



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Couples' Mission to Israel
October 26-November 2, 2019
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Saturday, October 26th-*Welcome to Israel*

- Mid-afternoon **arrival TBA** at Israel's Ben Gurion international airport. You will be met by your guide and escorted as VIPs to awaiting transportation.
- Transfer to **Jerusalem**.
- Participate in **Havdallah** ceremonies overlooking the Old City.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, October 27th-*Visions of Jerusalem*

- Over breakfast, meet with **Arielle Di Porto**, the Director of Aliyah Services for an in-depth, **VIP briefing** of the **Jewish Agency's** work in the Middle East (subject to availability).
- Embark on a tour of the **City of David** accompanied by an **archaeologist**. See ongoing archaeological excavations with special access to normally restricted areas.
- Go for a short walking tour of the **Old City**, including some free time for shopping.
- Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter.
- Visit the command center of **Mabat 2000** and meet with the officers of the Israel Police, who maintain and operate one of Israel's most sophisticated network of urban surveillance cameras (subject to availability).
- Visit the JAFI Ketzev-supported **Mashu Mashu Theater Company for Social Change**, located in Jerusalem's peripheral **Kiryat Yovel** neighborhood. Enjoy fun and thought-provoking theater exercises in the '**Theater and Social Change workshop**' **OR take a tour of the neighborhood** to see Mashu Mashu's art initiatives: An amphitheater in a formerly abandoned park, a bomb shelter converted into an art studio and an outdoor gallery.
- In the evening, have **dinner** at **Anna**, joined by **Alon Ben David** (subject to availability).

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, October 28th-*Complex Challenges & Nuanced Solutions*

- Participate in a **Jerusalem Seam Line** tour with **Col. (Res.) Dan Tirza**, one of the architects of the security fence in the Jerusalem area.
- Travel south towards **Gush Etzion**, the largest block of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank).
- Visit the community of **Efrat** and meet with **Oded Revivi**, Head of the Efrat Municipal Council and Chief Foreign Envoy of the Yesha Council, to discuss the nuances and challenges of life beyond the Green Line (subject to availability).
- Have **lunch** at the nearby **Gush Etzion Winery**.



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- Visit **Roots**. Meet with locals, both **Israelis and Palestinians**, living in the West Bank who coexist despite the separation fences and roadblocks.
- In the evening, explore Jerusalem's iconic **Machane Yehuda market** for a **street-food** dinner (on own).

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, October 29th-Partnership 2Gether

- Visit **Be'er Sheva**-the Capital of the Negev.
- Explore **Be'er Sheva-based P2G-related initiatives and endeavors** supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and meet with **Yonat from the Ministry of Defense**.
- Visit **Tech7**, the official tech and entrepreneurship community of Be'er Sheva. While there, meet with a selection of local entrepreneurs from supported start-ups (subject to availability).
- Drive to the **Gaza Perimeter**, home to your **P2G communities of Netivot & Sedot Negev**.
- Have a **hospitality lunch** in **Netivot**.
- In Netivot, meet with **P2G representatives** and tour a recently built **emergency bunker**.
- Meet with **Col. (Res.) Grisha Yakubovich**, former Head of the Civilian Department in the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories unit to discuss economics, infrastructure and foreign affairs.
- Together with Grisha, travel along the border. Pause at a local overlook and view the northern **Gaza Strip** (visit subject to security conditions).
- Drive to **Sedot Negev**. Witness first-hand the rapid development of the community.
- There, visit a **Resilience Center** and meet with **Tali Levanon-CEO of the Israel Trauma Coalition**.
- Afterwards, drive to **Tel Aviv**.
- Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, October 30th-Service to a Cause

- Meet with prominent Israeli journalist **Nurit Canetti** for a broad discussion on a number of topics, including the complexities facing the Israel-Diaspora relationship and the role of the IDF in the Israeli public discourse.
- Meet with Executive Director **Wendy Singer** at **Start Up Nation Central**. Start Up Nation Central is a prominent source on, and the GPS to, the Israeli innovation community working to solve the community's most pressing challenges (subject to availability).
- Enjoy a walking tour on Rothschild Boulevard and lunch on your own in Tel Aviv.
- Gain exclusive access to **Tel Nof Air Force Base**, Israel's largest, for a special visit to the **'669' Unit**-the IDF's heliborne combat search and rescue extraction unit.
- While there, meet with a **ranking female officer** connected to the **Atidim project**.
- Return to Tel Aviv to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.



