

Union for Progressive Judaism Sample Solidarity Mission to Israel

Itinerary, pricing and all terms and conditions are subject to change without notice, either before departure or after commencement of the program.

May 3 – 10, 2024

Day 1: Friday, May 3, 2024

Welcome to Israel; Bruchim Ha'Baim

- Arrival in Israel. **VIP meet and greet** at Ben Gurion Airport.
- Meet your guide and driver and proceed to Jerusalem.
- **Recite Shehecheyanu**, the blessing upon reaching Jerusalem, at the **Haas Promenade** with the views of old and new Jerusalem, with **Rabbi Serjio Bergman**, President, World Union for Progressive Judaism (TBC)
- **Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner** at **Kol Haneshama Congregation** Located in the beautiful Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 2: Saturday, May 4, 2024

- Breakfast at the hotel
- **Optional:** Attend service at Kehilat Har-El followed by Kiddush. Established in 1958, it is the founding congregation of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.
- *It's Five o'clock somewhere:* Afternoon discussion **Zoom in on the Impact of October 7th**, with **Yossi Klein Halevy (TBC)**, at **Hebrew Union College**. Halevy is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative at Duke University. His latest book, *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*, is a New York Times bestseller.
- Havdalah Service at the **Hebrew Union College** organized by **Rabbi Stacey**
- **Informal dinner with World Union of Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) leadership** and talk, at Hebrew Union, with **Ittay Fleischer (TBC)**, the Jerusalem correspondent for Plus61JMedia. Since moving to Israel in 2018 from Melbourne, Ittay has been collecting stories about the people with whom he shares Jerusalem. He is also the Education Director at a youth movement that brings together Israeli and Palestinian teenagers to work towards equality, justice, and peace.
- *Overnight: Jerusalem*

Day 3: Sunday, May 5, 2024

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tour of **Israel Supreme Court** and Briefing with **IRAC (Israel Religious Action Centre) Director Orly Erez-Likovsky**. Orly has brought about significant legal achievements such as making gender segregation on public transportation illegal, ending the Orthodox monopoly on state-funded salaries to rabbis, filing (and winning) the first ever class action suit regarding exclusion of women, and disqualifying racist candidates from running to Israel's parliament.
- Meeting with the professional teams of **Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ)**.
- Close-up look to Israeli house of parliament, the **Knesset**. During the visit you will be introduced to the nature of Israeli democracy, roles, and responsibilities, and to the works of art displayed throughout the building. Meet **MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv (TBC) from Ha'avoda (Labor) party-The first Progressive Rabbi to be elected to the Knesset**, plus other Knesset Members from different parties.
- Lunch on your own at Machne Yehuda Market (on own)
- Early dinner at the hotel
- **Attend Yom HaShoa, Israel's holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony** at Yad Vashem (TBC)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 4: Monday, May 6, 2024

Yom HaShoah; Holocaust Memorial Day

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart Jerusalem. Join the farmers of Israel for an **agricultural volunteering in the fields**.
- Afternoon visit and meeting at **Leo Baeck Education Center** (The mission of the Leo Baeck Education Center is to build a pluralistic society in the spirit of progressive Judaism, Zionism, democracy, and shared responsibility). Talks with Rabbi Stacey on Education Challenges and Opportunities, with **Rabbi Ofek Meir**, Headmaster and Managing Director, Leo Beack, **Rabbi Osnat Morag**, Education Center's Rabbi, and **Rabbi Ariella Graetz-Bartov**, Ohel Avrajam In-house congregation. Then meeting Jewish-Arab **dialogue activists** at the Communal Garden project.
- Dinner at **Hamam Al Pasha Restaurant** with the **IMPJ Leadership Team**.

