



Maury Hoberman Group

April 27- May 8, 2022

updated October 19

Wednesday April 27

Bruchim Haba'im - Welcome!

- Arrive in Israel
- Transfer from Ben Gurion airport to the your hotel
- Check in and time to freshen up
- Early arrivers can explore Jaffa Flea market with your guide
Pre-dinner stroll along the iconic **Rothschild Boulevard**, the first street in Tel Aviv, founded on sand dunes a little over 100 years ago, which is today a commercial, cultural and financial center (or Independence Hall if open)
- Group Dinner and Orientation (or in the hotel since all restaurants will likely be closed on Yom Hashoa)

Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, April 28

Yom Hashoah v' HaGvurah

- Today is Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day
- Travel to **Kibbutz Yad Mordechai**, named for a leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and hear of the heroic battle in 1943 and how the survivors became heroes again in the 1948 War of Independence
- At 10:00am, a minute-long siren will be heard as Israelis take a moment of silence for the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust
- Meet with a **resident of Netiv Haasara** – just feet from the border of Gaza; learn what it is like raising a family under rocket fire from Gaza and see with your own eyes the proximity of these warring nations
- Lunch in Sderot
- Engage with the powerful story of Bedouin women in **Segev Shalom**, south of Beer Sheva who are taking control of their destiny and becoming entrepreneurs. Hear of their struggle and of their success. Join the community for a light supper before returning to Tel Aviv

Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, April 29

Hope for Peace along with Societal Challenge

- A short trip to Jaffa, where we will visit the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**. Get an inside view of the Innovation Nation and how Shimon Peres's vision of a new Middle East still inspires today
- Walking tour of Jaffa, once the main entryway into Israel
- Peruse the art and enjoy the street performers at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and grab lunch at the adjacent **Carmel Market**
- After lunch we will head to **Rabin Square** and visit the site where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995; hear how that event still impacts politics in Israel and in our region
- Return to the hotel for some relaxation and perhaps some time on the beach before Shabbat

- Participate in a “secular” Kabbalat Shabbat with **Beit Tefillah Yisraeli**, which combines traditional prayer with modern song and poetry
- Shabbat dinner in the hotel or home hospitality

Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, April 30 Artists and Benefactors

- Depart the hotel and travel to the North
- See the impressive ruins of King Herod’s ancient port city of **Caesarea**, once the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
- Have a unique tour of the **Ein Hod Artist Village** with one of the resident artists. We will also have a chance to let our creative juices flow with a workshop with one of the artists.
- A chance to browse and lunch in Ein Hod
- We continue to the picturesque **Sea of Galilee**, where we will check into our hotel.
- Time to freshen up before a sunset excursion on the Sea of Galilee before dinner at a restaurant on the shore.

Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel, Golan

Sunday, May 1 The challenges of Pluralism and mixed Cities in Israel

- We travel to **Kibbutz Hannaton**, where a group of idealistic families are trying to create a model for a more pluralistic and welcoming Israeli society. We will meet with Rabbi Yoav Ende, one of the leaders of the community and instrumental in renewing the Kibbutz in 2009
- The Educators from **Midreshet Hannaton** will lead us on a tour in **Nazareth** and **Ziporri**, exploring the issues and dilemmas of life in a mixed city, both today and in ancient times. After the difficulties of May 2021 with Muslim and Jewish strife we will see how the fabric of community is being stitched together again and how some of the same issues were dealt with in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD in Zippori.
- Time permitting, we will meet some of the youth that are in a preparatory program at Hannaton prior to their enlistment in the IDF.

Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel, Golan

Monday, May 2 Zionist Thinkers and Jerusalem of Gold

- We check out of the hotel and visit the nearby **Kinneret Cemetery** where some of the great Zionist leaders and thinkers are interred. We will read some of the poetry and sing the songs of two of the great artists buried there, Rachel the Poetess and Naomi Shemer
OR
Visit the holy city of **Tzfat**; tour the old synagogues and artist-filled alleyways as you learn about the formation of Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism
- We travel south to Raanana to the **Leket distribution center** where we will have the chance to hear first-hand what is being done to help those struggling with food insecurity in Israel and how this organization is saving tons of food that would otherwise be lost. We will have the opportunity to lend a hand ourselves.
- We arrive in the afternoon in Jerusalem and see our first view of the ancient city from the **Haas Promenade**, where we will look at the origins of the Jewish love affair with the city with the help of the Biblical story of the Binding of Isaac
- Check into the hotel

