



VIP Israel – Chabad Tour

Sunday, July 10, 2011 - Thursday, July 21, 2011

1

Sunday, July 10, 2011

Departure

- Departure to Israel!
- Ready Set Go!
- Can you feel the Spirit?
- Flight info: _____

2

Monday, July 11, 2011 (VIP & Transfer)

Welcome

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- Touchdown at **Ben Gurion International Airport**.
- **Before clearing passport control** a VIPISRAEL representative will be waiting to welcome you at the door of your plane as you exit the plane. You will be transported quickly through the airport, pass immigration at the flight crew counter where passport control is efficiently expedited and continue to facilitate luggage identification and handling; & escort you through customs.
- Packed Lunchbox.
- Drive North along Route 6.
- Stop for a welcome dinner at the picturesque **Sheinfeld's** restaurant, in **Kfar Vradim**.
- **Arrive in Tzfat &** check into hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Tzfat, Rimonim

3

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Tzfat

- After breakfast, we start our **VIP Israel experience** by boarding **jeeps** up to the observation point on **Mount Bental**; an abandoned Israeli bunker overlooking the entire **Golan Heights**. From here you can see the past the mountains of the **Galilee** and **Lebanon**, and eastward into Syria.
- Visit **Mount Meron**, the second highest mountain in Israel and largest nature reserve in the Galilee. Hike to the peak for an amazing view. This mountain is also the resting place of **Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai**, author of the Zohar, a fundamental kabbalistic work
- On **Mount Canaan**, overlooking scenic **Tzfat**, visit the exciting new visitors' center – **Otzar HaStam**. The center, the only one of its kind in the world, opens a window to the fascinating world of "**Stam**" – the ancient art and tradition of the Jewish Scribes, writing Sifrei Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzot
- Next stop, **Tzfat**, where you will visit its restored Old City including the artists' colony. **Tzfat** has much to offer in the way of art galleries, gift-shops and restaurants found tucked away amongst the winding, cobblestone streets and be brave enough to take a dip in the famous **Mikveh of the Ari z"l** in the mystical city. See the **unique synagogues** such as the Ari Sephardi, Ari Ashkenazi, Ari Beit Midrash, Caro Synagogue, Abuhav synagogue (built in 1490) and many more.
- **Enjoy Dinner, and evening of events** led by your guide & Rabbi at Ascent of Tzfat with **Live Klezmer Music & entertainment**.

OVERNIGHT: Tzfat, Rimonim

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Wednesday, July 13, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Golan

- After breakfast have the very special privilege of being guests of an **Armored Brigade** at their **IDF base**.
- Drive to a **shooting range**, a place where some of the secret forces of Israel are trained and we will practice shooting from an automatic **Uzi gun**, an **AK47 (Kalashnikov)**. This is an exclusive and amazing experience.
- Ascend the new cable cars up the mountain towards **Kibbutz Manara**, the northern most Kibbutz in Israel. Halfway up the mountain stop to be adventurous as we try our hand at Cliff Rappelling, mountain biking among other activities.
- Lunch (On Own).
- Go **Kayaking or Rafting** down the Jordan River. *Remember to bring a change of clothing!*
- Visit and enjoy a **Wine Tasting** at the **Dalton Winery**. Located in the Upper Galilee, 5 km from the Lebanese border, this winery currently makes 800,000 bottles annually.
- Enjoy a **sunset cruise** on the Kinneret followed by **dinner** at **Deck's Restaurant** in Tiberius.

