

YALE CLASS OF 1957

ISRAEL & JORDAN

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 7, 2008

ITINERARY

October 23
Thursday

DEPART USA FOR ISRAEL

JFK International Airport to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

October 24
Friday

TEL AVIV

Upon arrival in Israel, we will be transferred to our hotel for some rest before our welcome cocktail reception and dinner. **Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel (D)**

October 25
Saturday

TEL AVIV

After breakfast, we will visit the Ayalon Institute, the code name for a secret factory built by the Haganah in 1945. It was hidden eight meters beneath the laundromat in a kibbutz to manufacture bullets for the Sten sub-machine gun, the primary personal weapon used during the struggle against the Arabs who were living on the land at the end of the British Mandate. Then, drive to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam which is a cooperative village of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam gives practical expression to its vision of an egalitarian society through pioneering educational work at The School for Peace, Children's Educational System and Pluralistic Spiritual Centre. Besides its educational work, NSWAS and its members also conduct other projects such as a humanitarian aid program. Enjoy lunch with members and a question & answer session about the life and work they do here. Return to the coast and stop in Jaffa the ancient seaport mentioned in the biblical narrative of Jonah and the whale, and in the story of Solomon's import of the cedars of Lebanon. Jaffa's fishing port, St. Peter's Church, the artist quarter, visitor center and panoramic view of Tel Aviv are all highlights. Walk through the area known as the "White City" to see the preservation of buildings of Bauhaus architecture of the 1920s and 1930s, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **(B,L,D)**

October 26
Sunday

TEL AVIV – ROSH PINA

This morning, we will begin our journey north via the coastal highway to tour Caesarea, the former Roman capital of Palestine (Judea), where we will find the remains of the home of Philip the Evangelist and where Paul was imprisoned and appeared before Festus, Felix and King Agrippa. Tour the Roman theater, the hippodrome and the promenade to the renovated Crusader city. Then, continue to Muhraka, the traditional site of Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Ba'al at the site of the Carmelite Monastery of St. Elijah. After, drive to Daliyat El-Carmel, a Druze village, for lunch and a visit with a local speaker. Our next stop will be at the Bahai Shrine & Persian Gardens

for a view of Haifa Bay. Continue to Acre, the ancient Phoenician and Crusader seaport (designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site) for a tour of the Knights Halls, the Al-Jazzar Mosque, and the covered markets. We will end our day in the Galilee. **Mizpe Hayamim Hotel (B,L,D)**

**October 27
Monday**

ROSH PINA

This morning, we will start with a tour of the grounds of our very special hotel. All of the fruit, vegetables, herbs, etc. used by the hotel are grown right here. We will then proceed to Safed, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years, and a contemporary artist colony. Visit the unique synagogues, stroll through the quaint art galleries and shop in the artist colony. After, drive north to visit the bunkers at Har Ben Tal and have lunch at one of the local kibbutzim. Then, visit the Kesem Hagolan (Golan Magic), an interactive map and multi-sensory experience museum in Katzrin, the "Capital of the Golan". En route back to our hotel, drive over the Bnot Yacov Bridge. **(B,L,D)**

**October 28
Tuesday**

ROSH PINA

After breakfast, we will visit the Galilee's cradle of Christianity beginning with the Mount of the Beatitudes, the scene of the Sermon of the Mount. Continue to Tabha, commemorating the miracle of the Fishes and the Loaves, and Capernaum, Simon Peter's home town. Stop for lunch at the entrance of a fishing village (modern-day Migal) on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Then, drive to the Lower Galilee to Tel Megiddo, home to a palace and walls of Solomon, a complex water system built by King Ahab, scene of Armageddon and believed to be the backdrop for James Michener's novel, The Source. Megiddo is one of Israel's most important and impressive archaeological sites, also a World Heritage Site. Continue to Nazareth, childhood town of Jesus, with the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Church of St. Joseph. Drive to Cana, the village where Jesus performed the first miracle, turning water into wine, with the Wedding Church and the Church of Nathanael. Continue to the Yigal Alon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar to see a magnificent display of the wooden Galilee Boat, dating from the time of Jesus, discovered mired in the mud on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. **(B,L,D)**

**October 29
Wednesday**

ROSH PINA – AMMAN, JORDAN

This morning, we will leave the Galilee for Jordan. After crossing the border, we will visit Jerash, the most complete and well preserved city of the Roman Empire. Wander among the original temples, theaters, plazas, paths and colonnaded streets, all enclosed within the remaining city walls. Remains have been found of settlements dating from the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad and Abbasid periods, indicating human occupation at this location for more than 2,500 years. After lunch, proceed to the Saracen castle at Ajloun built in the 12th century by Saladin in his campaign against the Crusaders. Then, drive to Amman.

Grand Hyatt Amman Hotel (B,L,D)

**October 30
Thursday**

AMMAN - PETRA

Today, we will take a tour of the city before departing to Petra, visiting en route the mosaic city of Madaba where the oldest map of the holy land exists

on the floor of Saint Georges' Cathedral and Mt. Nebo, the traditional burial site of Moses. Continue southwards via the breathtaking scenery of Wadi Mujeb to visit the Crusader castle at Karak. Continue to Petra.

