**PDX 🡪 Israel 2020**

**Jewish Federation of Greater Portland**

**Centennial Trip to Israel**

**March 19-28, 2020**

(Draft itinerary as of December 10, 2019; subject to change)

**Day 1: Thursday, March 19th -**Arrival in Israel

* Evening **individual arrivals** at Israel’s Ben Gurion international airport.
* Transfer to **David Intercontinental Hotel**
* Hotel check-in. Have a chance to rest and relax following the long journey.
* Light dinner at the hotel

**Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv**

**Day 2: Friday, March 20th - Explore Tel Aviv**

* *Optional:* Early morning activities along Tel Aviv’s iconic ‘tayelet’ beachfront promenade. Activities include: Energetic walk or run, Yoga or Krav Maga.
* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, meet with **Alon Ben David** for a briefing on “**The State of the State” (with parallel youth programming)**
* Depart the hotel for our morning tour; each bus will have the chance to visit all areas
* Visit the **Old City of Jaffa** and experience the charms, history, and unique heritage of what is argued to be the world's oldest port city (dating back over 4,000 years!).
* Afterwards, stroll through the famed **Nahalat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Market**. Located adjacent to the bustling **Carmel Market**, this lively street fair provides a location for local artists and craftspeople to display their crafts. Stroll amongst hundreds of locals and visitors alike as we take in the festive atmosphere which prevails here, as well as watch the city of Tel Aviv come to life around you.
* Have **lunch on own** at either the **Carmel Market**, **Jaffa Flea Market**, ***or*** the **Levinsky Market**, each featuring a fantastic selection of the very best of Israel's local produce and culinary creations, representing the country's diverse and multi-ethnic population.
* Arrive at the hotel and have the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to rest, relax and prepare for Shabbat.
* Opportunities to attend Shabbat services at synagogues on your own.
* **Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel. Upon return from Kabbalat Shabbat services, there will be welcoming remarks at dinner. The evening’s entertainment program will be led by musical accompaniment provided by the popular **Kippa Live** acapella ensemble**.**

**Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv**

**Day 3: Saturday, March 21st -** Shabbat in Tel Aviv

* A list of shabbat morning services will be provided by the on-site coordinators.
* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, enjoy your choice from the following morning options (choose one per person):
	+ **Segway** ride – Jaffa Port – \*\*\*please sign up at the hospitality desk at the hotel by **Friday** – limited spots
	+ Visit the recently renovated **Beit Hatfutsot-Museum of the Jewish People**. Beit Hatfutsot is a global center for Jews worldwide that plays a pivotal role as a vibrant, dynamic and interactive educational and cultural institution, strengthening Jewish identity and perpetuating Jewish heritage globally. Teens will especially love its new exhibition, ***Heroes – Trailblazers of the Jewish People***, providing a refreshing view of what it really means to be a hero. Visitors will meet different types of Jewish heroes throughout our history including scientists, intellectuals, leaders, revolutionaries, cultural figures, athletes and more – men and women with unique talents. This remarkable and diverse selection represents the heroism of our people through history, while showing that success has many different faces.
	+ Explore the renowned **Tel Aviv Museum**, widely considered to be the most important museum for contemporary art in Israel. Guided by one of the museum curators, we will explore the museum collection and the architecture of its award-winning new wing.
	+ Tel Aviv, Israel’s ‘Capital of Cool’, is also the home of a large, vibrant and colorful LGBTQIA community. Embark on a walking **Rainbow tour** of the White city and discover the secrets of the largest LGBT community in Israel. Walk through all the important ‘*pink points*’ while learning about the events that shape and continue to impact this unique community.
	+ **Surf’s Up!** Spend a fun day relaxing at Tel Aviv’s award-winning **Mediterranean Beach!**
	+ Visit **Sarona,** a newly renovated neighborhood that combines a unique architectural history with a dynamic urban experience. The renewed colony includes an urban park, surrounded by accurately restored original buildings of the initial German Templar settlement which have been transformed into elegant cafes, ritzy restaurants, high-end art galleries and an assortment of specialty shops. At the trendy Sarona Market, have an opportunity to grab lunch from one of the many terrific food stalls featuring the best artisanal culinary selections
	+ On a walking tour, discover the **hidden gems** of Tel Aviv - Stroll through the fashionable and upscale neighborhood **of Neve Tzedek**, the first Jewish neighborhood to be built outside the ancient port of Jaffa (Shomer Shabbat-friendly).
* **Spirit of Shabbat: Participate in a special Jewish study session led by Portland clergy.**
	+ ***For youth:*** Participate in an interactive and fun Israel 101 session, to be led by your **youth counselors**.
* **Havdalah** around the pool at the hotel led by Portland Clergy
* Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.

**Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv**

**Day 4: Sunday, March 22nd - Go North!** Discovering the Galilee & the Golan Heights

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, check-out from your hotel accommodation and board your assigned bus.

**Gems of Tel Aviv: *(each bus will do one activity from the following):***

* + Discover Tel Aviv’s **Independence Trail.** Learn about how **Tel Aviv** became known as the “White City” and a UNESCO World Heritage Site as you explore **Rothschild Boulevard** and the beautiful architecture surrounding you.
	+ Visit the **Yitzhak Rabin Center**, built in a downward spiral and presenting two parallel stories: the history of the State of Israel and the biography of Yitzhak Rabin. The museum's exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country’s development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time.
	+ Explore the **"State of Mind" Israel Innovation Center**. This 'Start-Up Nation' museum highlights Israeli achievements in entrepreneurship, innovation and technology in a variety of sectors including agriculture, medicine, defense, cyber security, science, transportation, aerospace and more.
	+ See a different side of Tel Aviv on a **graffiti tour** through the streets of south Tel Aviv. Learn about the influence that Israel’s social and political voices has on artistic expression by deciphering the incredible graffiti on the walls.
* Depart Tel Aviv and head north along Israel’s coastal highway, travelling adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea.
* Lunch en route.
* **Visit one of the federation-funded programs below:**
	+ **Leket Israel** - Take part in a hands-on volunteering activity – fresh produce packaging at the Leket factory in Raanana.
	+ **House of Wheels** - Take part in a "Rolling Experience" - a group workshop created and delivered by alumni of the Wheelhouse Association, which enables you to experience the world of people with disabilities. The workshop includes a hands-on and meaningful experience in the daily experiences of people with disabilities and gives room for a structured encounter with them. The activity is divided into three parts: Practical experience in the day-to-day life of the disabled person, exposure to alumni personal stories and activity processing. The experience is carried out on a wheelchair and the use of special facilities that simulate everyday life tasks such as: supermarket shopping, bank service, computer work, ATM, shoe tying, zipper shopping and more. In the personal story, the adults reveal their personal inner world as people like everyone else and not just as "disabled".
	+ **Neve Michael Youth Village** – Visit this safe-haven for over 280 needy children at risk (ages 6 to 18 from all over Israel) whose biological parents can no longer care for them. Recognized for its professionalism and effectiveness by the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and Social Services, the program provides sustenance, education, therapy and a warm, caring, family-like environment for children from broken homes who have suffered physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Take a tour of the village, visit "The Portland Petting Zoo" within the Emergency Crisis Center, which provides animal therapy for dozens of severely abused children each year and have the opportunity to have lunch with together with the children of the village.
	+ **IGY (Israel Gay Youth)** - The only nation-wide organization in Israel dedicated to meet the needs of LGBT (Lesbian, Homosexual, Bisexual & Transgender) youth. IGY was founded in 2002 with the aim of creating an equal and Democratic society in Israel, where being different will not be grounds for humiliation and oppression.
	+ **Dror Israel –** 16 Educator’s Kibbutzim and 1500 kibbutz members involved in education run a wide range of both formal and informal educational projects, geared to more than 4,000 youth from all sectors of Israeli society – new immigrants, youth at risk, Jews, Arabs, and Bedouins.
* **Explore the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, Crusader harbor** and 12th-century ramparts at **Caesarea**. Constructed by Herod the Great, this ancient port was one of the most formidable cities in the empire and the capital of the province for nearly 600 years.
* Travel across the northern Galilee region to our Kibbutz hotel accommodations.
* Hotel check-in. Have a chance to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
* **Dinner** at the hotel.
* This evening, gather together for a ***Kibbutz-style ‘kumsitz’*** bonfire

**Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum *AND* Hagoshrim Hotel, Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

