at **Hod Dead Sea hotel** for an opportunity to swim and 'float' on the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on the surface of the Earth. Lunch on-site.
- Meet up with the remainder of the trip's participants at an exclusive location located off-the-beaten-path for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza!**

All Together:

- Both tracks to meet up at an exclusive and off-the-beaten-path location for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza** event. Come together as a community for an afternoon and early evening of celebration of our time in Israel with the very best the desert can offer.
- Travel to **Jerusalem** for hotel check-in.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel OR Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 7: Wednesday, March 25th-Jerusalem's Old City

- After breakfast, depart hotel and drive/walk to the Old City.
- Spend the day exploring the **Old City of Jerusalem**. Walk through the **Armenian Quarter** and learn about the little-known and tragic history of this lesser-known area; encounter the **Christian Quarter** along the **Via Dolorosa** and inside the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**; stroll along the timeless stone streets of the **Jewish Quarter**, which has had a continuous Jewish presence for over 3,000 years.
- Go to the **Kotel-the Western Wall**, the ancient retaining wall of the 2nd Temple which stood on the Temple Mount (the holiest site in the world for the Jewish people) and a centerpiece for Jewish prayer and longing since biblical times. Here you will have an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection at this monumental site.
- For this component of the tour, each bus will begin at a designated location and will have the chance to visit one of the following historical sites:
 - Tour the **City of David**- Experience firsthand 5,000 years of history as we descend into the ancient foundations of King David's Jerusalem. Here, our tour will take us through the wet Siloam's Tunnel built by King Hezekiah to protect the city's water source from the invading Assyrian Army during the days of the First Temple.
 - Visit the **Southern Wall Excavations** at the **Davidson Center**. Witness the grandeur of one of the most formidable sites in the Roman world and hear about the role of the Temple to the Jewish people both historically and today.
 - Explore the Four Quarters from above as you experience a **Ramparts Walk tour** along the top of the Old City Walls.
 - Visit the **Herodian Quarter** to see archaeological excavations of Jewish neighborhoods which remain as they were at the time of their destruction by the Romans in the year 70CE.
 - Tour the **Burnt House** museum, presenting an excavated Jewish home from the Second Temple period situated twenty feet below current street level in the Jewish Quarter. Visit the **Hurva Synagogue**. Once a symbol of the destruction of the Jewish Quarter and inability of its residents to live there between 1948-1967, today visitors to the rebuilt synagogue can admire its special beauty and view the world's tallest 'Aron Kodesh' (holy ark which contains Torah scrolls), as well as enjoy the breathtaking 360-degree view of the Old City from the veranda surrounding the synagogue's dome.
- **Lunch on own in the Old City**
- During the day, each bus will do a short **Shehechyanu** ceremony, and recite the blessing expressing our gratitude upon reaching Jerusalem.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on own.
- This evening, experience the breathtaking digital choreography of the **Night Spectacular** sound & light show at the **Tower of David Museum**, located in the Old City.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel OR Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 8: Thursday, March 26th-Jerusalem, Your Way!

After breakfast, divide up into separate touring tracks for the day and depart the hotel.

Participants can choose one of the following seven tracks:

1. Track One: Mitzvah Track – *for those celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah and their families*

- After breakfast, depart the hotel and head to the **Old City**.
- Gather together for a special **B’nai Mitzvah ceremony** & a light reception & tour at **the Herodian Quarter** (subject to availability). Special ceremony locations will be provided to correspond to Orthodox and Pluralistic streams.
- Visit **Neot Kedumim**. Specially designed to preserve the conditions of life in the Land of Israel as they existed during Biblical times, Neot Kedumim simulates how the inhabitants of Israel lived their daily lives. While here, perform the mitzvah of settling the Land of Israel by planting trees.
- Lunch at **Neot Kedumim**
- Later, drive to the historic **Nachlaot neighborhood** and partake in an exciting and interactive **Scaventure Hunt**. Nachlaot is one of Jerusalem’s best kept secrets, and on this tour game, you will discover this colorful, surprising and eclectic neighborhood. Get to know the pioneers of the early Jerusalem neighborhood, make your way through alleys and you will peek into the Machane Yehuda market – all this while engaging with the unique Nachlaot vibe.