OVERNIGHT: Tzfat, Rimonim

- After Breakfast, checkout of hotel.
- Our first stop: **Rosh Hanikrah**, the northernmost point on the Mediterranean shore of Israel, where a chalk mountain range meets the sea. Ride from the mountain top down to sea level via **cable car** to explore the Grotto's formed over thousands of years-truly a wonder of creation.
- Next, the beautiful coast scene awaits us at the **Ahziv National Park**:: a rocky embayed coast; lagoons; deep natural seawater pools; manmade seawater pools; the remnants of an ancient settlement; and large, grassy lawns. In short, **Ahziv** offers everything required for an enjoyable and relaxing summer's day. **Ahziv National Park** contains the ruins from the ancient city of **Ahziv**, a Jewish settlement discussed in the Mishna and Talmud. During early times, the purple dye produced from snails collected along the **Ahziv** coast was an important source of income for the residents.
- Lunch (On Own).
- Arrive in the beautiful harbor city of **Haifa** – The capital of the north and one of **Israel's** main commercial ports. **Haifa** is also proud to be the heart of much of **Israel's** high technology research and industry. Visit **Elija's Cave** at the **Carmel**, sacred for all local religions, Jewish, Muslim, Christian & Druze. The walls of the cave are filled with ancient graffiti, including some created by Roman soldiers. Many pilgrims attribute healing powers to the area. (TP).
- Visit the **Haifa Naval Museum**, which is devoted to the Clandestine Immigration and to the history of the Israeli navy. The ship Af-Al-Pi, which ran the British blockade during the Mandatory period, is on display.
- Ascend to **Jerusalem**, check into the hotel and allow some time to freshen up and relax before dinner.
- Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

- After breakfast, depart in an armored vehicle and stop for *Tehillim* and supplication at the very special site of **Rachel's Tomb**.
- Learn about the history of the struggle for **Gush Eztion** in a moving multimedia sound a light presentation at **Kfar Etzion**.
- Onto the holy city of **Chevron**, visit *Ma'arat Hamachpela* where our patriarchs and matriarchs are buried: Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov and their wives. Tradition also holds this to be the burial place of 'Adam & Eve.' Meet some of the very special families who live in this special neighborhood & **Rabbi Danni Cohen** the Chabad Rabbi of Chevron.
- Let's get ready to get down and dirty as we are going to bake fresh **Challah** from scratch for the soldiers protecting our holy city.
- Return to **Jerusalem** and enjoy a walk & test your "Israeli bargaining skills" at the **Machne Yehuda Shuk (open market)**.

Towards evening.....WELCOME SHABBAT AT THE KOTEL (WESTERN WALL)

- As the sun sets preparations will be made for welcoming the **Shabbat**
- Upon reaching the steps leading down to the **Kotel**, look around and notice people from all corners of the world converging together with one purpose in mind; to welcome the **Shabbat** at the holiest place on earth. Singing & dancing with true spirit.
- Enjoy **Shabbat Dinner & Chassidic Farbrengen at the Tzemach Tzedek Shul in Jerusalem's Old City**; an exclusive VIP experience.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

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Saturday, July 16, 2011 (Walking Tour)

Shabbat Shalom

- After a light breakfast, walk to the **Mayanot Shul** for davening or to a synagogue of your choice.
- Return to your hotel for a **Chabad spirited Shabbat lunch, L'Chaim!**
- Enjoy a guided **Shabbat afternoon walking tour** in local neighborhoods of **Meah Shearim, Nachlaot, Rechavia, Yemin Moshe, The German Colony** to see **Jerusalem's** oldest & most unique neighborhoods.
- As **Shabbat** expires, participate in a moving **Havdallah** service with your Rabbi in the hotel
- After Shabbat, enjoy shopping and dinner at **Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda outdoor mall**, where the young Jerusalem comes to life.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza



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Sunday, July 17, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Dead Sea

