



Newhouse | Syracuse
University



COVERING ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Newhouse School of
Public Communications
at Syracuse University

ISRAEL • 10 - 20.03.2018



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Israel and to the Jerusalem Press Club. We are committed to give you an extraordinary experience, both on a professional and a personal level.

While JPC is mainly focused on working with foreign journalists based in and visiting Israel, we are interested in addition in the future generation of journalists. Therefore, we have developed a special program for journalism students and their faculty, who are interested in learning first-hand about the complexities of covering the Middle East and Israel. Students of journalism schools have visited us in the past, and the current program was enriched by the lessons and insights gained from previous programs.

I would like to thank our colleagues from the Newhouse school, Joel Kaplan and Simon Perez, for an outstanding collaboration. We are grateful to the Crown Family Philanthropies for the generous grant which has made this program possible. Many thanks to my colleagues at JPC who have worked tirelessly to coordinate this program.

With a hearty welcome,

Uri Dromi

Director General
The Jerusalem Press Club



The Jerusalem Press Club (JPC)

The Jerusalem Press Club is a unique press hub located in the heart of Jerusalem, where journalists and professionals gather to meet, network, and dine with local and international thinkers, leaders and prominent pace-setters. JPC members include journalists, diplomats, NGOs, businessmen and business women, as well as journalism and communication students. All members enjoy the benefits of networking with each other, working and dining on its veranda with breath-taking views of the Old City of Jerusalem as well as access to all the club's facilities and perks. The club is the ideal spot for media professionals in Israel, seeking inspiration for a story and the exchange of ideas.

www.jerusalemclub.com

www.jerusalemclub.com



Day 0 // Mar. 10, 2018 Saturday

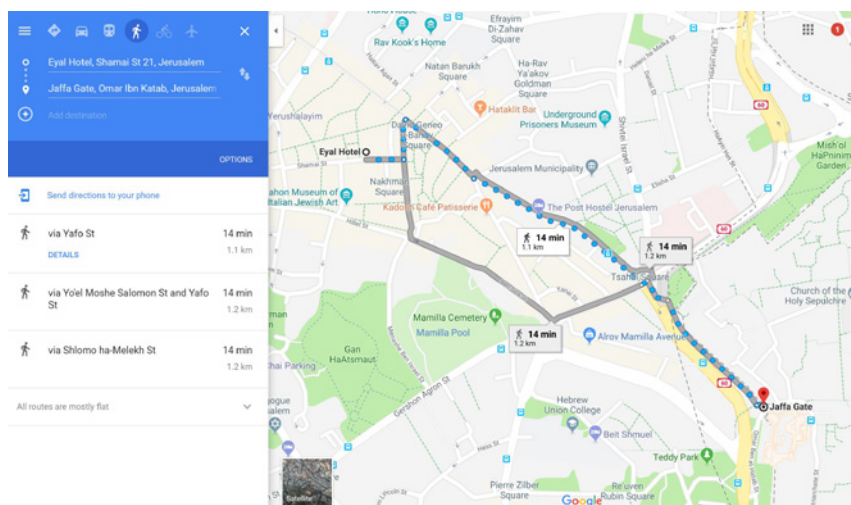
STAYING AT EYAL HOTEL, JERUSALEM

23:30 Landing at Ben Gurion airport – TK790

01:00 Check in Eyal hotel in Jerusalem

Day 1 // Mar. 11, 2018 Sunday

STAYING AT EYAL HOTEL, JERUSALEM



10:00-10:30 Opening talk at the hotel

10:30-11:15 Israel 101

11:30-17:30 Old City Tour – Guided by Maayan Leshem from West Jerusalem & Ibrahim Ghazzawi from East Jerusalem: Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem includes a visit to the main sites sanctified by the three monotheistic religions. During this tour, we will dig deep into the narratives and traditions of the three religions and understand the complexity of the city

***Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes. We will be entering holy sites so please dress appropriately (no shorts; sleeves or a shall to cover your shoulders)**

17:30-17:45 Drive back to the hotel

17:45 Early light dinner at the hotel and free night

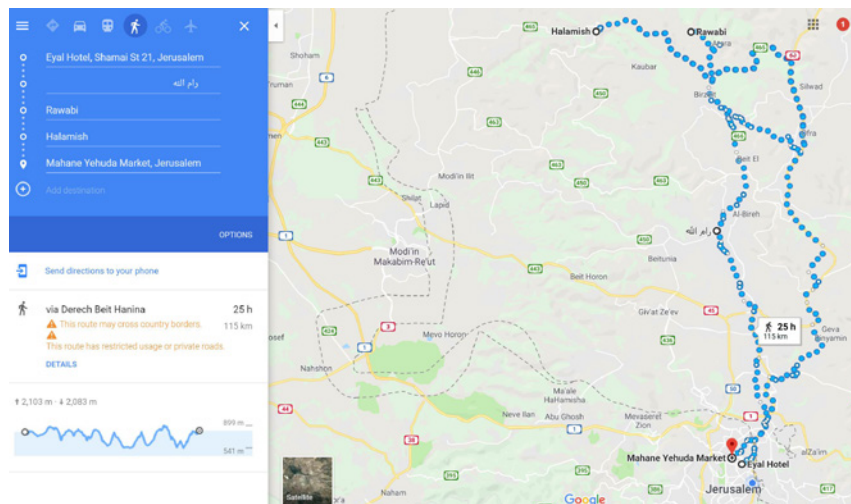
Maayan Leshem is an Israeli tour guide of Anglo-Saxon origin who resides in Jerusalem with his wife and three children. He visited every single continent the world has to offer by the age of twenty-three! (Except Antarctica that is...). Maayan testifies that he is "deeply in love with the land of Israel, its views, people, history and stories. Travelling in Israel with tourists is for me a fusion of points of view coming together and creating a unique experience every time."