**Day 5: Monday, March 23rd -** Discovering the North-Your Way!

* Breakfast at the hotel

***Track One: Israel’s Northern Borders-A Beautiful Home in a Tough Neighborhood***

* Meet with **Col. (Res.) Kobi Marom** and begin the day’s with a visit of **the Metula overview** – a scenic view towards Israel northern city, Metula, Lebanon's Ayun Valley and Mt. Hermon
* Drive to the nearby community of **Sha’ar Yishuv**, and experience a moment of memorial and reflection at the serene Helicopter Memorial, commemorating the tragic loss of 73 IDF soldiers in 1997 when their helicopters, transporting them to combat operations in Lebanon, tragically collided mid-air. Together with Kobi, who was the commander of many of the soldiers, explore the history and heritage of the disaster and its place in the modern Israeli narrative.
* Next, participate in a thrilling **ATV tour** of the **Golan Heights!** Stopping at important locations along the way, learn about the history of Israel's possession of the strategic plateau during the Six Day War and its retention of it during the Yom Kippur War. Hear why, despite efforts to the contrary, the Israeli consensus is to hold on to the region in any future peace accord. Please bring driver's license
* Have **lunch** in a local **Druze Village**. Learn about the intriguing history and heritage of the Druze in this region of the country while enjoying a home hospitality **lunch**.
* Screaming Hill, Syrian border
* Afterwards, travel to **Kibbutz Ein Zivan** and visit the award-winning **Pelter Winery** for a delicious **wine tasting.**
	+ ***For families*:** Visit the adjacent **De Karina Chocolate Factory** and enjoy a chocolate-making workshop.

***All together:***

* This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at formerly an **IDF base "Tsnobar** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired shakshuka, traditional falafel and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines.

***Track Two: Rising from the Battlefield***

* Begin the day at the ancient biblical city of **Tel Dan**. Positioned at what was the northernmost extent of the Kingdom of Israel, Tel Dan will expose us to a pristine display of excavated city walls and buildings, some of which date back to the city's inception during the Bronze Age.
* From the vantagepoint of Tel Dan, look over the border with **Lebanon**. There, **Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman** will brief you on the numerous strategic and geopolitical challenges facing the region. See the nearby divided Shi’ite Muslim village of **Ghajar**, through which the international border passes.
* Next, ascend the **Golan Heights**.
* Drive to nearby Kibbutz Merom Golan for a delicious**picnic**.
* Next, participate in a thrilling **Jeep tour** of the **Golan Heights!** Stopping at important locations along the way, learn about the history of Israel's possession of the strategic plateau during the Six Day War and its retention of it during the Yom Kippur War. Hear why, despite efforts to the contrary, the Israeli consensus is to hold on to the region in any future peace accord.
* Conclude the day at **Park Katzrin Talmudic Village** where you can get a taste of what ancient Jewish life on the Golan Heights was like. Have a chance to don period-era clothing, make olive oil and meet some of the locals!

***All together:***

* This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at formerly an **IDF base "Tsnobar** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired shakshuka, traditional falafel and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines.

***Track Three: Tastes of the Galilee***

* Depart the hotel for an unforgettable day with **Galileat** dedicated to authentic culinary experiences, exclusively designed to show you a side of the Galilee that even many locals don’t know.
* Begin the day at **Ein Camonim’s goat cheese dairy**. Tour the goat herd and production facility, followed by a **cheese tasting**.
* Next, visit the **Jahashan olive press** at Moshav Calanit for a series of **olive oil tastings** and an explanation on the production process.
* Continue to the village of **Deir Hanna** and visit the **El Balad flour mill & bakery**. See how local bulgur wheat is made, flour is milled, and real pita bread is baked (with tastings, of course!).
* Travel to the village of **Salame** and visit the home of **Ziad and Zaada Sueid** for an explanation about local Bedouin traditions and lifestyle followed by an **authentic Bedouin meal**.
* At the nearby community of Lotem, enjoy a tour and tastings at the **Lotem organic winery**, one of only 3 certified organic wineries in Israel (winery – non-kosher).

***All together:***

* This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at formerly an **IDF base "Tsnobar** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired shakshuka, traditional falafel and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines.

**Track Four: Active Outdoor**

* **Hike** around the **Banias**, one of Israel’s most beautiful nature reserves. The Banias spring feeds into the Jordan River, the reserve’s large waterfall tumbles down a 33-foot precipice year-round, a nearby cave houses remains of a temple to the Greek god Pan. In the wars of 1948 and 1967, when the Golan was held by Syria, the site housed a Syrian officers’ club.
* Take a lively **bike ride** along the paths adjacent to the Upper **Jordan River**, as it makes its rolling way south.
* **Enjoy a picnic Falafel lunch**
* At a certain point, transferring our method of transportation, we enjoy a **kayaking adventure** as the river winds its way towards the Sea of Galilee
* Have a chance to refresh and change clothes

***All together:***

* This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at formerly an **IDF base "Tsnobar** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired shakshuka, traditional falafel and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines.

