



# Program Itinerary

The following is our initial suggested itinerary for feedback and consideration

## DAY #1 | MONDAY, JUNE 13

### TAKING FLIGHT

Depart from St. Louis in the afternoon and spend the night en route to Israel

*Exact flight details will be available 11 months prior to the program return date*

## DAY #2 | TUESDAY, JUNE 14

### BRUCHIM HA-BA'IM – WELCOME TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport – Meet our Israeli staff team and travel to the Negev Desert
- Welcome to Israel! **Shehecheyanu ceremony** overlooking the Wadi Tzin desert canyon
- Check-in, orientation, and icebreakers at our desert accommodations

OVERNIGHT: Sde Boker Field School, Negev Desert

## DAY #3 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

### PIONEERING AND ADAPTATION IN THE DESERT

- Experience the thrill of **sandboarding down natural dunes** in the Negev Desert with Dror BaMidbar
- Learn how Israel makes the desert bloom at the **Ramat HaNegev R&D Desert Agricultural Center**
- Off-road **desert canyon jeep tour** in the Negev Desert
- **Sde Boker** – Discover the story of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and Negev Desert visionary, at his desert gravesite
- Evening: Take part in preparing a traditional fresh-cooked "**Poike Pot**" meal in the desert

OVERNIGHT: Sde Boker Field School, Negev Desert

## DAY #4 | THURSDAY, JUNE 16

### BAMIDBAR – THRIVING IN THE DESERT

- Hike to the hidden desert pools at **Ein Avdat**
- Explore the world's largest erosion crater at the **Ramon Crater Visitor Center**
- Pizur lunch in the desert community of Mitzpe Ramon
- Set-up camp for our **desert wilderness experience** (Harei Edom)
- **BaMidbar** – Learn how to survive and thrive in the desert as our ancestors did in the Red Mountains

OVERNIGHT: Camping in the Negev Desert

## DAY #5 | FRIDAY, JUNE 17

### EILAT AND THE RED SEA

- Wake up early to begin our pre-sunrise **hike to the summit of Mt Zephachot** overlooking the Red Sea
- Return to our camp for breakfast and wrap-up our *BaMidbar* experience
- Continue to the Red Sea – Discover underwater treasures **snorkeling at Coral Beach** (pizur lunch)
- Relaxed **beach time and banana boating adventure** in Eilat
- Break for **ice cream at Yotvata**, Israel's famous desert dairy farm
- Check-in to our desert kibbutz accommodations and celebrate Shabbat with the kibbutz community

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Keturah Guest House, Arava Valley

## DAY #6 | SATURDAY, JUNE 18

### SHABBAT ON KIBBUTZ

- Morning: Staff-led Shabbat programming and group lunch at our accommodations
- Afternoon: Enjoy a relaxed Shabbat with pool, sports, and free time!
- Learn about the **history of the kibbutz idea** and discover how kibbutz farms prosper in the desert
- Afternoon: Enjoy a relaxed Shabbat with pool, sports, and free time!

- Havdalah ceremony – celebrate the start of a new week – followed by a **group night out in Eilat**

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Keturah Guest House, Arava Valley

## DAY #7 | SUNDAY, JUNE 19

### THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Depart from the Arava Valley and begin our ascent to Jerusalem
- Encounter with a **Bedouin women's weaving cooperative** in the desert village of Lakiya
- **Dig-for-a-Day Archaeological Seminar** at Beit Guvrin National Park + explore the Bell Cave
- Ascend to Jerusalem – Panoramic intro to the contours of Jerusalem at the **Haas Promenade**
- Check-in and dinner at our accommodations in Jerusalem
- Evening: **Tower of David Night Spectacular** sound and light show in the Old City

OVERNIGHT: Ramat Rachel Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY #8 | MONDAY, JUNE 20

### FOUNDATIONS OF JEWISH HISTORY

- **City of David Excavations** - Discover the foundations of Jerusalem dating back to King David's time
- **Hezekiah's Tunnel** – Cool off in the spring-fed underground aqueduct running below Jerusalem
- Enter the Old City at **Zion Gate** and explore the ancient corridors and rooftops of the **Jewish Quarter**
- Free time for shopping and pizur lunch in the Cardo area of the Jewish Quarter
- Reflections at the Kotel – **the Western Wall complex** – and explore layers of history deep under the Old City in the **Western Wall Tunnels**
- Dinner at our accommodations
- Evening: Speaker – The political situation in Israel, with guest speaker, **Eylon Levy**