// maayanlesh@gmail.com

The Old City of Jerusalem - A walled area within the modern city of Jerusalem originally built by King David in 1004 BCE. Until 1860, when the Jewish neighborhood, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, was established, this area constituted the entire city of Jerusalem. The Old City is home to several sites of key religious importance: The Temple Mount and its Western Wall for Jews, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Christians, and the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims. The old city of Jerusalem was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site List in 1981.

Day 2 // Mar. 12, 2018 Monday

STAYING AT EYAL HOTEL, JERUSALEM



The day will be guided by Maayan Leshem, an Israeli tour guide and Ibrahim Ghazzawi, a Palestinian tour guide.

08:00-09:00 Driving to Ramallah

09:00-10:00 Meeting with Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

10:00-11:30 Meeting Dr. Ziad Darwish, director of the committee for interaction with the Israeli society

11:30-13:00 Free time and lunch in Ramallah

13:00-13:30 Driving to Rawabi, The first planned Palestinian city

13:30-14:15 Tour of Rawabi

14:15-14:45 Driving to the settlement of Halamish

14:45-16:00 Tour of Jewish settlement of Halamish

***Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes**

16:00-17:00 Drive back to the hotel in Jerusalem

20:30-23:00 Nightlife tour of Mahne Yehuda market, including dinner

***Dress code: Casual**

Ramallah is a Palestinian city in the central West Bank, located north of Jerusalem. It currently serves as the de facto administrative capital of the Palestinian Authority. With a population of some 30,000, Ramallah was historically a Christian town, but today Muslims form the majority of the population, with Christians still making up a significant minority.

Dr. Khalil Shekaki - A Professor of Political Science and Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Research, Dr. Shekaki has been a senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University since 2005. His research focuses on the peace process, transitioning towards democracy, public opinions of the Palestinian and Israeli populations, and on the impact of Palestinian domestic policy on the peace process. As part of his research he has conducted over 200 polls of the Palestinian communities in the West Bank, and since 2000 has conducted dozens of joint polls as well with the Israeli and Palestinian communities.

Rawabi – The first Palestinian planned city, is a two-fold, bold initiative: it serves as a new population center for Palestinians, and as a courageous economic initiative that will contribute to permanent new job generation and sustainable long-term growth for the Palestinian economy. The new city integrates urban master planning, sustainable environmental policy, regionally-suited architecture and state-of-the-art infrastructure for residents, entrepreneurs and visitors.

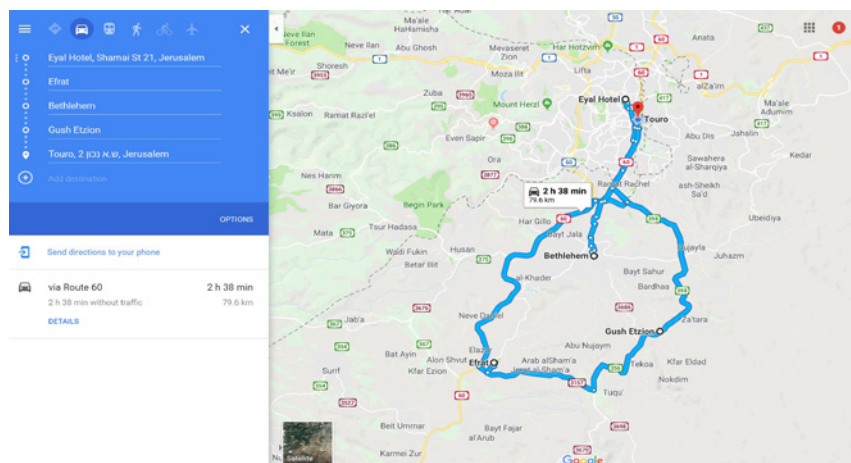
Binyamin region - The region is named after the tribe of Benjamin and corresponds to the territory settled by the tribe in Biblical times. During Biblical times, the mountains of Judea and Samaria were the heart of Jewish life. The region flourished in the Kingdom of Israel, and many Jewish villages and towns were established there during the Greek period. The Crusaders fortified many towns, the ruins of which were later used as foundations for Arab villages. During the Ottoman period, the population in the area diminished. Archeological sites relating to Jewish history can be found everywhere, as well as many archeological findings such as mosaics, ancient wine cellars, and olive presses. Today, the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council is one of the largest regional councils in Israel, with 44 communities and a population of over 60,000. The council was established in May 1979, although the first communities in the region were established between 1975 and 1977.

Mahane Yehuda Market - World-famous icons of Jerusalem include the Western Wall, the Tower of David and the Mahane Yehuda market. The Western Wall and the Tower of David represent the religious, historical nature of Jerusalem, the place from which the Jewish People developed. Mahane Yehuda Market, on the other hand, represents the contemporary—and the future—heart of Jerusalem. Built in 1928, the market integrates, in a unique way, the old and the new. Both a bustling marketplace and a neighborhood, it incorporates food, drink, shopping, bars and restaurants. The shuk (market) still retains its most important characteristics: it remains authentic, with all the flavors and aromas, the colors and the traders' interaction with the crowds. The Mahane Yehuda Market is widely recognized as a symbol of Jerusalem. Jerusalemites see it as a place that represents them, symbolizes them, and gives them a unique identity in a larger Israeli social context. It is nicknamed "MahneYuda," which is also the name of one of the finest Israeli restaurants located in the market.

