****



***This Year in Jerusalem!!***

**Led by Rabbi Devorah Marcus**

*June 19-30, 2022*

updated February 23

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sunday, June 19:** | ***Bruchim Habaim – welcome to Israel!*** |

* Land in Tel Aviv – meet and greet service
* Meet your guide, pack up the bus and travel to Tel Aviv
* Welcome to Israel ceremony from the Tel Aviv Beach
* Check into the hotel, followed by dinner

***Overnight:*** *Tal on the Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monday, June 20:** | ***startup nation*** |

* **Dr. Rachel Korazim** will demonstrate how Zionist poets and songwriters have depicted the “real” Israeli – the so-called sabra – and look at their advice to immigrants to cast off the old ways. We’ll see that, nonetheless, the process of becoming Israeli is as complicated in literature as it is in real life. Dr. Korazim is a renowned educator who uses song, poetry, and literature to shine a light on Israeli life and societyReturn for breakfast and some spa time in the hotel
* Eat, drink, and learn at the **Levinsky Market**, where we’ll sample food and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East and try to figure out what is Israeli about Israeli food. This multi-cultural tasting tour will double as a delicious lunch.
* South Tel Aviv is now home to thousands of migrant workers, asylum seekers, and refugees from war-torn and impoverished African countries**. BINA, The Jewish Movement for Social Change** will lead us on a tour of the Neve Sha'anan neighborhood as we explore what life is like for non-Jews seeking a new start in the Jewish State. The tour will include:

▪ Talking with an African migrant or migrants about their experiences in Israel and what brought them here.

▪ Meeting a veteran Jewish resident of the neighborhood to learn about their connections with and attitudes toward the refugees.

▪ A visit to one of the crowded, “unauthorized” kindergartens where migrant parents, lacking finance and access to official daycare facilities, leave their children.

▪ Before or after we visit south Tel Aviv, we'll ponder what the traditional Jewish sources, including the Talmud, have to say about Jewish obligations to newcomers and the poor in our midst. An educator from BINA, a secular yeshiva and educational institute dedicated to social action, will lead the discussion.

* **The City at Night**: Tel Aviv’s food scene is on fire with world-class chefs and a huge range of happening restaurants. See and taste for yourself during a free evening with dinner (on own account). Afterwards, those who love the nightlife can sample the city’s bar, club and café culture or stroll along the refurbished promenade and port.

***Overnight:*** *Tal on the Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tuesday, June 21:** | ***the colors of tel Aviv/jaffa*** |

* **The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** was created by the late Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister and President of Israel, to develop peacebuilding programs based on innovation and optimism. Our visit will include a tour of the Israeli Innovation Center, which celebrates the people and companies that are making Israel the “innovation nation.” The center includes continually updated, high-tech exhibits on everything from artificial intelligence to the latest developments in water use.
* I’m all shuk up: Take a **tasting tour** through a local favorite: **Shuk Hapishpishim** – the Jaffa Flea Market. Combining traditional dishes from the Bulgarian, Bukharan, Middle Eastern, Persian, North African and Eastern European kitchens with offerings from hip new cafes and restaurants, the market is a delicious illustration of the diversity of the Israeli culinary scene.
* **Jaffa Stories and Coffee**: You’re warmly invited into the home of to hear about her life as a Christian Arab in Jaffa. Over coffee brewed **Doris Hiffawi** by her family and Arabic sweets, she’ll talk about whether the area’s Jewish, Muslim, and Christian population mix or merely make do. We’ll also find out how female entrepreneurs like Doris are bringing change to this socioeconomically deprived neighborhood.
* Painting the White City in Rainbow Colors: Discover why Tel Aviv is the LGBTQA capital of the Middle East with a **Rainbow Tour** through the city. Explore what it’s like to be gay and Jewish, learn some queer Hebrew slang, hear the latest in LGBTQA activism, and discuss some current topics in the LGBTQA community. During the tour, we’ll explore the Gayville of past and present as we check out some of Tel Aviv’s historical and modern pink spots. Find out about leaders in Tel Aviv’s LGBTQA movement and see what an Israeli same-sex family’s life is like.
* Processing session

***Overnight:*** *Tal on the Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wednesday, June 22:** | ***northern exposure*** |