OVERNIGHT: Ramat Rachel Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY #9 | TUESDAY, JUNE 21

### LOSS & RENEWAL

- Docent-led visit to the **Yad VaShem** World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- Afternoon: Volunteering project at **Pantry Packers** in Jerusalem
- Processing time and picnic-style lunch at Jerusalem's Mifletzet Park
- **Guided tour of the Knesset** – Discover Israel's democratic system at its parliament building
- Speaker – Meet with an activist from **Women of the Wall** to learn about their pursuit of religious pluralism in Israeli society
- Evening: Pizur dinner and group night out at **Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall**

OVERNIGHT: Ramat Rachel Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY #10 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

### SOVEREIGNTY & SOLUTIONS

- **Theodore Herzl Museum** – Discover the story of the Zionist idea and Israel's founding history
- **Mt. Herzl National Cemetery** – Honoring Israel's national leaders and fallen soldiers
- A packed lunch is provided today
- **Geopolitical tour of Jerusalem** – The seam, the wall, and the future (guide-led, stopping in Gilo)
- **Roots Tent** – Travel to Gush Etzion in the West Bank and engage in a dialogue of perspectives with a Jewish Settler and a Palestinian Arab who both call the Land home
- Continue on to the Judean Desert
- **Camel riding, desert tent feast, bonfire**, and guide-led **stargazing** at Kfar Hanokdim encampment

OVERNIGHT: Kfar Hanokdim, Judean Desert

## DAY #11 | THURSDAY, JUNE 23

### MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

- Hike up the **Roman Ramp** to the summit of Masada
- **Masada** – Tour Herod's desert mountaintop fortress and the bastion of an ancient Jewish rebellion
- Descend Masada via the cable cars (option to hike down the Snake Path) and stop for breakfast at IYHA Masada Guest House
- Travel to the lowest place on earth for **effortless floating at the Dead Sea's** Ein Gedi beach

- Nature walk to the desert waterfalls of Nahal David in the **Ein Gedi National Park**
- Continue north to the Galilee via the Jordan Valley
- Check-in and dinner at our kibbutz-based accommodations

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ohalo Guest House, Sea of Galilee

## DAY #12 | FRIDAY, JUNE 24

### PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Get wet hiking down **Nahal Jilaboun Canyon** on the Golan Heights
- View Israel's neighbors and navigate former IDF bunkers at the summit of **Mt. Ben-Tal**
- Encounter with the **Druze culture** and share a traditional lunch in the Golan village of Ein Kinya
- Cool off with relaxed **rafting down the upper Jordan River**
- Return to our accommodations and prepare for Shabbat
- Kabbalat Shabbat, dinner and oneg on kibbutz

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ohalo Guest House, Sea of Galilee

## DAY #13 | SATURDAY, JUNE 25

### SHABBAT ON KIBBUTZ

- Morning: Staff-led Shabbat programming and group lunch at our accommodations
- Afternoon: Enjoy a relaxed Shabbat with pool, sports, and free time!
- Dinner at our accommodations followed by havdalah
- Evening: Encounter with traditional **Jewish-Ethiopian culture in Beit Shean**

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ohalo Guest House, Sea of Galilee

## DAY #14 | SUNDAY, JUNE 26

### MYSTICS OF THE GALILEE

- Morning: **Raft-building team challenge** on the Sea of Galilee
- **Ancient Tsfat** – Explore the historic center of Jewish mysticism in the Galilee highlands

- Free time for shopping and pizur lunch in the Tsfat artists' colony
- Meet with inspirational Kabbalistic artist, **Sheva Chaya**
- Tour of an authentic **shofar-making workshop** and learn about this ancient Jewish craft

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ohalo Guest House, Sea of Galilee

## DAY #15 | MONDAY, JUNE 27

### ADVENTURES IN THE WESTERN GALILEE

- **Rappelling down Keshet Arch** - Hike to this soaring natural geological wonder in the Western Galilee and rappel down its face (packed lunch)
- Walking tour of the **Acco Seaport**, including a visit to the **Tunisian Synagogue**
- **Rosh Hanikrah** – Descend into the ocean-swept caves on Israel's far northern border
- Afternoon: Start of P2G programming in Yokneam Meggodo (including dinner with home hosts)

