


# program\*

\* whatcha gonna do.

Program dated: May 8, 2018



## PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

### 2018 CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL

**Track II – BNEI MITZVAH (3 buses)**

**December 22-31, 2018**



**Day One: Saturday, December 22, 2018**

#### **DEPARTURE**

- Group flights:
  - 9:00 p.m. Depart from Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) on El Al flight #026 arriving to Ben Gurion International Airport at 2:20pm on December 23.
  - 11:50 p.m. Depart from John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) on El Al flight #008 arriving to Ben Gurion International Airport at 5:10pm on December 23.

Overnight: Flight

**Day Two: Sunday, December 23, 2018**

#### **WELCOME TO ISRAEL**



- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Group transfers to the city of **Tel Aviv**, known as the “city that never sleeps,” with its centres of culture, recreation and national history, and great beaches.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Welcome dinner** at **Riverside**, a unique events venue built like an upside-down rowing-boat, with an elliptical wooden patio overlooking the Yarkon river.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv



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Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

**OLD NEW LAND**

- *Optional Minyan.*



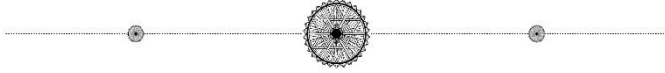
## PAS EVENT

# WELCOME TO ISRAEL @ 70!

Begin the trip together as a community with a special

## ISRAELI BREAKFAST EVENT

with opening remarks and greetings from your **Rabbis** and **trip leaders**.



- Check out of the hotel.
- **Old New Land:** Stop at the **Jaffa Overlook** for an introduction to Tel Aviv – and to our journey in Israel; walk down through the renovated alleyways to the port of Jaffa.
- Depart Tel Aviv and drive north along the Coastal Plain; lunch on your own en route.
- Guided visit to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities in the Roman Period. Visit the Herodian Theater and excavations along the Mediterranean shore, concluding with the interactive audio-visual program, *The Stars of Caesarea*, located in the ruined 900-year-old Crusader town.
- Drive to the **Upper Galilee** and check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.
- *Pending confirmation:* **Basketball camp** led by **Tamir Goodman**, a former professional basketball player who has become a successful entrepreneur, coach, educator, and motivational speaker.

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum, Upper Galilee



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Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

## NATURE AND SECURITY IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Take a **Jeep tour** off-road up the **Golan Heights** in the footsteps of Israeli soldiers and their battles in the Six-Day War. Enjoy the beautiful natural scenery and gain an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- *Pending confirmation:* Visit an **army base** for a dialogue with officers and soldiers.
- **Israel's Border with Syria:** Cross the Golan plateau to the border with Syria, and a view of the abandoned city of Kuneitra and the nearby United Nations outpost, for an insight on Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights**, and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- Lunch on your own.
- **Afternoon options in Katzrin, the 'Capital of the Golan':**
  - VIP visit to the award-winning **Golan Heights Winery**, located in Katzrin, which launched its first wines in 1984 and has since become world renowned; wine tasting is included.
  - Visit the **Golan Magic**, watch an exceptional movie which depicts the Golan Heights in a spectacular multi-sensual display spread on Israel's only 180 degrees screen, and an exact model of the Golan Heights, the largest in the country, accompanied by an audiovisual show, telling its story.
  - Visit the **Katzrin Talmudic Village** and explore its archaeological remains, including the partially reconstructed synagogue and homes from a thriving ancient Jewish community.
  - Visit the **Katzrin Olive-Oil Press** for a glimpse into the world of olive oil and its role in the story of the Land of Israel.

### All:

- Return to the kibbutz hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

### **Evening programs at Kibbutz Kfar Blum (together with track 3):**

- **Celebrating Israel on Your Feet:** Dance to Israeli classics and modern hits in an Israeli Dance workshop.
- **The Balance of Power on Israel's Northern Border:** Dialogue with a **high ranking IDF officer.**



Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum, Upper Galilee



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Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

## A MOSAIC OF ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Optional Minyan.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out.

### **Track 1:**

- **PAS DOES TIKKUN OLAM:** Hands-on experience with **Leket**, a volunteer organization that provides food for the needy by collecting excess produce from farms and food distribution companies.
- *Time permitting:* Visit **Beit She'arim**, site of an 1,800-year-old Jewish necropolis and the graves of some of the most important codifiers of Jewish tradition declared a UNESCO site.
- Visit a **Druze village** in the Carmel Mountains for a window into the unique world of the Israeli Druze community, including **lunch at a Druze home**.

### **Track 2:**

- Explore **Tsfat**, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years and a contemporary artists' colony, including:
  - Guided visit to the **Ari, Caro or Abuhav Synagogues**, each with its great stories and mystical messages.
  - A stroll through the quaint **Artists' Colony**, shop in the galleries and crafts shops and engage in dialogues with local artisans inspired by the messages of **Kabbalah**.
  - **PAS DOES TIKKUN OLAM:** Visit a local **Absorption Center** to meet with Ethiopian Jews who have immigrated to Israel over the past 10 years.
- **Lunch** in Safed.

### **All:**

- Drive to Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem** - ברוכים הבאים: Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Check into the hotel.



## PAS EVENT

# CELEBRATING ISRAEL @ 70 & PAS at 136!

Celebrate **Israel's 70th birthday** with a "Jerusalem of Gold" ambience,  
at the beautiful **Olmaya Hall**,  
with spectacular views of the Old City lit up in the background,  
and greetings by the **Mayor of Jerusalem**.  
Enjoy the best of Israeli cocktails and cuisine,  
music performances and festivities for all ages.



Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Six: Thursday, December 27, 2018

**INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA**

***Option # 1: Sunrise Hike***

- Very early wake-up and descent to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Breakfast boxes at the foot of Masada.
- **Climb via the Snake Path to Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.

***Option # 2: Morning at Masada***

- Early breakfast at the hotel.
- Descend to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- **Ascend by cable car to Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Explore the rich archaeological remains from the Roman period.

***All:***

- **Bnei Mitzvah Ceremony** atop Masada.
- **Celebratory lunch** in **Kibbutz Ein Gedi**.
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**.
- Return to Jerusalem.

***Adults:***

- **Parents' Night Out!** Enjoy a delicious **dinner** at a local Jerusalem restaurant.

***Youth:***

- **Pizza Dinner** at a local Pizzeria.
- **Halleluya Jerusalem!** The City of David's Nighttime Presentation tells the story of our return to rebuild ancient Jerusalem. A thrilling, outdoor cinematic experience projected onto the ancient ruins in the actual site where this story unfolded. Under the stars of Jerusalem's night sky, cutting-edge video mapping technology, the first of its kind in Israel, reveals a story 2,500 year in the making.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

## THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Enter the **Old City** of Jerusalem.
- Take a walking tour of the **Jewish Quarter** for visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights, among them:
  - A walk along the **Rooftops** of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other.
  - The **Cardo**, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.
  - **Hurva Square**, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
- Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter.
- Return to your hotel; time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.



## PAS EVENT

# EREV SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

Welcome Shabbat with **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**. *The Jerusalem International YMCA is a cultural, sports and educational center located in the heart of the Jerusalem. The Y strives to foster equality and friendship among members of all religions, with an emphasis on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, while serving as an oasis of multiculturalism and a space for coexistence among the residents of Jerusalem and beyond.*

*The historic building, with its elegant arches, domes, and 152-foot observation tower overlooking Jerusalem's Old City & New City, is an iconic landmark, designed by Arthur Loomis Harmon, architect of the Empire State Building.*

Gather together with your fellow congregants for a private

## PAS COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

at the David Citadel Hotel



- **Oneg Shabbat Learning Experience:** Join local scholars for intimate group learning sessions, including:
  - **The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** A dialogue with a senior **Encounter** staff member. Encounter is a nonpartisan educational organization cultivating more informed and constructive Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
  - **Religious Pluralism & Freedom of Religion in Israel:** A panel discussion some of Israel's Progressive leaders.
  - **Israeli Politics in 2018:** Dialogue with a leading Israeli journalist/political analyst.
  - **Parashat Hashavua:** Learning about this week's Torah Portion.
  - Fun programs for the younger kids at the hotel's **Children's Play Center**.
  - **Oneg Shabbat for teens**, led by PAS staff.



Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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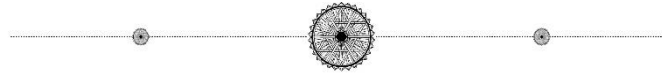
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Day Eight: Saturday, December 29, 2018

**SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM**

- Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the hotel.
- Shabbat morning Services at local Jerusalem synagogues.



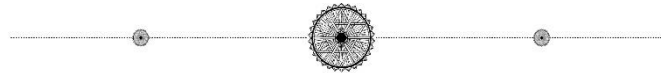
**PAS EVENT**

**PAS COMMUNITY KIDDUSH LUNCHEON**

in the **Blaustein Hall**, overlooking the Old City.



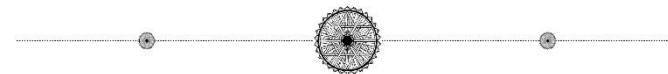
- Return to the **Old City**.
- *In the Footsteps of David*: Compete in a friendly family team game, leading from **Mount Zion** to the **Tower of David**!



**PAS EVENT**

**PAS COMMUNITY HAVDALLAH & CONCERT**

at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**



- Dinner at your own expense.
- *Optional*: Special late night visit to the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Temple Mount's Western Wall, exposed in recent years; visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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## Day Nine: Sunday, December 30, 2018

### MEMORY & RENEWAL

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.

#### **Adults:**

- Visit the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
  - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
  - The new **Historical Museum**
  - The **Children's Memorial**
  - A concluding **Memorial Service**

#### **Children under 10 (Accompanied by youth counselors):**

- Visit the **Biblical Zoo**, a beautifully landscaped habitat with a special focus on preserving Biblical fauna, geared to children of all ages (2-80).

#### **All:**

- Walk along the **connecting trail** from Yad Vashem to **Mt. Herzl**.
- Stop at the **grave of Theodor Herzl**, the visionary behind modern Zionism and the reinstitution of a Jewish homeland.
- Take a *multi-cultural tasting journey* through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Machaneh Yehudah** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shops.
- Return to the hotel for time to finish packing.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot for an eye-opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
- **Farewell dinner** at the **Ayalon Institute**.
- Group transfers to Ben Gurion International Airport to check in for your departure flight to New York.

Overnight: Flight

## Day Ten: Monday, December 31, 2018

### RETURN TO NEW YORK

- Group flights:
  - 12:30 a.m. Depart on El Al flight #001, arriving to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) at 5:45am.
  - 1:00 a.m. Depart on El Al flight #027, arriving to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) at 6:20am.



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