***Track Five: Spiritual Experience***

* After breakfast, have a chance to center yourself and get into the spirit of the day with a special **outdoor meditation activity** at Kfar Blum hotel.  Center on your breath and movement as you enlighten your body, mind, heart, and soul.
* Drive to the mystical city of **Tzfat,** one of the Four Holy Cities according to tradition, and the birthplace of Jewish Mysticism.
* Together with your guide, walk through the city’s narrow, winding alleys. See a selection of its beautiful and historic synagogues, as well as have a chance to browse through some of the many workshops and galleries found in the artists' quarter.
* Lunch en-route
* While in Tzfat, meet with **Rabbi Eyal Reiss**, Director of the International Center for Tzfat Kabbalah for an introduction into the secrets of the Kabbalah **OR** participate in an interactive **‘Sofer STaM’** workshop.  Led by an experienced scribe, learn about the secrets of Jewish numerology and the hidden meaning behind Hebrew letters and texts.

***All together:***

* This evening, participate in a hands-on **culinary workshop & dinner** at formerly an **IDF base "Tsnobar** - featuring a delicious menu of locally-inspired shakshuka, traditional falafel and fresh Galilean salads served alongside a selection of regional wines.

**Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum *AND* Hagoshrim Hotel, Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

**Day 6: Tuesday, March 24th-** Discovering the North-Travelling the Jordan Valley

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, we check-out of our hotel accommodations and depart the region.
* Visit **Agamon HaHula** - Located in Israel's northern 'Galilee panhandle' region, **Agamon HaHula Nature Reserve** is a birdwatcher's paradise. This fertile landscape plays as a way-station and home to a myriad variety of migrating birdsas they make their way from the northern Europe and Asia towards their winter homes in Africa (and vice versa). Experience the sight of literally thousands of different species of birds large and small as we transverse the expanse of the park in a safari wagon with a local naturalist. Learn about the draining projects conducted here by Israel in its early days and their long-term effects on the local and national ecosystem.
* Enjoy a scenic boat ride at the Sea of Galilee
* Have **lunch** at Nof Ginosar hotel
* Proceed to visit a Kibbutz en route, and get an introduction into the unique **Israeli's pioneers settlers' life around the Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee**
	+ **Gesher**
	+ **Ein Gev**
	+ **Dgania Bet**
	+ **Degania Alef**
	+ **Kinneret Courtyard**
* **Beit She'an -** Visit the excavations of the Roman city of [Beit Shean](http://www.parks.org.il/sites/English/ParksAndReserves/betshean/Pages/default.aspx), capital of the Roman Decapolis and largest Roman-era excavations in Israel.
* Drive south through the Jordan Valley, forming Israel’s border with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. En route, discuss the history of this region (both ancient & modern) and the strategic role it plays in efforts to reach a peace agreement. Make our way towards the Dead Sea region.
* Meet up with the remainder of the trip’s participants at an exclusive location located off-the-beaten-path for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza!**

**Day 4: Sunday, March 22nd -** Visions of the Desert - Exploring the Negev

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, check-out from your hotel accommodations and board your assigned bus.

**Gems of Tel Aviv: *(one bus/experience):***

* + Visit the recently renovated **Peres Center for Peace & Innovation.** The new visitors' center and hub presents the extraordinary story of how Israel came to be on the cutting edge of innovation the world over and will inspire and empower visitors to become positive agents of change.
	+ See a different side of Tel Aviv on a **graffiti tour** through the streets of south Tel Aviv. Learn about the influence that Israel’s social and political voices has on artistic expression by deciphering the incredible graffiti on the walls.
* Depart Tel Aviv and drive south.
* Travel to the nearby city of **Rehovot** and visit the historic **Ayalon Institute**, where the Hagana produced munitions in secret under the noses of the British authorities in pre-state Palestine
* **Lunch at Ayalon Institute**
* Visit the Joe Alon Center - the only museum of its kind in the world for the Bedouin culture with a fascinating presentation on the manner in which people have lived along the years in the extreme conditions of the area. **Enjoy an authentic Bedouin welcome in a traditional Bedouin tent, and make a Tabun pitta!**
* **Embark on a "Tracking" workshop –** Explorations are an important part of the traditional Bedouin lifestyle that helps to survive in the wild and include, among other things, being in the field and identifying animals and humans. Like the ancient Bedouin tradition, so is the tracking slowly disappearing from the nature of Bedouin culture**. Here, learn from expert guides about the area, meet plants and look for animal signs along the way, learn how to identify traces and what can be learned from them about who passed through the field and what they did.**
* Travel south into the **Negev Desert** and proceed to our Kibbutz guesthouse accommodation for check-in.
* **Dinner at the hotel**.
* This evening, visit **Kibbutz Gvulot**, located near Israel’s southern borders with neighboring Egypt and the Gaza Strip.
* There, relax at a traditional **Kibbutz Kumsitz** bonfire, featuring music, wine & beer and, of course, **smores!**

