

NYL

SUMMER TRIP
to ISRAEL
JULY 1-10, 2012



JFNA NYL Summer Trip to Israel

July 1 – July 10, 2012

(subject to change)

Monday 2 July

7:00 pm Meet on the balcony of the Hilton hotel for an orange juice cocktail reception and the official opening of the Summer Trip. **Rabbi Avi Poupko** will perform the Shehecheyanu over challot and the national co-chairs will say a few words to kick off the trip.

7:15 pm Walk together with our guides along the beachfront promenade to **ARCA** for a joint, festive opening dinner facing the sea in the Tel Aviv Port, with music and dancing

Walk back to the hotel.

Don't forget to sign up for tomorrow's afternoon tours in the morning!

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday 3 July

7:00 am Sign up for optional afternoon tours at the hospitality desk

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Aluf Benn, Israeli journalist, author, and editor-in-chief of the national daily *Haaretz*, will speak to us about "Israel Today."

9:00 am All buses depart for Tel Aviv tours. Discover an old-new city where tradition is being re-gentrified and modern trends are based on historical modes. The tour will include:

Jaffa is a beautiful city rich with historical and cultural significance. Its strategic hilltop location and natural harbor rendered it a contested place since Biblical times. Today it is bustling with its integrated mix of Jewish and Arab citizens, who run an array of colorful markets, fine seafood restaurants and interesting little shops

Visit **HaTachana**, the old Jaffa railway station, which is the city's newest marketplace. Constructed in 1892 as the terminus for the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway, the old train station has been renovated into a stylish complex that houses shops, restaurants and art exhibitions. The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality beautifully preserved the original design of the buildings while creating open, pedestrian-only spaces for visitors to enjoy the atmosphere. An old railcar sits on train tracks in front of the station's original building, greeting visitors as they walk into HaTachana

Visit **Rabin Square** where, on November 4th, 1995, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist at a peace rally. Pay tribute to Rabin at the memorial erected on the exact location where he was shot

Admire splendid examples of the international style architecture of the 1920's and '30's as you stroll through **Nachalat Binyamin**, a pedestrian mall lined with outdoor cafes, shops and a bustling arts and crafts fair – which operates on Tuesdays

Lunch on own

Return to Hilton Tel Aviv

2:00 pm depart for chosen track

Optional tours (choose one):

1. We visit the **Palmach Museum**, which aims to provide a sense of the period that led to the founding of the State of Israel.
2. At **Givat HaKibbutzim** in Rehovot, descend into the reconstructed underground munitions factory located under the kibbutz bakery.
3. Visit to **Wingate Institute** - Israel's National Centre for Physical Education and Sport. Visit the Academy of Sports Excellence, which aims at maximizing the potential of young talented athletes; the center for research and sport medicine together with a sports psychologist; and finally meet Aulcie Perry retired American-Israeli basketball player of Maccabi Tel Aviv who now runs a children's basketball training camp at the Institute – meet some of the kids.

Return to hotel

7:15 pm depart for group dinner at various Tel Aviv restaurants

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Bus 4: Boston

7:15 am Check out of hotel

2:30 pm Proceed to Haifa

4:00 pm Check in to Dan Carmel Hotel

5:30 pm Introduction to the Haifa-Boston Connection at Beit Rutenberg. The Boston-Haifa Connection has been changing lives and opening hearts since it was established by CJP and the City of Haifa in 1989. Haifaim and Bostonians recognize each other as friends, colleagues and individuals pursuing the highest Jewish values through their work together. Thousands of individuals have been touched by the Connection, including at-risk youth in Haifa, Boston-area Jewish day school students, Ethiopian-Israeli immigrants, seniors and Israeli-Arabs.

7:00 pm Depart Hotel

7:30 pm Enjoy an Israeli evening at the Sailing Club. Experience a Beach Party and dinner with your new friends from the Haifa-Boston Connection, the Hatikva Mission officers, and other Young Leaders from Haifa. Get ready for a night full of Haifaim, socializing, and drumming as you join in a Drumming Circle!