// www.en.machne.co.il

Day 3// Mar. 13, 2018 Tuesday

STAYING AT EYAL HOTEL, JERUSALEM



08:00-09:00 Driving to the settlement Efrat

09:00-10:00 Visiting Efrat and meeting the Mayor, Oded Revivi

10:00-11:00 Driving to Bethlehem

11:00-14:30 Guided tour of Bethlehem by Nathan Landau and a local Palestinian tour guide, including lunch and free time

14:30-15:00 Driving to Roots

15:00-16:30 Visiting Roots – A local meeting place for Palestinians and settlers

16:30-17:30 Group processing

17:30-18:30 Drive back to Jerusalem

***Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes**

20:00 Leaving for a special dinner with representatives of the foreign press at the Jerusalem Press Club's Touro Restaurant

***Dress code: Business casual**

Nathan Landau is an Israeli tour guide who was born in 1985 in Jerusalem for a liberal religious home. After his army service he traveled for several months backpacking through Central Asia before returning home and taking up studies in history and geography at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. As a result of his experiences in the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Nathan became actively involved in “Combatants for Peace”, a joint Israeli-Palestinian movement trying to bridge the gap between Arabs and Jews – so far rather unsuccessfully...

Gush Etzion - The name “Gush Etzion” (literal translation “Etzion Bloc”) refers to the group of settlements located to the south of Jerusalem, between Bethlehem and the present-day settlement of Kfar Etzion. Populated in 1927, the bloc’s Jewish communities had to abandon their homes during the 1948 War, yet following the 1967 War several Jewish communities were re-established throughout the region. There are 12 settlements in what is commonly known as the Gush Etzion Bloc: Efrat, Har Gilo, Neve Daniel, Keidar, Rosh Tzurim, El’azar, Migdal Oz, Alon Shvut, Kfar Etzion, Bat Ayin, Gva’ot, and Beitar Illit. According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, there are around 41,000 settlers living in the 12 settlements of the Gush Etzion bloc, and approximately 3,300 more settlers living in the other six settlements of the Gush Etzion regional council. The Palestinian population of the Gush Etzion bloc itself is 18,651 people, living in five villages. The Palestinian population of the larger area that includes all the settlements of the Gush Etzion Regional Council is around 230,000, and includes the large urban areas of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour, as well as many villages and two refugee camps.

Bethlehem is a Palestinian city located in the central West Bank, south of Jerusalem. Its population is approximately 25,000 people and its economy is primarily tourist-driven. The earliest known mention of the city was in the Amarna correspondence of 1350–1330 BCE. The Old Testament states that the city of Bethlehem was built up as a fortified city by King Rehoboam, and identified it as the city where David was born and crowned as the King of Israel. The New Testament identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus. Bethlehem was destroyed by the Emperor Hadrian during the second-century. Its rebuilding was promoted by Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who commissioned the building of its great Church of the Nativity in 327 CE. Bethlehem came under Jordanian rule during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and was later conquered by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Since 1995 Oslo Accords, Bethlehem has been administered by the Palestinian Authority.

The Roots Project - Roots offers a paradigm shift, changing people and transforming the relationship between the sides. The project provides space for understanding, where hate and suspicion are challenged and enemy is transformed into neighbor and partner. At Roots, despair and fear are transformed into hope and collaboration.

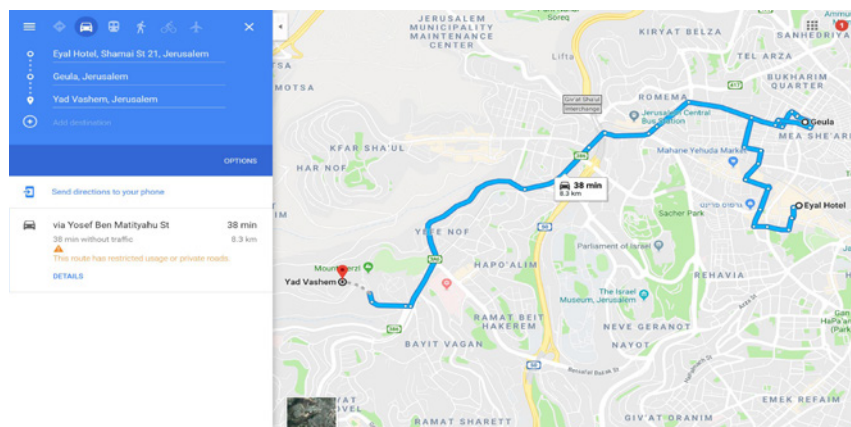
// www.friendsofroots.net

Touro Restaurant is a Kosher chef restaurant, located in the Jerusalem Press Club (JPC). It has been serving members of JPC and the general public since the launch of the JPC in 2013. The restaurant is named after Judah Touro, the American Jewish businessman who gave Sir Moses Montefiore the money to build Mishkenot Sha'ananim in Jerusalem. The restaurant combines a rich menu, amicable atmosphere, and spectacular view of the walls of the Old City. It is the perfect place for an unforgettable Jerusalemite culinary experience.