Overnight: Haifa

Day 5: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

- Breakfast at the hotel
- At Beit HaGefen, meet Chairman of Ra'am party, Member of Knesset **Mansour Abas (TBC)**, at **Beit HaGefen**, on Challenges and Opportunities for Israeli Arabs post-October 7 and on leading the first Arab party to serve with a sitting Israeli Government. At Beit HaGefen we will hear explanation on the role of Beit HaGefen by director, **Asaf Rom**.
- Visit the **Ramban Medical Center**, perform the mitzvah of **Bikur Holim** visiting soldiers who were wounded during Swords of Iron War, and support Israel by giving blood at the hospital (TBC).
- Drive to Tel Aviv along the coastal road and Mediterranean Sea
- Meet with **evacuates** from **Kibbutz Kfar Aza** and hear from the Chairman of The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Executives, **General (res) Doron Almog** on **The Fund for Victims of Terror**, including **catered lunch**.
- Continue to **Brothers and Sisters in Israel**, **Achim L'neshek Headquarters** in Cinema City Glilot for meeting with **Col (res) Ronen Kerthler**, co-founder (TBC).
- Check in hotel. Rest and refresh.
- Reception and dinner to celebrate **Israel's upcoming 76th Independence** with the **Ambassador Ralph King**, Australian Ambassador to Israel, and with Olim - new immigrants from Australia, and with Netzer youth participating on a Shnat program, at the **Ambassador Residence** (TBC).

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 6, Wednesday, May 8, 2024

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Meet military expert, Haaretz journalist, **Amos Harel** (One of Israel's leading media experts on military and defense issues. He has been the military correspondent and defense analyst for Haaretz for the last 25 years) at an IDF base for a briefing, then meet with soldiers. (Subject to IDF approval)
- Visit to **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**. Tour and testimonial by **Amlas Chen Kotler**, a lifelong resident of the kibbutz. Walk through the kibbutz, hear about life along the border – agriculture, education, culture, and community, and on the terrified experience Simchat Torah, October 7.
- At **Sderot**, the only city in the Gaza Peninsula, we meet visit the **Municipality War Room**, including a movie and then meet with **Talia Levanon**, CEO, Israel Trauma Coalition (TBC).
- Visit the **Nova Festival site**, and possible **tree planting** - to be coordinated with Australian JNF
- Honor IDF soldiers defending the south as we **cook and serve BBQ dinner** for them.
- Return to Tel Aviv

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 7: Thursday, May 9, 2024

- Breakfast at hotel
- Travel to Jerusalem for **prayer at the Western Wall** with **Women of the Wall** (Rosh Hodesh Iyar), followed by coffee and cake with **Women of the Wall**.
- Meet the **President of Israel, Isaac Herzog**, at the President Residence (TBC).
- Proceed to **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Meet with diplomat **Dr. Tal Backer** (An Australian-Israeli lawyer, diplomatic advisor, and civil servant, who was on the legal team representing Israel in its 2024 case before the International Court of Justice).
- Afternoon tour of **Progressive UIA projects** in Tel Aviv-Jaffa and meet with recipients; LGBTQ community, Ukraine refugees, and more.
- **Farewell dinner at Beit Daniel** with **Yair Lapid (TBC)**, a Progressive Jew, Chairman of Yesh Atid party, head of the Opposition in the Knesset, to discuss the Politics post-Gaza War 9, and with **Rabbi Meir Azari**, Executive Director of Beit Daniel, with **Anna Kaslinski** and **Yair Lootstein** from IMPJ and with **Rabbi Sergio** and **Phylis Dorey** from WUPJ

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 8: Friday, May 10, 2004

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit **Yitzhak Rabin Museum**: The goal of the center is to ensure that Rabin's story is a cautionary tale and to perpetuate his belief in democratic values, social cohesion, open dialogue, and Zionism. From the story of Rabin's life, we can draw valuable lessons. Participate in a **final discussion** led by **Rabbi Stacey** on what the future holds for Israel and how the group feel about the country and returning to the Diaspora.
- Depart for Ben Gurion Airport. **VIP meet and greet** at the airport.
OR
Extend your stay in Israel.....