2. Track Two: Jewish Identity & Pluralism

- Meet with **Dana Sharon** - the Social media manager at the Israel Religious Action Center, Board member at Women of the Wall and a rabbinic student at the Israeli at Jerusalem HUC. She Holds a degree in Literature from the Hebrew University, and Masters in Contemporary Jewry for the Schechter institute. Dana is a prominent feminist and religious activist in Jerusalem, as well as the former Chairperson of Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance, is a past volunteer of the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center and a Former board member of the HUJI student union.
- Visit the **Max Rayne Hand in Hand School** in Jerusalem. Opened in 1998, the school's students form a microcosm of Jerusalem's urban diversity hailing from Jewish and Arab neighborhoods all over East and West Jerusalem. The student body is religiously and ethnically diverse-Arab Christian, Muslim, Armenian Christian, Druze, Mizrahi Jewish, Ashkenazi Jewish, and Ethiopian Jews all comprise the student body where all classes are taught by co-teachers, Jewish and Arab in which all students learn both Hebrew and Arabic.
- Go for a **culinary tour** of Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox neighborhood of **Mea Shearim**.
- This afternoon, visit the **Jerusalem Open House for Pride & Tolerance**. JOH is a community center that provides resources for the city's LGBTQIA community, including: Affinity groups based on age, language, level of religious observance; subsidized one-on-one counseling; anonymous HIV/AIDS testing; school support; a large lending library (with many books in English); educational programming; organizing the annual Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance and more. While there, meet with **CEO Ofer Erez**, who himself made history as Israel's first openly transgender IDF officer.

3. Track Three: Security & Settlements

- Go for a **Jerusalem Seam Line** tour with **Col. (Res.) Dr. Dani Tirza**. Col. Tirza is the General Manager of "Yozmot" - Consultation, Management & Guidance Company. He began his long military career (1977-2007) as a combat soldier and commander of regimental units in Judea and Samaria (1980-1994). In 1994, Col. Tirza was appointed head of a special staff in the Central Command in charge of the regional and strategic planning, including planning and assistance to the government level, including the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense in their decision-making process on security and regional issues. In this capacity he was in charge of planning the security infrastructure and participating in the thinking teams at the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council and the Control Terrorism Bureau, he participated in the Israeli delegations to the Peace Negotiations with the Palestinians as the expert of territorial issues and mapping. Col. Tirza was graduated as PhD in Business Administration from the York University, USA (2009). As well as graduating IDF Officers courses, he holds a BA in Political Science from Tel Aviv University.
- Travel south of Jerusalem to the **Gush Etzion** settlement bloc.
- **Lunch** at the **Gush Etzion Winery** & meet with **Mayor Oded Revivi**. From his perspective, learn about the rationale and meaning of the settlement movement and the challenges it faces. Tour the community.
- This afternoon, visit **Roots**. Meet with locals, both **Israelis and Palestinians** living in the West Bank who struggle to carry on as normal a life as possible despite the separation fences and roadblocks, working together at promoting peaceful dialogue and co-existence.

4. Track Four: The Road to Jerusalem *Moderately physically demanding*

- Depart the hotel and travel outside of the city limits to the **Jerusalem Forest**.
- Begin the day ascending the **Castel Fortress**, the site of a pivotal battle to free Jerusalem prior to the Hagana's triumphant entrance to the besieged city during Israel's War of Independence. During the short hike, stop at several 'stations' along the way which delve into some of the more critical aspects of the battle and events of the period.
- Located in the foothills of the Judean Mountains, take a short **hike** along the path of the '**Burma Road**'. Joined by **Joe Perlov**, discuss some of the more challenging aspects of Israel's creation and the effects of the 1948 War of Independence on the region's Arab villages which once were and are no more. Together, discuss the ways in which this complex and nuanced topic resonates on modern Jewish and Israeli identity.
- Taste delicious wines and have **lunch** at **Shvilim**.
- Visit the **Latrun Fortress**. Once a British police station and military fort, its strategic location on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway was once a thorn in the side of the IDF, as it

remained in Arab hands until conquest in the Six-Day War. Today, it is home to **Yad Lashiriyon**, the IDF Armored Corps official museum and memorial featuring the world's largest collection of vintage and modern armored military equipment such as tanks and armored personnel carriers

