

Tuesday 10 July 2018

Welcome to Israel. We will collect participants from Ben Gurion International Airport early this morning and travel to Jerusalem. There we will enjoy a tour of the Old City focusing on both the holy and historic sites within the Old City, and its political significance.

Our tour will include:

- An overview of populations in the Old City and Jerusalem generally;
- The Armenian quarter and Israel's relations with the Armenians and Turkey, including its refusal to recognise the Armenian Genocide despite demanding recognition of the Holocaust;
- The Jewish quarter, including:
 - Hezekiah's "Broad Wall";
 - The Cardo;
 - The story of the First Temple, Babylonian Exile, Return to Zion, Second Temple, Great Revolt and Bar Kochba Revolt, and how Rabbinic leaders worked to preserve Judaism in dire times;
 - Jewish efforts to return to Jerusalem through the ages;
 - The Hurva Synagogue;
 - The Golden Menorah;
 - The Western Wall;
 - A view of the Mount of Olives and Temple Mount.
- The Muslim quarter, including:
 - The entrance to the Temple Mount and Al Aksa complex;
 - Discussion of recent tensions on the Temple Mount;
 - Discussion of prayer and visitation rights on the Temple Mount;
 - The Arab markets.
- The Christian quarter including:
 - The stations of the Cross;
 - The role of Arab Christians leaders in the Palestinian national movement;
 - The Church of the Holy Sepulchre;
 - The Way of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Wednesday 11 July 2018

This morning we will commence with a briefing from Mr Haviv Rettig Gur, the chief political correspondent for the Times of Israel.

After Mr Gur concludes, we will board the bus to Israel's border with the Gaza Strip. There we will:

- **Visit the town of Sderot**, which has been hit by several thousand rockets in recent years, and view many of the recovered rockets;
- Speak with **Brigadier General (res) Eyal Hagbi**, former commander of Israeli forces in Gaza. Brigadier Hagbi will talk about the threat posed by Hamas, attack tunnels, and rockets;
- Meet with a **representative of the local council**; and

- Visit the **Kibbutz closest to the border** for the views of a family living in the shadow of Hamas.

In the evening, we will return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Thursday 12 July 2018

This morning we will tour Yad Vashem, Israel's world leading center for Holocaust studies and Holocaust memorial.

Afterwards we will continue to Mt Hertzl, burial place of modern Zionism's leaders, as we discuss modern Zionism and the Arab national movement.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Friday 13 July 2018

This morning we will leave Israel and travel through a checkpoint to the city of Bethlehem controlled Palestinian authority, believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

There we will:

- Visit the **Al Aida refugee camp** to see what a Palestinian refugee camp looks like and hear about the issue of Palestinian refugees;
- Visit the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born;
- Take in the Palestinian Authority's "**museum of occupation**".

In the afternoon we will leave Bethlehem and travel to Ramallah where we will meet with a senior minister the Palestinian Authority, most likely **Dr Saeb Erakat**.

In the evening we continue to Tel Aviv, where we will be taken on a **nightlife tour**.

Overnight: Tel Aviv -

Saturday 14 July 2018

Today is the Jewish Sabbath. Participants will therefore enjoy an optional walking tour of Israel's cultural and economic capital Tel Aviv. Sites will include its famous beach front promenade, the founders' square, and the Ancient port of Jaffa.

In the evening we will hear from a **Druze feminist journalist**, who won the right of Druze women to serve as IDF spokeswomen. The Druze are a unique religious group that live in the Middle East, and in Israel, are passionately supportive of the state of Israel. Our guest will talk about her work as a journalist, her role in the Israeli feminist movement, and how she covered the Palestinian street as an undercover Israeli journalist.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Sunday 15 July 2018

This morning we will depart Tel Aviv and travel north to Israel's border with Lebanon. There we will enjoy a jeep tour on the border, led by an expert on Hezbollah.

Afterwards we will continue to the Golan Heights, from which we will be able to look over Syria and discuss the situation there, as well as the security ramifications for Israel.

In the evening we will stay near Israel's border with Jordan, and have time discuss Israeli Jordanian relations and Palestinian Jordanian relations.

Overnight: Tiberias, Sea of Galilee (tbc)

Monday 16 July

This morning we will travel past the site where Jesus was baptised (taking time to view it if participants wish) to Masada, the dessert top fortress that is consistently Israel's most visited tourist site. A hanging fortress built by King Herod the Great in grand Roman style, the dry air of the dessert preserves all that is there, and allows visitors to view magnificent examples of Roman architecture, baths and planning.

After Masada we will continue to the Dead Sea where participants will float on one of the world's natural wonders, before returning to Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Tuesday 17 July 2018

Today we will visit the Ancient city of Hebron, one of the most problematic cities in the current Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and the only Palestinian city with a Jewish settlement in its heart.

There we will:

- View the ancient ruins of Abraham's city;
- Meet with **the Jewish settlers' spokesperson**;
- Meet with the **Palestinian governor of the Hebron region**;
- Have lunch with a Palestinian family in their home;
- Tour the depressed Palestinian market and hear about the hardships of Palestinian life in the city;
- Visit the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

After leaving Hebron we will travel to Gush Etzion, one of the large "settlement blocks". There we will see more moderate settlements, and meet with a unique **peace organisation run by settlers and former Palestinian terrorists**. There we will also meet with a former general in the Palestinian Authority's police force.

In the evening we will return to Jerusalem

Overnight: Jerusalem

Wednesday 18 July 2018

This morning we will visit Israel's foreign ministry for briefings on:

- Australia-Israel relations and trade;
- Israeli-Palestinian negotiations;
- Iran; and
- The role of the US and Europe in the peace process, from the Israeli perspective.

Afterwards we walk to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, where we will enjoy a tour and meetings with several mps, likely including:

- Yitzhak Herzog (Labor);
- Yariv Levin (Likud);
- Aliza Lavie (Yesh Atid);
- Akram Hasson (Kulanu).

Overnight: Jerusalem

Thursday 19 July

This morning we will travel to Tel Aviv where we will meet with the Australian ambassador to Israel for Australia's perspective on the relationship as well as Australia's role in supporting the Palestinian independence movement.

Afterwards we will learn about Israel's bustling economy and high tech sector. Israel is one of a small number of countries in which the Australian government has opened an "innovation hub". We will visit that hub, as we are briefed on what we can take back to Australia.

Finally, those wishing to meet with the Israeli Trade Union Movement will have an opportunity to do so.

Our tour ends this evening