

FIDF -
FRIENDS
OF IDF

FIDF Young Leadership - May 2024



6 Nights
MAY 24, 2024 - MAY 30, 2024



PREPARED BY: Avihai Tsabari | avihai@viasabra.com | +972-544778768



Our team

ABOUT US

We're a team of Israel-obsessed locals ready to take you on the trip of a lifetime around our exciting country. We aim to "unfold Israel" by immersing you in the experience of Israel. Hike a hidden trail, tour a historic site you've never heard of, taste unfamiliar flavors, meet someone who was born here and someone who immigrated – take it all in.

Become acquainted with contemporary Israel, its history, heritage, cuisine and culture.

And of course with the Via Sabra touch - the extra special care we devote to making every tour the best adventure of your life, at no extra charge, you'll find yourself transformed!

I invite you to join the Via Sabra community, discover Israel for yourself– and discover yourself!

Avihai Tsabari

Avihai Tsabari

CEO and founder of Via Sabra





Welcome to Israel

DAY 1 FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2024

- **Welcome to Israel** Welcome to Israel
- **Arrival at Ben Gurion airport** Arrival at Ben Gurion airport. Our welcoming rep will be waiting to greet you at passport check. After assisting with arrival procedures and collecting your baggage, you will be taken to meet your driver.
- **Drive to Jerusalem and check in to your hotel** Depending on time of arrival - OPTIONAL: Stop for coffee and introduction at a unique coffee cart on the way to Jerusalem.
- **L'chaim at Jerusalem gardens**
- **Short tour of Old City of Jerusalem** Tour Jerusalem's Old City and meet the people and places that make this place so unique. In the Jewish Quarter, uncover the layers of Jewish history from the time of the First Temple until the present day. In the Christian Quarter, visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and, if conditions permit, visit one of the holiest Muslim sites, the Temple Mount. Throughout the tour explore the complexity of a city that is holy to the three major religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- **Meet Soldiers the the Sapir/Schottenstein Heritage Center** The Sapir/Schottenstein Heritage Center is an already-existing and fully functional building located in the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem that will serve as a dormitory for officers, commanders and soldiers who come home for a few days to attend long workshops. It has a beautiful architecture, built with Jerusalem stone, and beautifully designed arches. FIDF took on the renovation as well as its furnishing. Jewish education and heritage and the history of Jerusalem is taught there by the Education Corps.
- **Dinner TBD** Jerusalem gardens

Overnight: Ibis Styles Jerusalem City Center



Shabbat of a Lifetime

DAY 2 SATURDAY, 25 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast at your hotel**
- **Walking tour of Jerusalem - "Between Renewal and Preservation"** Embark on a captivating Jerusalem tour, where the intertwined tapestry of renewal and preservation comes alive. Traverse ancient streets revitalized by modern artistry, witnessing the harmonious dance of time-honored heritage and vibrant rejuvenation.
- **OPTION A: A Very Jerusalemite Lunch** Carefully packed lunch, made only by local, Jerusalemite ingredients, and delicacies. Enjoyed at Tiferet Israel, the smallest, and lesser known Nachala (one of the Nachlaot).
- **OPTION B: Lunch at Chef Rabbi Josh** Rabbi Josh is a Talmud scholar, a documentary filmmaker, a registered tour guide and specialty chef at Jerusalem's iconic Tmol Shilshom Restaurant. Over your meal, Rabbi Josh speaks on a wide range of topics from his riveting personal story to an explanation of Jewish tradition and an introduction to the Talmud.
- **OPTIONAL tour of Nachlaot** Nachlaot is known for its narrow, winding lanes, old-style housing, hidden courtyards and many small synagogues. In the wake of gentrification projects in the area, the face of the neighborhood has changed while retaining its unique character.
- **Motsash talk with Jessica Steinberg - "The Israeli Narrative through Netflix"** Jessica Steinberg is the culture editor at the Times of Israel, covering Israeli life, culture, food, travel and business. Meet Jessica at Smadar Cinema, the 19th century theatre and cinema.
The topic of the talk: "The Israeli Narrative through Netflix"
- **Dinner on Own**

Overnight: Ibis Styles Jerusalem City Center



From Memory to Playfulness

DAY 3 SUNDAY, 26 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast at your hotel and check out**
- **Tour Mount Herzl** As Israel's national cemetery, Mount Herzl is the final resting place of leaders of Zionism and Israel, including Yitzhak Rabin and Herzl himself, and of thousands of soldiers killed defending the State of Israel. At Mount Herzl you will find a moving monument to the 28,000-odd soldiers and civilians killed in combat or by terrorism since the founding of the state. Our tour will focus on the young leaders of Israel, and the early age of "Gdoley HaUma"
- **Head out of Jerusalem** And drive north
- **Army Base Visit** Along the way
- **Stop at Fresh Water Spring** Take time to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather.
- **Optional: Water Sports on the Sea of Galilee** Extreme water sports and drinks on the Sea of Galilee. This includes Jet skies, SUPs, tornado boats, waterskies and more! (extra cost)
- **Gin and Arak truck with Zoara Distillery** Meet Naama Shternlicht, master distiller of Zoara distillery, and Amaliya brewery. This young professional makes her drinks from foraged materials and the rejected dates grown in the region. Talk about young entrepreneurship in this special area.
- **Check in to your hotel**
- **Dinner at Tibi's** One of the better known, meat-aging, restaurants in the north. Kosher style dinner. If needed Kosher certificate - Kibbutz "Al HaEsh" (BBQ) at Kibbutz Amiad

