

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
"ARTS AND RELIGIOUS INNOVATIONS IN ISRAEL"
LED BY
RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER
MAY 17-27, 2009
PROPOSED ITINERARY BY DA'AT EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITIONS
(MAY 5, 2009)

DAY ONE: Sunday, May 17, 2009

DEPARTURE

- Depart U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Monday, May 18, 2009

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Group transfer from the airport to the hotel in Tel Aviv.
- Check into the hotel.

8:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner and the elegant atmosphere at **Lilit** with their attractive menu mixing Mediterranean and Californian cuisine. Lilit works together with the Elem association, giving work to youth with difficulties and donating part of their profits to the association.

Overnight: Prima, Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:30 a.m. *Secular Jewish learning - is it a true concept?* Dialogue with **Eran Baruch**, director of BINA Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture.
- 10:30 a.m. Visit to the **Joseph Bau Museum**, a Holocaust survivor who was one of the pioneering Graphic Artists & Animators in Israel.
 - Walking tour through the colorful re-gentrified **Neve Zedek** one of Tel Aviv's cultural centers with many small boutiques and galleries as well as the Suzanne Delal Dance and Theater Center.
 - Guided walk through Tel Aviv's magnificent **Bauhaus** architectural area, known as the 'White City' and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
 - Visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its restored buildings and sidewalk artists, and continue onto the colorful Carmel Market and then to Shenkin, one of Israel's most avant-garde streets, including lunch on your own.
 - Guided walk down **Bialik Street** in Tel Aviv, including visits to the houses of artist Reuven Rubin and writer Chaim Nachman Bialik.
- 3:00 p.m. Visit the recently renovated **Rubin House**, the former residence and studio of one of Israel's pioneering modern artists, Reuven Rubin and delve into his special world of modern Israeli art, including a wide array of interactive presentations.
 - Return to the hotel.
 - Dinner on your own.
- 8:00 p.m. Optional **Night Walking Tour** of Tel Aviv, depicting the foundation of the city through intriguing stories. The tour passes through Rothschild Boulevard, Nahalat Binyamin and the heart of Tel Aviv, and sheds light on the nighttime atmosphere that characterizes the local restaurants, bars and coffee shops in this area.

Overnight: Prima, Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Wednesday, May 20, 2009

JEWISH AND ISRAELI: AN INSIDE LOOK AT TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. *The Quest for Israeli Spirituality* Dialogue with **Rabbi Roberto Arbiv** of Kehilat Sinai.
- 10:30 a.m. **Arab/Jewish Unity Walk – *Multiple Histories and Narratives***: Follow two guides, one Arab and one Jewish, as they take you on a journey through their city, recounting two different stories of history, memory, loss and hope. Listen to their different narratives as they share them with you and with each other.
- Lunch on your own.
- 2:00 p.m. View the collection of Israeli and international art at the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**.
- 4:30 p.m. *Israeli Culture as a Window into the Challenges of Society* Dialogue with **Noam Semel**, creative director of the **Cameri Theater**.
- Return to the hotel.
- *Creativity and Secular Judaism in Contemporary Israel* Special program at the **Alma College** for the study of Jewish culture, with **Ruth Calderon**, founder and executive director (pending confirmation)
- **Free evening in Tel Aviv** with an opportunity to:
 - Meander through the **Old City of Jaffa**
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** with its many cafes and bars
 - Experience the **Tel Aviv Port** with its restaurants and clubs
 - Explore the newly gentrified **Neve Zedek Neighborhood**
 - Saunter down the **Tel Aviv Beach Promenade**
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Prima, Tel Aviv

DAY FIVE: Thursday, May 21, 2009

THE ARTS IN ISRAEL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Explore two thousand years of rich Jewish culture and community at **Beth Hatefutsoth**, the Museum of the Jewish People, located on the campus of Tel Aviv University, with a special program focusing on the new exhibitions on site (pending confirmation).
- Depart Tel Aviv and head north along the coast.
- Walk through the glorious **Ramat Hanadiv Gardens**, dedicated to Baron Rothschild (The Nadiv), located on the outskirts of Zichron Ya'acov.
- Guided visit to **Zichron Ya'acov**, one of the first communities established by the early Zionist pioneers, including:
 - A walk along the colorful **Pedestrian Mall** with lunch on own.
 - Wine tasting at the famous **Carmel Winery**.
- 3:00 p.m. Meet with **Hillel Halkin** – American born Israeli writer, editor and translator.
- 4:30 p.m. Visit the **Ein Hod** artist colony south of Haifa to view some of Israel's best artwork while visiting the numerous galleries throughout the village.
- Drive to Haifa.
- Stop on top of Mount Carmel for a scenic overlook of **Haifa Bay**.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Haifa

