



AgForestry Leadership International Seminar
Forestry and Agriculture on the Desert's Edge: The Case of Israel
January 13 - 24, 2019

Sunday, January 13 DEPARTURE

- Departure from Seattle

Monday, January 14 WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Arrival at Ben Gurion airport in the late afternoon
- Time permitting: ***The Sycamores of Tel Aviv***: A surprising tour of historic trees in an urban environment.
- Check-in at hotel in cosmopolitan Tel Aviv
- Welcome Dinner in Tel Aviv's **Yemenite Quarter** and Program Introduction

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Tuesday, January 15 INNOVATION NATION

- **Start-Up Nation Central: *The Israeli Economy: A High-Tech Dynamo***:
- Visit a **Desalinization Plant** on the **Mediterranean Coast**, and learn how Israel is the world leader in this technology.
- Lunch on own
- Continue to **Kibbutz Hatzerim** in the Negev. Visit the **Netafim factory**, which developed drip-irrigation technology and is still a pioneer in the field.
- Ashalim Agricultural R & D Center
- Check-in at guest house and dinner.

Overnight: *Iris Yerucham Hotel*

Wednesday, January 16 MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA REGION

- Ascend Herod's mountain fortress of **Masada** by the Snake Path or cable car. Tour one of the huge cisterns which allowed this fortress to flourish in the desert, using advanced Roman water technology. Discuss why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE.
- Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at the **Ein Gedi** private beach with lunch.
- Lecture by **Eco-Peace Middle East** on the shrinking Dead Sea and the environmental impact of industry on this precious resource. Eco-Peace brings together **Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians** in dealing with ecological challenges on a regional basis.
- Continue to Jerusalem for check-in.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem*

Thursday, January 17 **JERUSALEM THE HOLY**

- Begin the day with a spectacular outlook over Jerusalem and the **Old City** from the **Haas Promenade**.
- Then explore the **Southern Wall Excavations** and **Davidson Center** to gain a better understanding of the role of the Temple and pilgrimage from the times of the Hebrew Bible until the days of the Christian Bible.
- Lunch break (on own) in the **Jewish Quarter** and visit the Byzantine era “**Cardo**”
- Explore the vibrant and bustling **Machaneh Yehuda** fruit & vegetable market and enjoy its new restaurants and cafés.
- Evening: Meeting with environmental activist **Professor Alon Tal**, founder of **Adam, Teva Vadin**, Israel’s leading environmental advocacy organization (pending availability).
- Dinner on own

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem*

Friday, January 18 **JERUSALEM: CRADLE OF FAITHS**

- Early morning visit to the **Urban Birdwatching Center**, located in the middle of Jerusalem. Ringing workshop with the staff
- Learn and remember at **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s central memorial to the victims of the Shoah, including the Historical Museum, the Children’s Memorial and the Avenue of the Righteous. Explore the relationship between the Holocaust and the State of Israel.
- Optional introduction to the **Sabbath in Israel**.
- Join the excitement and spirit of **Kabbalat Shabbat**, as people from all over the world come together in prayer, song and dance to welcome in the Jewish Sabbath at the most sacred site in Jewish tradition, the **Western Wall (Kotel)**
- **Home Hospitality Sabbath Dinner** with local families

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem*

Saturday, January 19 **THE NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM**

- Morning at leisure.
- (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
- *Optional trip* to **Bethlehem** to visit the **Church of the Nativity**.
- Afternoon walking tour to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, traditional site of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, in the **Christian Quarter**.
- Session on “**Palestinian Political Culture**” with **Khaled Abu Toameh** (or other, based on availability), an Arab-Israeli Journalist.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.
- Experience the story of ancient Jerusalem at the **Jerusalem Night Spectacular** Sound and Light show amidst the archeological remains in the courtyard of the **Tower of David Museum**.
- **Dinner** at hotel.

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem*

Sunday, January 20 **JORDAN RIVER VALLEY**

- **Political Briefing** with leading analyst/journalist
- Travel north along the **Jordan Rift Valley** to visit kibbutz farms using *Hydroponics* and *Aero-Hydroponics*, a technique developed at **Kibbutz Ein Gedi** by **Dr. Hillel Soffer**
- Continue to **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu** to visit **BioBee Biological Systems**, one of the leading international companies in the field of biologically based Integrated Pest Management, Natural Pollination, and Medfly Control.
- Check-in and [dinner at guest house](#)
- Evening: **“The Kibbutz Today”**-Discussion on the state of this socialist institution in the realities of the Twenty First Century.

Overnight: *Kibbutz Nof Ginosar Guest House*

Monday January 21 **AROUND THE KINNERET**

- Visit **Kfar Nahum (Capernaum)**, home base of Jesus' Ministry in the Galilee and site of an ancient synagogue and other archaeological remains.
- Visit the **Mt. of Beatitudes** to visit the beautiful chapel commemorating the **Sermon on the Mount**.
- Visit the **Sapir Mekorot Pumping Station**. At the head of the national water carrier we will see how engineers in the 1950's and 60's conceived and executed a plan that helped solve one of the most vexing water problems in Israel. Find out why this plant is buried underground and how the engineers overcame the numerous obstacles in their path.
- OR visit the **Agamon Park** in the **Hula Nature Reserve**, one of the most popular stops for birds migrating between Europe and Africa.
- Meet young **IDF soldiers** defending Israel's northern border at **Kibbutz Malkiya**.
- Dinner (on own) in **Tiberias**.

Overnight: *Kibbutz Nof Ginosar Guest House*

Tuesday, January 22 **CARMEL FOREST**

- **Kaima**, a unique organic farm, founded by a group of young Israeli social entrepreneurs to apply their passion for organic farming to improve the lives of high school dropouts.
- Possible visit in **Nazareth: The Church of the Annunciation**.
- Cross the Galilee to the **Carmel Forest Region**. **Hope and Healing after Wildfires in Planted Forests**. Learn about the massive destruction of the 2010 fire and the collaborative effort of the Israeli government and two NGOs – **the Jewish National Fund** and **the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel** – to rehabilitate the forest.
- Lunch hospitality in **Daliat Al Karmil**, a Druze village.
- Continue to the charming pioneering town of **Zichron Yaakov** for a visit to the **Gan Habaron Botanical Gardens**.
- Visit the **Carmel Winery** for a tour and wine tasting and [dinner](#).
- Check-in at hotel.

Overnight: *Dan Panorama Hotel, Haifa*

Wednesday, January 23 **MULTI-CULTURAL HAIFA**

- Visit the city of **Haifa**. Outlook over the magnificent **Baha'i gardens** and the **Port of Haifa**.

- Visit the **Ahmadi Mosque** and meet with the local Imam to learn about Islam. And Dubi Hayoun to talk about Jewish Arab Coexistence.
- Visit the **Muhraka Carmelite Monastery** where tradition has it that **Elijah the Prophet** had a show-down with the **Priests of Baal**. Enjoy the glorious view of the **Jezreel Valley**, ancient and modern Israel's "bread-basket".
- Meet with **Professor Avi Perevolotsky**, former director of Israel's **Volcani Research Institute: *Agricultural Research: A Look Towards the Future***
- Summary and conclusion session.
- [Farewell Dinner](#)
- Transfer to airport for departing flight.

Thursday, January 24 ARRIVAL IN U.S.

- Arrival in Seattle.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator.
- All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



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