OVERNIGHT: Home Hosts in P2G Region

## DAY #16 | TUESDAY, JUNE 28

### ST. LOUIS + YOKNEAM-MEGGIDO = P2G

- Morning of P2G-organized programming in the Western Galilee, including lunch (organized by P2G)
- **Aqua Kef** – Experience the thrill of Israel's floating water park on the Sea of Galilee
- Evening: **Cruise on the Sea of Galilee** followed by a **group dinner at Decks** in Tiberias

OVERNIGHT: Home Hosts in P2G Region

## DAY #17 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

### DIVERSITY & CO-EXISTENCE

- Travel to Haifa, Israel's most diverse city, including visits to the Stella Maris Monastery, the **Bahai Temple Gardens**, and the **Ahmeddiyya Mosque** (meet with Imam)
- Break for a hummus lunch (pizur) in Haifa's Wadi Nisnas neighborhood

- Afternoon: **Surfing class and beach time** at Atlit Beach
- Evening: Head south to central Israel and stop for pizur dinner in Modi'in
- Check-in to our accommodations in Neve Shalom, an integrated Jewish-Muslim-Christian village

OVERNIGHT: Neve Shalom Guest House, Central Israel

## DAY #18 | THURSDAY, JUNE 30

### THE SPIRIT OF TEL AVIV

- Arrive to Tel Aviv, Israel's cultural and commercial capital
- Explore the **ancient port city of Jaffa**, and browse the **Jaffa flea market** (pizur lunch)
- **Volunteer at the Jaffa Institute** – An innovative charity dedicated to combating poverty
- Learn how Israel became the 'Startup Nation' at the **Peres Center for Peace & Innovation** in Jaffa
- Tel Aviv Your Way walking tour options...
  - Learn about Tel Aviv's LGBTQ culture on the **Rainbow TLV Tour**
  - Discover the complexity and beauty of **Hebrew graffiti art in Florentine**
- Dinner at Dr. Shakshouka in Jaffa
- Evening: View a performance of "**Not by Bread Alone**" at the Nalagaat Center for deaf & blind culture  
(if there is no show this evening, an alternative program is a Ethiopian cooking class and dinner at the Battae Center in Tel Aviv)

OVERNIGHT: Neve Shalom Guest House, Central Israel

## DAY #19 | FRIDAY, JULY 1

### FOUNDING MODERN ISRAEL

- **Machon Ayalon** - Honor the bravery of the pioneers who helped establish modern Israel at this secret underground munitions facility
- **Rabin Square** – Visit the memorial at the site of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination
- Browse the **Nahalat Binyamin street festival** and **Carmel Market** (pizur lunch)
- **Independence Hall** – Recount modern Israel's creation and explore its founding values (building possibly still closed for renovations)

- Return to Jerusalem in the late afternoon and check-in to our central accommodations
- Evening: Return to the Old City for a community **Kabbalat Shabbat experience at Robinson's Arch** (egalitarian area of Western Wall)

OVERNIGHT: Cesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## DAY #20 | SATURDAY, JULY 2

### SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Morning: Staff-led Shabbat programming and group lunch at our accommodations
- Walk to the **Israel Museum** to discover the Dead Sea Scrolls, Temple Model, and Israel's most prized cultural and historic treasures
- Spend the rest of the afternoon playing sports and relaxing together at **Jerusalem's Saker Park**
- Dinner at our accommodations followed by havdalah – celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening: Group night out and dinner at **Jerusalem's First Station**

OVERNIGHT: Cesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## DAY #21 | SUNDAY, JULY 3

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Late wake-up and packing time
- Speaker – Bringing Israel home with **Gil Troy**
- **Mahane Yehuda** – Experience Jerusalem's colorful and iconic open-air marketplace + pizur lunch
- **Scavenger hunt in Nachlaot** – Navigate the alleyways of this colorful Jerusalem neighborhood that has been home to many historic immigrant communities
- Final shoppportunity on Ben Yehuda Street
- **Tree planting ceremony**, final wrap-up session, and **celebration dinner at Neot Kedumim Park**
- Evening: Return to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to America

## DAY #22 | MONDAY, JULY 4

### SHALOM U'LHITRAOT