Movenpick Resort (B,L,D)

**October 31
Friday**

PETRA

This morning, we will spend our day in the lost Nabatean city of Petra. Once passing through the main gate, we will mount our horses for a 700 meter ride to the beginning of the "siq", a huge fissure between two overhanging cliffs. Once there, dismount and walk the kilometer long siq until the most astonishing monument of Petra, the Treasury, appears before our eyes. Wander with the guide among the temples, tombs, water cisterns, caves, monuments, Street of Facades, the Roman Theater, the massive Courthouse or the Urn Tomb, the Royal Tombs, finally ending at Qasr Al-Bint. Some of us may decide to climb the staircase of 700 steps carved in the multi-colored mountain to the High Place of Sacrifice where we will be able to view all of Petra below. **(B,L,D)**

**November 1
Saturday**

PETRA – DEAD SEA, ISRAEL

After breakfast, we will make our way to the magical desert of Wadi Rum, the home of "Lawrence of Arabia", where we will tour this moon-like desert landscape in Bedouin driven jeeps. After lunch, we will cross back into Israel and then stop for the night at the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. Before dinner, we will have an opportunity to use the facilities of the hotel's spa.

Meridien Hotel Dead Sea (B,L,D)

**November 2
Sunday**

DEAD SEA - JERUSALEM

Today, we will first visit Massada where we will take the cable car to the top of the rock and visit the Roman palaces, store houses, synagogues and bath house that witnessed the Jewish resistance to the Romans approximately 2,000 years ago. After, drive north to Qumran to visit the Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Stop for lunch and time permitting, take a dip in the mineral rich Dead Sea. Continue to Jerusalem.

American Colony Hotel (B,L,D)

**November 3
Monday**

JERUSALEM

After breakfast, we will begin with an exciting walking tour through the Old City of Jerusalem. We'll first visit the Temple area where the Jewish temple stood until its destruction in 70 A.D. There, we will see the Dome of the Rock Mosque built over the rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac. We'll also see the Aksa Mosque and the Golden Gate. Then, we will visit the beautiful Crusader Church dedicated to St. Anne and the nearby Pool of Bethesda. As we continue our walking tour, we'll pass the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher following which we will see part of the old colorful bazaar. After lunch, we will travel to the Mount of Olives and enjoy a breathtaking view of the city of Jerusalem. While we are there, our guide will point out all of the important sites of this ancient city. We'll also visit the Pater Noster Church (Church of the Lord's Prayer) and the Garden of Gethsemane, site of Jesus' agony and betrayal. We will then proceed to Mount Zion to visit the Upper Room and the traditional Tomb of King David. We'll end today's tour by

visiting the House of Caiaphas where Peter denied Christ three times. **(B,L,D)**

**November 4
Tuesday**

JERUSALEM

This morning, we will drive south of Jerusalem to Herodium which is the most outstanding among King Herod's building projects. This is the only site that carries his name and the site where he chose to be buried and to memorialize himself - all of this with the integration of a huge, unique palace at the fringe of the desert. After an in depth visit, we will drive to the Bethlehem checkpoint into Palestinian territory where an Arab bus & escort will take us to the Church of Nativity and Manger Square. Enjoy lunch in a local Bethlehem restaurant and some time for shopping. Return to the Israeli side of the border at Rachel's Tomb. Our last stop today will be Calvary and the Garden Tomb, a peaceful spot where many Christians remember Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Dinner this evening is on our own. **(B,L)**

**November 5
Wednesday**

JERUSALEM

Today, we will once again visit Jerusalem's Old City. We'll enter through the Dung Gate to see the Southern Wall excavations and the steps where Jesus walked to Herod's second temple. We will then walk a little further to see the restored Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo. After lunch, we'll visit the Western (Wailing) Wall and the Western Wall Tunnel. There, we will see the ancient hand chiseled cisterns, narrow passages, an arch that supported the bridge across the Tyropean Valley, and the original Herodian foundation stones upon which the Western (Wailing) Wall was built. Our next stop will be at the Fortress of Antonia, probable site of Pilate's palace. Then, we'll trace the Via Dolorosa from Pilate's palace to the Damascus Gate. This is probably the route Jesus took as He carried His cross to Calvary. Then, we will travel to the new section of Jerusalem to visit the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept and visit the Model City of Jerusalem as it was in 69 AD. We'll then travel a short distance to the Yad V'Shem, a museum built in memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis in World War II. **(B,L,D)**

**November 6
Thursday**

JERUSALEM

On our last day in Jerusalem, we will spend the morning visiting the City of David to see the place and the archaeological findings where Jerusalem became Jewish three millennia ago. The City of David gives a rare opportunity to understand how politics and religion alike served ancient rulers to achieve their goals. We will explore the support wall and place of King David's citadel and palace, the immense water system and watch towers of Abraham's time, King Hezekiah's tunnel, and the big Pool of Siloam of Jesus' time, recently excavated. After our morning tour, we will be on our own for lunch and shopping and/or additional exploring. In the late afternoon, we will meet for our farewell cocktail party and dinner at our hotel and then transfer to the airport in Tel Aviv for our post midnight return flight home. **(B,D)**

**November 7
Friday**

DEPART BEN GURION AIRPORT FOR USA

Arrive at JFK in the early morning of the same day.