

PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

2018 CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL

TRACK V LOOKING AT ISRAEL 20/20

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.
- **Looking at Israel 20/20: Welcome dinner at Ewa Safi**, serving authentic home-style Moroccan cuisine at its finest, and located in the picturesque neighborhood of Neveh Tzedek, including an orientation with PAS staff, track chairs and your tour educators.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv

Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY ISRAEL

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Check out of the hotel.
- *Bring down your luggage to the grand ballroom of the hotel starting 6:30am and until 8:15am; breakfast will be served starting 7:00am.*



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**.



- 9:00 a.m. Depart the hotel.
- 10:00 a.m. **Grooming Israel's Scientific Leadership:** Visit the **Weizmann Institute of Science**, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions in the natural and exact sciences, located in Rehovot, just south of Tel Aviv, including a stop at the state-of-the-art Levinson Visitors Center.
- Return to Tel Aviv; lunch on own.

Option #1:

- 1:00 p.m. **The Social Challenges in Israel:** Dialogue with **Prof. Avi Weiss**, President of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.

The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel is an independent, non-partisan, socioeconomic research institute based in Jerusalem. The Center conducts high-quality, impartial research on socioeconomic conditions in Israel, and develops innovative, equitable and practical options for macro public policies that advance the well-being of Israelis. The Center strives to influence public policy through direct communications with policy makers and by enriching the public debate that accompanies the decision-making process.

Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY ISRAEL

Option #2:

- 1:00 p.m. **The Strangers Among Us:** Explore the fascinating neighborhood of Neve Sha'anun 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.*

All:

- Lunch on own.
- 3:00 p.m. Depart Tel Aviv, drive to the **Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel** in Zichron Ya'acov and check in. *The hotel's iconic main building was constructed in 1968 as the Mivtachim Sanatorium and gained worldwide recognition for its innovative design, earning architect Yaacov Rechter the prestigious Israel Award for Architecture in 1973. Purchased by **Lily Elstein** in 2005, the building was the centerpiece of her vision to create a world-class center for the arts and boutique hotel. Under the guidance of Amnon Rechter, Yaakov Rechter's son, the building was restored according to the original plans and original materials to add two state-of-the-art concert halls and art galleries.*

Option #1:

- Free time to explore the hotel's world-class spa and facilities. *The Elma Spa's unique philosophy stimulates both mind and body. Tibetan bowls and cymbals, tank drums, harps... these and many more instruments intensify the experience through the deep connection between mind, body, and music.*

Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY ISRAEL

Option #2:

- 6:00 p.m. **Living as a Minority in the Jewish State:** Explore with **Professor Dalia Fadila**, President of the Technology and Science College of Baqa al Garbia, the reality of Arabs living in Israel and what it means to be the first Arab woman president of an institution of higher education in Israel. Meet with **Avivit Hai**, Program Director in Israel for the Inter Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues who is the "eyes and ears" of the Task Force, liaising with local players - from government officials to Arab, Jewish and joint NGOs - leading a number of information-sharing and coalition-building efforts.

All:

- 7:30 p.m. **Dinner** at the hotel.
- Enjoy an **evening concert** by **Ilham** **אלהאם** **إلهام**, a young band of Arab and Jewish musicians who play classical Arabic and classical music together with Israeli and Western music.

Overnight: Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel, Zichron Ya'acov

Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

THE MOSAIC OF ISRAEL @ 70

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. ***Morning options:***
 - ***Option #1: The Art Within:*** Guided tour of the hotel's widely acclaimed private art collection.
 - ***Option #2:*** Guided visit to **Zichron Ya'acov**, one of the first communities established by the early Zionist pioneers, including a stop next to the **Aaronsohn House** to delve into the world of a Jewish spy ring active during the First World War.
 - ***Option #3:*** Nature walk through the dazzling **Ramat Hanadiv Gardens**, dedicated to Baron de Rothschild (the "Nadiv" or "Benefactor"), located on the outskirts of Zichron Ya'acov.

All:

- 11:30 a.m. ***Building a Pluralistic Community in Israel:*** Dialogue with **Rabbi Elisha Wolfin** from **Kehillat Veahavta**, the Masorti congregation in Zichron Ya'acov.
- Lunch and shopping on own in the colorful **Pedestrian Mall** in Zichron Ya'acov.
- 2:30 p.m. ***An Old-New Perspective of Minorities in Shefaram:*** Explore the city of **Shefaram**, located between the bottom of the Carmel Ridge and the entrance to the Galilee. Once a Jewish center during the Talmudic period, this ancient-modern Arab town later became one of the Crusades' posts and was eventually taken over by the Muslim Ottoman Empire. This heuristic tour with a local Arab guide will include visits to a:
 - **Mosque** and dialogue with the Muezzin (the Muslim clergy) about Islam and the life of a Muslim Arab in Israel.
 - **Roman Catholic Church** with its beautiful art, to learn about the unique story of the Eastern Christians living in Israel.
 - **Old Synagogue of Shefaram** abandoned in the 1900's to engage in a conversation about the minorities in the land throughout the ages.

Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

THE MOSAIC OF ISRAEL @ 70

All:

- Return to the hotel.
- 7:00 p.m. Meet with **Adam Montefiore**, Israel's leading wine specialist and *Jerusalem Post* columnist for special insights about the development of the Israeli wine industry, followed by **dinner and wine tasting at Bistro de Carmel**, located in a stone building constructed by Baron Edmond de Rothschild 120 years ago, in the heart of the Zichron Ya'akov winery.
- Return to the hotel.

Overnight: Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel, Zichron Ya'acov

Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Early breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:15 a.m. Check out and depart Zichron Ya'acov.
- Visit **Habayit Shel Benji**. The vision of this special house is that all lone combat soldiers will have a real home to call their own for the duration of their army service and should be able to stay in Israel and prosper thereafter.
The Benji Hillman Foundation was established in memory of Major Benji Hillman z"l, killed in action in the Lebanese village of Moran a-Ras at the beginning of the Second Lebanon War on July 20, 2006.
- Special visit to **Beit Issie Shapiro**. The mission of Beit Issie Shapiro is to provide cutting-edge services to improve quality of life for people with disabilities, and to effect social change by breaking down the barriers preventing people with disabilities.
Beit Issie Shapiro is a world-wide recognized leader in research and therapies for the disabled and as such enjoys status as a Special Consultant to the United Nations and has been named Israel's Most Effective Non-Profit.
- Lunch on own en route.
- 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 WEST BANK – MULTIPLE NARRATIVES

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Hebron: A Tale of Two Cities:** Head deeper into the Judean Hills, arriving in Area H2, the Israeli controlled part of **Hebron**, the largest city in the West Bank.
- 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. **A Jewish Perspective:** Take an inside look at one of the most pivotal components of the discussion of Jewish settlement, including the **Tomb of the Patriarchs** (Machpelah), **Tel Rumeida** and **Beit Hadassah**, guided by Director of Tourism, **Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum**. Meet with local residents for an overview of Jewish life in Hebron and the relationship of Israelis with their Palestinian neighbors; dialogue regarding the future of the city.
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch** in Hebron.
- 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. **A Palestinian Perspective:** Cross the border into the Palestinian side of Hebron. Visit a Palestinian family in their home. Learn about the difficult conditions of Palestinian residents and shop owners living in close proximity to the nearby settlements.
- 4:00 p.m. **Creating A Joint Future for Palestinians And Israelis:** Meet with **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, Ali Abu Awwad, Shaul Judelman** who reside in the Bethlehem / Gush Etzion Area and founded the Roots Coexistence Project. The Roots project draws Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living in close proximity, are separated by walls of fear – not just fear of each other, but fear of the price of peace. Without building trust, the suspicions between these two communities risk suffocating any chance for political peace agreements.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- 6:00 p.m. **Israel before and after 1967 - A Grassroots View of Israeli Society:** Dialogue with journalist-scholar **Yossi Klein Halevi**, senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

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

Option 1:

- 9:00 a.m. Explore **Christian East Jerusalem** through visits with Christian personalities and institutions with **Hana Bendcowsky**, Director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish Christian Relations.

Option 2:

- 9:00 a.m. **VIP visit** to the **City of David**, to explore the excavations at the very core of ancient Jerusalem.

All:

- Stop at **Ezrat Yisrael**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel (Western Wall), to learn 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 your own in the Old City.
- 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.

Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM



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



- 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:** Walking tour of 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:

- **Jerusalem beyond the Old City Walls:** Travel back in time to hear the stories about the development and expansion of the city outside the Old City walls, stopping at milestones such as the **King David Hotel**, the **Yemin Moshe** and **Mishkenot Shaananim** neighborhoods, and famous houses in **Talbiye** and **Rechavia**.

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 your 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. Meet with **Haredi IDF soldiers** and learn about the challenges they face both at home and in the army.
- 10:00 a.m. **Beyond the Black Hat:** The ultra-Orthodox world is vital and growing but remains unknown, even alien, to many of us. Get a better understanding of this world through tours of the Haredi neighborhoods of **Geula** and **Mea Shearim**. Local guides from these communities will discuss their lifestyles, belief systems, dress codes and much more.
- Walk 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 shop.
- Lunch on own.
- 2:00 p.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.
- Return to the hotel.
- *Bring your luggage down to the lobby between 4pm to 5:30pm.*
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- 5:45 p.m. Meet in the hotel lobby and walk to Angelica.
- 6:00 p.m. **Farewell dinner** at **Angelica**, with its impressive menu of kosher Euro-Mediterranean fare and a devotion to local produce.
- 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

Rabbi Charlie Savenor

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PARTICIPANTS

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NOTES

NOTES

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.