

# IJKL Israel Journey - If not Now, Then When? Itinerary\* - Subject to Change

You choose your options!

- **Fabulous Israeli Breakfast buffet every day - otherwise meals are indicated -**

## Day 1 - Tuesday, September 6

Arrival in Israel – Optional Mikvah – Transition from "Travel" to "Journey" consciousness led by Mira Neshoma Niculescu (We fell in love with her through the pandemic Zoom Counting of the Omer.)

Welcome Dinner and Getting to Know You with Dr. Lilienthal.

## Day 2 - Wednesday, September 7

1st timers: Roots of Tel Aviv/ Israel History:

Introduction to the history and the city; drive through the streets of Tel Aviv/Jaffa. Visit Rabin Square to pay your respects. Though it may be unknown to the typical person, Tel Aviv is actually home to the world's largest collection of Bauhaus-inspired buildings.

Continue to ancient port of Jaffa. See the modern art galleries and the ancient flea market.

Returnees: Let us help you explore on own or you can just find a Cafe and enjoy people watching

**All Together**

Visit the Yemenite Market & Yemenite Quarter, an oasis of tranquility seconds from the heaving and chaotic Allenby Street and Carmel Market in central Tel Aviv. Unless you are looking for it, chances are you will not find it – it is nestled behind the market and requires you to turn off the main strip towards the back streets. Lunch on your own at the market.

Followed by exclusive touring of Israel as The Start-up Nation

Regroup at the Hotel for time with Dr. Lilienthal for sharing and a short teaching.

Free evening to enjoy the evening life of Tel Aviv/Jaffa together or on your own. You can walk along the broad-walk from one Tel Aviv Port to Jaffa Port, stop along the way for dinner.

## Day 3 - Thursday, September 8

All together After breakfast we will depart and make our way up north. Drive along the coast to Zichron Yaakov, one of the first Jewish settlements in the country, founded by Baron De Rothschild. Visit the Aaronsohn House-Nili Museum.

Lunch on own and visit the UNESCO World Heritage site - Acco – known as Acre in the bible times with time to wander Acco.

Afternoon arrival at Yodfat. Time to take in the views from the mountain top, enjoy an early dinner with a view of the region before driving a short distance to Hararit to experience a once in a lifetime sunset concert with our friend Maya Raviv.

After the concert we will drive to Zfat (about an hour away) to check into our hotel.

Time to rest and reflect together about the experiences of the day.

## Day 4 - Friday, September 9

First timers: Introduction tour of Tzfat, the center of mystic Kabbalah. Here you will see the ancient Synagogues and picturesque cobblestone streets lined with wonderful art galleries.

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Drive the short distance to the village of Meron and the tomb of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Leading up to the anniversary of his death on Lag BaOmer, thousands of people camp out along the slopes near the tomb, and on Lag B'Omer itself, hundreds of thousands make pilgrimages to celebrate the occasion. Lunch on own.

Returnees –Experiential/walking tour with Evan Strauss – discovering the hidden sites and entering into the world of the Ba'al Shem Tov through the magic of Evan's teachings. Lunch on own as we explore the mystery..

Return to your hotel to freshen up and get ready for Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Mordechai Zeller overlooking Mt Meron as the early mystics intended. Shabbat dinner together as a group, singing and learning with Dr. Sandra Lilienthal.

## Shabbat in Tsfat – Day 5 - September 10

Optional: Thai Chi of the Hebrew Nikkudot with Tsfat Resident Yehudit Goldfarb, no experience needed (in the "Womb Room" at the Way Inn.)

Shabbat Morning Meditation and Chanting with Rabbi Mordechai Zeller or on own - davening options in Tsfat offered. Enjoy Home Hospitality with local Tsfat Artists and Friends. Shabbat Menucha (rest)

Special Community Seudat Shlieshiet (third meal), Lecture with Rabbi Mordechai Zeller and musical entertainment experience all at the Way Inn

## Day 6 - Sunday, September 11

After breakfast start making our way up to Jerusalem. Drive down the Jordan Valley through Tiberias to the area of Beth Shean and Mt Gilboa and reimagine the biblical story – the sight of the battle Saul led against the Philistines: Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew nor rain upon you, neither fields of choice fruits; for there the shield of the mighty was vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil.

Visit Kibbutz Sde Eliayahu . Learn about the “shnat Shmita” and how the Kibbutz is preparing for Rosh Hashana. The kibbutz has a leading bio tour center that specializes in organic agriculture and biological pesticides. You can shop at their organic produce store before departing to enjoy lunch on your way to Jerusalem.

Drive up to Jerusalem - Shecheyanu on Mount Scopus followed Meditation on approaching the Kotel. Check into the hotel and be greeted by Rabbi Akiva - time to walk down Ben Yehuda Street. Dinner on own.

## Day 7 - Monday, September 12

Drive down towards the old city, and start our day with an exclusive tour behind the ropes at Ir David with one of their main archeologists. See the new discoveries and hear what is upcoming in the excavations.

Wander the Jewish Quarter and find your own lunch. Continue to the Western Wall Tunnels. Stand before the entry way to the Holy of Holies! Descend into the spectacular underground Rabbinic Tunnels underneath the Kotel (Western Wall of the Ancient Second Temple). A la Indiana Jones - see the doorway which led to the “Holy Of Holies”.

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Reflect and leave a note at the Kotel. Walk through the Jewish Quarter, which was reconstructed after the city was unified after the Six-Day War in 1967.

Special Dinner and learning with Rabbi Akiva and time to explore the old train station (extra program - separate charge will apply).

## Day 8 - Tuesday, September 13

**First Timers:** Today you will descend to the Dead Sea Basin, some 1400 feet below sea level and the lowest point on planet earth.

The first stop is the summit of Israel's famous Masada, the resort palace of King Herod. Here you will learn the story of the Jewish Zealots who ended their lives rather than succumb to the Roman Legion.

After a quick lunch on your own, we will arrive at the Dead Sea for a swim in the unsinkable waters of the world's saltiest body of water. The mineral-rich mud is great for the skin, so lather up!

The next stop on our journey is a nature hike at the gorgeous desert oasis of Ein Gedi, a spot mentioned in the Bible and a popular nature reserve today. Visit the exquisite waterfalls and learn the story of a young David who once hid here to avoid the wrath of King Saul.

**Returnees:** Exploring Jerusalem with our Zoom teacher and friend Jonny Schnytzer - details "under construction."

## Day 9 - Wednesday, September 14

**First Timers:** Depart for Yad Vashem Honor the memory of the six million killed in the Holocaust by visiting the new Yad VaShem museum. Go on an in-depth tour of the world's first Holocaust memorial and museum, an extraordinary architectural masterpiece.

Continue to Har Herzl to pay your respects to Israel's fallen heroes.

**Returnees:** Special day of programming – still "under construction"

**All Together:** Tasting tour and dialogue through Machane Yehuda Market

(Optional) Evening Café adventure to listen to musician performed by our friend Einav Dahari.

## Day 10 - Thursday, September 15

Israel museum with Special Guest Guide

remaining programming – still "under construction"

Fabulous Final Journey Dinner with Sharing singing and celebrating. Welcoming new and old friends!

Journey ends with departure to the Airport

Michelle Kaplan, Travel and Dialogues is our Travel Planner and can be reached:

Phone: 800.664.6461

Michelle@traveldialogues.com