

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans

Louisiana Community Mission to Israel

July 12-18, 2022

(Draft itinerary as of 7 February 2022; subject to change)

DAY ONE: TUESDAY, JULY 12TH, 2022

ON OUR WAY TO ISRAEL

- **Individual arrivals** with **VIP airport service** at Israel's Ben Gurion International airport, followed by individual transfers to **Tel Aviv**.
- Hotel check-in from 3:00 pm, with light snacks and beverages.
- You will have some time to freshen up from your flight before dinner.
- **Opening cocktail** at the **Hilton Hotel** followed by **dinner** to be accompanied by **Representatives of the Tel Aviv City Hall**, and local **business leaders**. Musical accompaniment to be provided by students from the **Rosh HaAyin Music School**.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH, 2022

- Enjoy the famous scrumptious **Israeli Breakfast** at hotel.
- Break out into tracks and depart the hotel for the day.

Track 1 - Explore Israel – Communities Then and Now

- Drive north along Israel's coastal highway as it travels adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Explore the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, Crusader harbor and 12th-century ramparts at **Caesarea**. Constructed by Herod the Great, this ancient port was one of the most formidable cities in the empire and the capital of the province for nearly 600 years.
- Enjoy a **wine tasting** and **lunch** at the **Tishbi Winery**.
- Drive to **Kochav Yair** and stop by **Mitzpe Adi** for a geo-political overview and talk, as we overlook the Palestinian Authority and Israel from a bird's eye view.
- Proceed to **Rosh Ha'ayin** for **Partnership 2gether ("P2G")** visit.
- Together with local community members visit some of the several projects that the Federation is involved with, and then have a community **dinner** together with local dignitaries and community members
- Return to the hotel.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: THURSDAY, JULY 14TH, 2022

ALL THE WAYS LEAD TO JERUSALEM

- Enjoy **breakfast**, followed by a check out from your hotel.
- Break out into the following tracks and depart the hotel.

Track 1 - Explore Israel – The City That Never Sleeps

- Tour the **Old City of Jaffa** and experience the charms, history, and unique heritage of what is argued to be the world's oldest port city (dating back over 3,800 years!).
- Out of East Africa: Meet African women seeking refuge in Tel Aviv and see how they are working toward a brighter future by creating beautiful crochet products. Kuchinate (meaning crochet in Tigrinya) is a collective that celebrates African art and culture while empowering women asylum-seekers, many of whom suffered great hardships while fleeing to Israel. Here we'll join with women from East Africa for a traditional coffee-making ceremony and talk with them about their lives in Israel and the struggles they are seeking to overcome through creativity and collective action.
- Eat, drink and learn at **Levinsky Market**, where we'll sample food, sweets and spices from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East and try to figure out what is Israeli about Israeli food. This ethnic tasting tour can double up as a delicious **lunch**.
- Drive to **Jerusalem**.

All tracks

- Upon arrival in Jerusalem **check-in** to the David Citadel Hotel and freshen up.
- Light early buffet dinner will be served.
- Depart for Jerusalem's **Teddy Kollek Stadium**
- Attend the **Opening Ceremonies** of the 21st Maccabiah Games.
- Return to hotel.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY FOUR: FRIDAY, JULY 15TH, 2022

MEMORY AND RENEWAL

- Breakfast at the hotel.

Track 1 - Explore Israel – Memory & Renewal

- Depart the hotel and drive to **Yad Vashem**.
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include :
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
 - The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
 - The **Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
- Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market, with **lunch**.

All tracks

- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to rest, relax, and prepare for Shabbat.
- Experience a **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the **Southern Steps**, set against the impressive and timeless backdrop of the **Temple Mount**.
- Free time for reflection at the **Western Wall**.
- **Blessings, Challah, and Friends**: Friday night is the traditional highlight of the Jewish week and the Jewish stomach. We'll come together with friends old and new to enjoy the rituals, recipes, and relaxation of Shabbat in Jerusalem as we enjoy a traditional **Shabbat Dinner in Blaustein Hall** of Mercaz Shimshon, overlooking the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY FIVE: SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 2022

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Enjoy **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Break out into the following tracks of your choice and depart the hotel:

Option 1 - Masada & the Dead Sea (early departure)

- Travel down to the **Dead Sea region**, the lowest location on land on Earth.
- **The Last Stand:** Take the cable car to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- **Kicking Back at the Dead Sea:** A blissful afternoon will include floating at a private beach in the Dead Sea. Not much can live (or swim) in the “**Sea of Salt**”, which is nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun. We'll also enjoy a buffet lunch at a local hotel and feel the relaxation seep into our bodies as we check out their spa facilities. And there'll be the opportunity for some “muddy good fun” getting covered in the famous Dead Sea mud. For thousands of years, people of all ages have enjoyed this tradition and believed that the Dead Sea mud and minerals have special healing and beauty qualities. See and feel for yourself.
- Return to the hotel.

