

Saturday, December 7

Enroute

Today we leave the U.S. onboard our overnight flight for Israel.

Overnight, Enroute.

Sunday, December 8

Arrival



Jaffa

Group arrival on US Airways Flight 796 at 3:10 pm.

On our first evening, even though we will all be tired after the long journey from the US, we will introduce this Journey to Israel by visiting a site in the Old City of Jaffa, one of the oldest harbors in the world, connected in our tradition to Jonah as well as to the building of Solomon's temple. We will create the context of the exciting days which lie ahead and will sit down and celebrate our beginning in a special space where mitzvot happen and good food is eaten.

Opening site in **Old Jaffa** and walk from there to restaurant; if the weather is good, a wonderful walk back to the hotel for those interested.

Welcome dinner at Na Laga'at, where we will eat at Kapish, their main restaurant.

Overnight, Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv (D)

Monday, December 9

Building the Tel in Tel Aviv: Layers of history



Independence Hall

We plunge right in to an extraordinary time in the life of Modern Israel. The day will feel like one of those films in which we use flashbacks to understand who we are and how we got to this place. We begin building the multi layered story of a modern state in an ancient land.

Head to the **Old Port of Jaffa**, filled with artists' quarters, studios and art galleries. Shops catering for Judaica, archaeology, jewelry and art line its narrow alleys which are named after the signs of the Zodiac.

Visit the interactive **Palmach Museum** where we'll learn about the Israeli War of Independence and the development of the renowned Israeli army.

Visit **Independence Hall**, where David Ben Gurion proclaimed the foundation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948.

Enjoy shopping on **Shenkin Street**, one of the most popular and lively streets in Tel Aviv, and at the Carmel Market. Shenkin is full of great shops and cafés.

Overnight, Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv (B)

Tuesday, December 10

Coastal Route



Caesarea

We begin to explore the cultural diversity of Israel both in its ancient iteration and today. Today's narrative enables us to begin to grasp just how full our history is of people's who entered this land, conquered it and left their mark on it. We will try and understand the meaning of return for the Jewish People and the backdrop to our return. And we will enjoy the flavors of diversity to the full.

This morning, travel up the coast to the Galilee. Proceed to the ancient ruins at the spectacular site of **Caesarea**. Be sure to check out the myriad of multimedia forums that bring the ancient city to life.

Then, we will drive along the coast and learn about "the great escape" at **Atlit**. This is the site of one of the "illegal" immigrant camps used by the British to imprison tens of thousands of Jewish refugees, who attempted to immigrate to the Land of Israel during and after the Holocaust. There, enter the immigration ship modeled on the design of one of the illegal immigration vessels.

Continue to a **Druze village** at Daliat El Carmel for **hospitality and lunch** and to learn about the Israeli Druze community.

Travel to the ancient city of **Tzippori** to explore its ruins and view its abundance of beautiful mosaics.

Dinner and Overnight, Kibbutz Lavi, Galilee (B, L, D)

Wednesday, December 11

Jeep/Hamat Gader/Safed/Makom Bagalil



Safed

The Galilee is filled with an extraordinary and at times complicated human mosaic. As is our way, we will look back in time to a moment in our history when the challenges of diversity were central to our experience and we will also look around us to see how we try to meet these challenges today. We enter Jerusalem and gaze at its beauty before we check into our hotel.

This morning **board a jeep in the Lower Golan.**

Next we'll visit **Hamat Gadar**, a modern therapeutic and resort center on the north bank of the Yarmuk River. They have an alligator farm and volcano-like structures which produce hot springs that are pumped into pools.

Proceed to the Orthodox community of **Safed**, the center of Jewish mysticism (kabala), where you will visit the **Joseph Caro and Ha' Ari synagogues**, the most important synagogues in the city and stroll down the famous **Artists quarter**.

Later this afternoon, meet with Marc Rosenstein for a visit to the **Interfaith Youth Circus** in Ba'aneh. Marc is a former Philadelphian, who runs **Makom ba-Galil**, a center that engages in programming that fosters pluralism and co-existence.

Dinner and Overnight, Kibbutz Lavi, Galilee (B, D)

Thursday, December 12

Galilee to Jerusalem



Jerusalem

Today we explore two very different issues, the question of the struggle to maintain our freedom in the State of Israel against the aggression we have faced over the years from our neighbors and the cost involved in this struggle.

This morning proceed to **Manara Cliffs**, where we will enjoy a cable-car ride.

This is also the day when, weather permitting, you will put on your hiking boots for an easy hike, good for the entire family, in **Tel Dan**.

Explore the **Golan Heights**, one of Israel's most beautiful and controversial regions. Discover first-hand the strategic importance of the area as you climb the Heights and "capture" a former Syrian bunker, affording you a bird's-eye view of Israel's expansive Hula Valley below.

Continue to Jerusalem for the **Shehechyanu** blessing at **Haas Promenade** as we enter the city.

