**MORNING** 

TUESDAY, April 24 A Day in the City of Gold

**WEDNESDAY**, April 25 Yom Hazikaron Israel's Memorial Day

Following breakfast at your hotel,

travel to Yad Vashem, the Jewish

people's living memorial to the

THURSDAY, April 26 Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel's Independence Day

The morning begins with

FRIDAY, April 27 **Options Day** 

SATURDAY, April 28 Explore Israel -

A Day of Rest, Reflection and Exploration

at the Kotel.

**Optional Shabbat** 

• Walk to a nearby

activities in Jerusalem:

synagogue/minyan with your

Enjoy the beauty of **Shacharit** 

Following breakfast at your hotel, board your bus for a day of tours and adventure on the

**SUNDAY**, April 29

North to

the Galilee

way to Northern Israel.

Tracks by Bus\*

**Greater Miami Jewish** Federation at work through our partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Women's Amutot Initiative. Meet the people and see the projects firsthand.

MONDAY, April 30

The End Is Only

the Beginning

After breakfast, see the

So Many **Memories** 

**Packed Into Every** Magical, Meaningful Miami Mega **Mission Day!** 

Enjoy a hearty Israeli breakfast as you get an update from an expert on Israeli current events.



Holocaust. Various tour options are available to accommodate first-time and returning visitors, as well as participants of the Poland Tracks by Bus\* Pre-Mission. Conclude the visit with a community ceremony honoring those who perished in

the Holocaust.

breakfast with a guest speaker at your hotel. Tracks by Bus\* throughout Israel





After breakfast at your hotel, board the bus of your choice for a pre-selected track option offering a unique perspective on Israel or a path of special interest including:

- First Timers • Extreme • Arts & Culture Adventure
- Art & Artists Medical Explore Tel Aviv Volunteerism • Fashion & Shopping Legal Food & Wine Hebron and
- Gush Etzion\* Nature Lovers/Ecology/ • Mind, Body Conservation
- Start-Up Nation and Spirit\*\* · Ein Gedi and the High-Tech Archaeology & History Dead Sea\*\*

Full track descriptions will be available online.

\*Subject to security surcharge \*\*Spa services available at an additional cost



Enjoy a traditional Shabbat lunch at the David Citadel (additional cost)

- Explore the city on guided walking tours • Visit the Israel Museum
- Take a bus tour to Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea and (additional cost) Have lunch and dinner on your own. Our hostesses will provide you with recommendations

and will make your reservations



Meet at Nahal Memorial in Miami's partnership city of **Pardes Channa-Karkur** for special presentations and performances, followed by lunch and Mega Mission caucus by bus.



MEGA EVENT

Farewell party

at S'dot Yam,

a kibbutz near Caesarea.

Watch the sun set over the

**Mission Options:** 

Airport for those departing

on late-evening commercial

flights or drop off in Tel Aviv

Return to the guesthouse

for those on the charter flight

or early morning commercial

Stay on for a Post-Mission

package or for individually

overnight before departing

Mediterranean Sea as you

enjoy dinner, drinks and

Post-Mega

**Bus to Ben-Gurion** 

for those staying on.

flights on May I for an

to the airport.

arranged tours.

music.



**AFTERNOON** 



Individual touring and activity tracks by bus. Details will be provided closer to dates of departure.

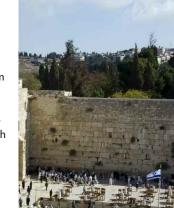
to Israel!

Welcome

The Miami Mega Mission charter flight arrives to a warm welcome! Board your bus and travel to an Israel Defense Forces base. Hear from highlevel military officials and watch an impressive demonstration before heading to Jerusalem for the evening's activities.