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- Have **dinner** at Jaffa's **Beit Kandinoff**, to be joined by **Dan Shapiro**-former US Ambassador to Israel and his wife, **Julie Fisher**-educator, volunteer and human rights advocate (subject to availability).

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, October 31st-Geopolitical Challenges & Solutions

- After an early breakfast, travel north along Israel's coastal highway towards **Haifa**.
- Visit Haifa's **Rambam Medical Center** for an exclusive tour of the **Sammy Ofer Northern Regional Underground Emergency Hospital**. The three-level 1,500 vehicle underground parking lot converts into a 2,000-bed underground hospital within 72 hours. (subject to availability).
- Next, drive to a nearby **Druze Village** for a delicious **hospitality lunch**. Travel across the Galilee and south along the Mediterranean coast to the city of **Or Akiva**. There, visit the local center of the '**Nirim in the Neighborhoods**' community youth outreach program. Meet with Or Akiva native **Shlomi Avni-Nirim CEO**. Hear him recall his own story of overcoming poverty to create incredible positive change in his neighborhood and across Israel.
- Return to Tel Aviv to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
- Have **dinner** at the home of **Shalva Hessel** (subject to availability).

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, November 1st-Tel Aviv Trends

- *Optional early-morning activity:* Go for an early-morning **run** or **walk** along Tel Aviv's iconic 'tayelet' beachfront promenade.
- Discover the world of Israeli fashion through a direct and informal encounter with renowned fashion guru **Galit Reisman**, founder of **TLVStyle**. The tour will feature a special visit to the recently re-launched and iconic **Maskit** fashion house, originally founded by Ruth Dayan, as well as a presentation at the **Manor House** in south Tel Aviv, the heartland of the Israeli design scene.
- Lunch on own at the Carmel Market (Shuk Hacarmel), the city's largest outdoor market, representing the country's diverse and multi-ethnic population.
- Have a chance to explore the buzzing Nachalat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Market. Stroll alongside hundreds of locals and visitors alike as you take in the festive atmosphere.
- Spend the remainder of the afternoon at the hotel at leisure.
- This evening, participate in a special **Shabbat program** and **Shabbat Friday night dinner** at the hotel with **BINA-The Jewish Movement for Social Change**.

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv



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Saturday, November 2nd-Shabbat/Departure

In Jewish tradition Shabbat is a day of rest. All activities today are optional out of respect for Shabbat. The group will reconvene at our meeting with Joanna Landau.

- After breakfast, spend the morning at leisure. Have the chance to choose one of the following Shabbat options:
 - Experience services in one of the secret gems of Tel Aviv, **The Conservative Congregation of Neve Tzedek**. The beautiful Sephardi style synagogue is short walk from the hotel. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.
 - See a different side of Tel Aviv on a **graffiti tour** through the streets of south Tel Aviv's trendy and bohemian Florentine neighborhood. Learn about the influence that Israel's social and political voices has on artistic.
 - Explore the renowned **Tel Aviv Museum**, widely considered to be the most important museum for contemporary art in Israel.
 - Visit **Sarona**, a renewed colony that includes an urban park surrounded by original buildings of the **German Templar settlement**, which have been transformed into elegant cafes, ritzy restaurants, high-end art galleries and an assortment of specialty shops.
- Later this afternoon, meet with Meet with **Joanna Landau**, founder and CEO of **Vibe Israel**.
- Stroll through Tel Aviv on your own, rest, or prepare and pack for the journey home.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- Gather together one last time for a **farewell dinner** at a **leading Tel Aviv restaurant**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for your international flight back to the USA (VIP departure assistance to be provided).