Day 4 // Mar. 13, 2018 Wednesday

STAYING AT EYAL HOTEL, JERUSALEM



08:00-10:30 “Haredim Mibifnim” - Introduction to the Ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem, and the relations between the Orthodox community in Israel and the Jewish Diaspora

***Dress code: Modest. Women: Long sleeves, dresses. Men: Long pants**

10:30-11:00 Driving to Yad Vashem

11:00-13:00 Guided tour of Yad VaShem, Holocaust Museum

13:00 Driving back to the hotel and free half day for reporting

19:00 Free time + dinner at your leisure

“Haredim Mibifnim” (The Ultra-Orthodox from Within) – The Haredi community consists of around a million people who form, in a way, a state within the state of Israel. On the one hand - raising invisible walls, culturally and physically. On the other hand - deeply involved in the public life of Israel. The Haredi society is diverse, and consists of many inner communities.

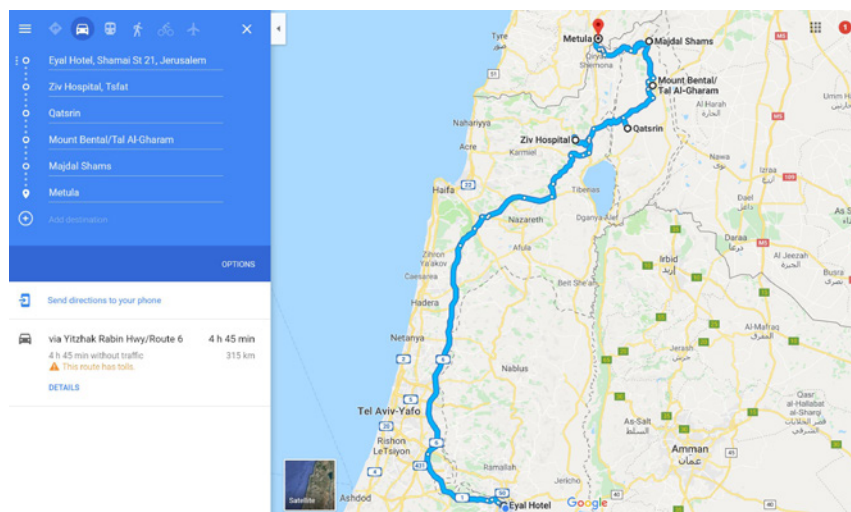
// ohadshpak@gmail.com

Yad Vashem - As the Jewish people's memorial to the Holocaust, Yad Vashem safeguards the memory of the past and imparts its meaning for future generations. Established in 1953, as the world center for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem is today a dynamic and vital place of intergenerational and international encounters. For over half a century, Yad Vashem has been committed to four pillars of remembrance: Commemoration, Documentation, Research and Education. Yad Vashem includes the Holocaust History Museum, the Art Museum, the International School for Holocaust Studies, the International Institute for Holocaust Research, the digital collection and more.

// www.yadvashem.org

Day 5 // Mar. 15, 2018 Thursday

STAYING AT METAYLIM HOTEL, METULA



- 07:00** Check out
- 07:15-10:00** Driving to the northern region of Israel
- 10:00-12:00** Visiting Ziv hospital center in Tsfat - In the last few years Israel has been treating thousands of Syrian refugees who need medical treatment. During our visit, we will meet the medical team who treat the Syrian refugees and perhaps the refugees themselves
- 12:00-12:30** Driving to Katzrin in the Golan Heights
- 12:30-13:30** Lunch in Katzrin
- 13:30-14:00** Driving to Mount Bental
- 14:00-15:30** Mount Bental, overlooking Syria. Historical briefing and current events in Syria
- 15:30-16:00** Driving to Majdal Shams, a Druze village in the Golan Heights

16:00-16:45 Meeting Majdi, young local from Majdal Shams and some of his friends. He will tell us about the complexities of being a Druze whose parents are Syrians, living under Israeli sovereignty

16:45-18:00 Early dinner and home hospitality at a Druze family in Majdal Shams

18:00-19:00 Driving to Metula

19:00 Staying at Metaylim hotel in Metula

***Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes**

Ziv Hospital - A medical center in the northern Israeli town of Safed/Tsfat that has been quietly treating Syrian refugees. As of April 2017, they have treated 3,000 patients, always completely free of charge, and had delivered 19 Syrian babies, as well as sending Syrians back into Syria with medication. The word that Israel can help the wounded is slowly spreading throughout the community of Syrian citizens, some of whom were quoted anonymously in the press (The Independent, for example) as saying that they no longer see Israel as an enemy.

