

welcome\*

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

**ISRAEL TREK**

March 13-23, 2014

ברוכים הבאים\*



# ITINERARY

Day One: Thursday, March 13, 2014

## DEPARTURE

- 3:30 p.m. Depart Boston for Philadelphia on US Airways flight #1721.
- 6:40 p.m. Depart Philadelphia on US Airways flight #764 to Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Friday, March 14, 2014

## ARRIVAL

- 11:40 a.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- 1:30 p.m. Depart Ben Gurion, driving towards **Jerusalem**.
- Stop en route at **Neot Kedumim**, a large interactive nature reserve dedicated to the flora and fauna of the Bible; try a first-hand leadership experience of **sheep-herding**, the occupation of Biblical leaders.
- **Light lunch** at Neot Kedumim.
- Continue to Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem** - □□□□□ □□□□□□ - وسهل اأهل ا:  
Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Check into the hotel.
- 5:45 p.m. **“Share It”**: Meet in the lobby for log-in, blog-in and sharing session.
- 6:15 p.m. Depart for the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site and recite the traditional **“shehechyanu”** blessing, and then continue to the **Djemal Family Residence** for **Shabbat dinner**.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Three: Saturday, March 15, 2014

## **MANY LAYERS OF JERUSALEM**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. *Israel @ 2014, Where Do We Stand?* Dialogue with **Jodi Rudoren**, the *New York Times*' Israel bureau chief.
- Depart the hotel.
- *Good Morning Jerusalem*: Set your eyes on the city of Jerusalem from the crest of **Mt. of Olives**.
- Guided visit through the **Old City of Jerusalem**, through the Jewish, Muslims and Christian Quarters, including:
  - A visit to the **Via Dolorosa**, the Church of the **Holy Sepulchre** and other Christian sites.
  - A walk through Jerusalem's famous **Old City Market** (*shuk*).
  - A walk along the **Rooftops** of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other.
  - The **Cardo**, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.
  - King Hezekiah's First Temple-period "**Broad Wall**".
- **Lunch** at **Bulghourji**, an authentic Armenian restaurant situated in an ancient building which was once a bulgur factory.
- 2:30 p.m. Visit the renewed and wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its wide-ranging and eclectic collection, from Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls, to Jewish Life and Art, European art, contemporary Israeli art and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.
- Return to the hotel.
- 7:00 p.m. *A Grassroots View of Israeli Society*: Dialogue with journalist-scholar **Yossi Klein Halevi** of the Hartman Institute.
- 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a **Networking Dinner** at **Chakra** with Israeli social entrepreneurs. "Food made with love" and a good atmosphere makes for a delightful experience at Chakra.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

**Day Four: Sunday, March 16, 2014**

**THE MULTIPLE FRONTS**

- Early breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel for a visit to the **Haram esh-Sharif** *القدس الشريف*, site of Mohammed's ascension to heaven. View the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. (*Pending confirmation by the Waqf.*)
- Depart the Old City.
- 10:00 a.m. VIP visit to the official residence of Israel's President, Shimon Peres, and meet with **Nadav Tamir**, senior policy advisor to the President.
- 12:00 p.m. Depart for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and meet with **Ambassador Dore Gold**, President of the center, and with **Col. (res) Dr. Eran Lerman**, Director of the Israel and Middle East Office of the American Jewish Committee and a former senior intelligence officer in Israel's Directorate of Military Intelligence, including **lunch**.
- 2:00 p.m. *The Memory of the Holocaust in Contemporary Israeli Society*: Dialogue with Holocaust scholar, **Dr. Rachel Korazim**.
- 3:00 p.m. Special program at the newly renovated **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Visit the new Historical Museum and the Children's Memorial.
- Return to the hotel with time to prepare for a celebratory evening.
- 7:00 p.m. Learn about **Purim**, the holiday of masquerades and face art, with a make-up artist.
- Depart the hotel.
- 8:30 p.m. A multi-cultural tasting journey through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Machaneh Yehudah** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area with representatives of the Jerusalem **Season of Culture Foundation**.
- 10:30 p.m. Join the ROI Community for a **Purim Celebration** at Beit Mazia.
- Return to the hotel (*on own*).

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Five: Monday, March 17, 2014

## MOSAIC OF THE LAND

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. **LaDa'at The Geopolitics of Jerusalem** - □□□□□□ :□□□□□□□□  
□□□□: Travel through East Jerusalem exploring some of the political and diplomatic complexities surrounding the seam zone and its effect on local communities with **Danny Seidman**, an attorney at law and founder of Ir Amim.
- Depart for the Binyamin Region.
- 11:30 a.m. *The Land of Our Forefathers*: Tour of **Eli** and meet with an official representative and resident, including a visit to the Yovel neighborhood and discussion about its legal status, including packed **lunch**.
- Depart for **Ramallah**
- 2:30 p.m. *A Complicated Relationship- Israel & Palestine*: Briefing with journalist and local specialist **Gal Berger**.
- Meet with **Nabil Sha'ath**, a senior Palestinian official and chief negotiator, and gain a further insight into the challenges and accomplishments of the Palestinian Authority.
- Visit the **Mukata** المقاطعة headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority, followed by a visit to Yasser Arafat's grave.
- 6:00 p.m. Meet with **Ali Jarbawi**, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development, for an update on life in Ramallah, at the Beauty Hotel.
- 7:00 p.m. Enjoy **dinner** at **Andre's Restaurant** with local guests.
- Depart Ramallah and return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

**Day Six: Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

**INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA**

- 4:00 a.m. Early coffee and tea at the hotel.
- 4:30 a.m. Check out and descend to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- 6:00 a.m. Climb **Masada** via the Snake Path, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- **Brunch** at Metzoke Gragot.
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**.
- Drive northwards along the **Jordan Valley**, part of the enormous Syrian-African Rift.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- 3:00 p.m. Visit **Bio-Bee Biological Systems** on **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu**, leading experts in the mass production of beneficial insects and mites for agricultural purposes. There is regional cooperation in this field with Palestinians and Jordanians.
- Check into the kibbutz guesthouse.
- 6:30 p.m. **BBQ dinner** at the kibbutz guesthouse, followed by a debrief session; *Take the time to reflect and process.*
- **"Share It"**: Log, blog and share session.