**Overnight: Kibbutz Tze’elim Country Lodging**

**Day 5:** **Monday, March 23rd** – Visions of the Desert-Exploring the Negev, Your Way!

* Breakfast at the hotel

***Track One: Geopolitics and Security-The Western Negev***

* After breakfast, travel to the **"Otef Azza"** (Gaza Perimeter) region.  This area has been uniquely affected by the Hamas terror organization and government in the Gaza Strip; its residents often suffering from incoming rocket fire launched from Gaza into Israel.
* At the **Kerem Shalom** border crossing, see many of the hundreds of trucks which carry aid and supplies and which travel through Israel to the Hamas-controlled Gaza territory daily.
* Stop at **Kibbutz Nir Am**, where the first terror tunnel was discovered and destroyed in the July '14 war. At the **Assaf Sibony memorial**, view the northern Gaza Strip (visit subject to security conditions). Receive a briefing from **Col. (Res.) Grisha Yakubovich**, former Head of the Civilian Department in the IDF’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories unit. Col. Yakubovich led strategic dialogue between the international community, Israel and the Palestinian Authority on economics, infrastructure and foreign affairs.
* Lunch en route.
* Visit the **Yitzhak Shavit Sha’ar Hanegev School**, fortified to stand up to the threat of incoming rockets and mortars. Located on the outskirts of Sderot, this special school provides a safe and supportive environment for local youth to study in peace and security on a site which is often targeted for attacks by Palestinian militant factions in the Gaza Strip. While there, meet with teachers and students to hear about how the complex and challenging regional security realities impact their daily routine (subject to availability).
* Conclude the day with avisit to **Netiv Ha'Asara**. Tour this special moshav, located on the southern border with Gaza, and learn about the community’s drive to continue to seek for peace with their neighbors despite, and in the face of the frequent missile and mortar attacks directed at it by Hamas in Gaza. See the moshav’s border wall which has been transformed into a wall of peace with unique ceramics, as well as engage in an open conversation with local residents about the challenges and benefits of life in the region.

***All together:***

* At the hotel, have a chance to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
* This evening at Kibbutz Gvulot, experience ***Pioneers in the Negev****-*a unique, interactive and unforgettable reenactment of the frontier Kibbutz’s 1943 establishment. During the experience, participants will partake in preparing the **evening meal** and will take part in a fun and creative drama activity whereby they reenact the living conditions and challenges of the era), followed by an Israeli and folk song & dance session!

***Track Two: The Great Outdoors***

* Traverse the sands of the Negev desert south as you travel to the development town of **Mitzpe Ramon**, located on the edge of the **Ramon Crater** (Machtesh Ramon).
* **Rappel** down the face of the crater!
* Afterwards, board **off-road vehicles** to explore the area on a **4X4 excursion.** Have a chance to discover and learn about the intense geological forces which created it, as well as its natural environment, unique Israeli history, and the direction of its future.
* **Picnic lunch**.
* This afternoon, hike to the ancient **Nabatean city** & fortress of **Avdat**. See firsthand how this unique and vanished civilization once flourished amongst the most difficult conditions of the desert and see evidence of their once vibrant wine industry by viewing their ancient wine press.

***All together:***

* At the hotel, have a chance to rest, relax and prepare for the evening.
* This evening at Kibbutz Gvulot, experience ***Pioneers in the Negev****-*a unique, interactive and unforgettable reenactment of the frontier Kibbutz’s 1943 establishment. During the experience, participants will partake in preparing the **evening meal** and will take part in a fun and creative drama activity whereby they reenact the living conditions and challenges of the era), followed by an Israeli and folk song & dance session!

**Overnight: Kibbutz Tze’elim Country Lodging**

**Day 6: Tuesday, March 24th -** Visions of the Dead Sea

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, check-out from your Kibbutz accommodations and travel across the Negev towards the **Dead Sea region**.
* Next, ascend cable car to **Masada**. Tour the remains of King Herod's desert retreat and fortress, whose condition is so well preserved by the arid conditions of the Judean Desert. Learn about the history of this fascinating place, a symbol of the ancient sovereignty of the Kingdom of Israel. Hear about the tale of its violent destruction and as the last stand of Jewish patriots in the face of the Roman legion. Additionally, explore the motif of collective memory in the Zionist epic as we discuss the notion of Masada as an ethos to the Zionist narrative and its place in Israeli society and collective identity.
* Stop at **Crowne Plaza Dead Sea hotel** for an opportunity to swim and 'float' on the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on the surface of the Earth. Lunch on-site.
* **Visit AHAVA Visitor Center**
* Meet up with the remainder of the trip’s participants at an exclusive location located off-the-beaten-path for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza!**

**All Together:**

* Both tracks to meet up at an exclusive and off-the-beaten-path location for an amazing **Desert Extravaganza** event. Come together as a community for an early evening of celebration of our time in Israel with the very best the desert can offer.
* Travel to **Jerusalem** for hotel check-in.