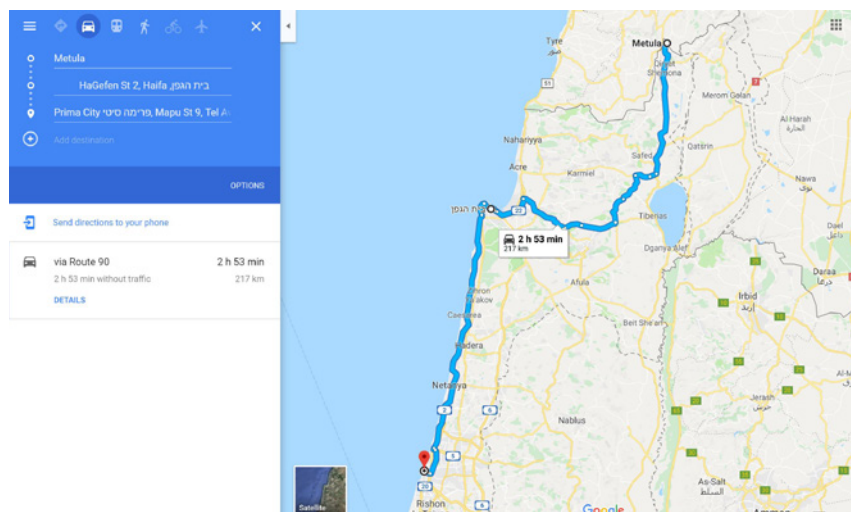
Mount Bental, which has a great panoramic view of the Golan Heights and part of Syria, was the site of a fierce battle during the Yom Kippur War (1973). A short drive up, the mountain-top provides both scenic beauty and a glimpse back to the past – with bunkers open to visitors. Mount Bental is located in the middle of the Golan Heights, towards the Syrian border. The old army bunkers are open to the public, most of them have been completely cleared out apart from old beds and batteries which can still be seen, and bumped into if you walk without the aid of a flashlight. In a small room within the bunker, maps and signs on the wall tell the tale of the battle. In 1973, in the battlefield below, 160 Israeli tanks repelled the attacking Syrian forces, totaling 1,500 tanks and 1,000 artillery pieces. When the guns fell silent, only 7 Israeli tanks were operational. Today, in commemoration of that bloody battle, the battlefield below is called Emek HaBacha, the Valley of Tears.

Majdal Shams is a Druze village in the southern foothills of Mt. Hermon, north of the Golan Heights. The majority of residents are of Syrian-Druze origin. Since June 1967, when the Six-Day War took place, the village has been under Israeli control, first under martial law, and then under Israeli civil law since the adoption of the 1981 Golan Heights Law. The village was then incorporated into the Israeli system of local councils. The name Majdal Shams is of Aramaic origin, meaning "tower of sun," possibly in reference to the town's elevation.

Druze - Small Middle Eastern religious sect, originating in Egypt, and characterized by an eclectic system of doctrines and by a cohesion and loyalty among its members that have enabled them to maintain for centuries their close-knit identity and distinctive faith. The Druze number more than 1,000,000 in the early 21st century and live mostly in Lebanon, with smaller communities in Israel, Syria, Jordan, and abroad. Despite the small size of their community, the Druze have figured prominently in Middle Eastern history. During the Crusades, Druze soldiers aided the Ayyubid and later Mamluk forces by resisting Crusader advances at the Lebanese coast. The Druze enjoyed considerable autonomy under the Ottoman Empire and often rebelled against it, protected from direct Ottoman control by the mountainous terrain of their homelands. In the 20th and 21st centuries the Druze in Lebanon have mostly been represented in national politics by two families, the Jumblatt and the Arslan. The Druze permit no conversion, either away from or to their religion. Marriage outside the Druze faith is rare and is strongly discouraged. Many Druze religious practices are kept secret, even from the community as a whole. Only an elite of initiates participate fully in the religious services and have access to the secret teachings of the scriptures.

Day 6 // Mar. 16 2018 Friday

STAYING AT PRIMA CITY HOTEL, TEL AVIV



- 08:00** Check out
- 08:00-08:30** Driving to meet local from Misgav Am, a kibbutz bordering with the northern border
- 08:30-09:45** Meeting with resident of Misgav Am who will share his personal story of living on the border with Lebanon
- 09:45-11:30** Driving to Haifa: A city that is an example of coexistence between Arabs and Jews in Israel
- 11:30-14:00** Visiting 'Beit Hagefen', local initiative which focus on Israeli-Arab coexistence, including local lunch
- 14:00-16:00** Driving to Tel Aviv
- 16:00** Check in – Prima City Tel Aviv hotel

19:45-20:00 Driving to Shabbat dinner

20:00-23:00 Home hospitality: Shabbat Dinner at the home of an Israeli family in Tel Aviv

***Dress code: Business casual, even a bit on the dressy side**

Kibbutz Misgav-Am was founded on November 2nd, 1945, (on the anniversary of the 1917 Balfour Declaration), and it was on this day that a group of youngsters from the Palmach climbed from Kibbutz Kfar Giladi to the very top of the Naphtali mountain, to establish Misgav-Am. The kibbutz is situated on the north-west side of the Naftali mountain range in the Upper Galilee, 841m above sea level. On the north side is Lebanon and to the east are the Hula Valley and Mount Hermon. The kibbutz owns land both in the valley and in the mountain areas.