Option 2 - Christian Sites

- Experience the sites of the **Christian Quarter**. Walk through several of the Stations of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa**, and conclude inside the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, held by believers to be the site of Jesus's execution and burial.
- **Lunch** in a local restaurant.
- We'll drive to **Bethlehem**, a modern Palestinian town and the place where, according to Christian tradition, Jesus was born. See the **Milk Grotto**, where it is believed that Jesus' family found refuge, and walk through the old city to the **Church of the Nativity**, his traditional birthplace.
- Return to the hotel.

Option 3 - Gems of Jerusalem

- Visit the **Israel Museum**, the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and ranked among the world's leading art and archaeology museums. While there, explore the **Shrine of the Book**, home of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world.
- **Lunch** at the hotel.
- Experience a walking tour of the **Old City** with a unique emphasis on comparing and contrasting the Arab culture of the Gulf to that of the Levant.

Option 4 - On Own

- Free day on own to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the city
- **Lunch** at the hotel

All tracks

- Gather in the lobby of the David Citadel hotel and proceed on foot to the Bat Mitzvah venue at the **Hebrew Union College**. All participants are cordially invited to share, together with the Fielkow family, in the **Bat Mitzvah ceremony** of their daughter, Svetlana, to be followed by a **Havdallah ceremony** and light reception.
- High Times in the Holy City: Jerusalem at night provides a very different vision of the Holy City. Check out how the locals let their hair down during a free evening and explore Jerusalem nightlife including :
 - **The Mamilla Mall**, an upscale, open-air food and shopping area located outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate.
 - **The First Station**. Jerusalem's rail link from the late 19th century has been transformed into a center of restaurants, shops, and culture.
 - Joining the crowds strolling through the Ben Yehuda and **Nahalat Shiva** Pedestrian Malls.
- **Optional:** Going Under, Going Deeper: Explore the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are revising our understanding of daily life in ancient Jerusalem.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY SIX: SUNDAY, JULY 17TH, 2022 OLD AND NEW IN JERUSALEM

- Enjoy **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **The New Opportunities in the New middle east**. Dialogue with **Fleur Hassan-Nahoum**. Fleur Hassan-Nahoum serves as deputy mayor of Jerusalem in charge of foreign relations, international economic development, and tourism. She is a **cofounder** of the **UAE-Israel Business Council**, an association of Emirati and Israeli business and government leaders fostering bilateral trade, innovation, and cooperation.

Track 1 - Explore Israel

- Drive to the **Old City**.
- Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's Old City and the Jewish Quarter and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
 - A climb to the **rooftops** to see and discuss the ties and tensions between the different faith groups and communities of the Old City. From this one spot, we'll look out over the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, venerated by Christian groups as the burial place of Jesus; the golden Dome of the Rock, which is sacred to Islam; and the Jewish Quarter's famous **Hurva Synagogue**.
 - The **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
- **Lunch** in the Old City.
- Explore the **City of David**, the core of ancient Jerusalem, and learn how the city was administered during the First Temple period. Our visit will include :
 - **Archaeological discoveries** illustrating how the wealthy and powerful lived in ancient Jerusalem.
 - The **Gihon Spring**, the source of Jerusalem's water and integral to its survival and

- religious ceremonies .
- Travelling through time as we walk in ancient drainage channels from the City of David to the **Western Wall's massive foundation** stones at the foot of the Temple Mount.
- **Challenges and Triumphs of Religious Pluralism and Social Justice in Israel:** Meet with **Anat Hoffman**, Former Executive Director of the **Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC)**.
- Return to the hotel.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY SIX: MONDAY, JULY 18TH, 2022

TAKING ISRAEL BACK WITH US

- Enjoy breakfast, followed by a check out from the hotel.
- Transfer to Israel's Ben Gurion airport and check into your flight.

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