Overnight: Vered Hagalil



The Mosaic of the Galilee

DAY 4 MONDAY, 27 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast at your hotel**
- **Army Base Visit**
- **Druze cooking workshop** Together with your hosts in their private home, prepare traditional Druze Galilean dishes and then enjoy a lunch of the foods you create. Learn about Druze culture and history from your hosts and from the food you eat.
- **Short hike on "Shvil HaBanim"** The Path of Sons is a marked hiking route connecting the Druze villages. The project has been dedicated to the memory of the minority's sons fallen in Israel's wars.

Meet with a local Druze speaker, that has lost his son during his army service.

- **Alma Research and Education Center** Lookout over the Israel-Lebanese border from Mt. Adir and hear about the geopolitics of the area with Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, CEO and founder of Alma, a non-profit independent research and education center specializing in Israel's security challenges on its northern border.
- **Tour, tastings and dinner at Ya Winery**

Overnight: Vered Hagalil



knowing the land

DAY 5 TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast at your hotel and check out**
- **Morning talk - Yoseph Haddad** Yoseph Haddad is a defender of Israel – from his time defending Israel as a member of the Israel Defense Forces or more recently as the CEO of Together – Vouch For Each Other, an organization bridging the gap between the Arab sector of Israeli society with Israeli society as a whole
- **Head south**
- **Kama Raiders - EZ Raiders** Go on an exciting EZ Raider tour, explore the beautiful views of Kfar Kama, Mount Tabor and Nazareth and learn through this exciting tour about the Circassian minority in Israel.
- **Hike the Israel (with loan soldiers) National Trail** The Israel trail traverses the length of Israel and was established as a National Trail in 1995. Specific route will be chosen depending on size of group.
- **Army Base Visit**
- **OPTIONAL: Carmel Market (Shuk HaCarmel) Tasting tour** The Carmel Market (Shuk HaCarmel), is the largest market in Tel Aviv. Touring the market reveals the taste of the ages of Tel Aviv in the youthful atmosphere felt here. The Polish, the Persian, and the Yemeni...in this case, it is not the opening line of a joke, but the fascinating culinary traditions that mix in this place. Founded over 90 years ago, discover the many secret, stories, and legends of this culinary destination. Enjoy tastes of the market throughout the tour.
- **Check in to your hotel**
- **Silent Headphones Party - Sunset Dance with Guru Zuzu - on the beach** Have an unusual Tel Aviv experience through an unforgettable way to see the city and immerse yourself in Israeli culture and music. Imagine the most fun and invigorating event you have ever experienced -mixed with information about this history and life in the city.
- **Dinner at Guetta** On Jaffa's Jerusalem Boulevard, across from the Gesher Theater, Gueta restaurant keeps to its traditional Tripoli style of cooking, using old recipes that have been passed through generations.

Overnight: Fabric Hotel Tel Aviv



Sports Day with Soldiers

DAY 6 WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast at your hotel**
- **Drive south to Ashkelon**
- **FIDF Sports Day** Head to FIDF Beit Nofesh in Ashkelon for “sports day” with soldiers
- **Head back to Tel Aviv**
- **Tishrey Bar** Drink down a story of Israel! Travel the different regions of the country through the drinks. Through local spirits, quality Israeli produce, cultural design, and Israeli innovation, meet the staff of an Israeli cocktail 'start-up' and see how they translate this into amazing cocktails. Cocktails are mixed with Israeli alcohol, fruit in season, and wrapped into the Israeli story. You'll have a chance to learn to mix the drinks as well.
- **Dinner on own OR** - "Evolution of Street Food" - a tour through the stalls and the hidden street food gems of Tel Aviv, telling the story of this fabulous city, through street food.

Overnight: Fabric Hotel Tel Aviv



Like a True Tel Avivian (and Farewell)

DAY 7 THURSDAY, 30 MAY 2024

- **Breakfast & check-out from hotel**
- **Enjoy a day of leisure to explore and enjoy Tel Aviv on your own** Enjoy a day of leisure to explore and enjoy Tel Aviv on your own
- **Farewell dinner TBD**
- **Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport And departure - Shalom V'Lhitraot**



Unfolding Israel VIA SABRA

Via Sabra gave us an Israel experience like no other. The bookings, the guides, where we went, everything was a joy, the perfect combination of touring, learning and fun.

Stephen K



Not only was the experience reflective of top-notch quality and superb attention to detail, you were treated like family.

Elizabeth



It was the most interesting, delicious, fun trip that we have ever had to Israel and quite frankly, anyplace! Our tour guide brought everything alive for us and filled our days with so many adventures. Cannot recommend this enough.

Ariel P