Overnight: Dan Carmel, Haifa

Wednesday 4 July

7:00 am Breakfast and check-out

8:00 am Depart hotel with **overnight bags only**

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) are the JFNA's partners in Israel. This morning each bus will visit a site that is supported by one of these organizations to learn about their work and interact with people whose lives have been changed by the work of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Lunch incorporated into visit or en route

Bus 1: Tri-State

10:00 am Participate in a volunteer activity to benefit the needy through the "Table to Table" food rescue organization. Through Project Leket, Table to Table and its volunteers go into fields to pick and gather fruits and vegetables that were not collected during the commercial harvest. All of the collected produce is distributed by Table to Table to soup kitchens, food pantries, senior citizen centers, homeless shelters and other places serving those in need.

11:30 am Then proceed to JDC's Maavarim program, literally meaning transitions, which works to help rural Israelis who have found themselves in financial distress and with few marketable skills as Israeli agriculture became less economically viable, attain self-sufficiency and restore their economic independence.

1:00 pm Lunch and proceed to Beit Hillel

Bus 2: West Coast

8:00 am Proceed to Kibbutz Yagur

10:00 am For over 80 years, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) has been the principle connector between world Jewry and Israel. In partnership with the United Jewish Communities-Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, the Jewish Agency works in communities worldwide to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish People with a strong Israel at its center. To achieve this mission requires our collective commitment to three interrelated goals: bringing Jews to live in Israel and ensuring successful integration; connecting the next generation with Israel to strengthen Jewish identity and advancing collaboration with Israelis in shaping the future of Israeli society. In the early pioneering days of pre-State Israel, the kibbutz was the symbol of the new Jewish settler spirit. Although the kibbutz of the 21st century has undergone massive changes the pioneering spirit has remained. Kibbutz Uplan reflects JAFI's determination to bring Jews to live in Israel, ensure their successful integration and to keep "aliyah of choice" front and center in Jewish communities around the world. This morning we will visit the Kibbutz Ulpan at Kibbutz Yagur to learn about this stepping stone to Israeli society. After learning the individual stories of the ulpanikim who have just begun their studies, together we will have an interactive program to explore the rich and stirring history of Kibbutz Yagur.

12:00 pm Continue on to Lunch and proceed to Beit Hillel

Bus 3: Midwest

8:00 am Proceed to Kiryat Gat

9:00 am The Jewish Agency's Partnership 2000 program has become the paradigm for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities—the majority of which are in national priority areas. An extraordinary global platform connecting some 550 communities around the world in 45 partnerships, Partnership 2000 is building living bridges among these communities. Sharing ideas, strengths,

challenges and models of success; and empowering BOTH communities to generate waves of change. But the impact of these projects go far beyond the community level as each of us has the opportunity to become directly and personally involved. This morning the Midwest bus will be part of the Chicago Partnership's "Kefiyada" . Kefiyada an English-speaking summer camp in Chicago's Partnership 2000 region of Kiryat Gat-Lachish-Shafir. The camp runs for 5 weeks from the end of June to the beginning of August.

11:00 am Proceed to Beit Hillel, stopping en route for lunch

Bus 4: Boston

7:00 am Breakfast and Check-out

7:50 am Depart hotel

8:30 am The Shiluvim program provides a holistic response to the needs of the Ethiopian Israeli community and assists in their absorption and integration into the veteran, urban society. The program has made it its motto to advance the issues of education, employment, health, and community leadership of the younger members of the Ethiopian Community in society, while widening its contribution to enrich the culture of Israeli society. This morning we will have round table discussions with workers at the Dinur school in Neve Sha'anana

10:30 am In the center of Haifa's Carmel area we will participate in a scavenger hunt, including a falafel lunch.

1:00 pm Lunch on own

1:45 pm Proceed to Beit Hillel

All Buses

3:30 pm Kayak or rafting on the headwaters of the Jordan River

Or

Nature **hike** along the banks of the Banias.

Check in to Kibbutz guest houses

7:30 pm Proceed to Tel Hai

It was at **Tel Hai** that the one-armed Jewish pioneer and hero Yosef Trumpeldor uttered his famous last words: *Tov lamut be'ad artsenu* ("It is good to die for our country").

Trumpeldor and seven of his men were killed at Tel Hai in an Arab raid in 1920 but their heroic fighting played a decisive role in securing the Upper Galilee for the Jewish people. Tonight, we will have a **festive dinner and salute to the Israel Defense Forces, the IDF, with Israeli soldiers** who are the spiritual descendants of the defenders of Tel Hai.