Overnight: Kibbutz Degania Bet, Tiberias Area

## Day Seven: Wednesday, March 19, 2014

### TRADITION & SPIRITUALITY

- Breakfast at the kibbutz guesthouse.
- Walk to the **Arbel Cliffs** for a beautiful overlook of the mountains and the Sea of Galilee, followed by a hike down the cliff.
- Visit to some of the **Christian holy sites** around the Sea of Galilee, including:
  - The **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount,' overlooking the Sea of Galilee.
  - **Tabgha**, traditional site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; the modern church preserves fine 5th-century mosaics.
  - **Capernaum**, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the base of Jesus' Galilean ministry, with its remains of an ancient synagogue.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- The panoramic views from **Mt. Bental** (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) give sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights**, and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- Depart for the Lower Galilee.
- Visit the village of **Arraba** عرّابة for a closer look at minorities living in Israel, including a dialogue with a local official, followed by **dinner**.
- *Local Hospitality*: Visit the **Yassin Residence** for tea and coffee.
- Return to the kibbutz guesthouse.

Overnight: Kibbutz Degania Bet, Tiberias Area



Day Eight: Thursday, March 20, 2014

## ALONG THE COAST

- Breakfast at the kibbutz guesthouse.
- Check out and depart the kibbutz.
- Travel to the coastline of the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- Stop at the **Ancient Roman Aqueduct**, located on the pristine beaches of Caesarea. With the ruins of a past empire to your backs, enjoy the power of the sand, sea and the rush of the water as you celebrate the beginning of your journey throughout Israel.
- Continue south along the coast to **Tel Aviv**.
- Visit **Campus Tel Aviv Google**, a hub for entrepreneurs and developers located in the heart of the **StartUp Nation**. Meet with several top Israeli venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, including **Jon Medved, Meir Brand & Jimmy Levy**, and learn how Israel has emerged as one of the world's most important and impactful high tech clusters, followed by lunch.
- Check into the hotel with time to freshen up before departing for the evening.
- 6:30 p.m. **Dinner** at **Blackout**, a restaurant completely in the dark.

Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

## Day Nine: Friday, March 21, 2014

### TEL AVIV AND JAFFA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel for South Tel Aviv.
- 9:00 a.m. Visit the unique **Roguzin Elementary School**, noted for its ability to not only integrate children from 50 different countries under one roof, but also to give them the tools to excel. The Roguzin School, its students and educators, were the stars of the Oscar-winning documentary, *Strangers No More*.
- Continue for a short visit to the **Old City of Jaffa**. Ascend from the old port through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.
- Walk the **Blue Route** in Tel Aviv, with its beautiful coastline and Mediterranean atmosphere, from the Jaffa Ridge to Neve Zedek.
- Walk back to the hotel.
- 1:00 p.m. Meet with United States' Ambassador to Israel, **Dan Shapiro** at the hotel.
- Lunch on your own.
- Visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly crafts fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market and across the way Sheinkin St., with its hip cafés and funky chic shopping.
- Free afternoon and evening to enjoy Tel Aviv.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat service** (TBA)
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.
- *Optional*: Club night in the city that never sleeps with Kennedy School Students.

Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

## Day Ten: Saturday, March 22, 2014

### SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning at leisure.
- Check out of the hotel and store luggage.
- Lunch on own in Tel Aviv.
- 3:30 p.m. Wrap up conversation at the hotel.
- 4:45 p.m. Depart the hotel and head for the Shabazi neighborhood.
- 5:00 p.m. **Farewell dinner** at **Nana Bar**, a trendy restaurant-bar located in the Shabazi neighborhood in downtown Old Tel Aviv.
- 7:00 p.m. Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.
- 10:30 p.m. Depart on US Airways flight #797 to Philadelphia, connecting to US Airways flight #1819 departing for Boston at 8:15 a.m. the following day (*March 23<sup>rd</sup>*).

# ISRAEL TREK STAFF

# PARTICIPANTS

# **HOTELS**

## **CROWNE PLAZA**

Givat Ram

Jerusalem

Tel: 972 2 658 8888

Fax: 972 2 658 8849

## **KIBBUTZ DEGANIA BET**

Tiberias Area

Tel: 972 4 675 0040

Fax: 972 4 675 5877

## **METROPOLITAN**

11 Trumpeldor Street

Tel Aviv

Tel: 972 3 519 2727

Fax: 972 3 517 2626

# PROGRAM OPERATED & IMPLEMENTED BY

## **DA'AT | EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITIONS**

19 Washington, Jerusalem 91710

Tel: 972 2 621-3333

Fax: 972 2 625-6626

Ec mail: [info@daattravel.com](mailto:info@daattravel.com)

### **Kathy E.**

972 XX XXX XXXX

*(in case of an emergency)*

### **TOUR EDUCATOR**

Jeremy A.

972 XX XXX XXXX

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