

TRY Families Israel Trip

April 4-8, 2017
(Subject to change)

Day 1: April 4 – In the Footsteps of TRY

Please note that the students landed from their Poland journey early this morning at 2 am and will be having a day of rest and re-entry following the trip. We ask that you allow the group to use that time to recuperate and reintegrate, and patiently wait until the late afternoon to meet up with them in the old city!

On our first day we will be examining what the students have been learning in their Israel Core Course (ICC), led by our teacher and tour guide Alexandra Benjamin, we will encompass several of the sites visited by TRY. The trip will end with an emotional meeting with the TRY students in the old city for the final section of their Poland journey - reflection and time at the Kotel.

We will meet in the Dan Panorama lobby at 9 am for orientation, meeting the Ramah staff and the rest of the TRY families.

We start our touring at the well-known **Tayelet promenade**, one of the most famous views in Jerusalem, where we will go back in history to the very beginnings of Israel's capital and learn how David conquered the Holy City 3000 years ago.

We will then travel to the beautiful **Sataf hike** in the Jerusalem mountains. This hike, a TRY classic done in the second week of the program when learning about the Judges period, is an easy walk, all downhill, has a unique cave on the way down, and like most places in Israel, is the site for many special events and time periods throughout history. We will stop in scenic **Bet Zayit** for lunch.

After lunch we will travel to the picturesque **Ein Karem**, a suburb of Jerusalem that contains many places of interest to Christian pilgrims - indeed, TRY goes there when studying Christianity - and is now home to many artists and quaint corners to explore.

We will then return to **Jerusalem** and join the TRY students in the **Old City**, for one of the most emotionally charged moments on TRY, as we reflect on our experience in Poland, and sum up the students' feelings before dancing down to the Kotel. There will be time for mincha (afternoon prayer) and reflection time at the Kotel. Finally, we will travel with TRY to our home on **the Chava – Goldstein youth village** - for an **opening BBQ** and formal welcome by the TRY staff.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 2: April 5- Open House at TRY

After breakfast in the hotel, we will arrive at the **Chava**. The morning will provide us with the opportunity to join TRY for a typical day at school, as a "fly-on-the-wall". We will meet some of the academic teachers, sit in on lessons, and meet with Jonathan Madoff, TRY Director, Aliza Grabin, Associate Director of TRY and Yoetzet, Meir Hoyzman, Director of Ramah Israel, Nicole Dror, Parent Liaison, and the TRY Academic Coordinator. The morning of classes and meetings will be followed by lunch with the TRY students on campus.

Following lunch we will tour the Chava itself and learn why it is not simply a school but an integral part of our history, followed by a **walking tour of sites in Jerusalem** by Director of Education and Core Course teacher Betsalel Steinhart. Walking through Jerusalem is never just a way to get from point A to B, and we will see many sites that TRY has covered or will cover, including **San Simon, Emek Refaim, Yemin Moshe, the first train station**, and others, on our return walk to the hotel.

We will then have a free evening with the students.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 3: April 6 - ICC Tiyul Day

As all TRYers know, Thursday is **ICC Tiyul day**, and today is no exception! Twice weekly we tour the land as a part of the ICC course, and today is an example of that. Our tiyul starts after lunch and will examine Zionism, the next chronological step after being in Poland.

While the students study their regular classes in the morning, the families will have their own morning tiyul. After breakfast we will leave, and will volunteer in the morning at **Shekel** – community service for people with special needs, including lunch at their unique restaurant.

After lunch we will join TRY, where our tiyul will take us to **Mount Herzl**, and the very beginnings of Zionism which was one of the responses to the gradual worsening of the situation for Jews in Europe in the late 19th century. We will start with the **connecting path** leading **from Yad Vashem to Har Herzl**, visit the grave of Herzl as well as the graves of the leaders of the nation, including the recently departed Shimon Peres, and go through the interactive Herzl museum and institute.

We will end the day at **Nachlaot** and learn about the neighborhoods that sprung up outside the old city walls at the end of the 19th century, and have some time for pre-shabbat shopping in the incomparable **Machane Yehuda Shuk** (market). Jerusalem prepares for the Shabbat, and thousands flock every week to do their last minute shopping.

The evening is a free evening with the TRY students. We may offer an **optional night tour of Mea Shearim** as Jews around the world prepare for Passover by baking matzot.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 4: April 7 – Preparing for Shabbat

After breakfast in the hotel, we will leave for the morning, (while the students are in their regular academic classes), for a morning in the Greater Tel Aviv area. Our day will begin with the incredibly powerful experience that is **Dialogue in the Dark**, in Holon. Immersed for an hour in total darkness, going from room to room led by a local tour guide, we will experience the world of the unsighted, using our other senses to navigate and explore the museum.

We will then do a short tour of **Old Jaffa**, for centuries the Gateway to the Holy Land. We will then spend some time in the artists market in **Nachalat Binyamin** in the center of Tel Aviv, where artists gather on Tuesdays and Fridays to sell their creations. Directly after that we will have a special lunch in Tel Aviv and will then return to the Hotel and **prepare for Shabbat**.

Just before Shabbat comes in, the students' bus will pick us up and we will drive to the **Old City**. Kabbalat Shabbat will be together at a site in the old city, and then we will go down to the Kotel for Maariv. We will walk to the **Agron center**, and have Shabbat Dinner there with TRY and learn about the Fuchsberg center's activities. After dinner we will have **Oneg Shabbat** together and walk back to the Hotel, as the TRY students continue on to the Chava.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 5: April 8 - Shabbat in Jerusalem

The morning will be spent in the vicinity of the Hotel, as we will have the opportunity to choose a **local synagogue** for Shabbat morning prayers. Please note that the students can meet you at a chosen synagogue if you wish.

Lunch will be at the hotel.

In the afternoon we will all **walk over to chava** to spend the rest of Shabbat with TRY, including their **activity, Seudat Shlishit and Havdalah**. The program will officially end after havdalah; for those of us who are returning to the USA/Canada for Pesach, your flight will depart tonight. For the rest of the participants, the evening is a free evening with the students, and we will provide transportation back to the hotel for those who wish that.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 6: April 9 - L'Hitraot!

Although the program will have ended, we will offer the following tiyul courtesy of one of our guides at a very nominal fee per person, if you are staying for Passover and want to have an interesting and fun day while your child is still in school on TRY. Please note that we will need a minimum of XX participants for this to happen.

Our first stop will be at the waste water recycling plant at **Shafdan**, where we will learn the innovative ways Israel recycles its scarce water sources.

We will then travel to the embattled town of **Sderot**, near the Gaza strip, and learn about how the town has managed its precarious position under the constant threat of mortar attacks by Hamas and other militant organizations.

We will then go to the nearby **Shvil Hasalat**, and see how vegetables in all their forms are grown in this area, sample some of those vegetables, learn about their homing pigeons, and wander in the hedge maze.

We will then return to Jerusalem to join TRY as they will be **searching for Chametz**, before ending the trip and taking your child for the Pesach vacation.

להתראות!