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 7: Wednesday, March 25th** - Jerusalem’s Old City

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, depart hotel and drive to Haas Promenade for a short **Shehechiyanu** ceremony, and recite the blessing expressing our gratitude upon reaching Jerusalem.
* Spend the day exploring the **Old City of Jerusalem**.  Stroll along the timeless stone streets of the **Jewish Quarter**, which has had a continuous Jewish presence for over 3,000 years.
* Go to the **Kotel-the Western Wall**, the ancient retaining wall of the 2nd Temple which stood on the Temple Mount (the holiest site in the world for the Jewish people) and a centerpiece for Jewish prayer and longing since biblical times.  Here you will have an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection at this monumental site.
* **Lunch on own in the Old City**
* During the day, each bus will have the chance to visit The City of David:
	+ **Biblical tour of the City of David** - Journey through the underground tunnels through which the city was conquered and residents fled. Go down to the hidden spring where kings were coronated. Explore the underground mysteries of Hezekiah’s Tunnel, where water has flowed since the time of the prophets. Join the mysterious, magical journey between ancient shafts, walls and fortresses at the City of David, the place where Jerusalem began.
* Return to the hotel.
* Dinner on own.
* ***This evening, in order to participate in one of the following optional night activities, please sign up at the hospitality desk in advance:*** *(limited spots, choose one per person):*
	+ ***8:20/8:40/9:00/9:20pm -*** Explore the famous **Western Wall Tunnels**, as they stretch under the homes of the Muslim Quarter and make their way along the entirety of the length of the Temple Mount.
	+ **8:30pm** - Experience some of Jerusalem’s best nightlife at the **Machane Yehuda market**.

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 8: Thursday, March 26th -** Jerusalem, Your Way!

* Breakfast at the hotel
* After breakfast, divide up into separate touring tracks for the day and depart the hotel.

***Track 1: Jewish Identity & Pluralism:***

* Meet with **Dana Sharon** - a prominent feminist and religious activist in Jerusalem, she is the Social media manager at the Israel Religious Action Center, Board member at Women of the Wall and a rabbinic student at the Israeli at Jerusalem HUC.
* Visit the **Max Rayne Hand in Hand School** in Jerusalem. Opened in 1998, the student body is religiously and ethnically diverse-Arab Christian, Muslim, Armenian Christian, Druze, Mizrahi Jewish, Ashkenazi and Ethiopian Jews
* Go for a **culinary tour** of Jerusalem’s ultra-orthodox neighborhood of **Mea Shearim**.
* Conclude with a visit to the **Israel Goldstein Youth Village** - a stepping-stone to a better life for thousands of teens aged 12-18. Located in Jerusalem, the Village currently houses over 300 intermediate school and high school students, as well as 200 external students.

***Track 2: Security & Settlements:***

* Go for a **Jerusalem Seam Line** tour with **Col. (Res.) Dr. Dani Tirza**. Col. Tirza is the General Manager of "Yozmot” - Consultation, Management & Guidance Company. During his long military career (1977-2007) he was in charge of planning the security infrastructure and participating in the thinking teams at the Prime Minister’s Office, the National Security Council and the Control Terrorism Bureau, where he participated in the Israeli delegations to the Peace Negotiations with the Palestinians as the expert of territorial issues and mapping. Travel south of Jerusalem to the **Gush Etzion** settlement bloc.
* **Lunch** at the **Gush Etzion Winery** & meet with **Mayor Oded Revivi**. From his perspective, learn about the rationale and meaning of the settlement movement and the challenges it faces. Tour the community**.**
* This afternoon, visit **Roots.** Meet with locals, both **Israelis and Palestinians** living in the West Bank who struggle to carry on as normal a life as possible despite the separation fences and roadblocks, working together at promoting peaceful dialogue and co-existence.

