AFMDA Mission to Israel Itinerary
October 27-November 2, 2023

Please note: Itinerary is subject to change

Friday, October 27
- Welcome to Israel!

- Arrive in Israel
- Check in to the hotel
  - Time to rest and freshen up or walk around and experience Jerusalem before Shabbat
- Welcome reception at the hotel with light snacks and refreshments in a private room
  - Meet your fellow travelers and toast to being in Israel
- Candle Lighting in Lobby
- Walk to Kotel before Kabbalat Shabbat (transportation can be provided, if needed)
- 5:50 p.m. Shabbat begins
- Enjoy a private Shabbat service and dinner at a private event space with a beautiful view overlooking the Kotel

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Saturday, October 28
- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
- Optional activities:
  - Walk to a local synagogue for Shabbat morning services
  - Excursion to Dead Sea/Masada (additional charge)
• Guided walking tour of the Old City
  o Walk through the alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem and discover the intertwined stories of Jews, Christians, and Muslims throughout all four quarters. Make a wish and slip a note to the cracks of the Western Wall and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, home to the empty tomb of Jesus.

• Lunch on own
• Israel Briefing with Neil Lazarus – internationally acclaimed commentator and educator in Middle East politics and public diplomacy - at a private room at the hotel
• 6:31 p.m. Shabbat ends. “Shavua tov - a good week!”
• Dinner and Group Havdalah at Emile Botta

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

Sunday, October 29
• Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
• See Magen David Adom’s Bloomberg Station
  o MDA’s largest station, it is one of seven national dispatch centers and is responsible for providing EMS for 1.7 million Jews, Muslims, and Christians
• Special Tour of the Knesset with a Knesset Member speaker - TBD
  o Be in the room where it happens and all of Israel’s important decisions are made
• Lunch at Modern
• Visit the Supreme Court
• Dinner on own

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem (clocks turn back an hour overnight for daylight savings)

Monday, October 30
• Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
• Fauda Base Experience
  o Take an interactive sneak peek into the mysterious and mystifying world of Israeli undercover operatives
• Hummus Lunch at Fauda Base in their Bedouin tent and meet with Glenn Cohen – former Mossad agent
  o Only a handful of Mossad officers have ever received clearance to step out of the shadows and share their stories. Glenn shares his riveting narrative of 30 years of service as a Mossad officer and Chief Psychologist, Israeli Airforce Pilot, and IDF
hostage negotiator. He reveals the secret sauce of what makes elite operatives tick and how they achieve the seemingly impossible.

- Free time on own
- Shuk and Cook with famous Israeli Chef Tali Friedman
  - Combine the fun of cooking with the vibrancy of the Mahane Yehuda Market. Start with a private tour of the market. Hear stories from the market’s vendors and taste the most delicious food. After the tour, walk up to the atelier for a cooking workshop and then enjoy the amazing dinner you cooked all together.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem

**Tuesday, October 31**

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
- Check out of hotel
- IDF base visit
  - Get a chance to hear the solders’ stories, see how they live their daily lives, and learn about what they do whilst serving in the Israeli Defense Force.
- Dead Sea Floating Cruise
  - Take a wonderful journey on the Dead Sea, Israel’s natural treasure. Sail on a motorboat along the northern shores of the Dead Sea and see this one-of-a-kind natural phenomenon in all of its splendor. Visit the secret hidden gems, where you will see and feel mud deposits, salt pearls, salt diamonds, streams of water flowing to the sea, and sinkholes full of sweet water.
  - Or explore the Botanical Gardens at Ein Gedi
    - Located in a rare junction between water and desert, stream and sea, old and new, see a spectacular mix of desert and savanna flora, from all around the globe, flourishing in the heart of the Judean Desert.
- Lunch at Kibbutz Kali
- Jeep Ride in Ha Ella Valley
  - Embark on an exciting off-road experience in the Judean Desert. Access areas closed off to regular vehicles and see the wonders of this unique area.
- Private dinner in the desert under the stars with live musical entertainment
- Check into hotel

Overnight: Royal Beach, Tel Aviv

**Wednesday, November 1**

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
- Visit MDA’s Marcus National Blood Services Center (MNBSC), Ramla
This new state-of-the-art underground facility, the MNBSC is the world’s first shielded blood bank. Protecting Israel’s blood supply is vital, as it is vulnerable to attack from terrorism, chemical and cyber-attacks, and natural disasters. The MNBSC is also home to Israel’s only Human Milk Bank.

- Tasting tour in Ramla market with hummus demonstration
  - Away from the spotlight, a multicultural colorful and fascinating market has been running for over one hundred years. The market began during the Ottoman period and used to be the main thoroughfare leading the way from Jerusalem to Jaffa and from South to North. Embark on a journey through a world of fragrances, flavors, culinary anecdotes, stories, and old and new market.

- Visit MDA’s National Operations Center, Kiryat Ono
  - This state-of-the-art facility is MDA’s central “brain” and houses the proprietary Command and Control System – the most sophisticated EMS dispatch system in the world.

- Free time on own
- Dinner on own
- Optional evening cultural event/show (additional charge)

**Overnight: Royal Beach, Tel Aviv**

**Thursday, November 2**

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel’s restaurant
- Yoga on the beach
  - Inhale and exhale the morning sea breeze as you unwind with this truly special and invigorating experience.
- Private Bauhaus Architecture tour
  - The White City in the heart of Tel Aviv has been declared an UNESCO World Heritage site, let’s experience the story of Tel Aviv through its architecture, from a sleepy garden city to the metropolis it is today.
- Explore, shop, and eat your way through the ancient port city of Jaffa on own
  - For more than 5,000 years this magical port city brimming with life, color, and excitement served as the setting for the first leg of the journey for the sailors, pilgrims, and adventurers who “washed upon the shores” of the Holy Land. Step foot in the place where Jonah the Prophet embarked on a journey that would become one of the most famous stories ever told.
- Guided VIP tour of the ANU - Museum of the Jewish People
  - Recently completely renovated and expanded, the ANU is the largest and most comprehensive Jewish museum in the world. It is the world’s only museum dedicated to celebrating and exploring the diverse experiences, collective
accomplishments, and boundless spirit of the Jewish people, told from biblical times to today. Formerly known as Beit Hatfutsot, the museum embarks on this next chapter with a new name and identity by adding “ANU” - Hebrew for “we” or “us” - which embraces and reflects the diversity, nuances, collective spirit, and celebration of the entirety of Jewish peoplehood.

- 5:30 p.m. Check out of the hotel
- Farewell dinner at Tetto in the Sarona market
- Group transfer to airport

לתחזרות – See you soon!

Services Included:

- Five days of transportation on a private coach bus
- Six nights hotel accommodations
- Armored security guard to accompany the group
- Meals according to the itinerary
- English-speaking travel escort accompanying the group throughout the trip
- Group coordinator assigned to the group. This person is Israeli-based and helps with items such as logistics and dinner recommendations throughout trip.
- Tips and gratuities
- Porterage
- VAT and Local Taxes

Services Not Included:

- International Airfare
- Arrival/Departure Transfer/VIP Assistance (Gil Travel will assist in booking)
- 4% Credit Card Processing Fee
- Optional tours
- Travel and medical insurance (We strongly suggest the acquisition of comprehensive medical and travel (“Cancel for Any Reason”) insurance.
- Quarantine expenses related to COVID