Overnight: Kibbutz Guesthouses

Thursday 5 July

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Proceed to **Safed**, pronounced Tzfat in Hebrew. Safed sits at a higher altitude than any other city in Israel and has been known since the 16th century as a major center of Kabbala, Jewish mysticism. Safed's

mystical aura adds to its special status as one of Israel's four holy cities, along with Jerusalem, Tiberias and Hebron.

Tour the city, synagogues and art galleries.

In rotation each bus will visit the **Kabbalah** visitors centre for a dynamic Kabbalah presentation – a short film about the history of Tzfat and the Kabbalah followed by a magnificent visual presentation about the meaning of names, Hebrew letters and dates of birth – the Kabbalah teaches that every letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet has its own unique energy frequency – explore

And

A **musical experience** at an archeological site. In a special site, that just recently was exposed, the visitors will be hosted in a 16th Century Tzfat house where they will meet a local talent, a musician and a **storyteller** that will introduce Tzfat to them in the most unique way.

11:45 am Viniculture was a vital element in the economic development of the early settlements. Today Israel wines are world renowned with a highly efficient operation but it still returns us to a more romantic period in Israel's history. Learn about Israel's vast history of cultivating wines with a visit to a winery, followed by wine tasting and lunch.

2:00 pm Proceed south through the African-Syrian rift to the Dead Sea

Check in to hotel and enjoy the hotel pool of the Dead Sea beach

7:30 pm Desert Party under the stars with drummers and Ethiopian dancers in the hotel garden

Overnight: Isrotel Hotel, Dead Sea

Friday 6 July

Climbers:

3:45 am Wake up

4:00 am Coffee and snack in the lobby

4:15 am Depart hotel to walk up the Snake Path.

Atop a lone rock cliff at the western end of the Judean Desert lies Masada, combining natural beauty and deep meaning. Together, we will ascend and tour King Herod's private fortress which, following the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 BCE, became a base for a small band of Jewish zealots in revolt against the Romans. Although the rebels held their own, they were eventually overcome by siege, and according to historian Josephus, chose mass suicide over surrender.

8:15 am Take the first cable car down and return to hotel for a leisurely breakfast and refreshing dip in the pool or Dead Sea

Non-climbers:

7:00 am Breakfast.

7:45 am Departure for Masada

Return to hotel

11:00 am Depart for Jerusalem.

Stop off for **lunch on own** in downtown Jerusalem.

Check in to the Leonardo Plaza hotel and prepare for Shabbat

5:00 pm Depart for the Old City by bus

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat amongst the **Davidson Archeological Park** led by **Rabbi Avi Poupko**. We take the time to reflect and meditate at the **Western Wall** – Ha Kotel Ha'Ma'aravi or simply HaKotel. Over generations, Jews came to pray here, as it was the closest they could come to the Holy of Holies on the Temple Mount.

Join the people of Jerusalem as they **walk** home from Friday night services. Return to your hotel for Shabbat dinner.

8:15 pm Shabbat dinner

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel

Saturday 7 July

Breakfast at your leisure

Shabbat is a day of rest and reflection, and Shabbat morning in Jerusalem is filled with the sounds of Jews praying together in the distinct styles of different communities. They reflect centuries old ethnic traditions, as well as modern ways of expressing spirituality. This Shabbat morning, participants will have a chance to compare and contrast the worship at different Jerusalem synagogues.

9:30 am Optional: Morning Prayer services at local synagogue nearby

10:00 am Optional: Text Study with Rabbi Poupko

Lunch on own

3:00 pm Optional guided walking tours departing from the lobby of the hotel

Choose from either:

1. **Upper Jerusalem - Ramparts walk:** There are many different ways of viewing the myriad perspectives of Jerusalem – one of them being from the rooftops that include the ramparts of the Old City walls and some very specific observation points. Walking along the walls affords a great opportunity to observe, from above, views of both the Old City with its alleys and shrines, and the New City spread out over the mountains, outside the walls.
2. **Jerusalem Neighborhoods:** Visit the first Jewish residential neighborhood outside the Old City walls, established by Sir Moses Montefiore to provide a solution to the poverty, filth and overcrowding inside the walls of the Old City.

8:29 pm As the sun sets over the Jerusalem hills and Shabbat draws slowly to a close, come together with your group to take part in Havdalah. Havdalah means separation. The Havdalah prayers mark the end of Shabbat thereby distinguishing it from the rest of the week.