***Track 3: The Road to Jerusalem:***

* Depart the hotel and travel outside of the city limits to the **Jerusalem Forest.**
* Begin the day ascending the **Castel Fortress,** the site of a pivotal battle to free Jerusalem prior to the Hagana's triumphant entrance to the besieged city during Israel's War of Independence. During the short hike, stop at several ‘stations’ along the way which delve into some of the more critical aspects of the battle and events of the period.
* Located in thefoothills of the Judean Mountains, take a short **hike** along the path of the **‘Burma Road’**. Joined by **Joe Perlov,** discuss some of the more challenging aspects of Israel's creation and the effects of the 1948 War of Independence on the region’s Arab villages which once were and are no more. Together, discuss the ways in which this complex and nuanced topic resonates on modern Jewish and Israeli identity.
* Have **lunch** at **Shvilim**.
* Visit the **Latrun Fortress**. Once a British police station and military fort, its strategic location on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway was once a thorn in the side of the IDF, as it remained in Arab hands until conquest in the Six-Day War. Today, it is home to **Yad Lashiriyon**, the IDF Armored Corps official museum and memorial featuring the world's largest collection of vintage and modern armored military equipment such as tanks and armored personnel carriers

***Track 4: Digging the Past-Planting the Future:***

* Depart Jerusalem and travel to the **Ella Valley.**
* **Dig for a Day!** Relive history by spending some time at **Beit Guvrin/Maresha**,an active archeological dig**.** After a short introduction on the history and development of the site, descend into the dig itself and take your turn at sifting through layers of history and examining your finds.
* Have **lunch** at **Shvilim**.
* Visit **Neot Kedumim**.  Specially designed to preserve the conditions of life in the Land of Israel as they existed during Biblical times, Neot Kedumim simulates how the inhabitants of Israel lived their daily lives.  While here, perform the mitzvah of settling the Land of Israel by **planting trees.**

***Track 5: The Palestinian Authority*:**

* **After breakfast, meet Rami Nazzal,** a Palestinian-American Journalist, who is a resident of East Jerusalem. He has worked as a journalist for TIME Magazine since 2010.

**Drive north to the Qalandiya checkpoint** and cross to enter the Palestinian Territories.  Proceed along the separation barrior on the Palestinian side to visit Al-Ram and Dahayit Al-Barid. Learn about the impact the wall has on the local residents and nearby areas. Continue back to the checkpoint on the Palestinian side to observe the procedures of the borders leading in and out of the West Bank.

* **In Ramallah,** get a panoramic driving tour of the city.
* Next, meet with **Dr. Khalil Shikaki** for a discussion and overview of Palestinian politics.  Dr. Shikaki is a professor of political science and director of the Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research, a non-profit independent Palestinian institution and think tank of policy analysis and academic research (subject to availability).
* Lunch en route
* Later this afternoon, visit the new Palestinian city of **Rawabi**, a $1 billion planned community and the first of its kind in Palestine. Tour the amphitheater, the parks, sample units and meet with the project’s visionary developer and renowned Palestinian business leader **Bashar Masri** to learn about the challenges and successes of creating change on the ground in the region (subject to availability).

***Track 6: Jerusalem-Capital of Israel:***

* **Walk through Israel’s largest military cemetery, Mount Herzl.** Reflect on the visible testament of the personal sacrifice of thousands of Israelis towards the continued existence, security, and safety not only of Israel, but of Jews around the world.
* Visit the **Knesset-**Israel's House of Parliament. Receive an overview into the unique coalition system of representative democratic government which facilitates Israeli democracy, and how it enables a delicate balance of often opposed interests which relate to Israel's many sectors and their politics. While there, **meet with MK Michael Biton**, from the Blue and White party, and delve in-depth into some of the most current issues facing the parliamentary body (subject to availability).
* Have **lunch** in the **Knesset Cafeteria**.
* The **Supreme Court of Israel** is the highest court in the land. It has ultimate appellate jurisdiction over all other courts and, in some cases, original jurisdiction. Tour the Supreme Court of Israel. Meet with a legal aid/ a Supreme Court Justice (subject to availability) and learn about Israel's unique legal heritage and judicial system based on elements of Jewish, Ottoman, British, and American law.
* Back at the hotel, meet with **Professor Reuven Hazan**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Department of Political Science. Professor Hazan will explain the complexities of Israeli politics and the differences and similarities with the US system of government.