DAY SIX: Friday, May 22, 2009

A MOSAIC OF ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. Guided visit to the **Bahai Gardens** and Shrine, one of the holiest sites of the Bahai religion, located on Mount Carmel in Haifa.
- Visit the innovative **Zippori National Park**, site of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi's codification of the Mishna and a renowned mosaic collection.
- Lunch on your own en route.
- Drive south to Jerusalem along the Trans-Israel Highway for a close up view of the '**Security Barrier**' along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.
- Stop at the **Haas Promenade** to say the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing, recited upon entering Jerusalem.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at **Kehillat Shira Hadasha**.
- Enjoy a privately catered dinner in an intimate atmosphere at **Beit Shalom**, located in the Rehavia area of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN: Saturday, May 23, 2009

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Morning Services** facing the Old City.
- **LaDa'at** *Amichai* - יהודה עמיחי Guided afternoon walk through the streets of Jerusalem using the writings of Jerusalem's poet laureate Yehuda Amichai as a guide.
- Enter the Old City.
- Walk along the **Rooftops** of the Old City for a behind the scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live together.
- Walk through the famous **Jerusalem Arab Shuk** (Market).
- Meet with the Sufi Sheikh of Jerusalem, **Abdul Aziz El Buchari**, in his family's home for 400 years (pending confirmation).
- Free afternoon.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol* **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- Stroll through the **Ben Yehuda** and **Nachalat Shiva Pedestrian Mall**, joining the many Israelis out on the town, with dinner on your own.

Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

DAY EIGHT: Sunday, May 24, 2009

GEOPOLITICS AND DAILY LIFE IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 a.m. *How spirituality translates into real life in Jerusalem* Dialogue and text study with an **Elul Scholar**.
- **LaDa'at** *The Geopolitics of Jerusalem* - ירושלים: ובליבה חומה Travel through the city of Jerusalem exploring some of the political and diplomatic complexities of recent years, including Har Homa, Gilo and the new 'Security Fence' in the Jerusalem area with an in - depth study seminar on the ramifications of current developments.
- Experience the sites, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Machaneh Yehuda** Market, including lunch on your own.
- Visit **Mt. Herzl**, including the new center dedicated to the life and achievements of the founder of Political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, followed by a visit to his grave and the graves of Yitzhak Rabin and other leaders of the nation.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own & evening at leisure.

Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Monday, May 25, 2009

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:30 a.m. *Israeli Society @ 2009* Dialogue with scholar **Paul Liptz** of the Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew Union College.
- Walking tour through the the **Old City of Jerusalem**, for guided visits to some of the sites excavated over the past 30 years, focusing on "*how memorials and art fit into the reconstruction of the Old City*" with site visits to:
 - *From an Architect's wild dream to an ancient/modern shopping arcade* The **Cardo**, a Byzantine street that is now the oldest shopping arcade in the world.
 - *The ash of destruction and the rabbi upstairs* The **Herodian Mansions** - 2000 year old mansions as a foundation to a modern Jewish education center.
 - An ancient wall, an apartment building and a 3D reconstruction of the past – how do these three fit together to create contemporary life in Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter? **The Broad Wall, the Israelite Tower and Rachel Yanait Center.**
- Lunch on your own.
- 2:00 p.m. Explore **Christian East Jerusalem** through visits with Christian personalities and institutions with **Daniel Rossing**, Director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish Christian Relations.
- 5:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner and browse through bookshelves at the cozy restaurant of **Tmol Shilshom**, which combines a bookstore and a place where Israeli authors and artists meet, including a dialogue with **David Ehrlich**.

Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Tuesday, May 26, 2009

ART & RELIGION

- Breakfast at hotel
- 9:00 a.m. *Israeli Society through Film* Program at the Jerusalem Cinematheque or at the Ma'aleh School of Television, Film & the Arts (pending confirmation).
- Walk through the picturesque neighbourhood of **Ein Karem**, the site of the Churches of the Visitation and John the Baptist and art galleries.
- Lunch on your own.
- 2:30 p.m. Meet with **Linda Zisquit** followed by a visit to her gallery and poetry reading.
 - Visit the **Israel Museum**, one of the most creative and innovative museums in the world, with a special visit to the Second Temple Model of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and a viewing of the new audiovisual presentation on life in the days of the Second Temple.
- Return to the hotel.
- 7:00 p.m. Festive farewell dinner in Abu Gosh.

Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Wednesday, May 27, 2009

DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Group transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Departure flight to the USA, arriving the same day.