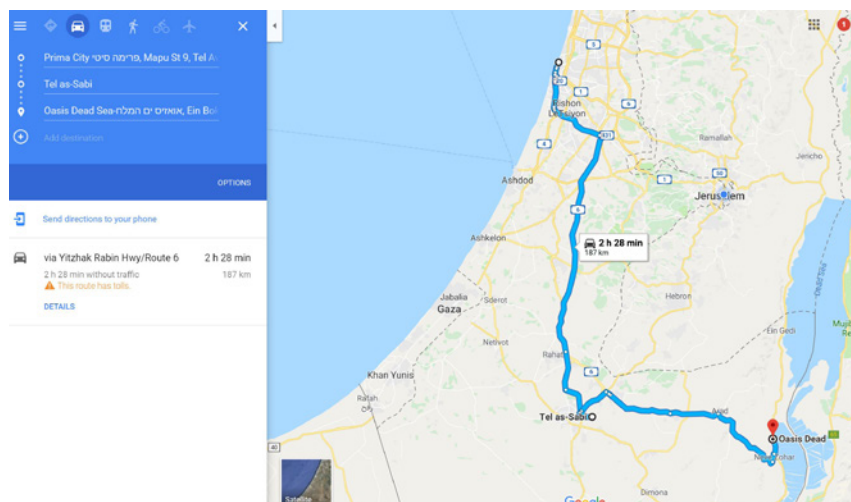
Beit Hagefen ("Vine's house"), an Arab-Jewish center founded in 1963 as a pioneer in the field of intercultural dialogue, is a nonprofit organization that strives to establish equalitarian and shared spaces that contain the diversity of identities and cultures in Israel and worldwide. The center is a key player in instilling the intercultural attitude and constructing a shared society and leads social and community centered processes in the spirit of democratic values, while providing tools for dealing with the complex issues inherent to a society comprised of many cultures. Beit HaGefen is active in the fields of culture, art, education, and tourism, while maintaining a connection with the community and constantly expanding the circles of collaborations with institutions that strive to promote similar goals in Israel and worldwide.

Tel-Aviv - The city was founded in 1909 by Jewish immigrants, on the outskirts of the ancient port city of Jaffa. Today, Tel-Aviv is a major city in Israel, the second-most populous city after Jerusalem. Situated on the Mediterranean coastline in central-west Israel, Tel Aviv has a population of 426,138 within city limits. The city is the focal point of the larger Tel Aviv Metropolitan Area, which contains over 3.7 million residents, 42% of the country's population. Tel Aviv is governed by the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality, headed by Mayor Ron Huldai, and is home to many foreign embassies. Tel Aviv's White City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the world's largest concentration of buildings with international architectural styles (Bauhaus and other related modernist architectural styles). Tel Aviv is a global city, and is ranked the twenty-fifth most important financial center in the world. Tel Aviv has the third-largest economy of any city in the Middle East and is nicknamed "The City that Never Sleeps" and "Party Capital", for its lively nightlife, dynamic atmosphere and its famous 24-hour culture.

Shabbat - Judaism's day of rest and the seventh day of the week, in which religious Jews remember the Biblical creation of the heavens and the earth in six days. According to the Halakha (Jewish religious law), Shabbat is observed from a few minutes before sunset on Friday evening until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night, due to the fact that the Hebrew calendar is lunar and therefore the day begins at night. Shabbat is ceremoniously ushered in by lighting candles and reciting a blessing. Traditionally, three festive meals are served: in the evening, in the morning, and late in the afternoon. The evening meal typically begins with a blessing called "Kiddush" (which literally means blessing) and another blessing recited over two loaves of challah (representing the beginning of a feast). Shabbat comes to a close the following evening with a Havdalah blessing (which distinct between the holy day and the weekday). Shabbat is a festive day when Jews release themselves from regular labors of everyday life. It offers an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual aspects of life and to spend time with family.

Day 7 // Mar. 17, 2018 Saturday

STAYING AT OASIS HOTEL, DEAD SEA



- 14:00** Check out
- 14:00-16:45** Free time and lunch at your leisure
- 16:45-18:30** Driving from Tel Aviv south, to the Bedouin city of Tel Sheva, one of the seven Bedouin cities in the Negev
- 18:30-19:15** Home hospitality and a personal story from Suheila abu Rkeek, our host. This is a story of female empowerment in a conservative community, about modern life being imposed onto the Bedouins, and about the complicated relationship between the Bedouin community and the Israeli authorities
- 19:15-20:30** Bedouin dinner
- *Dress code: Casual and a bit modest**
- 20:30-21:30** Driving to the Dead Sea
- 21:30** Staying at Oasis Hotel, Dead Sea

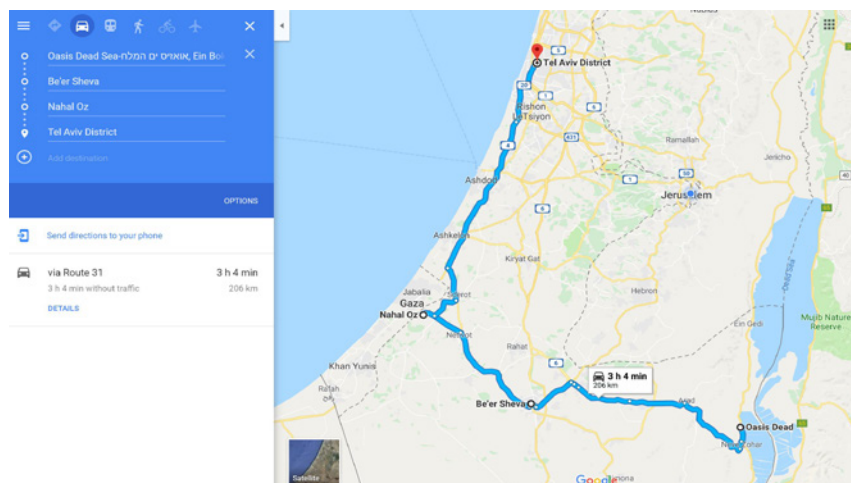
Negev - The Negev, which extends over Israel's southern region, accounts for over half of Israel's land area. Due to its desert character; however, this region is sparsely populated. Various groups of people have lived in the Negev since the dawn of history: Nomads, Canaanites, Philistines, Edomites, Byzantines, Nabateans, Ottomans, and of course Israelis. Their economy was based mainly on sheep herding and agriculture, and later on trade as well.

