



TAGLIT • תגלית
BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

Birthright Israel: Shorashim Asperger's Syndrome Trip Itinerary



SH-31-230

December 21, 2014 – January 1, 2015

Staff: Eli Meiri, Rabbi Elyse Winick, Lora Slutsky, Alex Kahn, Daniel Olson, Joseph Eskin, and Josh Block

Sunday, December 21

Let the Journey Begin...

Arrive to the United ticket counter in Terminal C by 6:00 PM

Departure from Newark Liberty International Airport – United Flight UA90 10:45 PM

If you are flying in to Newark there will be a staff representative to escort you from your domestic arrival gate to the group meeting point.

Monday, December 22

Bruchim Ha'Baim – Welcome to Israel!

Arrival Israeli participants welcome you at the airport. Together you begin your 10-day adventure on this incredible Shorashim experience!

Travel to Jerusalem

Light the 7th Hanukkah Candle

Check in to Hotel

Orientation Program You and your Israeli peers begin to learn about each other and review the goals and highlights of the program.

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Tuesday, December 23

The People Who Shaped Modern Israel

Opening Ceremony Make the transition from home to Israel and mark the beginning of your journey by saying together the blessing for renewal, *Shehechyanu*.

Leket Israel Volunteer with Israel's National Food Bank and pick fresh fruits and vegetables to be distributed to feed Israel's needy.

Travel to Tel Aviv

Rabin Square Learn about the life and legacy of Israel's Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Israelis share their memories of his assassination and discuss the impact he had on contemporary Israel.

Walk through the Streets of Old Jaffa Stroll through the colorful street markets and ancient alleys of Jaffa to Tel Aviv's original artists' colony, Neve Tzedek.

Independence Museum Visit the site where David Ben Gurion declared the Independence of the State of Israel. Learn about the challenges and emotion of that historic moment.

Light the 8th Hanukkah Candle

Group Activity

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Wednesday, December 24

Yerushalaim Shel Zahav – Jerusalem of Gold

Jerusalem Overlook at Haas Promenade View and take pictures of this beautiful Jerusalem panorama as you overlook the glittering Old City.

Old City of Jerusalem – Jewish Quarter Explore the vast history within the walls of the ancient city and share in the legacy of Jewish life spanning generations.

Western Wall Visit the Kotel, one of the holiest sites in Judaism, where it is customary to leave a note of prayer.

Time for Shopping and Lunch in Mahane Yehuda Explore Jerusalem's vibrant and aromatic open-air market.

Rahavia Neighborhood Walking Tour A walk through the historic neighborhood of Jerusalem where the ancient city developed into a modern metropolis. See the King David Hotel (formerly a British Police headquarters), the prime minister's house, and a windmill in the first Jewish neighborhood outside the walls of the city.

Shekel Meet Israelis with Asperger's Syndrome at a community center where they participate in learning and activities.

Group Activity

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Thursday, December 25

The Beauty of the Desert

Drive South

Bedouin Hospitality Meal Enjoy a feast while learning about Bedouin life and culture.

Desert Camel Trek Enjoy the sites and sounds of the Negev desert from the back of a camel!

Masada Ascend to the top of this ancient desert fortress. Hear the story of the Jewish people's heroic struggle atop Masada as you take in beautiful views of the desert. Learn about the historical and contemporary significance of this unique mountain.

Dead Sea Your chance to float in the Dead Sea!

Travel to Jerusalem

Group Activity

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Friday, December 26

Jewish Community & Connection

Yaaran Goat Farm Visit this goat farm and learn about how to make dairy products from goats milk.
Davidson Center Visit this amazing three-dimensional virtual reconstruction of the Temple, based on ancient writings and excavations.

Shabbat Preparations

Kabbalat Shabbat Experience the beauty of Shabbat in Jerusalem. Enjoy a festive Shabbat meal and singing, as the group shares new Shabbat traditions together.

Discussion/Prayer Options

Group Activity In the spirit of Shabbat, enjoy sweets and snacks for an intimate gathering called an *Oneg*.

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Saturday, December 27

Ma Yafeh Hayom – Shabbat Shalom

Coffee and Cake

Group Discussion In Judaism, every week is assigned a special section (*parasha*) from the Torah. Discuss the meaning of this week's *parasha* in relation to your experience in Israel.

Shabbat Lunch Enjoy another festive Shabbat meal and enjoy this relaxing time together.

Rest and Relax

Group Activity

Yad Vashem Preparatory Discussion

Havdallah Mark the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the week with a creative and meaningful ceremony.

Time for Dinner on Ben Yehuda Street Enjoy dinner out in Jerusalem's downtown area.

Sound and Light Show at Tower of David

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Sunday, December 28

Jewish Resistance & Persistence

Yad Vashem Visit and tour Israel's Holocaust Memorial on Mt. Herzl. Participants with relatives that are survivors share their stories and Israelis share the impact that the Holocaust has on their life in Israel. Learn about the collective and individual ways that Holocaust memory is preserved in the Jewish State.

Bird Watching Enjoy Jerusalem's Bird Observatory located between Israel's Parliament building and The Supreme Court, and learn about the different birds found in Israel.

Travel North to the Galilee

Check In to Hotel

Group Activity

Overnight: Kibbutz Gonen Guest House – Galilee

Monday, December 29

Mystics and Rabbis: The Beauty of Tzfat

Travel to Tzfat

Tzfat Wind through the blue-painted alleys of this mystical city and learn about the origins of the Kabbalah, the famous rabbis that lived there, and the artist community that remains.

The Mystical Art of Tzfat Discuss Kabbalistic Art, Jewish Spirituality, and Jewish Mysticism with a local artist, David Friedman.

Har Bental Ascend to the top of the Golan Heights as you learn about the history of this area and its importance to Israel.

De Karina Chocolate Factory Take an interesting and delicious tour of this chocolate factory!

Group Activity

Overnight: Kibbutz Gonen Guest House – Galilee

Tuesday, December 30

The Golan: Issues of Security & Ideology

Mitzpe Gadot Look over the Jordan Valley and Syria and discuss the challenges faced by Israel in this region while taking in the view of the beautiful Hula Valley.

Travel to Holon

Horseback Riding Learn to ride and handle a horse with the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association!

Invitation to Silence – Israeli Children’s Museum Don’t be fooled by the name. This museum is for adults, too. Experience Israel’s deaf museum and see what it’s like to live life without the sense of sound.

Travel to Jerusalem

Check in to Hotel

Group Activity

Overnight: Neve Ilan Hotel – Jerusalem

Wednesday, December 31

The Experience of a Lifetime

Har Herzl Israeli peers lead you through Israel's military cemetery located in the heart of Jerusalem. Hear about the impact of army and war on their lives, as they share stories of Israeli dignitaries and of their own friends who are buried there.

Time for Shopping and Lunch on Ben Yehuda Street One last chance to pick up gifts for friends and loved ones in Jerusalem’s main shopping district.

Travel to Neot Kadumim

Final Discussion Time to reflect as a group on the experience that you had together.

Travel to Airport

Departure from Ben Gurion Airport – United Flight UA91 11:10 PM

Arrival to Newark Liberty International Airport 4:35 AM on Thursday, January 1

Contact Numbers

Shorashim USA Office	312-267-0677
Shorashim Israel Office (as dialed from US)	011 972 2 6331144
Yaniv Carmi (as dialed from US)*	011 972 52 6092488
Bus Number (as dialed from US)**	011 972 52 6042942

* For Emergency Contact (24 hours).

** Please note that the group is often in areas where mobile reception is limited.