- After breakfast, depart to the **Dead Sea** region, traveling south through the Judean Wilderness.
- Arrive at **Masada** - Ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car, or for the more daring, ascend the snake path just as the Jews did thousands of years ago. Explore the ancient remains of the fortifications, **King Herod's** palace, storerooms and baths.
- Next, **drive Dune Buggies deep into the Judean Desert!**
- Enjoy **packed lunchbox**.
- Take in the beauty of the natural **Ein Gedi Waterfall**; take a light hike along a waterfall oasis, whose beauty exudes vibrant hues of green, red, blue and yellow, a small slice of heaven. The oldest ruins found in Ein Gedi are from the fourth millennium BCE, when people in Eretz Israel first began to use copper. During the Byzantine period, the Jewish residents of the area built an **ornate synagogue here in Ein Gedi** (weather permitting).
- Continue along **the Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth, and a rich source of minerals for export. **Take a swim or 'float'** & let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else but the sea all around you!
- Toward the afternoon, visit **'Eretz Beresheit' / Genesis Land**; to enjoy **camel tour & traditional desert dinner**.
- Return to **Jerusalem** and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.
- You may like to visit the **Alrov Mamilla Avenue shopping mall** with over 140 businesses, including international names like Rolex, MAC, H. Stern, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nautica, bebe, and Tommy Hilfiger, as well as local chains like Castro, Ronen Chen, Steimatzky Books, and Cafe Rimon. The mall is also slated to house an IMAX theatre. The first Gap store in Israel opened in Fall 2009 in the mall.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

- After breakfast, walk through Jerusalem with the families of **Ateret Kohanim** and learn what they are doing to regain Jewish properties that were lost. Visit the houses that were repurchased and gain an understanding of the difficulties that the residents face daily.
- Tour the amazing **City of King David**. Begin with a breathtaking observation overlooking Biblical Jerusalem and observe 3,800 years of history dating back in time to the days of Abraham, when the first foundations of the city were laid. The journey quickly heads underground to some of the **newest archaeological excavations** at the site. Here, while exploring the recently excavated fortresses and passageways, you will **relive King David's conquest of the Jebusite city** as described in the 2nd Book of Samuel.
- Descend to tour the archaeological discoveries excavated in the **Western Wall Tunnels**. Inside, a most interesting model shows the different dwelling periods and history of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Stand on the site believed to be the nearest spot to the "Holy of Holies". (Pending availability)
- Take a Guided tour of the **Jewish Quarter** that was reconstructed after the city was unified at the conclusion of the Six-Day War in 1967. A special point of interest in the restored **Jewish Quarter** is the "*Cardo*", meaning the "*heart*" of this ancient Byzantine City. View the unearthed main Roman thoroughfare and ancient marketplace lined with columns. Nearby see the **Four Sephardic synagogues** founded in 1588, the oldest of of the four known as the "**Eliyahu HaNavi Synagogue**"- supposedly, according to tradition, Eliyahu the Prophet appeared during Yom Kippur to be the 10th member of a minyan. Ever since a chair has been reserved specifically for his next appearance.
- Next view the excavated ruins of a "**Burnt House,**" home to Kathros, High Priest mentioned in the Talmud from the Second Temple period. These burned ruins remained undisturbed until they were uncovered in the 1970's.
- **Jerusalem is full of amazing shops, cafes & boutiques** and local artists display their work throughout the city, take some time to explore Jerusalem or relax at your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

- After breakfast, (Fast Day)

Adults:

- Visit the new **Yad Vashem Museum**, which was completed in the spring of 2005, a memorial to the six million innocent victims of the Holocaust. Located on **Har Hazikaron**, the Mount of Remembrance, in Jerusalem, **Yad Vashem** is a vast, sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials. (Children under 10 years of age not permitted entrance).

Children:

- Head to **Ein Yael Living Museum**, an outdoor museum where visitors learn about ancient handicrafts. Just outside Jerusalem's Old City are the beautiful remains of a Roman villa in an archaeological complex dating back to the 2nd century.

