

Israel Bound 2016

Itinerary

(as of 9/16/2015)



Monday, June 6, 2016

- Depart from St. Louis in the afternoon and connect in Newark

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel at 4:00pm
- Welcome ceremony overlooking the Ella Valley – Site of the David and Goliath Story
- Check-in and dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Kibbutz Galon Guest House, Central Israel

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

- Dig-for-a-Day – Archeological seminar at Beit Guvrin
- Camel riding and Bedouin lunch at Chan HaShayarot
- Tour of the Sde Boker campus – Ben Gurion and Israel's vision for the desert
- Continue south to the Arava Valley, stopping en route at the edge of the Ramon Crater
- Evening: Begin our BaMidbar desert wandering and orienteering experience
- Overnight: Under the stars of the Negev Desert

Thursday, June 09, 2016

- Red Canyon Hike
- Beach time and guided snorkeling at Coral Beach on the Red Sea
- Continue the BaMidbar experience -- cook your own dinner in the heart of the desert
- Overnight: Under the stars of the Negev Desert

Friday, June 10, 2016

- Mt. Shlomo Hike
- Cool off swimming followed by lunch at Kibbutz Yahel
- Catch air jumping off the kassui sand dunes
- Ascend to Jerusalem – Panoramic introduction and shecheyanu at the Haas Promenade
- Check-in to our central Jerusalem accommodations and prepare for Shabbat
- Kabbalat Shabbat experience followed by dinner at accommodations
- Overnight: Agron Guest House, Central Jerusalem

Saturday, June 11, 2016

- Shabbat morning experience in Jerusalem
- Discover the layered history of Jerusalem at the Tower of David Museum
- Explore the alleys, rooftops and public squares of the Jewish Quarter
- Shabbat lunch at the historic Sephardic Center in the Old City
- Reflections at the Kotel – The Western Wall

- Walk back to our accommodations, rest, and prepare for Shavuot
- Evening: Erev Shavuot learning experience and/or visit to the Kotel
- Overnight: Agron Guest House, Central Jerusalem

Sunday, June 12, 2016

- Beyond the Walls – Montefiore’s Windmill and Yemin Moshe
- Afternoon: Re-enter the Old City and explore the Christian Quarter and Arab Shuk
- Evening: Group night out at Jerusalem’s Cinema City
- Overnight: Agron Guest House, Central Jerusalem

Monday, June 13, 2016

- City of David – King David’s plan for Jerusalem and Hezekiah’s Tunnel
- Follow the Pilgrim’s Route under the Old City to the Southern Walls Excavation
- Explore the foundations of the Kotel on the Kotel Tunnel Tour
- Lunch and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter
- Travel to the Dead Sea – Nature walk to the desert waterfalls at Ein Gedi
- Overnight: IYHA Masada Guest House

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

- Pre-sunrise hike up Masada via the Snake Path
- Tour of the desert mountain top fortress and bastion of Jewish rebellion
- Descend Masada via the Snake Path – breakfast at accommodations
- Floating and beach time at the Dead Sea’s Ein Bokek Beach (lunch at beach)
- Travel north to the Galilee via the Jordan Valley
- Begin cross-cultural encounter in St. Louis’ partner region
- Overnight: P2G Hosts in Yokneam

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

- Day of cross-cultural programming in Yokneam/Meggido,
- Leket at Moshav Nahalal – Service project harvesting for Israel’s hungry
- Water sports and swimming on the Sea of Galilee
- Overnight: P2G Hosts in Yokneam

Thursday, June 16, 2016

- Explore Tsfat’s colorful artist colony and meet with artist, Avraham Lowenthal
- Travel to Misgav Am on Israel’s border – View Lebanon and meet soldiers on duty
- Check-in to our accommodations in Israel’s lush Upper Galilee region
- Rafting down the Upper Jordan River
- Overnight: Kibbutz Gonen, Upper Galilee

Friday, June 17, 2016

- Ascend the Golan Heights – Water hike down Nahal Jilaboun
- Lunch in Katzrin and tour/tasting at the Olive Oil Factory Store
- Historical off-road jeep tour on the Golan
- View across the region from Mt. Ben Tal
- Return to kibbutz – prepare for Shabbat on a kibbutz
- Overnight: Kibbutz Gonen, Upper Galilee

Saturday, June 18, 2016

- Shabbat programming and lunch
- Walking tour of the kibbutz with a community member – learn about the kibbutz idea
- Sports, swimming and free time
- Shabbat lunch at accommodations
- Evening: Pizur dinner in Tiberias followed by a cruise on the Sea of Galilee
- Overnight: Kibbutz Gonen, Upper Galilee

Sunday, June 19, 2016

- Begin traveling towards the Western Galilee region
- Rappelling down the Keshet natural stone arch
- Tour of the Rosh Hanikrah ocean caves
- Explore old Acco's seaport, Crusader-era castle and Templar Tunnel
- Evening: Group night out at movie theater
- Overnight: Theodore Hotel, Haifa

Monday, June 20, 2016

- Horseback riding at Kibbutz Beit Oren in the Carmel Mountains
- Explore the city of Haifa including a tour of the Bahai Temple & Gardens and Elijah's Cave
- Caesarea – Climb the Roman amphitheater on the beach
- Tour of Ussafiya village and eat dinner with Druze Community members
- Overnight: Theodore Hotel, Haifa

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

- Travel to Tel Aviv in the morning
- Historical walking tour from Jaffa Seaport to Neve Tzedek
- Nahalat Binyamin – Street festival and shopping in Tel Aviv
- Beach time in Tel Aviv
- Encounter with wounded soldiers from Hope for Heroism at Tel Aviv
- Overnight: Neve Ilan, Jerusalem Foothills

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

- Latrun - Israel's armored corps museum and the battle for Jerusalem in 1948
- Return to Jerusalem and explore Ammunition Hill and battle to reunify Jerusalem in 1967
- Geo-political tour of Jerusalem – The Seam, the Wall and the Future
- Mt. Herzl National Cemetery
- Evening: The politics of Israel with Neil Lazarus
- Overnight: Overnight: Neve Ilan, Jerusalem Foothills

Thursday, June 23, 2016

- Volunteer project at Pitchon Lev in Jerusalem
- Guided tour of the Knesset – Israel's Parliament
- Shopping at Jerusalem's famous Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall
- Meet with a representative of Women of the Wall to learn about efforts to ensure Jewish pluralism in Israel
- Evening: Closing dinner at Jerusalem's Black Restaurant

- Overnight: Overnight: Neve Ilan, Jerusalem Foothills

Friday, June 24, 2016

- Yad VaShem Holocaust Center
- Pre-Shabbat shopping at Mahane Yehuda marketplace
- Hike to the ancient cisterns and natural springs of the Sataf – Wrap-up session
- Kabbalat Shabbat at a Jerusalem synagogue
- Shabbat dinner at accommodations
- Overnight: Neve Ilan, Jerusalem Foothills

Saturday, June 25, 2016

- Shabbat programming, free time, and lunch at accommodations
- Explore the Israel Museum – including the Dead Sea Scrolls and Temple Model
- Afternoon in the park at Gan Saker
- Dinner at overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem
- Evening: Depart for airport and board overnight flight back to America

Sunday, June 26, 2016

- Arrive back to St. Louis after connecting in Newark