WELCOME

TO ISRAEL



Tracks by Bus\*

Travel to IDF bases to

opening ceremonies for Yom Hazikaron (Israel's

commemorating Israel's

fallen soldiers and victims

of terrorism. After dinner

with the IDF, join the entire

country in two minutes of

stirring reflection at the

sound of the national

siren. Each bus will lay

a wreath in honor of

the fallen.

participate in moving

Memorial Day),

"In the Footsteps of Israel's Independence Fighters"

Observe a two-minute

The morning will conclude

guest speaker.

with lunch at a kibbutz and a

mourning siren at 11 a.m. as all of

Israel pays tribute to the fallen

Tracks by Bus\* The day continues with buses visiting sites of heroism and courage related to Israel's War of Independence.

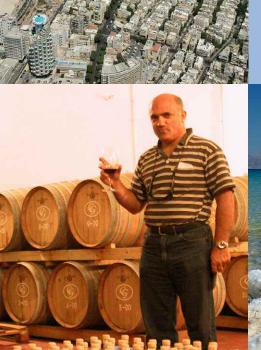
Optional for March of the Living Parents:

Tracks by Bus\*

Join your child(ren) on the March of the Living program in Jerusalem as they parade to the Kotel in celebration of Yom

Ha'atzmaut.

All Mega Mission participants gather for Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities at Masada. Reach the mountaintop by cable-car or climb to watch the sun set against the dramatic desert backdrop. Tour Masada with your guide. An optional Group B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony will take place at the ancient synagogue in the late afternoon



Return to Jerusalem to prepare for





Shabbat.

**EVENING** 

MEGA EVENT

#### **Opening Night**

Gather at Safra Square for the Shehecheyanu blessing and enjoy a warm welcome from Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and others. Then, parade down Jaffa Street



Gate in the Old City, where you'll be treated to a spectacular musical

performance, along with a delicious dinner buffet.

## **Optional Evening Activities:**

Walk to the Kotel (Western Wall) with Mega Mission tour guides and spend some time in private reflection.



Optional Late Evening **Activity:** National Evening of

Song at the Knesset in memory of fallen soldiers.



MEGA EVENT

"From Mourning

Yom Hazikaron and

Spend a spectacular evening on the

grounds of the Israel Museum

Anniversary of Independence.

Taste great food and wine as you

Period. Visit the Shrine of the

Jerusalem in the Second Temple

Book, which houses the Dead Sea

Scrolls, and other rare manuscripts.

**Shuly Nathan** 

celebrating Israel's 64th

stroll around the Model of

Yom Ha'atzmaut"

to Celebration:

**Between** 

special performance by legendary Israeli singer Shuly Nathan.

display on Mt. Herzl by the City of begins.

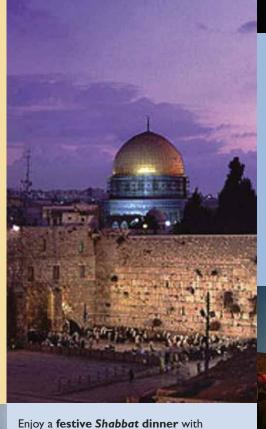


Join together atop Masada for a meaningful prayer for the security and welfare of the State of Israel led by rabbis from our community.

Torchlight descent by foot down the Roman Ramp. As night falls and with the spectacle of Masada glowing with lights, enjoy dinner in the desert under the stars and an extraordinary musical performance by dynamic Israeli singer Einat Sarouf that will get you dancing and singing.

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat:** Welcome Shabbat in the Old City at the

Davidson Center. Walk to the Kotel and join the diverse Jewish communities praying at this holy site.



Havdalah **ceremony** facing the Old City **Optional Evening Activities:** 

Participate in a

"From

Kodesh

to Chol:"

Enjoy the spectacular Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David (Two shows)



**Wall Tunnels** beneath the Old City for a

Tour the **Western** 



"Time Stands Still" - A magical Mega Event at the stunning Beit She'an **Archaeological Park** 

Ancient cities come alive at a street fair of bustling shops featuring artists and craftspeople from the Golan, Galilee and Pardes Channa-Karkur. Go back in time with street performers, an array of unique foods - meats, sweets and wine - to music and horsedrawn carriages.