Together:

- Visit the famous and remarkable **Israel Museum** to visit **The Shrine of the Book**, where you will be able to view the **Dead Sea Scrolls** housed in a specially built structure - an architectural masterpiece. Also on the museum grounds is a **huge outdoor model of Jerusalem** during the second temple period, you don't want to miss this.
- Learn about the Heroism of the 1967 battle for Jerusalem at the **Ammunition Hill**, once a Jordanian army camp, which in the time of the six day war in 1967 became a symbol to the bravery of the Israeli soldiers in the battle for Jerusalem.
- Enjoy break-fast dinner at Red Heifer, with guest speaker **Yoram Ettinger** who is a consultant on US-Israel relations as well as the Chairman of Special Projects at the **Ariel Center for Policy Research**. Formerly the Minister for Congressional Affairs to Israel's Embassy in Washington, DC, **Ettinger** also served as Consul General of Israel to the Southwestern US. He is a former editor of **Contemporary Mideast Backgrounder**, and is the author of the **Jerusalem Cloakroom** series of reports which is featured on the **ACPR** website.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

- After breakfast, drive to **Cholon** and visit the **Children's Museum** and experience how it would feel to be blind for a short period and gain an appreciation for G-D's great gift of seeing.
- Visit the spectacular "**Palmach Museum**". Through a modern multi-media presentation, view the history of the **Palmach** from 1941 to the **War of Independence** and the establishment of the **State of Israel**.
- Familiarize yourselves and test drive with all aspects of the **Better Place** solution: a fully **electric, battery-powered car**; a comprehensive infrastructure that includes charge spots and a battery switch station; and a comprehensive suite of in-car services designed to provide drivers with the best possible EV driving experience.
- Ascend the **highest observatory in the Middle East** (located on the 49th floor of the Round Building at **Azrieli Center**), it's possible to see the coastline that stretches from Ashkelon in the south, to Chadera in the north.
- Visit **Kfar Chabad** and enjoy the special Chabad atmosphere. Be inspired by the Israeli **replica of "770"**. Explore the "**Etrog Orchards**" see how we figured out how to overprice a fruit. Meet with **Rabbi Menachem Kutner** for briefing on **Chabad Terror Victim's Project**.
- Return to Jerusalem and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.
- Dinner (On Own)

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Leonardo Plaza

- After breakfast, spend some last moments supporting the Israeli economy by shopping for last minute gifts etc.
- Checkout of hotel.
- Visit the **Archeological Seminar's "Dig for a Day"** program at **Beit Guvrin**, uncover actual artifacts as you participate in an ongoing archeological dig at **Tel Maresha**, ancestral home of King Herod. Vast underground labyrinths of man-made rooms are being systematically cleaned and give evidence of underground industrial complexes dating from the Hellenistic period. Remains of olive oil production, weaving installations, water cisterns and baths confirm a high level of material culture.
- Next, the **Science Garden** at the **Weizmann Institute in Rehovot**. Walking around this outdoor “museum”, no one whispers and tiptoes, and no one is expected to! The green lawns of the **Clare Garden of Science** are filled with exhibits large and small. The carefully built displays have been designed by **Weizmann Institute** scientists to demonstrate the laws of physics, solar energy, water power and other natural phenomena that we take for granted every day. Not only that, but people of all ages are invited to "please touch" the durable **hands-on exhibits** – twisting, pushing, bouncing and piecing them together. In most cases, the exhibit comes alive when a person becomes a part of it (TP).
- Onto the **Ayalon Institute Museum**, situated north of the city of **Rehovot**. This was the first clandestine bullet production factory operated by members of the **Hatzofim Aleph**, **Palmach**, and **Habonim** pioneer groups during the British Mandate rule. After viewing an audio-visual presentation we will discover the secret entrance to the underground bullet factory, which was so successfully disguised from the British!
- Stroll through the **Old Jaffa port** that was the most important port at the ancient times. Through this port the cedars from Lebanon were imported in order to build Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, where fishing boats still depart and return daily with the fresh ‘catch of the day’. Visit the artist colony and the **galleries of old Jaffa**.
- Enjoy farewell **dinner** and political update from **Jerusalem Post newspaper Chief Political Correspondent Mr. Gil Hoffman** for an update on the state of Israel and a Q & A session. (TBD)

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for the departure flight home where you will be met by a VIPISRAEL representative will be waiting to assist you in your temporary departure from Israel.

Begin planning your next VIPIsrael experience!