

HOUSTON HILLEL PERSPECTIVES

Led by Rabbi Kenny Weiss

August 5 - 16, 2019

Updated: July 11th, 2019

Monday, August 5, 2019

DEPARTURE

- Departure from IAH on flight UA 557 at 10:15am, landing in EWR at 2:35 pm. Connect to flight UA 084 departing EWR at 4:55 pm.

Overnight: In flight

Day 1: Tuesday, August 6, 2019

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME TO ISRAEL

10:15 am Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport on UA 084 with assistance by a Makor Educational Journeys representative.

- Stop at **Mount Scopus** for an introduction to Jerusalem upon arrival in the city.
- 2:00pm Continue to Caffit at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens for lunch and introduction to the program, with scholar **Paul Liptz**.
- Enter the **Old City** via **Jaffa Gate** for an introduction to the multi-ethnic weave of Jerusalem and an opportunity to see the geography of tradition and conflict from atop the market rooftops.
- Meander through the alleyways of the Old City to the base of the Temple Mount - Haram al Sharif for a short visit to the **Western Wall**.
- Check in to the hotel.
- **7:00pm Welcome dinner** at Valero restaurant in Machane Yehuda Market.

Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem



Day 2: Wednesday, August 7, 2019

THE CHALLENGE OF LIVING TOGETHER

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Early morning visit to the **Temple Mount – Haram al Sharif**.
- **Geopolitical tour** around the borders of Jerusalem: the unification of Jerusalem in 1967 prompted the government to create a “security belt” of civilian neighborhoods, as seen through a **hilltop tour** of Jerusalem.
- Drive South to Rahat.
- 11:00am Visit the SodaStream visitor center & tour the factory, meet with employees from all sectors
- Lunch on own.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- 5:00pm *Group Processing Session* with **Col. (ret) Miri Eisen**
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem

Day 3: Thursday, August 8, 2019

MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:30am *The Holocaust and Israeli Society*, with **Shlomo Balsam**.
- 10:15am Guided visit through **Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center**, including a pointed visit to the museum and the sculpture garden, exploring the various messages conveyed by the exhibits and sculptures as they relate to the contemporary sovereign Jewish state.
- Lunch on own en route.
- 4:0pm Meet with **Kids4Peace**, a global movement of Jewish, Christian & Muslim youth, dedicated to ending conflict and building interfaith communities that embody a culture of peace and empower a movement for change. Also meet with the Kids4Peace director, **Uri Cohen**.
- *Group Processing Session*.
- Free time to explore in **Machane Yehuda Market** with dinner on your own.

Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem



Day 4: Friday, August 9, 2019

A WINDOW INTO PALESTINIAN SOCIETY - BETHLEHEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00am Guided visit along the graffiti painted on the wall between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.
- Visit the **Church of the Nativity** in the heart of Bethlehem.
- Lunch in Bethlehem.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Free time to explore **downtown Jerusalem** as residents prepare for Shabbat.
- Return to the hotel for rest and relaxation.
- Visit the **Western Wall** as thousands of Jerusalemites and guests converge to welcome in the Sabbath.
- Festive **Sabbath dinner** at the hotel.
- *Group Processing Session.*

Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem

Day 5: Saturday, August 10, 2019

SABBATH IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
 - *Optional Sabbath services.*
 - *Understanding Palestinian Society, with journalist **Khaled Abu Toameh.***
 - Return to the Old City for a walking tour through the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Quarters, including the **Western Wall**, the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and an overview on to the **Temple Mount – Haram al Sharif**, with lunch on own in the Old City. (*Kosher option available*)
 - *Group Processing Session.*
- 8:11 pm Havdallah**, the transition ceremony from the Sabbath to the rest of the week.
- Free evening to explore downtown Jerusalem or optional cultural event.

Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem



Day 6: Sunday, August 11, 2019

A WINDOW INTO PALESTINIAN SOCIETY - RAMALLAH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- 9:00am Visit **Ramallah**, the current capital of the Palestinian Authority, for a glimpse at the Palestinian infrastructure for statehood, including meetings with Palestinian Authority members, university students and/or young entrepreneurs.
- Lunch en route.
- *My Hopes for the Palestinian People in the West Bank*: Visit **Rawabi**, the new Palestinian city north of Ramallah, for a glimpse at this unique project, a synthesis between private enterprise and public resources to create a new urban reality in Palestinian society and meet with developer **Bashar el Masri**.
- Drive to Taybeh and visit the **Taybeh Brewery** for beer tasting and conversation with members of the Khoury Family, who founded the brewery after returning to Taybeh from the United States as a result of the Oslo Accords.
- *Group Processing Session*.
- Drive along the Trans-Israel Highway to Kibbutz Lavi.
- Check in to the hotel, followed by dinner.

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi, Upper Galilee

Day 7: Monday, August 12, 2019

HOLY LAND – CONTESTED LAND

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 10:00am Drive along the **Israeli-Syrian border** on the Golan Heights by **jeep**, with a geopolitical briefing en route, for a glimpse at the complex relationships that have formed in the Middle East, Europe and the United States in the wake of the Syrian Civil War.
- 12:00pm Visit the Druze village of **Buq'ata** on the Golan and meet with **Naseeba** over lunch.
- Lunch on own en route.
- 2:00pm Ascend to **Tzomet Koach** for a look into Lebanon and a briefing on the new realities in the area after Israel's recent tunnel clearing operation, with Lt. Col. (ret.) **Sarit Zehavi**, followed by a panel discussion with Druze Journalist, **Daniel Salame** and Israeli – Arab **Ibrahim Abu Ahmed**.
- Dinner at the hotel.
- *Group Processing Session*.

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi, Upper Galilee



Day 8: Tuesday, August 13, 2019

NORTHERN EXPOSURES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Guided tour in **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught and site of an ancient synagogue; **Tabgha**, site of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish; and the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount.
- Lunch on own.
- *My Home in the Land of Israel*, visit **Beth Aryeh**, located over the Green Line in the hills of Samaria, meet with residents.
- Continue to Tel Aviv and check in to the hotel.
- *Group Processing Session*, followed by dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Grand Beach, Tel Aviv

Day 9: Wednesday, August 14, 2019

RESILIENCE AND RESOLVE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *10:00am Resiliency and Normal Life in the Shadow of Gaza*, visit **Kibbutz Saad** with security coordinator and community worker **Liran**.
- Continue to **Sderot** for a window into the socio-economic challenges faced by local residents in the shadow of the missile threats from Gaza.
- 12:00 Lunch in Sderot with Israeli students.
- *Group Processing Session*.
- Return to the hotel.
- *4:00pm Israel and the Palestinians @2019: Where Do We Stand*, a conclusion to the day with geopolitics expert, **Iftah Burman**.
- Time to enjoy the beach, and explore Tel Aviv on your own.
- Dinner and evening on own.

Overnight: Grand Beach, Tel Aviv



Day 10: Thursday, August 15, 2019

TEL AVIV: THEN AND NOW

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Final group processing session at the hotel.
- Walking tour along the **Tel Aviv Promenade** to **Jaffa**, followed by a guided tour through the Old City of Jaffa, tracing its story from the days of the Bible through the Jaffa Port.
- *Innovation and Creativity: 1909-2019*, guided walk along **Rothschild Blvd.** using stories of the past and buildings of the present to explore the spirit of innovation that created Tel Aviv, from the original neighborhood of Ahuzat Bayit to the global innovation hub that is Rothschild Blvd. today.
- Lunch on your own.
- Guided tour in the **Florentine neighborhood**, Tel Aviv's most bohemian and upbeat neighborhood, and learn about contemporary Israeli culture through **urban art**: writing on the wall, graffiti, bumper stickers, and even painted garbage bins.
- Rest of the afternoon on your own to explore Tel Aviv or enjoy the beach.
- *Concluding Group Processing Session.*
- 6:00pm **Farewell dinner** at **Maganda Restaurant.**
- Depart for Ben Gurion Airport for return flight UA091 at 11:20 pm to the United States.

Overnight: Flight

Day 11: Friday, August 16, 2019

ARRIVAL BACK IN THE U.S

- Arrive in EWR at 4:30 am, connecting to flight UA 1886 departing at 9:00 am. Arrive in IAH at 11:39 am.

