

CONGREGATION OR HADASH ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP
with Rabbis Mario Karpuj & Analia Bortz
15 – 27 June 2010

Tuesday, 15 June

Departure from Atlanta on Lufthansa Flight 445 at 5:50pm. Transfer in Frankfurt to LH 686

Wednesday, 16 June

Early afternoon arrival in Israel

Volunteer at "Table to Table;" participate in the important mitzvah of leket as you harvest crops for the poor

Proceed to Tel Aviv for hotel check-in

Welcome dinner at Maganda Yemenite Restaurant

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, 17 June

At Independence Hall, relive Ben Gurion's moving declaration of the State

Walk through the fascinating, underground Roman water system that once fed ancient Caesaria at Alona Park near Binyamina (strap-on water shoes, small towel needed)

See ancient history come to life at the multi-media center against the backdrop of ancient Caesaria. Excavations include an impressive amphitheatre and aqueduct

Return to Tel Aviv for free time on the beach followed by a free evening

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, 18 June

Enjoy an impressive presentation of the amazing achievements of the Palmach at the multi-media Palmach Museum (if available; age 5 and up only)

Climb down into the amazing underground, pre-State bullet factory built by the Haganah under the noses of the British at the Ayalon Institute

Browse through unique craft items in Nahalat Binyamin's colorful, open-air market, and see modern Tel Aviv in action

Kabbalat Shabbat services on the beach with Rabbis Karpuj and Bortz

Shabbat dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Shabbat, 19 June

Shabbat morning services at Kehillat Sinai with Rabbi Roberto Arbib

Day at leisure to relax or explore Tel Aviv on one's own, including free Israeli dancing on the boardwalk

Shabbat lunch buffet at the hotel

Evening Option: Enjoy a very special dinner, served by deaf waiters who will teach you sign language during your meal, followed by Na Laga'at, a unique play performed by actors who are both deaf and blind (not included in tour price)

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Sunday, 20 June

Meet members of Israel's Druze community in Dalyat al Karmel; shop in their colorful market, hear about their fierce patriotism, and enjoy their warm hospitality

In Atlit walk through the detention camp that held Holocaust refugees denied entry into Eretz Yisrael by the British

Continue north to the mesmerizing grottos of Rosh Hanikra, at Israel's border with Lebanon

Hotel check-in and dinner

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Tiberias

Monday, 21 June

Ascend the Golan Heights and stop to gaze down over the Galilee as the Syrians once did; enter army bunkers and take in a panoramic view at the crossroads of three countries. Continue to Mt. Bental overlooking Syria.

Take a wonderful hike to the waterfall at the Banias Nature Reserve.

Enjoy a scenic boat ride on Lake Kinneret (from Ginnosar)

Free evening on the Tiberias promenade

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Tiberias

Tuesday, 22 June

Plant a tree in Israeli soil in honor or in memory of a loved one

Tour the synagogues, courtyards, and shops of the mystical city of Tzfat, including free time for shopping; visit Kabbalistic artist in his studio

Explore the magnificently excavated ancient city of Tzippori; discover ancient beauty and evidence of a community in which Jews and Romans coexisted peacefully
Continue south for the ascent to Jerusalem
Take in a breathtaking view of the Old City of Jerusalem; recite the shehehianu blessing
Hotel check-in and dinner
Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 23 June

(Group may split) First timers: In the Kotel Tunnels, walk alongside the massive foundation stones of the Western Wall OR Repeat visitors: Take an Old City walking tour to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Coptic Village, Arab and Armenian Quarters
Explore the Southern Wall Excavations and learn about the workings of the ancient Temple at the Davidson Center
Travel through many centuries as you tour the Jewish Quarter, with free time for lunch (on one's own) and shopping in the Cardo
Travel through many centuries in a guided walk through the Jewish Quarter
Go way back in time King David's Jerusalem in David's City and enjoy sloshing through Hezekia's water tunnel (strap on water shoes needed)
Free time for dinner, on one's own
Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, 24 June

Early departure for the ascent by cable car to Masada. Take part in a moving Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony at this ancient site. Tour the impressive excavations and discuss the terrible dilemma faced by its Jewish population during Roman times; option to walk up Masada available
Enjoy a walk through the beautiful Ein Gedi Nature Reserve and review the biblical story of kings David and Saul "on site"
Stop for a dip and mud baths at the amazing Dead Sea
Enjoy an early evening camel trek through the desert and a delicious dinner and Bedouin hospitality at Kfar Hanokdim.
Overnight: Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Friday, 25 June

Visit the new Holocaust Memorial Museum (age 12 and up only) and the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem; alternative interactive tour available for younger children on site
Take in a special multi-media presentation about the life of the Father of Modern Zionism at the new Herzl Exhibit (if available) OR At Ammunition Hill, see former Jordanian bunkers and learn about the fierce Six Day War battle for Jerusalem that took place here
Visit colorful, bustling Machaneh Yehuda open-air market, as Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat
Friday night services in the Old City at Robinson's Arch or at a synagogue of your choice
Shabbat dinner at the hotel
Overnight: Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Shabbat, 26 June

Shabbat morning services at Congregation Moreshet Yisrael, followed by Kiddush
Shabbat lunch at the hotel
Shabbat afternoon walking tour to fascinating neighborhoods near our hotel
Havdalah with Rabbis Karpuj and Bortz
Farwell dinner at Olive and Fish Restaurant (meat), followed by a free evening for final shopping in Jerusalem
Overnight: Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Sunday, 27 June – A Temporary Departure

Early morning departure for the airport for return flight on Lufthansa Flight 691 at 5:00am.
Transfer in Frankfurt to Flight 444. Arrive to Atlanta at 4:00 pm and begin planning your next Israel trip