Enjoy a magical and musical evening at the Amphitheater with the illustrious Broadway and stage entertainer **Dudu Fisher**, who will perform traditional and contemporary songs just for Mega Mission participants in the 2,000-yearold Roman amphitheater.



subject to change.

**Itinerary** is



Tunnels beneath the Old City for a different perspective on Jerusalem's history.

Tour the Western Wall





lerusalem from your vantage point at the Israel Museum as Yom Ha'atzmaut



**Einat Sarouf** 

different Federation-supported programs in Israel (MASA, Nativ and March of the Living), as well as Lone Soldiers and IDF cantors. An Oneg Shabbat and learning experience complete the evening.

students from Miami who are participating in

different perspective on Jerusalem's history.

**OVERNIGHT** 

Deluxe hotel in Jerusalem

Deluxe hotel in Jerusalem

Deluxe hotel in Jerusalem

Deluxe hotel in Jerusalem

Tracks by Bus\*



Tracks by Bus\* around the



Greater Miami Jewish Federation | Stanley C. Myers Building | 4200 Biscayne Boulevard | Miami, FL 33137

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**Contact Us!** 

Miami Mega Mission Israel 2012 | 786.866.8466

MiamiMegaMission2012.org | MiamiMegaMission2012@JewishMiami.org

# Greater Miami Jewish Federation We've packed so much in... April 22 - May 1, 2012 800 Miamians Together in Israel!

# ...it could only be a Mega Mission

Hundreds of people have already registered for Miami Mega Mission Israel 2012. Each day of this amazing journey has been thoughtfully planned to include engaging and enjoyable activities and events. Following is a glimpse into this trip of a lifetime, including the Pre-Mission to Poland.

#### **Prices\*:**

Itinerary is subject to change.

- \$3,600 per person (double occupancy) including non-stop, round-trip, coach class ELAL charter flight and accommodations at the Mamilla or David Citadel,
- \$2,500 per person (double occupancy) land only, including accommodations at the Mamilla or David Citadel, Jerusalem;
- \$2,650 per person ages 22-39 (double occupancy, space limited), including non-stop, round-trip, coach-class EL AL charter flight and accommodations at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel;
- \$1,800 per person ages 22-39 (double occupancy, space limited) land only, including accommodations at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel;
- Limited availability for the Pre-Mission to Poland with pricing starting at \$7,500 per person including the Mega
- \*Charter packages subject to \$300 fuel surcharge per person. Pricing includes most meals, festive dinners, all Mega Events, transportation in air-conditioned motor coaches with top Israeli tour guides, taxes and transfers with group or on first and last day of Israel Mission.

#### **TUESDAY** April 17

**MORNING** 

Your journey begins immediately upon arrival in Krakow, where a unique glimpse into Poland before World War II awaits you. Krakow provides a unique perspective into Poland before World War II. Visit what remains of the Krakow Ghetto. Then, proceed to the Plashov **Concentration Camp** to learn about its operation and notorious

April 18



Arrive at **Auschwitz** and

## THURSDAY

April 19 Tour the old Jewish section of Krakow known as Kasmierz, and visit the Rama, Isaac and Kupa

shuls before arriving at The

Temple.

opportunity for travel to Lublin, another large Jewish city in pre-war Poland.



Proceed to Majdenek, the concentration and death camp the Nazis did not have time to destroy before the Red Army arrived at the end of the war. As one of the best-preserved camps of the Holocaust, Majdenek provides a gripping view of what happened to the Jewish people under the Nazi regime.

#### **FRIDAY** April 20

An early-morning departure provides the



#### **SATURDAY** April 21

Begin the day with a private from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), an overseas partner of Federation. Learn about the current needs of Poland's small lewish population and how Federation dollars are helping.