5. Track Five: Digging the Past-Planting the Future *Family Friendly / Moderately physically demanding*

- Depart Jerusalem and travel to the **Ella Valley**.
- **Dig for a Day!** Relive history by spending some time at **Beit Guvrin/Maresha**, an active archeological dig. After a short introduction on the history and development of the site, descend into the dig itself and take your turn at sifting through layers of history and examining your finds.
- Taste delicious wines and have **lunch** at one of the area's many renowned **Wineries** (exact location TBA).
- Visit **Neot Kedumim**. Specially designed to preserve the conditions of life in the Land of Israel as they existed during Biblical times, Neot Kedumim simulates how the inhabitants of Israel lived their daily lives. While here, perform the mitzvah of settling the Land of Israel by **planting trees**.

6. Track Six: The Palestinian Authority *Adults Only Track*

- **After breakfast, meet Rami Nazzal**, a Palestinian Journalist, who carries a U.S. Passport, and is a resident of East Jerusalem and the son of Drs. Nafez and Laila Nazzal. With extensive journalistic experience for outlets like The New York Times, TIME, Reuters, Der Spiegel, The Mail on Sunday, Rami gained an insight into the cultures of the world. Attending the Anglican International School in West Jerusalem, and later graduating in Business Management and Tourism from the University of Utah in 2003, he lived in Boston for seven years before returning to his childhood home in Jerusalem and has worked as a journalist for TIME Magazine since 2010.
- **Drive north to the Qalandiya checkpoint** and cross to enter the Palestinian Territories. Proceed along the separation barrier on the Palestinian side to visit Al-Ram and Dahayit Al-Barid. Learn about the impact the wall has on the local residents and nearby areas. Continue back to the checkpoint on the Palestinian side to observe the procedures of the borders leading in and out of the West Bank.
- **In Ramallah**, visit a Palestinian refugee camp.
- Next, meet with **Dr. Khalil Shikaki** for a discussion and overview of Palestinian politics. Dr. Shikaki is a professor of political science and director of the Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research, a non-profit independent Palestinian institution and think tank of policy analysis and academic research (subject to availability).
- Lunch en route

- Later this afternoon, visit the new Palestinian city of **Rawabi**, a \$1 billion planned community and the first of its kind in Palestine. Tour the amphitheater, the parks, sample units and meet with the project's visionary developer and renowned Palestinian business leader **Bashar Masri** to learn about the challenges and successes of creating change on the ground in the region (subject to availability).

7. Track Seven: Jerusalem-Capital of Israel *Adults Only Track*

- **Walk through Israel's largest military cemetery, Mount Herzl.** Reflect on the visible testament of the personal sacrifice of thousands of Israelis towards the continued existence, security, and safety not only of Israel, but of Jews around the world.
- Visit the **Knesset**-Israel's House of Parliament. Receive an overview into the unique coalition system of representative democratic government which facilitates Israeli democracy, and how it enables a delicate balance of often opposed interests which relate to Israel's many sectors and their politics. While there, meet with a **panel of Members of Knesset** (MK's) to delve in-depth into some of the most current issues facing the parliamentary body (MK's to be determined; subject to availability).
- Have **lunch** in the **Knesset Cafeteria**.
- The **Supreme Court of Israel** is the highest court in the land. It has ultimate appellate jurisdiction over all other courts and, in some cases, original jurisdiction. Tour the Supreme Court of Israel. Meet with a legal aid/ a Supreme Court Justice (subject to availability) and learn about Israel's unique legal heritage and judicial system based on elements of Jewish, Ottoman, British, and American law (subject to availability).
- Back at the hotel, meet with **Professor Reuven Hazan**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Department of Political Science. Professor Hazan will explain the complexities of Israeli politics and the differences and similarities with the US system of government.
- Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.
- This evening, have a chance to explore the famous **Western Wall Tunnels**, as they stretch under the homes of the Muslim Quarter and make their way along the entirety of the length of the Temple Mount (**subject to availability – sign up in advance required**).

