

Hadassah & Jewish National Fund
ISRAEL FAMILY TOUR
Celebrating Chanukah & our B'nai Mitzvah in Israel

December 25, 2019–January 2, 2020



JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND

Your Voice in Israel

HADASSAH



Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

Wednesday, December 25 – Arrival / Jerusalem

AM

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport early this morning, you will be met and assisted by an **Ayelet Tours** representative. Welcome home!

On our way to Jerusalem, we will visit **Neot Kedumim**, the biblical landscape preserve, to plant a tree and connect us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.

Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we stop on **Mt. Scopus** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing overlooking the **City of Gold**.

PM

Once in the **Old City**, you will have time for lunch on your own in the Jewish Quarter, have the opportunity to visit the Kotel and experience the special atmosphere.

This afternoon, we tour the **Western Wall tunnels** and discover the archaeological wonders that had remained untouched for centuries.

Upon hotel check-in, each family will receive a Hanukkiah to light each day for Chanukah.

This evening, we will enjoy a **welcome dinner**, Chanukah candle lightning, and orientation with Hadassah & Jewish National Fund leadership.

Overnight

Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Street in Jerusalem's Old City

Thursday, December 26 – Jerusalem

AM

After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit **Ein Kerem Hadassah Hospital** and tour the **Mother and Child Pavilion**. We also stop by the new **Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower**, featuring the most modern hospital facilities in the region.

We continue on to celebrate our **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** at the **Abbell Synagogue**, which is known for its beautiful **Chagall windows**.

Next, we will immerse ourselves in the vibrant colors, smells and flavors found in the **Machane Yehuda** marketplace. Take this opportunity to wander the pyramids of spices, brightly-colored exotic vegetables, nuts, olives, and delicious halva creations, and enjoy a **tasting tour** along the way. You will have free time to explore the market and enjoy lunch on your own.

PM

After lunch, we set out on a **walking tour** of the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Cardo**. For a different perspective, we enjoy a short **walk along the rooftops and ramparts** of the **Old City**, giving us a “birds-eye view” into the different neighborhoods.

Proceed to **Ir David, the City of David**, just outside the Old City walls, where we wander through the carefully preserved archeological excavations dating back to the time of King David.

We will end the evening with a **Chanukah candle lightning**, followed by a **celebratory dinner** in honor of our B’nai Mitzvah.

Overnight

Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Celebrate Chanukah with Jewish National Fund and Hadassah

Friday, December 27 – Jerusalem



View of the Western Wall

AM

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will meet with **Gil Hoffman**, Chief Political Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, for an in-depth and entertaining look at Israeli current events.

Proceed to **Yad Vashem**, a sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to various exhibits, archives, monuments, and memorials. Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust from a unique first-hand perspective, emphasizing the experiences of survivors through original artifacts, testimonies, and personal possessions. We will take the opportunity to explore some of the newly found materials relating to places, people, and events connected to the Holocaust, including:

- The Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations
- The New Historical Museum
- The Children's Memorial

We end the visit at Yad Vashem with a group **memorial service** at the **Valley of the Communities**. (Young children will depart for a tour of the Biblical Zoo).

PM

After enjoying lunch on your own, we will explore the bunkers at **Ammunition Hill**, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem. Its new multimedia film helps visitors better understand the events and battles of 1967.

Upon return to the hotel, take time to relax before joining the group for Chanukah **candle lighting**.

As the sun begins to set, we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at our hotel with Hadassah & Jewish National Fund friends.

Overnight

Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Itinerary is subject to change.

Saturday, December 28 – Shabbat

AM

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Breakfast will be served at the hotel.

PM

We will participate in a scavenger hunt through the diverse **Nachlaot neighborhood**. Known to be one of Jerusalem's best-kept secrets, we will discover this colorful, surprising and eclectic neighborhood.

We come together for **Havdalah** and **Chanukah** candle lighting overlooking the Old City.

Enjoy a free evening in Jerusalem to stroll along Ben Yehuda Street, through Emek Refaim Street, or through the Mamilla pedestrian walk, filled with shops and restaurants. There will be an **optional** visit to the Tower of David to see the spectacular Sound and Light show (weather permitting).

Overnight

Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Light show at the Tower of David

Sunday, December 29— Dead Sea & Masada

AM

After breakfast and hotel check out, we will leave Jerusalem and drive south toward the **Dead Sea basin**.

Upon our arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's palace and fortifications and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the approaching Roman armies. Learn about the new **Jewish National Fund Torah Scroll Initiative** on top of Masada and have your very own honorary letter written into a Torah by a Jewish Sofer (scribe). We will descend via the Roman Ramp.

