Taglit-Birthright Israel: Hillel Trip

Operated by: IGT

##### Bus 1121

Indiana University/Colorado

Hillel Staff: Mara Price (F) Jessica Slosberg (F)

Israel Tour Educator: Peter Gokhvat

Emergency 24 hour phone number: Daniela 0505749699

Accommodations:

North: Nof Ginosar: 04 670 0320

South: Kfar Hanokdim: 08 995 0097

Jerusalem: Rimonim: 02 675 2222

Monday, December 30

*“And God said to Abram: Go forth from your land,* from your *birthplace, from your*

*Father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make a great nation of you and will give you blessing and will make your name great. Be a blessing!”* Genesis 12:1-2

DL 468 2:40 p.m.

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport: Welcome to Israel!

Pick up pre-ordered cell phones and change money.

Drive north to your hotel and check-in.

Dinner – hotel

Welcome to Israel: Orientation, security briefing, and ice breakers.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar, Sea of the Galilee

Tuesday, December 31

*"If you want to get familiar with the Golan you need to walk it, otherwise you won't see it or feel it. If you will drive through the Golan you can almost miss it and not pay attention that it is there."* Amos Keinan *"The Golan”*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Jeep Ride: Drive off road through the Golan and learn firsthand about its historical and military importance.

Mount Bental: Enjoy the beautiful viewpoint of northern Israel and Syria. On a clear day you can even see Damascus!

Lunch – on own

Hike through the Banias to see the ruins of this ancient city and its stunning waterfall.

Visit OZ 77 to see the movie and the Valley of Tears, where one of the fiercest tank battles took place, during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Return to the hotel.

Dinner – hotel

*Hillel Conversation: Special and Normal*

Overnight: Nof Ginosar, Sea of the Galilee

Wednesday, January 1

*“If you know the secret of your soul and the makeup of your body, you can grasp the nature of the Higher World, because man is an olam katan (small world).” Ibn Ezra in his commentary on Exodus 25:45*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Hike down the side of Mount Arbel.

Visit the Tzfat Mikvah to learn more about spirituality and the ritual bath.

Lunch – on own

Tzfat: Inhale the pure Galilean mountain air in the city of Jewish mysticism, where the great Kabbalists lived and studied.

Return to the hotel.

Dinner – hotel

Mifgash Preparation and Israeli Society.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar, Sea of the Galilee

Thursday, January 2

*“By facing the emptiness of the desert, they [some people] find the soul in themselves.”* Lesley Hazelton Where Mountains Roar

Breakfast and checkout of the hotel.

Drive south.

Mifgash: Meet your Israeli "hevre" (friends) who will travel with you for the next five days, providing a firsthand look into Israel.

Lunch – on own

Lakiya Rikmat Hamidbar: meet with Bedouin women to learn about their lives and the Bedouin society. Rikmat Hamidbar aims at providing employment for Bedouin women as part of organization to advance the status of women in the city of Lakia.

Learn about the desert at the Arad Overlook.

Camel ride at Hanokdim: Enjoy a ride on the "ships of the desert".

Dinner: Bedouin Hafla: Find a spot under the tent and eat a traditional Bedouin feast.

*Hillel Conversation: Spirituality – Wrestling with God - out in the Dessert*

Overnight: Kfar Hanokdim

Friday, January 3

*"Though we are not alike in mind or body, somewhere in the depths of our souls we know we are the children of one people.”* From “Jews Around the World” by Ruth Brin

Breakfast

Ascend Masada via The Roman Ramp. Explore the famous desert stronghold overlooking the Dead Sea, complete with the palaces of King Herod and the site of the last battle against the Romans during the First Uprising (67-73 C.E).

Dead Sea Float: Enjoy a swim in the lowest place on earth, where you can even read a book while you float in the sea.

Lunch – on own

Shehechiyanu: Welcome to Jerusalem!

Check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.

Candle lighting

Kabbalat Shabbat. Welcome Shabbat with different service options: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Alternative.

Shabbat rituals and dinner

Oneg Shabbat

Overnight: Rimonim, Jerusalem

Shabbat, January 4

*“The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space”* Abraham Joshua Heschel

Breakfast at the hotel.

Shabbat morning programs

Shabbat rituals and lunch

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

*Hillel Conversation: How I relate to Israel and how Israel relates to me.*

Shabbat Menucha (rest)

Havdallah: Separating from Shabbat.

Meet with Avraham Infeld, President Emeritus of Hillel.

Dinner – on own

Ben Yehuda Street – Free time in the center of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Rimonim, Jerusalem

Sunday, January 5

*“Jerusalem is a port city on the shore of eternity.” Yehuda Amichai*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Old City: Touch the stones and walk through 3,000 years of Jewish history, as we visit the Jewish Quarter and the Kotel (Western Wall).

Lunch – on own

Mount Herzl: Visit Israel’s national cemetery where the leaders of the State of Israel are buried, alongside fallen soldiers from Israel's wars.

Return to the hotel.

Yad Vashem preparation

Dinner – hotel

Israel update - an update on the current political and social events in Israel.

Overnight: Rimonim, Jerusalem

Monday, January 6

*For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.” Elie Weisel*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Yad Vashem: The Jewish People’s memorial to victims murdered during the Shoah (Holocaust). Visit the memorial for the righteous gentiles who saved Jews during the Shoah.

*Hillel Conversation: My Connection to Jewish Memory*

Lunch – on own

Stroll through Machane Yehuda Market, the largest open air food market in Jerusalem.

Mifgash Conclusion

Visit the famous Menorah outside the Knesset, Israel’s house of parliament.

Return to the hotel.

Dinner – hotel

Maale Film School Program: Experience an evening of film and discussion at one of the local film schools of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Rimonim, Jerusalem

Tuesday, January 7

*“The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.” The Declaration of Independence*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive to Tel Aviv.

Jaffa: Walk through the old alleyways of Jaffa and see its ancient port.

Rabin Square: Stand for a moment in time at the spot where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated on Nov. 4, 1995 only moments after having sung Shir L’Shalom (A song for peace).

Lunch – on own

Independence Hall: Where it all began! Visit the small hall that hosted the historic declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Drive to Jerusalem and return to the hotel.

Dinner – hotel

Gift of Life – learn about the Bone Marrow Foundation and have an opportunity to join the registry.

Overnight: Rimonim, Jerusalem

Wednesday, January 8

*“Hasten to lead us, the plants of your vineyard, again redeemed to Zion with joyous song. ‘Next year in Jerusalem.’”* Conclusion of the Passover Haggadah

Breakfast and checkout of the hotel.

Tour the Seam Line for an in depth understanding of the Security Barrier.

Stalactalite Caves ­ - Visit the underground wonders in the Judean Hills.

Lunch – on own

Visit Neot Kedumim, the biblical landscape, for a “green” activity.

Conclusion conversation.

Farewell dinner

Drive to the airport.

DL 469 12:40 a.m. on January 9