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel OR Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9: Friday, March 27th-Reflections of Collective Memory/Erev Shabbat

- Breakfast at the hotel

For Adults:

- Meet with **Dr. Rachel Korazim**, Holocaust lecturer and educator, to explore the special and sometimes ambivalent relationship between Israelis and the Shoah from her perspective as a scholar and daughter of survivors.
- Depart the hotel
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, considered the foremost memorial to mankind's darkest period and Israel's official memorial and historical museum to the victims of the Shoah.
 - **Tour the museum.** Docents will lead special tours for first-timers, repeat visitors, for those interested in visiting the award-winning Art Museum, the Valley of the Communities, the Children's Memorial and other parts of the complex.
 - Conclude the visit with a moving **memorial ceremony** accompanied by a cantor and with words from mission leaders, Rabbis and select mission participants.

Youth 11 and Under:

- Visit the **Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**. With a local zoologist guide, see animals from around the world both big and small, as well as be introduced to the many varieties of animals which call the Land of Israel their home.
- Afterwards, continue to lunch on own:
 - Visit the **Machane Yehuda** food and spice market, one of the most beautiful markets and most familiar icons in Israel
 - **OR** explore the Old City's **Arab Market**, providing a perfect opportunity to enjoy terrific and traditional Arab cuisine.
 - **OR** Ben Yehuda pedestrian street
 - **OR** Mamilla open-air mall
 - **OR** Train Station compound
- Have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to rest, relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- Experience a community-wide **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the **Davidson Center's Southern Steps**, set against the impressive and timeless backdrop of the Temple Mount.
- Free time for reflection at the **Western Wall**.
- Return to the hotel for **Shabbat Dinner**.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel OR Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 10: Saturday, March 28th-Shabbat in Jerusalem/Departure

- Experience the atmosphere of Shabbat in Jerusalem at leisure. For those interested in attending **Shabbat morning services** at nearby area synagogues, a list will be provided.

Special touring options include (choose one; lunch to be provided):

1. **Available For 'Go North' track participants only:** Tour **Masada & the Dead Sea** (includes lunch at a Hod Dead Sea hotel).
2. View the Four Quarters of the Old City from above as you experience a **Ramparts Walk tour** along the top of the actual walls of the Old City (Shomer Shabbat-friendly).
3. Experience the sites of the **Christian Quarter**. Walk through several of the Stations of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa**, and conclude inside the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, held by believers to be the site of Jesus's execution and burial. Receive interesting insights into the status of Israel's multi-ethnic Christian community and the issues of identity it faces as a small minority living in a Jewish state with a sizable Muslim minority (Shomer Shabbat-friendly).
4. Visit the **Israel Museum**. The Museum houses encyclopedic collections, including works dating from prehistoric times to today. The Jewish Art and Life wings feature the most extensive holdings of biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world. While here, a visit to the Shrine of the Book, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls** (the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world), and the model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period are a must.
5. **Mountain Biking** in the Jerusalem forest at **Aminadav forest**.

All together:

- As Shabbat concludes, gather as a community to express thanks for this special time and experience together. A beautiful **Havdalah** and **closing program at the Waldorf Astoria hotel**.
- Return to hotel to pack and prepare for the return journey to Portland.
- 6:00pm Late hotel check-out.
- ***Shabbat ends at 7:34pm***
- Individual transfers to Ben Gurion international airport for the return flight home.

DRAFT

Kenes Tours seek to create and deliver client-driven, high-impact and content-rich programs. To do this, the cooperation of suppliers, speakers and other content providers are vital. Despite our desire to implement our proposed programs, and in light of Israel's ever-changing cultural and business dynamic, there are times when amendments are required due to circumstances beyond our control. As such, our itineraries are all 'subject to availability.' **Recognizing the importance of providing a stellar program, in cases where we are not able to confirm an item on your itinerary, we commit to providing alternative content of an equal or greater impact.**