

PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

2018 CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL

TRACK IV – ISRAEL 2.0 FOR YOUNG ADULTS & THEIR FAMILIES & ANYONE WHO IS YOUNG AT HEART

DECEMBER 22-31, 2018



**Park Avenue
Synagogue**

**ISRAEL AT 70
& PAS AT 136**

ITINERARY

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.
- 7:45 p.m. Meet next to the da’at hospitality desk at the hotel.
- 8:00 p.m. Depart the hotel.
- **Welcome dinner at Meatos**, known for its excellent meat dishes, including an orientation with PAS staff, track chairs and your tour educators.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv

Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Morning moment.



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**.



- 10:00 a.m. ***Israel at 70 – Reviving the Hebrew Language***: dialogue with **Gil Hovav**, a leading culinary journalists and television personality and the great-grandson of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language.
- **LaDa'at EthnicTasting Tour**: walk through Tel Aviv's famous **Levinsky Market**, where you'll find a combination of foods and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and hear the unique stories of the individuals who sell them.
- **Urban Culture Tours of Tel Aviv, Combining Street Art, Language & Graffiti**: Join **Niro Taub**, a local resident, to explore the urban culture of the city.

Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE

▪ 3:00 p.m. ***Afternoon options:***

- ***Option #1: Architecture in Tel Aviv:*** a view from a Middle-Eastern “eclectic” beginning, through the International Bauhaus style to the skyscrapers of modern Tel Aviv; walk along Rothschild Boulevard, and through Neve Tzedek and the new Tachana compound, for new insight into how changes in the urban landscape reflect the surrounding culture, including a visit to **Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Tel Aviv's Neve Zedek neighborhood, a magnet for Jewish pluralism.
- ***Option #2: Israeli Fashion:*** A special window into the world of Israeli fashion, visiting design houses and designers in Tel Aviv's leading fashion districts.
- ***Option #3: The Art Scene in Tel Aviv:*** Visit the galleries which have put Tel Aviv at the forefront of the local and international art scene and meet with gallery owners for an insight into their world.

All:

- Return to the hotel.
- 6:00 p.m. **Cocktail reception** at the hotel with invited **Israeli millennials** from Masorti (Conservative) Congregations in Tel Aviv.
- **Free Night** in Tel Aviv for an opportunity to:
 - Meander through the **Old City of Jaffa**.
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard**, with its many cafés and bars.
 - Experience **Tel Aviv Port**, with its restaurants and clubs.
 - Explore the gentrified **Neve Zedek** neighborhood.
 - Saunter down the Tel Aviv **Beach Promenade**.
 - Wander through the **Tachana**, Tel Aviv's renovated old train station, now a center of boutiques and good food, and one of Tel Aviv's blooming hot spots.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv

Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

LIVING ON THE EDGE

- *Optional Minyan.*
- *Optional early morning jogging tour of Tel Aviv highlights.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. **Security briefing** with **Colonel (Ret.) Miri Eisin**. For over twenty years Miri served as the head of the combat intelligence corps, the assistant to the director of Military Intelligence, and as the Intel officer in combat units and research departments. After retiring from the military, Miri was appointed as the Israeli Prime Minister's International Advisor and played an important role in the Annapolis Conference.
- Drive south to the border with Gaza.
- 11:30 a.m. **Living on the Edge**: Visit to the border city of **Sderot**, a city that has been under the constant barrage of rocket attacks since 2001, including:
 - A **city tour** with visits to **protected playground** and schools, the City Market, various locations damaged by rockets.
 - A visit to the **Qassam rocket display** at the **local police station**.
- Lunch on own in Sderot.
- 3:30 p.m. Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot for an eye-opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
- Return to Tel Aviv.

Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

LIVING ON THE EDGE

- 5:30 p.m. *Optional (cost not included)*: Dinner at Blackout, a restaurant completely in the dark.
- 8:30 p.m. Watch **Not by Bread Alone** at the **Nalaga'at Theater**. Eleven deaf-blind actors take the audience on a magical tour in the districts of their inner world; the world of darkness, silence and... bread. As the process of bread making unfolds on stage – the dough is being kneaded, raised and baked “for real” – a unique encounter occurs between actors and audience. Together they re-enact vivid or distant memories, recall forgotten dreams and joyful moments and ‘touch’ the spark of Creation present in every one of us. The actors take the spectators into those magical moments between reality and fantasy, between grandeur and ridicule, and always eventually return to the basic meaning of bread as a symbol of our longing for a home.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv

Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

- *Optional Minyan.*
- *Bring down your luggage to the hotel lobby starting 7am and until 8:15am; breakfast will be served starting 7:00am.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out.
- Drive to **Tel Aviv University**.
- 9:00 a.m. Guided tour to the **Capsule Building**, the heart and home of the **Porter School of Environmental Studies (PSES)**. As Israel's first LEED Platinum certified building (LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), it reflects the core values and missions of the school. It is designed to incorporate advanced energy and water saving environmental technologies, and is the first green building on the Tel Aviv University campus.
- 10:00 a.m. **A Renewable Light to the Start Up Nation:** Dialogue with **Yosef Abramowitz**, an American-Israeli human rights activist, educator and entrepreneur, recognized as one of the pioneers of the solar energy industry in both Israel and East Africa, on the creation of the solar power industry in the State of Israel, with a vision of how Israel can become the first major advanced economy to switch from burning fossil fuels to renewables.
- 11:30 a.m. **The Strangers Among Us:** Explore the fascinating neighborhood of Neve Sha'anani in South Tel Aviv as a microcosm of Israel. In recent years, Israel has seen a significant rise in non-Jewish immigrants such as migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees, presenting new challenges to the Jewish State. With our own eyes we will see how diverse groups have left their impact on Israel and on the neighborhood. *This tour will be led by a scholar from **Bina**, the secular Yeshiva in Tel Aviv.*

Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

- Lunch on own.
- Drive by **Independence Hall**, where David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel on May 14th, 1948.
- Stop at **Rabin Square**, a center of Tel Aviv's cultural and political life, named for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was assassinated here. Take a quiet moment at the Rabin Memorial.
- Depart Tel Aviv and 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,
Enjoy the best of Israeli music and cuisine!



Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Day Six: Thursday, December 27, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. Explore the excavations at the **City of David**, the very core of ancient Jerusalem; walk through the recently opened **Second Temple-period tunnel** under the walls of the Old City, emerging in the Jerusalem Archaeological Park.
- Stop at **Ezrat Yisrael**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel (Western Wall), for a discussion about religious pluralism and freedom of religion in Israel.
- Visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.
- Lunch on own in the Old City.
- **The Secrets of Jerusalem:** Walk along the streets of the **Old City** for a behind the scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem including:
 - A meeting with an **Armenian Ceramic Artist** and a visit to his workshop, followed by a short tour of the Armenian Quarter, the smallest of the four quarters with the smallest number of residents.
 - *Is it a Church or a Synagogue?* A visit to **Christ Church**, the oldest Protestant Church in the Middle East, which looks exactly like a synagogue.
 - A visit to the **Austrian Hospice**, a European enclave in the heart of the Old City, known for its breath-taking views from the rooftop terrace.

Day Six: Thursday, December 27, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

Option # 1:

- 4:00 p.m. **A Window into the Israeli Reality:** Meet with students and teachers from the **Ma'aleh Film School** for a film screening and discussion, exploring the intersection of Judaism and modern life. Ma'aleh's unique, cutting-edge films attempt to foster deeper understanding and dialogue between religious and secular Jews. While Ma'aleh graduates are shaping the future of the Israeli film and television, they also created a first-of-its-kind video-therapy for at-risk youth, Ethiopian immigrants, terror victims and adults with special needs.

Option # 2:

- 4:00 p.m. Visit the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - A possible dialogue with a **Holocaust survivor**
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
 - The **Historical Museum**
 - The **Children's Memorial**
 - A concluding **Memorial Service**

All:

- **Hustle & Bustle Around the Clock:** Free evening and dinner on own with an opportunity to explore the bars, restaurants, and flavors of the Jerusalem nightlife at the open-air **Machaneh Yehuda** market.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:30 a.m. Meet with representatives from the **Parents' Circle Families Forum**, a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis.
- 10:30 a.m. *Life in Palestine 2018*: Dialogue and tour the streets of **Bethlehem** with **Rami Nazzal**, a local journalist and guide.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own.
- Return to the hotel with free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- 4:03 p.m. Shabbat candle-lighting at the hotel.
- 4:30 p.m. Depart the hotel and walk to the YMCA across the street.



PAS EVENT

EREV SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

Welcome Shabbat with **Kabbalat Shabbat** services led by PAS clergy 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



Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT

- 8:00 p.m. **"Israel Unplugged"** – After a week of touring and a festive Shabbat dinner, we are all invited to sessions where Track Staff Leaders will interview their Israeli friends (thought leaders, artists, activists, visionaries and more) about the hot topics of the day and about what inspires them about this modern-day miracle in the Middle East.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Day Eight: Saturday, December 29, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the hotel.
- Shabbat morning Services at local Jerusalem synagogues.
- 11:30 a.m. **Parashat HaShavua** with Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky - Engage in study of the morning's Torah portion, at the hotel.



PAS EVENT

PAS COMMUNITY KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

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



Walking Tour Option # 1:

- **LaDa'at Hebrew Writers:** Walk through the streets of Jerusalem, guided by the writings of Jerusalem's poets and authors, such as Yehuda Amichai, S.Y. Agnon and others.

Walking Tour Option # 2:

- **The Spirit of the City:** Take a Synagogue tour of Jerusalem, including the Great Synagogue, Yeshurun, and a walk to the Nachlaot neighborhood, to learn about the various communities who live in that eclectic part of the city, including the Ohavei Zion Persian Synagogue, and the Adas Syrian synagogue, where it's believed that the oldest Torah scroll was hidden.