Overnight, Mount Zion, Jerusalem (B)

Friday, December 13

Jerusalem – Old City



Jewish Quarter

Our morning destination is the so called Holy Bowl. That small area of Jerusalem which includes the Old City of Jerusalem and which overflows with the history of our people. Our focus this morning will be on our story, ever mindful that there are other stories as well, another of which we will explore tomorrow.

We'll walk through the **Jewish Quarter** and visit the **Western Wall**. Proceed to the **Cardo**, which was the main street in Jerusalem 2000 years ago. Next we'll visit the **Davidson Center**, which brings the Temple Mount ruins to life. We'll also see the **Southern Wall Excavations** where we can see steps that lead to the Second Temple.

Visit the **Western Wall Tunnels**, under the foundations of the city which lead us back in time through the Second Temple era.

Afterwards, visit to the **Burnt House**.

This evening, enjoy **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.



City of David

Overnight, Mount Zion, Jerusalem (B, D)

Saturday, December 14



Israel Museum

Jerusalem- Mazal Tov!

Today we experience Shabbat in the special way possible only in Jerusalem. After a Bnei Mitzvah ceremony with a breathtaking view of the Old City of Jerusalem and Shabbat Lunch, we offer you a number of possibilities, a walking tour of the Christian quarter of the Old City, a visit to the Israel Museum and, that old Shabbat favorite, R and R. You choose and enjoy.

This morning we'll have a morning Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Beit Shmuel.

Shabbat lunch at the Lavan Restaurant, overlooking the Old City Walls.

After lunch, enjoy an optional tour of the **Christian Quarter** in Jerusalem. Walk through the colorful Arab shuk (a chance to test your negotiating skills).

This afternoon, visit the **Israel Museum** where we'll explore the extensive collection of this world-class museum, which includes works by European masters such as Rembrandt up through modern and contemporary European, American and Israeli artists.

Tonight, dinner is on our own.

Overnight, Mount Zion, Jerusalem. (B, L)

Sunday, December 15



Massada

Massada/ Dead Sea

A great story, a unique experience, ears popping.... It can only be the day by the Dead Sea. One of the great stories of the thousands of years we have been here in this land of ours is also one of the difficult stories which begs many powerful questions. After trying to work out what happened here, on Masada, we will head down for an experience unlike any other on earth, "swimming" in the Dead Sea.

Today, head southwards for a relaxing day at the Dead Sea. On the way stop at **Genesis Land** for a **camel ride**. We will then stop at **Massada**, sight of the Zealots last stand against the Romans in 73 C.E. You'll take a cable car ride to the top where you can explore the ancient Herodian palaces and synagogue.

Continue on to **Dead Sea** where we can float in the buoyant water, enjoy **lunch** at the Hod Hotel.

Return to **Genesis Land** for **Abraham's Hospitality and Feast**.

Return to our hotel in Jerusalem.

Overnight, Mount Zion, Jerusalem (B, L, D)

Monday, December 16



Beit Guvrin

We "Dig" Israel

Today you will really understand what it means when we say "We Dig Israel". A day filled with adventures, an Archaeological dig with you as Indiana Jones, spelunking (google it if you do not know what spelunking is), Tzedakah Project, and a home cooked meal on Kibbutz Tzora where Julian lives.

Participate in a **hands-on Tzedakah project** with Leket in Rechovot.

Lunch en-route on own.

Dig in the archaeological park of **Beit Guvrin**, where we will participate in an exciting archaeological dig.

Upon returning to Jerusalem, quick dinner on own at a place of your choice:
Recommended: the New Tachana near your hotel, or Mamilla Blvd near the Jaffa Gate.

Tonight you'll enjoy the mesmerizing **Sound and Light Show at the Citadel Museum**. The show depicts Jerusalem's history through music and the most colorful pictures cast on walls of the museum. Make sure to bring a jacket.

Overnight, Mount Zion, Jerusalem (B, D)

Tuesday, December 17



Yad Vashem

Jerusalem – New City

Visit the **Herzl Museum on Mt. Herzl** where the unique museum not only talks of the vision upon which this great experiment of the Jewish People, Israel, is based, but also about our achievements and... what still needs to be done.

Afterwards, have a moving visit to **Yad Vashem** the central Holocaust Memorial space in Israel.

This afternoon, enjoy an exciting **Scavenger Hunt** through the Old City of Jerusalem.

Late checkout from our hotel.

Farewell dinner at Naora Restaurant in Abu Gosh

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our flight back to the U.S.

Group departure on US Airways Flight 771 at 1:20am on Jan. 1.

Overnight, Enroute (B, D)

Wednesday, January 18

Arrive to the U.S.A.

***Note: Itinerary is subject to change
Meals included as indicated: B- Breakfast; L-Lunch; D-Dinner
Updated: December 11, 2013*