



VIP Joshua Society Culinary Mission to Israel September 15 – 21, 2019

[Itinerary subject to change](#)

Sunday, September 15: Welcome to Israel!

- A VIP representative will ease you through passport control and baggage claim at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- A tour guide will escort you to Jerusalem for an opening dinner the with **U.S. Ambassador to Israel**, David Friedman. Enjoy a meal at one of **Jerusalem's most unique restaurants** – [Café Shalva](#). This boutique café focuses on inclusivity and equal opportunity, from servers through managers through owners.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, September 16:

- Breakfast at hotel with Israeli television and print journalist **Alon Ben-David**, currently senior defense correspondent for **Israel's Channel 10**.
- Depart for the Northern Negev, arriving in the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's sister city, **Netivot**. Experience a security briefing along the Gaza border and a tour of **agricultural hothouses with a Weizmann Institute agronomist**.
- Enjoy lunch with the “**Mevashlot**” – the culinary queens – who host women in their homes for traditional North African meals as a female-owned social business project.
- Return to Jerusalem for a **culinary tour** of your choice:
 - The **Sephardic Food Track – Moroccan and Kurdish traditional foods**
 - The **Eastern European Track** – a walk through **Mea Shearim** to explore the ethnic tastes of Eastern Europe.
- Leisure evening to enjoy the sights and sounds of Jerusalem

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, September 17

- After a hotel breakfast, volunteer at [Leket Israel](#), the largest food bank in Israel, a national leader in the battle against food insecurity, and a partner of the Jewish Federation. Pick produce directly from the field and meeting with young French chefs living in Israel.
- Stop in Nazareth for **Arak tastings**. Arak, a distilled alcoholic drink favored in the Middle East, is famous for its potency and milky-white color, known as “The Milk of Lions.”
- Travel to **Mitzpe Matat** for an elite cooking workshop with [Erez Komarovsky](#), one of Israel's most famous chefs. Owner of *Mint* in Manhattan, the workshop will feature seasonal produce from his own organic garden and a variety of ingredients from the nearby Galilean markets. Enjoy the delicious dinner you'll cook at the workshop's end!

Overnight: Setai Kinneret Hotel, Galilee



Wednesday, September 18

- After a hotel breakfast, head north to Tzfat, birthplace of the Jewish mysticism known as Kaballah.
- Stop at the [Hameiri Tzfat Dairy](#), the first dairy established in Israel and a producer of gourmet sheep and goat's milk cheese for over 170 years.
- Enjoy a private greeting from Kaballistic artist Avraham Lowenthal at his personal studio to learn that ancient history of Tzfat.
- Leisurely lunch on your own to explore the city.
- End the afternoon with a VIP tour of **Ziv Hospital**, to learn about the often-provided but seldom-discussed medical care offered to injured Syrians smuggled across the border.
- Drive to Golan Heights
- Stop by the '[De Karina' Chocolate Factory](#) to meet Karina Chaplinski, a third generation Argentinean chocolatier who immigrated to Israel to continue the hundred year-old family tradition of hand-made premium chocolate.
- End the day with dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Setai Kinneret Hotel, Galilee

Thursday, September 19

- After a hotel breakfast, hike up the Arbel cliffs, to one of Israel's most spectacular views of Golan Heights. Enjoy a **hummus workshop** with **Chef Doron Bar On**. Enjoy the broad array of colors, scents, and flavors from the Middle East.
- Arrive in Tel Aviv and stop at the [Peres Center for Peace & Innovation](#). Experience a tour and workshop discussing food and water issues in Israel and their use as a peacebuilding tool.
- Meet with members of [ATIDIM](#) to complete the afternoon, a social justice organization providing opportunities for at-risk youth and a partner to our Jewish Federation.
- Visit Israel's first **Whisky Distillery**, [Milk & Honey](#), for whisky tastings and flights. Then meet with **Ariel Leizgold** at one of his famed Tel Aviv bars.
- Enjoy a leisurely dinner on your own after checking into the Setai Tel Aviv Hotel.

Overnight: Setai Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, September 20

- After a hotel breakfast, enjoy a VIP tour of the gourmet [Levinsky Market](#) with **Chef Moran Broza**, to experience the spices, nuts, dried fruits, and fusion cuisines for which it is known.
- Visit the boutique **Melechet Ha-tochen** tehina factory owned by **Amit Cohen**.
- Enjoy lunch on your own at **Shuk HaCarmel**, an outdoor marketplace in Tel Aviv featuring the **Nachalat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Fair**.
- Freshen up to prepare for an inspiring Shabbat service and dinner led by [BINA](#), the leading Israeli organization at the intersection of Jewish pluralism and social change.



Overnight : Setai Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, September 21

In Jewish tradition, Shabbat is a day of rest. The following activities are optional; we will reconvene for a farewell dinner.

- Hotel breakfast

Option 1 Celebrate Shabbat by going to services, visiting various synagogues, or simply enjoying the beautiful Tel Aviv beach on your last day in Israel.

Option 2 Drive South, ascent **Masada**, and float in **The Dead Sea**. The Dead sea, located at 1,300 feet below sea level, is the lowest point on Earth.

Option 3 Go sailing in the beautiful nearby port city of **Hertziliya**.

Option 4 Enjoy a challenging **Krav Maga session** outside in a nearby park.

- As Shabbat comes to a close and you prepare to leave Israel, come together at [Chef Ran Shmuely's Claro restaurant](#). Chef Shmuely is one of Israel's most respected and veteran chefs, leading innovative culinary ventures for over 25 years.
- Travel to Ben Gurion Airport for a VIP escort through check in and passport control to your flight back home.