* **The Abraham Accords**: UAE-Israel Relations and the New Middle East: Dialogue with **Major (Res.) Dan Feferman**, a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute, a leading think-tank focusing on issues of importance to Israel and the Jewish people, and a former foreign policy and national security analyst, strategist and adviser in the IDF.
* Visit **Sindyanna of Galilee** and sample some of their award-winning olive oil. We’ll learn how this non-profit organization is producing fine, fair-trade products and creating economic opportunities for Arab women, one of Israel’s most underemployed sectors. The tour will include talking with one of the basket weavers about her life and work. We’ll see how she uses traditional and modern weaving techniques and find out how Arab and Jewish women are coming together to learn and revitalize this long-established local craft.
* Meet with the staff of **Kfar Tikva** – the Village of Hope – for a look at one way people with special needs are incorporated into society; then taste the high-quality wines at the **Tulip Winery**, built within the village to provide employment for the local residents
* Continue north and check into the hotel
* Dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Ruth Hotel, Tzfat*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Thursday, June 23:** | ***the galilee mosaic*** |

* **Meet soldiers in action** on the Lebanon border; exchange gifts and understand how Israel’s security rests securely on the shoulders of teenagers
* Visit to the **museum at Nebe Yusha**, site of an important battle during the War of Independence in which a member of your community took part
* At the **Buza** (Arabic for ice cream) **Factory** on Kibbutz Sasa, use your sense of taste to hear about the initiative of a Jew and an Arab to promote coexistence
* The **Alma Security Crisis Simulation**: Become an Israeli Cabinet member for a day… Are you ready…? In this simulation, a research expert from the Alma Research and Education Center will give a field briefing on Israel’s northern border, then we’ll enter Alma’s “Situation Room.” In a mock Israeli Cabinet meeting, we’ll work our way through the decision-making process as we are given a scenario in which there is an escalation in security on the border. Can we keep Israel out of a full-scale war?
* **Mavrhatey** – **Ethiopian Experience** is owned and operated by Yonie Skiba, who moved to Israel from Ethiopia when she was eight. She now lives in Kibbutz Evron in the Western Galilee. Outside of her house on the Kibbutz, she built an Ethiopian hut where she will meet with you and tell you the story of Ethiopian Jews.
* Getting to the **Roots of Jewish Cooking**: **Nashim Mevashlot**, the Women Cooking Initiative, brings together women from various Jewish traditions to preserve and share the Jewish culinary culture that has developed in Israel. Established and managed by Smadar Kaplinsky, this socio-economic initiative is creating a source of income and empowerment for women in some of Israel’s disadvantaged communities. Enjoy a home hospitality dinner created for you by cooks from this special organization.
* Processing session

***Overnight:*** *Ruth Hotel, Tzfat*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Friday, June 24:** | ***who are the people in your neighborhood?*** |

* Ascend the Golan Heights; peer into Syria from Tel as-Saki; hear the courageous stories of the Yom Kippur War and get an update on what is happening today in Syria with **Captain (res.) Yaakov Selevan**
* In **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu**, learn what has made this kibbutz a leader in organic agriculture through their startup producing…bugs!
* Travel up to Jerusalem
* Travel to Jerusalem via the Jordan River Valley; check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
* In the evening, participate in a group **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the pluralistic section of the **Western Wall**; then join the thousands of Israelis and Jews from around the world as they bring in **Shabbat at the Western Wall**

OR

Join a local community such as Kehilat Zion

* Shabbat dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Saturday, June 25:** | ***Shabbat Shalom*** |

* Optional Shabbat services in a local synagogue or as a group
* **Study session** with Rabbis Marcus and Fried
* In the afternoon, take a **rooftop tour** of the Old City, the go to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** – one of the holiest places on earth for most Christians – and understand the importance to Jerusalem to all monotheistic religions
* **Group Havdallah**
* Free evening to explore Jerusalem’s nightlife

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sunday, June 26:** | ***this year in jerusalem!*** |

* Walk along the streets of the Old City for a behind the scenes **look** at the various **communities in Jerusalem** including:

▪ A meeting with an **Armenian Ceramic Artist** and a visit to his workshop, followed by a short tour of the Armenian Quarter, the smallest of the four quarters with the smallest number of residents.

▪ A visit to **Christ Church**, the oldest Protestant Church in the Middle East, which looks exactly like a synagogue.

▪ A visit to the **Austrian Hospice**, a European enclave in the heart of the Old City, known for its breath-taking views (and delicious strudel) from the rooftop terrace.