All:

- 4:45 p.m. Depart the hotel and walk to the YMCA across the street.

Day Eight: Saturday, December 29, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM



COMMUNAL MOMENT

CONCERT: HAVDALLAH ACROSS THE WORLD

at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**

Our Shabbat in Jerusalem will be concluded by an uplifting Havdallah experience, featuring music from diverse Jewish traditions. Cantors Azi Schwartz and Rachel Brook, with Music Director Colin Fowler, will host an all-star lineup of soloists. We will share in the sanctity of Shabbat with legendary singer, Shuli Nathan, esteemed oud player Elias Haddoub, and prominent actress Galit Giat, who is currently starring at Habima National theatre. We are honored to be joined by these artists, who represent the Jewish diaspora and best in Israeli culture. An outstanding instrumental ensemble and some unforgettable surprises await as the music moves you and your spirit rises. The event will take place in the breathtaking concert hall of the Jerusalem YMCA, located in the heart of the new city, built in 1934 to promote peace and tolerance.

Much like the Havdalah service itself, which leaves the lasting taste, scent, and sound of Shabbat as we depart from holiness to profane, this Havdalah event will do the same as we conclude our visit to Israel. Rabbi Cosgrove's remarks, the ceremony and the concert will leave a lasting and profound memory of the evening, encapsulating the entire trip.



- Dinner on own.
- **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

Day Nine: Sunday, December 30, 2018

THIS IS THE HOPE

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. Visit **Ammunition Hill**, site of a Jordanian Police Academy until 1967 and one of the most crucial battle sites for the unification of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War. Tour the newly opened and moving museum, including a dialogue with **Alon Wald**, son of Rami Wald, an IDF captain and a war hero who fell on the first day of fighting. At the outbreak of the war, Alon was only 10-months-old and since then he has spent much of his adult life trying to piece together the story of his father's bravery. The journey is what led him to give a voice to those who fell in the battle for Jerusalem and share their untold stories with visitors.

Bus #1:

- 11:00a.m. **PAS DOES TIKKUN OLAM:** Visit the **Hand in Hand School** in Jerusalem. Hand in Hand is a bilingual school with Israeli Jewish and Israeli Palestinian students combining peace education and top academic standards. Its mission is to build partnership, coexistence and equality between the Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** at the Israel Museum.
- 2:00 p.m. **VIP visit** to the renewed and wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its wide-ranging and eclectic collection, from Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls, to Jewish Life and Art, European art, contemporary Israeli art and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.

Day Nine: Sunday, December 30, 2018

THIS IS THE HOPE

Bus #2:

- 11:00 a.m. **VIP visit** to the renewed and wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its wide-ranging and eclectic collection, from Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls, to Jewish Life and Art, European art, contemporary Israeli art and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** at the Israel Museum.
- 2:30 p.m. **PAS DOES TIKKUN OLAM**: Visit the **Hand in Hand School** in Jerusalem. Hand in Hand is a bilingual school with Israeli Jewish and Israeli Palestinian students combining peace education and top academic standards. Its mission is to build partnership, coexistence and equality between the Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.

All:

- Return to the hotel.
- *Bring your luggage down to the lobby between 4pm to 5:30pm.*
- Late check out.
- 6:00 p.m. **Farewell dinner** at **Eucalyptus**, located at the Artists' Colony of Jerusalem. Eucalyptus is a kosher restaurant that specializes in Israeli food inspired by the Bible and by the Jewish-Aleppo, Jewish-Iraqi and Palestinians cuisines. Chef Moshe Basson mostly uses raw materials grown in the hills of Jerusalem. Moshe is an expert in the field of edible plants and medicinal local herbs. Moshe grows a spice garden in the complex in which all the restaurant staff takes part in the cultivation and picking the special herbs and the edible flowers.
- 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.

PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE STAFF

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Jo Ellen Finkel

Adam First

Alyssa First

Mark First

Rachael First

Danielle Gassman

Mitch Gendel

Paula Gendel

Hannah Gendel

Marti Gendel

Randi Goldberg

Carol Goldstein

Brian Lustbader

Rachel Lustbader

Ivan Lustig

Jean Miller

John Monsky

Jennifer Monsky

Caitlin Monsky

Gillian Monsky

Harrison Monsky

Annabel Monsky

Ilene Penn

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Da'at has joined hands with **Soapbox**, an organization that redistributes unused hotel toiletries to individuals and families in need. Throughout your hotel stays in Israel, collect any unused, unopened toiletries in the canvas bag you'll receive from your tour educator. At your last check-out, hand the bag to your tour educator and we'll take care of the rest – it's that easy.

M i t z v a h a c c o m p l i s h e d !





TRAVEL AT PAS



telling the story
of Israel and the
Jewish World.