Bedouin are a tribe of Arab ethnic groups, nomadic peoples of the Middle Eastern deserts, especially of North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan. The term contrasts against 'Hathar' (حضر) which refers to the city or town dwellers in the Arabic language. Bedouin means "Badiyah dwellers" in the Arabic language, as 'Badyah' means literally the visible land (the desert). Bedouin territory stretches from the vast deserts of North Africa to the rocky sands of the Middle East. They are traditionally divided into Tribes or clans, and share a common culture of herding camels and goats. The Bedouin population in the Negev numbers 200,000-210,000. A little over half of them live in seven government-built Bedouin-only towns; the remaining 90,000 live in 46 villages – 35 of which are unrecognized and 11 of which were officially recognized 10 years ago.

Tel Sheva (Tel as-Sabi, in Arabic) is a Bedouin town in the Southern District of Israel, bordering with the city of Be'er Sheva. In 2015, it had a population of 18,671. Tel as-Sabi was founded in 1967 as part of a government project to settle Bedouins in permanent settlements, and it is the first Bedouin town in Israel.

Day 8 // Mar. 18, 2018 Sunday

STAYING AT PRIMA CITY HOTEL, TEL AVIV



07:30-09:30 Free time at the Dead Sea

09:30 Check out

09:30-11:00 Driving to the city of Be'er Sheva

11:00-12:30 Visiting High-tech company in Be'er Sheva

12:30-13:15 Lunch

13:15-14:00 Driving to Jewish villages bordering Gaza Strip

14:00-16:00 Tour of Sderot and Kibbutz Nahal Oz by Sharon Shelly, who will tell her personal story of living on the border with Gaza

16:00-18:00 Driving to Prima Tel Aviv hotel

19:30 Free evening and dinner at your leisure

***Dress code: Casual, comfortable shoes**

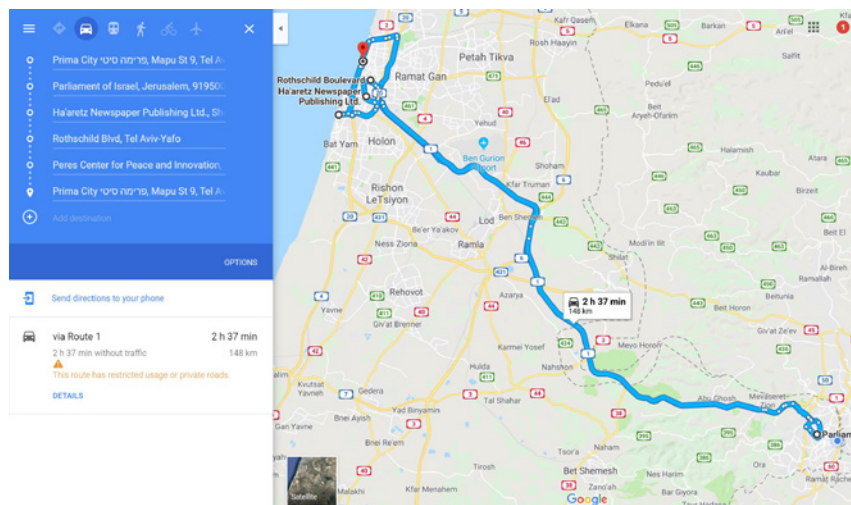
The Dead Sea is a Salt Lake bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the west. Its surface and shores are 429 meters (1,407 ft) below sea level, the world's lowest point on land. The Dead Sea is 304 m (997 ft) deep, the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. With 34.2% salinity (in 2011), it is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean, and one of the world's saltiest bodies of water. This salinity makes for a harsh environment in which plants and animals cannot flourish, hence its name. The Dead Sea is 50 kilometers (31 mi) long and 15 kilometers (9 mi) wide at its widest point. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley and its main tributary is the Jordan River.

Be'er Sheva, or Beersheba, is the capital of the Negev and is home to some 185,000 Israelis of various ethnic and religious backgrounds. The city is named after the covenant ("sheva") that took place between Abraham and Abimelech near the former's well ("be'er"). Be'er Sheva is located at the intersection of two ancient important international road junctions: The "Way of the Sea" (Via Maris) which extended along the shoreline in the west, and the King's Highway (the Valley Route) in the east. Consequently, the city is mentioned throughout biblical times as a wayside station, as a resting spot, as a border point and as a ritual center.

The Gaza Strip, or simply Gaza, is a small self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea that borders Egypt on the southwest for 11 kilometers (6.8 mi) and Israel on the east and north along a 51 km (32 mi) border. Gaza, together with the West Bank, comprise the Palestinian territories claimed by the Palestinians as the State of Palestine. Both Gaza and the West Bank fall under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, but Gaza has since June 2007 been governed by Hamas, a terror organization. In 2005 Israel withdrew from Gaza and evacuated 8,000 Israelis who had lived in the settlements called Gush Katif, located in Gaza. Since 2008 there have been several military operations between Israel and the Hamas terrorist organization. The most recent operation took place in summer 2014 and was called in Israel "Protective Edge".