▪ There will also be time to see the bargains and the bargaining in the **Old City Souq** (market) in the Christian quarter.

* See the most recent archaeological finds of the **Western Wall Tunnels** on the **Behind-the-Scenes** tour
* Experience the complexity of inter-religious relations on **Mount Zion**. We’ll first visit the **Upper Room**. It is venerated by Christians as the location of Jesus’ Last Supper but was, for a period, converted into a mosque. In a room directly below, Jews pray at the place believed to be **King David’s Tomb.**

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monday, June 27:** | ***From Holocaust to redemption*** |

* Tour the lesser-known sections of **Yad Vashem**, including the sculpture garden and the Valley of the Communities
* **1 City, 2 States, 3 Religions, and 4 Tribes**: Take a **ride on Jerusalem’s light rail** and experience the mosaic of the Jerusalem population. As we travel through Jerusalem’s diverse neighborhoods, including those populated by Hareidim and Arabs, we’ll note the difference between East and West Jerusalem and the ongoing struggles between the city’s different communities. Discuss whether Jerusalem is divided, as President Ruby Rivlin has suggested, into four “tribes.”
* Navigate Your Way Through **the Labyrinth of Israel Politics**: 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.
* **Memorial service** in memory of **Marla Bennett** in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of her murder at the Hebrew University Campus
* The **City at Night**: Israel’s food scene is on fire with world-class chefs and a huge range of happening restaurants. See and taste for yourself with dinner. We’ll be happy to make reservations and recommendations so that you can enjoy a night out at the Israeli restaurant ideal for you.

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tuesday, June 28:** | ***partnership together*** |

* A New Israeli Hospital During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Visit the new **Assuta Hospital** in Ashdod to see one of Israel’s most innovative and eco-friendly health institutions. Find out how this hospital, the first built in Israel for forty years, was the result of decades-long efforts by local residents to bring better infrastructure and service to Israel’s fifth-largest city, and how it opened a new lab for research and identification of disease outbreaks amid the coronavirus pandemic.
* Encounter with the **Shaar HaNegev Partnership Region**
* Living on the Edge: Go beyond the headlines with **Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel**, an associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, as we explore the geopolitics of the Gaza Envelope, and gain insight into the complex security implications of Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza and the daily challenges of Israelis living on the border with Gaza.
* Return to Jerusalem.

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wednesday, June 29:** | ***both sides of the wall*** |

* Political topography tour with **Dani Tirza**, former member of the Oslo Accords committee in the 1990s and the man who planned and implemented the security barrier; hear the reasoning behind the initiative and – at the barrier – understand the reasoning behind its placement and its effectiveness
* Drive through the town of **Efrat** and meet with a local resident to understand what a “settlement” really is
* Lunch and tasting in the Gush Etzion Winery
* In the Palestinian town of Hussan, participate in a **Cleaning the Hatred** project; then meet with local Jewish and Palestinian residents to hear their thoughts on coexistence
* Processing session
* In the evening, take a **culinary tour** of the **Machane Yehuda Shuk**

***Overnight:*** *King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Thursday, June 30:** | ***Wrapping it up*** |

* Celebrate **Rosh Chodesh** with a prayer service at the **Kotel (Western Wall)**. We’ll join **Women of the Wall**, leaders in the struggle for religious freedom in Israel, in welcoming the arrival of the new month with a service of joy and togetherness.
* **The Art of Tikkun Olam**: Meet elderly, often impoverished, immigrants who are finding a sense of purpose and creating beautiful artwork at Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Elderly). We’ll hear personal stories and see the aging artisans in action, talk with those running this inspirational organization, and check out the fabulous gift shop that supports this endeavor.
* **The Process for Progress**: Discuss the way forward in the struggle for religious pluralism and gender equality in Israel with one of the following speakers:

▪ Anat Hoffman, the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center.

▪ Mickey Gitzin, the Director of the New Israel Fund in Israel.

▪ Uri Keidar, the Executive Director “Israel Hofsheet” (Be Free Israel).

* Final discussion
* Farewell dinner at a local restaurant
* Transfer 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 plus 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

****

**Keshet Educational Journeys**

PO Box 8540 Jerusalem 91084 Israel

Phone: 972-2-671-3518 | Fax: 972-2-671-3624

keshet@keshetisrael.co.il | www.keshetisrael.co.il