- Dinner in a local restaurant
- Optional walking tour with the guide in a close-by neighborhood.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, May 3 The Ancient City renews itself

- We will go to **Life Line for the Elderly** and see how this organization has been changing lives and changing attitudes for Jerusalem's elderly for over 40 years.
- We take our newly found appreciation for what lies underneath our feet and explore some of the more recent finds in the **Old City** and how it is changing what we thought we knew about Herod's building plans **Western Wall Tunnels**
- Lunch and shopping time in the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Roman/Byzantine Cardo**
- Get your hands into the ancient dirt of Jerusalem by participating in the **Sifting Project** to find artifacts from the 1000 and 2000 years ago and even earlier. This important project has been going on for years and has salvaged valuable artifacts in Jerusalem's history
- Dinner in the hotel
- This evening we usher in Israel's solemn **Memorial Day** at a local ceremony; a minute-long siren will be heard around the country at 8:00pm

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, May 4 Gush Etzion, not what you thought

- Depart Jerusalem to visit the **Gush Etzion Settlement** just south of Jerusalem to learn about the role of the region during the War of Independence. Meet with local residents to hear about daily life in the West Bank and learn more about the geopolitical complexities of the area and the resulting moral, economic and political dilemmas.
- At 11:00am, a **two-minute siren** will be heard around the country as people take a moment of silence in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers
- Meet with the **Palestinian Israeli Initiative for Understanding, Nonviolence, and Reconciliation** which brings together Jews & Arabs who live the Gush Etzion area for dialogue and interaction.
- After lunch we will meet with some of the **residents of the area** both young and old and hear their stories
- See the audio-visual program at the **Kibbutz Kfar Etzion Heritage Center** that tells the dramatic story of the Jewish communities that were destroyed in Gush Etzion in 1948.
- Return to Jerusalem and the hotel to prepare for a night on the streets of the city as they ring in the **Independence Day celebrations**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, May 5 Israel Independence Day

- We begin the day at the **Mount Herzl National Military Cemetery** where just the night before the main ceremony of Memorial Day were held. There we will visit some of the graves of the people who made Israel what it is today, including Yitzchak Rabin, Golda Meir and others. We will pay homage at the grave of **Michael Levin**, the young Philadelphia area lone soldier who gave his life in the 2006 war in Lebanon.
- We join the **Independence Day festivities** in Gan Sacher with some of the lone soldiers that are serving today in the IDF
- The **Jerusalem Botanical Garden** is an oasis of greenery and tranquility in the heart of the city; we explore the largest botanical garden in the Middle East

- In the evening, we go to the bustling **Machaneh Yehuda Shuk**, where we will get a tour of the market and have a chance to do some tasting and “grazing” at some of the colorful shops; dinner on your own there

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, May 6 From Holocaust to Redemption

- Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**
- As a contrast to the morning, take a musical walking tour of one of the oldest neighborhoods in Jerusalem – **Nachlaot** – led by singer **Rika Razel**; she will take us through the neighborhood and tell us of her journey, with her parents, who made Aliyah from the USA as flowerchildren of the 60’s and her journey to a religious lifestyle
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat.
- We will go to one of the many synagogues in Jerusalem for a taste of the **Kabbalat Shabbat**, perhaps even at the Western Wall, before heading to our host for Shabbat dinner. **Dr. David Breakstone**, is former vice chairman of the Jewish Agency. David, an Oleh from the States, will have important insights to share on his almost 50 years of involvement in the organizational life here in Israel.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, May 7 The Old City from a different lens / Masada

- Two options,
 - 1. Those who have never been (or wish to return) can visit **Masada**. An early departure (no later than 7AM?) will be required
 - 2. A look at some of the **Christian sites** starting on the Mount of Olives and in the Old City (from 9 am)
- The Masada option will include an opportunity to dip in the Dead Sea
- The Old City option will start on the **Mount of Olives**; overlook and explore some of the more important sites including the **Garden of Gethsemane**, the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** as well as some Jewish sites off the beaten track.
- Both options expect to be back in the hotel by 2PM in order to prepare for the evening’s flight back to the USA later that night.
- A light supper in the hotel and a farewell discussion and before we go home
- Transfer from the hotel to the airport for your flight home
- Start planning your next trip to Israel!

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator
- All breakfasts and underlined meals are included in the package price
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



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