Day 9 // Mar. 19, 2018 Monday

STAYING AT PRIMA CITY HOTEL, TEL AVIV



- 08:00-09:45** Driving to the Knesset, Israeli Parliament
- 10:00-12:00** Guided tour of the Knesset, meeting different Knesset members from the coalition and the opposition
- 12:00-13:00** Driving back to Tel Aviv
- 13:00-14:00** Lunch
- 14:00-15:00** Meeting with Aluf Benn, Editor in chief, Haaretz
- 15:00-15:15** Driving to meet Yonatan Conricus
- 15:15-16:30** Meeting Yonatan Conricus, IDF spokesperson for the foreign press
- 16:30-17:00** Driving to meet Nadav Tamir
- 17:00-18:15** Meeting Nadav Tamir, an Israeli diplomat who was one of Shimon Peres's close advisers
- 18:15-18:30** Driving back to the hotel

18:30-20:00 Rest at the hotel

20:00 Meeting at the lobby and driving to a closing dinner in center Tel Aviv

20:15 Closing dinner in center Tel Aviv

***Dress code: Casual**

The Knesset - The House of Representatives (the parliament) of the State of Israel, in which the full range of current opinions are represented. Within the framework of the Israeli democratic system, the Knesset is the legislative branch, with the exclusive authority to enact laws. The Knesset also serves in a constituent assembly role as Israel does not yet have a complete written constitution. Once all the basic laws are passed in the Knesset, they will together constitute the state's constitution. In addition, the Knesset supervises the work of the Government through its committees and the work of the plenum, and has several quasi-judicial functions.

// www.knesset.gov.il

Aluf Benn is the Editor-in-Chief of Haaretz Newspaper. He has followed the country's leadership, foreign policy, and national security, covering six prime ministers from Yitzhak Rabin through Benjamin Netanyahu's second term, and has reported on Israeli-Arab wars and peace efforts since the Oslo Accords in 1993. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Foreign Affairs, and Newsweek, and he is a regular contributor to The Guardian. Benn holds an MBA degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and a degree from Tel Aviv University.

// aluf@haaretz.co.il

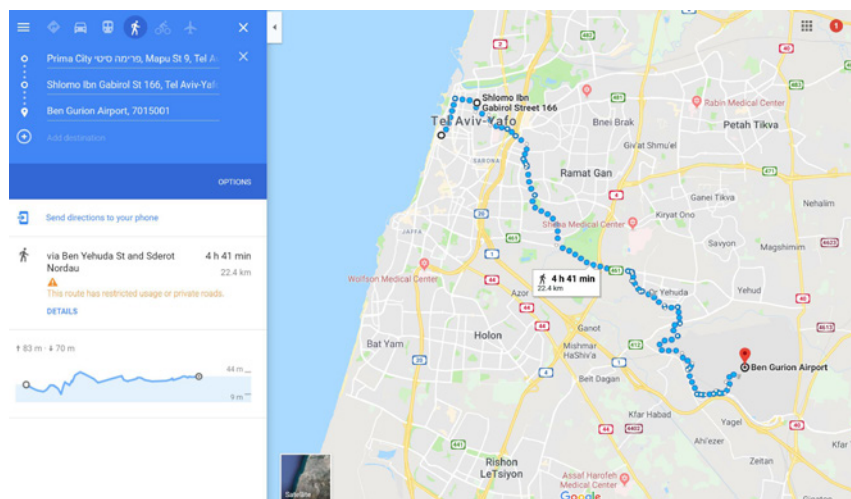
The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was officially established on May 31, 1948, shortly after the founding of the State of Israel. The IDF incorporated pre-state Jewish paramilitary organizations, including the Haganah, Palmach, Irgun and Lehi. The IDF consists of the Ground Forces, Airforce, and the Navy. The IDF is commanded by its Chief of the General Staff, and is subordinated to the Defense Minister of Israel. Lt. General (Rav Aluf) Gadi Eizenkot has been serving as the Chief of the General Staff since 2015.

// <https://www.idfblog.com/>

Nadav Tamir is currently Director of International Policy and Government Affairs at Peres & Associates Global Advisory Ltd. and Senior Advisor for International and Governmental Relations at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. Nadav served as the Senior Policy Adviser to the President of Israel during the last 3 years of the presidency of Shimon Peres. Nadav returned to Israel in 2010 after serving as the Consul General of Israel to New England at the Consulate General of Israel in Boston for four years. He then served at the Policy Planning unit of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs until July 2011 when he joined the President's Office.

Day 10 // Mar. 20, 2018 Tuesday

LAST DAY



- 08:30** Check out and putting the bags in storage room
- 09:40** Driving to Walla News media outlet
- 10:00-11:00** Optional - Tour of "Walla news" and meeting with Jacob Eilon, senior anchor and editor
- 11:00-19:00** Free day for reporting
- 19:00-20:00** Feedback session at the hotel
- 20:00** Departure to Ben Gurion airport

Jacob Eilon is an Israeli television presenter and journalist. Alongside Miki Haimovich, he was the anchor of Channel 2 and Channel 10 news. He is now anchor and editor at Walla! News. In 1993, Eilon became the first news anchor on Channel 2. In 1995, he was among the people who covered the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

General information

Jerusalem - Eyal Hotel, 21 Shamai St.

Metula – Metaylim Hotel, 52 Harishonim St.

Tel Aviv - Prima City Hotel, 9 Mapu Street

Dead Sea – Oasis Hotel, Ein Bokek

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ISRAEL MAP