Later, for an authentic desert experience, we visit a **Bedouin camp** and enjoy a **camel ride and hospitality** in the wilderness.

Next, you will have the opportunity to take in the mud baths and a float in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.

PM

This afternoon, we will have **lunch** at a Dead Sea resort before continuing on to the **Jordan Valley** to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz.

We will end the evening with a **Chanukah candle lightning** and **dinner**.

Overnight

Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Galilee



The Dead Sea

Monday, December 30 – The Golan Heights



View of the Golan Heights

AM

Begin the day with **breakfast** at the kibbutz before our **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**. Atop the Golan, we take in an amazing view and see the memorial to the soldiers who lost their lives capturing this crucial spot from Syrian forces in 1967 at **Mitzpe Gadot**.

Take a moment to look around upon the views stretching far into Syria from atop **Har Bental**.

PM

Later, enjoy a **chocolate workshop** with one of Israel's top chocolatiers at **Ein Zivan's DeKarina Chocolate Factory**.

After our "sweet" activity, we will continue to the Galilee to visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we explore the ancient synagogues and have time to stroll along the shops in the artists' quarter. While the kids enjoy a **candle making workshop**, the adults will participate in a **Kabbalah workshop** and study.

Afterwards, we will visit **Dubrovin Farms** for a lively **hummus making competition**. We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** and a meeting with kibbutz members and youth.

Overnight

Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Galilee

Tuesday, December 31 – The Road To Tel Aviv

AM

After **breakfast** at the kibbutz and check out, we tour the **Hula Valley Nature Preserve**, where millions of migrating birds come to rest and eat each year. We enjoy a surrey ride through the heart of this beautiful and peaceful scenery.

We enjoy a fun hands-on visit to the **goat farm** at **Teva Ez**, located on Moshav Ben-Ami. **Rotem Boker**, third generation Teva Ez farmer, will guide us at the goat pen. Our visit includes milking the goats, feeding them and the baby goats and a workshop for making local Circassian cheese and pita bread straight from a Taboon oven.

In **Haifa**, we stop atop **Mt. Carmel**, where we take in the panoramic views of the port city and admire the beautiful **Bahai Temple and Persian Gardens**.

PM

This afternoon, we will stop at a **Druze village** to enjoy a wonderful **home hospitality and lunch** as we learn about their unique culture.

Later, we will visit **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village** to interact with the kids and staff before continuing on to **Tel Aviv** to check into our hotel.

Enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure, experiencing **Tel Aviv** at your own pace.

Overnight

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv



Tel Aviv

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 – Northern Negev

AM

After **breakfast** at the hotel, our first stop will be at the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, a spectacular site co-sponsored by Jewish National Fund and Hadassah. Hear how this urban renewal project has served as an anchor of tourism and recreation. See the Pipes Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge that links to the Old City of Be'er Sheva, and the 12,000-seat amphitheater—now the largest in Israel.

Next, we stop in **Sderot** and visit the secure indoor recreation center built by Jewish National Fund so the children of Sderot have a safe place to play.

We will continue south to the **Eshkol region** bordering Gaza to visit the **Regional Center** for a security briefing at the Command Center. While in Eshkol, we will see the **Protected School** and meet students and teachers and learn about their bravery. We also see the classrooms that double as shelters.

PM

This afternoon, we enjoy a picnic lunch at the **Salad Trail**. Here, we see how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable. We'll pick fruits and vegetables from the self-picking farm, see flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons, and herb gardens.

We will meet blacksmith, **Yaron Bob** on our last stop of the day. Struck by the terror of shell attacks, Yaron decided to transform something horrible into something beautiful – and so began his artwork **Rockets to Roses**.

Enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure, experiencing **Tel Aviv** at your own pace.

Overnight

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv



Amphiteater at the Be'er Sheva River Park

Thursday, January 2 – Tel Aviv



Independence Hall

AM

After **breakfast** at the hotel, we will meet with young entrepreneur and current Google employee, **Rony Rozen**, to discuss her story as well as high-tech innovation in this start-up nation.

Continue on to **Independence Hall**, site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948.

Afterwards, we will see the **Taglit Innovation Center**, for a glimpse into Israel's high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space. We see the interactive exhibit and continue with a meeting with one of Israel's innovative entrepreneurs.

This morning, we either explore the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the brave paramilitary forces from Israel's pre-statehood days **OR** walk through the spiraling exhibits of the new **Rabin Center**, dedicated to commemorating the life and work of Yitzhak Rabin.

PM

Enjoy lunch on your own at the **Sarona Market**, a world-class dining experience.

After lunch, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover how the underground ammunition factory played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence at the end of the British Mandate.

Our journey concludes with a **farewell dinner** before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to the **U.S.**