Havdallah at the Leonardo Plaza Hotel Jerusalem

9:00 pm Optional: Shuttles to the Tower of David Museum

9:45 pm Optional: **Night Spectacular** at the Tower of David Museum

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday 8 July

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Depart hotel

8.30 am Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum, presents a profoundly Jewish memorial of the Shoah. We will listen to survivors' testimonies, view personal possessions belonging to victims, and examine state-of-the-art displays aimed at preserving the story of each of the six million victims.

Sarah Weiss, the Executive Director for **The Center for Holocaust and Humanity** will introduce our speaker, Holocaust Educator **Dr Rachel Korazim** who will brief us on the "Memory of the Holocaust in Contemporary Israeli Society."

Personal time for reflection as you walk through the museum's exhibits on your own, or accompanied by a museum guide.

12:00 pm Depart for the vibrant **Machane Yehuda** open-air market

Lunch on own

Proceed to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem for a walking tour that will include the **Jewish Quarter**, the Cardo and the **Western Wall tunnels**.

Return to hotel

Dinner and evening on own

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel

Monday 9 July

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Speaker **Jeff Kaye**, Senior Partner in Golan & Kaye, *Leading Philanthropy in Israel* and former Chief Development Officer for World ORT and Director General for Resource Development & Public Affairs at the Jewish Agency for Israel, will speak to us on "*Commitment, Contribution and Community*"

9:15 am Depart hotel for site visits

Bus 1: Tri-State

For over 80 years, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) has been the principle connector between world Jewry and Israel. In partnership with the United Jewish Communities-Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, the Jewish Agency works in communities worldwide to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish People with a strong Israel at its center. To achieve this mission requires our collective commitment to three interrelated goals: bringing Jews to live in Israel and ensuring successful integration; connecting the next generation with Israel to strengthen Jewish identity and advancing collaboration with Israelis in shaping the future of Israeli society.

The in gathering of the exiles is one of the foundations upon which the State of Israel was built. Resident absorption centers have been created by JAFI to enable new immigrants to gradually integrate into mainstream Israeli life. We will visit the Mevasseret Zion absorption Center which is home to Ethiopian new immigrants to hear how this system works and interact with people who have "come home".

Bus 2: West Coast

Join JDC's PACT (Parents and Children Together) program, which aims to minimize learning and social difficulties among Ethiopian-Israeli youngsters through a range of education, welfare and health programs for children aged birth to six and their parents. PACT reaches out to every Ethiopian-Israeli child in 14 cities where PACT operates, offering intervention according to need. PACT also works to advance, strengthen and guide parents, as well as working with professionals to bridge cultural gaps, conveying the Ethiopian-Israeli community's unique codes and customs.

Bus 3: Midwest

Susan's House targets alienated youth ages 15-18, and offers them the opportunity to participate in business-oriented enterprises, acquire professional skills in the workplace and reconnect with the community. Through regular private therapy, practical training and work in the "real" business world, these youth are able to return to the fold while acquiring a sense of self-confidence and self-worth.

Bus 4: Boston

JDC's Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are community-based multi-service centers which provide information, peer counseling, and professional training and support to enable people with disabilities to live as part of the general community. Operated by and for people with disabilities, CIL staff and volunteers offer services to people from all religions, backgrounds and with all types of disabilities including physical, visual, hearing, and learning disabilities as well as those with mental illness or cognitive impairment. CILs work to raise awareness and create social change toward equal access and opportunity for people with disabilities

All buses: The trip is almost over. Now is your opportunity, during a bus caucus, to reflect on the time you've spent in the Land of Israel and to share the experiences, sites and people you'll want to remember most after you've returned home.

Many past participants agree that this time caucus/time for reflection and evaluation will be one of your cherished mission highlights.

A **light lunch** will be served.

Spend a leisurely afternoon in Jerusalem's bustling downtown area where shops, restaurants and cafes cater to a diverse crowd of Israelis and tourists.

5:30 pm Ben Gurion Society Cocktail Party at the Leonardo Plaza hotel (by invitation only)

6:45 pm Depart for **farewell dinner** in the garden terrace of the **Mt Zion** Hotel

After dinner depart to Ben Gurion airport for return flights or return to the hotel Leonardo Plaza

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel Jerusalem

Tuesday 10 July

At leisure

11:00 am Check Out