**Optional activities include:** 

- Shabbat morning services at the Nozyk Synagogue with March of the Living participants · Visit to the Treblinka
- **Death Camp** · Visit to participants' personal

Walk to the Warsaw Ghetto

and visit the Rappaport

Monument, Mila 18, the

headquarters of the Ghetto

uprising, the Walk of the

Heroes, Umschlagplatz (the

gathering place at the railroad

station) and the newly opened

Museum of the History of

Polish Jews.

ancestral towns Shabbat lunch

### Following an early-Ben-Gurion

**SUNDAY** 

April 22

International Airport, proceed to the Atlit **Detention Center**, used by the British to house more than 40,000 Jewish refugees smuggled into Israel between 1934 to 1948.

After breakfast, leave for Tel Aviv, where you'll have the opportunity to check into your hotel, rest and relax, and enjoy this modern Israeli metropolis.



**MONDAY** 

Take in the Biblical landscape

of **Neot Kedumim**, which

and the beauty of nature.

This oasis of antiquity has

recreated Israel's ancient

scenery, both natural and

agricultural. Here, you will

provides a sense of the past

April 23

oin the rest

participants on

of the



Afternoon activities include an optional tour of the Tel Aviv artist colony of Neve Tzedek, the ancient port of Old Jaffa and HaTachana, the restored train station complex that now

and more.

Miami Mega **Mission** features shops, cafés Israel 2012 for the memorable, meaningful and magical journey of a

lifetime!



Those traveling on group flight depart from Miami International Airport on Lufthansa for ar overnight flight to Krakow Poland via Frankfurt, Germany

**EVENING** 

**OVERNIGHT** 

In flight

walk in the footsteps of those who were imprisoned and murdered here. Learn about their lives in the concentration camp and how some were able to survive. You will have a special opportunity to walk hand-in-hand with the survivors who are traveling with the Pre-Mission group and hear firsthand their thoughts

and experiences.

Enjoy dinner at the

in Krakow.

Krakow

Galicia Jewish Museum

Join teenagers from Miami and 42 other countries around the world for the March of the Living. Walk together to Birkenau (Auschwitz 2) as proof that Hitler and the Nazis did not succeed in destroying the Jewish people. After the March, visit special sections of Birkenau before proceeding to



Following an evening arrival in

participants.

Warsaw

Warsaw, share dinner with fellow

Prepare for **Shabbat** and a visit to the Nozyk Synagogue, the only synagogue functioning in modern Warsaw.The

Greater Miami Jewish Federation has invited Rabbi Michael Shudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, to join the group for Shabbat dinner and share his insights on Jewish life in Poland today.

Return to Warsaw for your first daylight

encounter with the city. Once home to

more than 300,000 Jews, I I daily Jewish

prayer halls, Warsaw was the epicenter of

newspapers, and 300 synagogues and

ewish life in pre-war Poland.

Take pleasure in Shabbat dinner in Warsaw.

Dinner and travel to Warsaw Chopin Airport for overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

In flight

Tel Aviv

Enjoy dinner on your

Warsaw

For more information, please contact us at 786.866.8466 or MiamiMegaMission2012@JewishMiami.org. You may also visit us online at MiamiMegaMission2012.org.



#### **OPTIONS DAY – Friday, April 27**

#### Subject to change

#### First-Timers - Wait List

Visiting Israel provides a unique experience that stimulates all the senses and strengthens our personal connection to history, place and people. Israel's magic lies in the astounding history it harbors and its capacity for innovation and renewal into a modern, vibrant state. This track is intended for those who are visiting Israel for the first time and for those who are interested in a guided tour of the sites depicting Israel's rich history together with its contemporary achievements.