***Track 7: Mitzvah Track:***

* After breakfast, depart the hotel and head to the **Old City**.
* Gather together for a special **B’nai Mitzvah ceremony** at the Western Wall. Special ceremony locations will be provided to correspond to Orthodox and Pluralistic streams.
* Visit **Neot Kedumim**.  Specially designed to preserve the conditions of life in the Land of Israel as they existed during Biblical times, Neot Kedumim simulates how the inhabitants of Israel lived their daily lives.  While here, perform the mitzvah of settling the Land of Israel by planting trees.
* Lunch at **Neot Kedumim**
* Later, drive to the historic **Nachlaot neighborhood** and partake in an exciting and interactive **Scavenger Hunt**.  Nachlaot is one of Jerusalem’s best kept secrets, and on this tour game, you will discover this colorful, surprising and eclectic neighborhood. Get to know the pioneers of the early Jerusalem neighborhood, make your way through alleys and you will peek into the Machane Yehuda market – all this while engaging with the unique Nachlaot vibe.
* Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.
* ***This evening, in order to participate in one of the following optional night activities, please sign up at the hospitality desk in advance:*** *(limited spots, choose one per person):*
	+ ***8:40/9:00/9:20/9:40pm -*** Explore the famous **Western Wall Tunnels**, as they stretch under the homes of the Muslim Quarter and make their way along the entirety of the length of the Temple Mount.
	+ **7:30pm** - Experience the breathtaking digital choreography of the **Night Spectacular** sound & light show at the **Tower of David Museum**, located in the Old City.

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel**

**Day 9: Friday, March 27th -** Reflections of Collective Memory/Erev Shabbat

* Breakfast at the hotel

***For Adults:***

* Meet with **Dr. Rachel Korazim**, Holocaust lecturer and educator, to explore the special and sometimes ambivalent relationship between Israelis and the Shoah from her perspective as a scholar and daughter of survivors**.**
* Depart the hotel and visit **Yad Vashem**, considered the foremost memorial to mankind’s darkest period and Israel's official memorial and historical museum to the victims of the Shoah.
* **Tour the museum -** Docents will lead special tours for first-time visitors and for returning visitors. Visit the award-winning Art Museum and other parts of the complex.
* Conclude the visit with a moving **memorial ceremony** accompanied by a cantor and with words from mission leaders, Rabbis and select mission participants (Subject to availability).

***Youth 11 and Under:***

* **Youth Counselors Program for Youth & Teens –** preparing packages for lone soldiers
* Visit the **Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**. With a local zoologist guide, see animals from aroundthe world both big and small, as well as be introduced to the many varieties of animals which call the Land of Israel their home.

***All Together:***

* Light lunch & group reflection sessions
* Have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to rest, relax and prepare for Shabbat.
* Candle Lighting at the hotel (optional)
* Experience a community-wide **Kabbalat Shabbat** with ***Yonina*** at the **Davidson Center’s Southern Steps**, set against the impressive and timeless backdrop of the Temple Mount.
* Free time for reflection at the **Western Wall**.
* Return to the hotel for **Shabbat Dinner**.

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel**

**Day 10: Saturday, March 28th -** Shabbat in Jerusalem/Departure

* Experience the atmosphere of Shabbat in Jerusalem. For those interested in attending **Shabbat morning services** at nearby area synagogues, a list will be provided.

**Special touring options include:**

* ***For ‘Go North’ track participants only:*** Tour **Masada, as well as Lunch & Swim at the Dead Sea (lunch en-route)**
* View the Four Quarters of the Old City from above as you experience a **Ramparts Walk tour** along the top of the actual walls of the Old City.
* Experience the sites of the **Christian Quarter**. Walk through several of the Stations of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa**, and conclude inside the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, held by believers to be the site of Jesus's execution and burial. Receive interesting insights into the status of Israel's multi-ethnic Christian community and the issues of identity it faces as a small minority living in a Jewish state with a sizable Muslim minority.
* Visit the **Israel Museum**. The Museum houses encyclopedic collections, including works dating from prehistoric times to today. The Jewish Art and Life wings feature the most extensive holdings of biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world.
* **Mountain Biking** in the Jerusalem forest at **Aminadav forest**.

**For trip participants, who did not choose the Masada & Dead Sea track, lunch will be served at Beit Shmuel (Blaustein Hall).**

***All together:***

* Return to hotel to pack and prepare for the return journey to Portland.
* **6:00pm** - Late hotel check-out.
* As Shabbat concludes, gather as a community to express thanks for this special time and experience together. A beautiful **Havdalah**and **closing program at the Waldorf Astoria hotel*.***
* Group transfers to Ben Gurion international airport for the return flight home.
* *Jordan-Extension group – please be ready to depart the David Citadel hotel at 7:00am on March 29th, after breakfast, check-out and luggage drop-off at the hospitality desk at the hotel (Bus departs by 7:30am).*