- Start the morning near the famous Menorah by the Knesset (Israel's parliament) for an introduction to the day and an opportunity to take photos at one of Jerusalem's most recognizable sites.
- Visit the Chagall Windows at the Abbell Synagogue at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem. The Bible was Marc Chagall's his primary inspiration, particularly Jacob's blessings on his twelve sons and Moses' blessings on the twelve tribes. Each window is dominated by a specific color and contains a quotation from the individual blessings. "This is my modest gift to the Jewish people who have always dreamt of biblical love, friendship and of peace among all peoples. This is my gift to that people which lived here thousands of years ago among the other Semitic people." Marc Chagall.
- Visit the **Palmach Museum**, which aims to provide a sense of the period that led to the founding of the State of Israel.
- Visit Independence Hall. On May 14, 1948, the People's Council gathered to hear David Ben-Gurion proclaim the Establishment of the State of Israel under the looming threat of attack from an enemy of mammoth proportions.
- End the day at Nachalat Binyamin Street in Tel Aviv

#### **Art & Culture**

As the homeland of the Jewish people, Israel has become a home for Jews from around the world who have not only brought with them their religious heritage but also ethnic, cultural and artistic influences from their country of origin. Israel today is a rich and colorful mosaic of Jewish heritage thriving in a young and vibrant state in the Middle East.

- Young promising artists from Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem will join you for the beginning of the day.
- Visit the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art** and meet with **Doron Luria, Chief Restorer** and **Curator** for a discussion of the role of the museum in Israel's cultural and social framework and his own personal vision.
- Visit Bialik House, where Israel's national poet, Chaim Nahman Bialik, resided from 1925-1934, and feel the true magic of his poetry and personality.
- Meet with actor/s from the Gesher Theater. Founded in 1991, Gesher is an
  integral part of Israeli culture, one of the only bi-lingual theaters in the world,
  where the same actors present the piece in both Hebrew and Russian. The
  theater's unique quality is derived from its artistic concept, embracing the classic
  Russian style with an innovative and original approach.

#### In-depth Art Experience - CLOSED

For people who are interested in private art collections and an in-depth art experience.

Details to be determined

#### **Explore Tel Aviv – Wait List**

Tel Aviv is Israel's cultural capital, and is known as the city that made the transition from the first Hebrew city to the first Hebrew metropolis. Most visitors to Israel spend very little time in Tel- Aviv and miss out on getting to know its special charm.

- Start the morning with an introduction to **Tel Aviv** as you enjoy the view from the VIP private helipad **atop the Azrieli Center's Circular Tower**.
- Drive by Rabin Square (Kikar Rabin), the large square adjacent to the Tel Aviv-Yafo City Hall renamed following the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was killed here in 1995.
- Walk the boulevards of **Tel Aviv** the White City declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO due to its concentration of **Bauhaus** style architecture.
- End the day at Beit Ha'ir, Tel Aviv's first municipality house and learn how the city emerged with the vision of its founders and its evolvement until today. Discuss the city's current role: Is it Israel's capitalist bubble or a leader and exemplar of change? Beit Ha'ir houses a permanent exhibition on the life and work of Meir Dizengoff, Tel Aviv's first mayor, alongside photo and art exhibitions that debate different aspects of the city. An especially intriguing part of Beit Ha'ir is the virtual display room, where visitors can explore Tel Aviv's timeline, read rare documents and watch a selection of documentary films made on Tel Aviv.

#### A Taste of Israel - The Food & Wine Trail - Wait List

"(Arabic) Pita, (Viennese) Schnitzel with (Lebanese) Tehina, a few (Greek) eggplants, some (Turkish) Turkish salad, a bit of (Yemenite) S'chug and (French) fries – so if food mirrors the face of a nation, I think this multi-cultural pita mirrors us precisely, also due to the fact that no human palate could successfully taste all these flavors together." Chef Yisrael Aharoni

Your bus captain for the day is former Consul General of Israel to Florida & Puerto Rico **Ofer Bavly**.

- We will start the morning at the Sataf. Located on the terraced slopes of Mt.
  Eitan, where a special technique of mountainous agriculture is practiced as it was
  by the ancient Israelites thousands of years ago. Visit the famed Shai Seltzer
  Cheese and Goat farm and enjoy a tasting of his exquisite goat cheese with
  excellent wine.
- Continue to **Emek Ha'Ela**, a region that has become a leader in boutique wine production. We will learn about the diverse types of grapes that are grown here, visit a winery to learn about the process of wine production, and of course, enjoy a **wine tasting** spiced with the stories and secrets that fill these barrels.
- Meet Janna Gur, Chief Editor of "On the Table" Magazine, and conversation about the culture of flavors and the uniqueness of Israeli flavors, bringing together people whose roots extend to all edges of the globe.

#### Start Up Nation – High Tech

"Israel has more companies on the tech-oriented NASDAQ stock exchange than any country outside the US – more than all of Europe, India, and China combined. Nor is Israeli innovation limited to computers, security, and communications; the Jewish state leads the world in medical device patents, and is a strong global player in cleantech and biotech." – Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle, by Dan Senor and Saul Singer

- Visit Israel Aerospace Industries, globally recognized as a leader in developing military and commercial aerospace technology. This distinction is the result of nearly half a century of designing, engineering and manufacturing for customers throughout the world.
- Visit Gilat Satellite Networks, designer, developer and marketer of innovative satellite and hybrid networking products, services and solutions. Meet with Amiram Levinberg Co-Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.
- Meet with Professor Jonathan Gressel, recipient of the Israel Prize in Agriculture and co-founder of TransAlgae, Ltd., a developer of safe, algae-based alternatives for the energy and food sectors.

#### **Archaeology & History**

For those interested in history and archeology, Israel is a hidden treasure of discoveries. Even today we hear of new sites that open and an abundant wealth of findings. This track will take us to some of the new discoveries shaking up the word of archeology and allow us to explore Israel's historical treasures.

- Visit the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum in Jerusalem. Under the management of the Israel Museum, the museum is situated in a landmark building, housing the extraordinary collection of antiquities unearthed in digs in the country during the British Mandate period (1920-1948).
- Visit the picturesque area of Emek Ha'Ela. Begin at Khirbet Qeiyafa
   Archaeological Project with archeologist Yossi Garfinkel The archaeological
   site of a fortified city in Judah from the time of King David, the area has massive
   fortifications of megalithic stones, which still stand to a height of 2-3 meters, and
   is a key strategic location in the biblical kingdom of Judah. One of the world's
   most famous battles between David and Goliath took place in this area.
- Visit a lookout to the battle site of the Convoy of 35 (or Lamed He), the soldiers
  of the Haganah, led by Danny Mas, who were killed during a day long battle
  attempting to resupply and or reinforce the Gush Etzion kibbutzim during the War
  of Independence.

#### **Extreme Adventure A**

For the daring ones among us, this exiting extreme track will introduce you to Israel's beauty from a perspective no one else can experience.

- Start the day with a **strenuous hike** in the Judean Hills to **Ma'arat Hateomim** (twins cave). This Karst-formed cave is quite large and will enable you to see while you go down steps to visit the pool of spring water. This natural cave is home to many bats. Why is it called Ma'arat Hateomim? There is a legend that a barren woman drank the water of the spring and gave birth to twins.
- Visit **Emek Ha'Ela** Take a mountain **bike** ride in the beautiful area of Emek Haela, and finish by **rappelling down the stunning Luzit Caves.**

#### Mind, Body and Spirit

This track will allow us to take a calm step back and look at Israel from a perspective few tourist have the opportunity to be exposed to or experience.

- Our first stop will be the Sataf, located on the terraced slopes of Mt. Eitan, where
  a special technique of mountainous agriculture is practiced as it was by the
  ancient Israelites, thousands of years ago. Begin the visit with a yoga lesson in
  the fresh air of the Jerusalem Mountains overlooking this majestic panorama.
  Continue to Shai Seltzer Cheese and Goat Farm and enjoy a tasting of his
  exquisite goat cheese with excellent wine.
- We will continue to the beautiful area of Emek Ha'Ela and visit the Vertigo Eco
   Art Village and take part in a unique workshop that brings together, dance,
   movement, ecology and the environment.
- Enjoy a spa in the Jerusalem mountains

#### Medical

The Israeli medical care system is one of the world's leading, from a practical perspective to medical research and technological innovation. This track will try to provide a wide picture of the Israeli medical formation, civil and military alike.

- Breakfast session: Israeli Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response
  - Israel preparedness and response for emergencies has developed in fascinating directions. This readiness is also relevant for natural disasters, but in both situations, it is the Israel Defense Forces that is involved in preparedness, and we will learn about this complexity.
- Visit Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem and meet with medical staff and learn about the unique Trauma Center of this hospital. "Being in charge of the only Level I trauma center from the Jordan Valley to Beersheba, I have seen indescribable anguish, and hope." - Professor Avi Rivkind. The visit will include seeing the Chagall Windows at the Abbell Synagogue.
- Save A Child's Heart (SACH) is one of the largest undertakings in the world providing urgently needed pediatric heart surgery and follow-up care for indigent children from developing countries. Based in Israel, SACH's mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from countries where the heart surgery they need is unobtainable.

#### Legal

This track will focus on the diverse work of Israel's legal system. The track will allow a meeting with Israeli counterparts and an introduction to the daily work of lawyers in various legal fields.

- Private breakfast with Israeli lawyers.
- Visit to the Israeli Supreme Court building for a meeting with a court judge.
   The court moved from its previous residence in Jerusalem's Russian Compound to its current stunning architectural structure.
- A tour with **Dr. Danny Tirza** the IDF's Chief Architect for the Security Fence, along the **security barrier and checkpoint** in the area of Jerusalem, focusing on the various legal questions and issues pertaining to the establishment of a Palestinian state and creating a division between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

#### Thousands of Years of Jewish History in Hebron & Gush Etzion

Drive to Hebron, one of the four holy cities in Israel to learn about the Jewish history and heritage of the region. See firsthand this stirring city that you hear and read about frequently. Located in biblical Judea about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem, Hebron's Jewish community dates back more than 3,700 years when Abraham purchased land here. Deepen your understanding of this historic area and meet members of the Jewish community who have chosen to make Hebron their home.

- The tour begins with a security briefing about the challenges in this city and continues with a behind-the-scenes-view of life.
- Visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs (Ma'arat HaMachpelah or the Cave of Machpelah) to learn about the site's significance, primacy and sanctity in Jewish heritage and history as the world's most ancient Jewish site and the second holiest place for the Jewish people after the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
   Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah are buried in the Cave of Machpelah.
- Continue to Gush Etzion, another example of the renewal of an ancient Jewish community, and a city where more than 200 settlers died protecting Jerusalem during the most important defense in the War of Independence.
- Meet the Mayor of Gush Etzion, a bloc of 22 settlements with a population of 70,000 people, and end with a visit to the Gush Etzion Winery — a boutique winery featuring a visitors' center and restaurant — for a delicious wine tasting and lunch.

#### Ein Gedi & the Dead Sea

This track will take you to the lowest place on earth.

- Hike to the springs of Ein Gedi where nature is profuse with beauty and serenity. The reserve's unique waterfalls and pools are surrounded by lush greenery, creating an oasis in an otherwise desolate desert setting.
- Alternative option for those who do not wish to hike: tour the Ein Gedi Kibbutz Botanical Gardens.
- At 1,300 feet below sea level, **the Dead Sea** is the lowest point on earth. You can make this visit a high point by venturing into the waters for a "float," swimming suspended by the high concentration of salts and minerals. Optional spa services may be booked for an addition charge.