

# ISRAEL SOLIDARITY TOURS

Operated by  
**DIESENHAUS UNITOURS**

**CHABAD OF COBB**  
**June 1 - 10, 2010**

**Day 1 – Tuesday, June 1: Depart from U.S. to Israel**

**Day 2 – Wednesday, June 2: Ben Gurion Airport, Jerusalem**

When we arrive at Ben Gurion Airport the Diesenhause Unitours representative will meet the group by the luggage carousel and assist us on the way out through customs. We drive to Jerusalem, receive welcome drinks and light refreshments at our hotel. The rest of the day can be spent relaxing and using the facilities of the hotel. After **dinner** in the hotel we'll walk to the Kotel for Ma'ariv, **overnight at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem**

**Day 3 - Thursday, June 3: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we walk back to the Old City, where everyday life and customs within narrow, crooked streets have remained virtually unchanged for centuries. We will tour the Southern Wall excavations and the Western Wall Tunnels, one of the most amazing archaeological sites in all Israel. We will see the reconstructed Jewish Quarter; we'll walk on the rooftops, see the Cardo excavations of ancient Roman marketplaces and Hezekiah's First Temple era broad wall. Roll up your sleeves to participate in an archaeological dig, sifting through debris from under the Temple Mount. **Dinner in a local restaurant, overnight at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem**

**Day 4 – Friday, June 4: Chevron**

After breakfast we pass the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and the award-winning Supreme Court building, stopping at Yad Vashem, the memorial to the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust. Then in a specially protected "secured" bus we drive in the direction of Yehuda. The first stop is the place which Avraham "saw from afar" as he gazed upon Har Moriah and prepared for the sacrifice of his son Yitzchak. We continue for an inspiring visit to Kever Rachel with time for prayer. Then it's on to Chevron, infused with the awesome sanctity of the Ma'arat Ha'machpala, burial place of Adam and Chava, Avraham, Yitzhak, Yaacov, Sarah, Rivka and Leah. In Chevron we will see the graves of Ruth and Yishai and the Ohel of Menucha Rachel. We will have an opportunity to meet with some of the brave Jewish residents of Kiryat Arba and Chevron including the Chabad Rabbi of Chevron, Danny Cohen, and security permitting, visit an army base and meet some of the young men and women defending Israel's borders. Back to the hotel to get ready for Shabbat, Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel followed by

## **Shabbat dinner overlooking the old city and the Kotel, overnight at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem**

### **Day 5 – Shabbat, June 5: Jerusalem**

We will have the opportunity to attend Shabbat Services at the Great Synagogue, the Kotel or the Tzemach Tzedek Shul in the Jewish Quarter. **Kiddush, Shabbat luncheon** and a Farbrengen will take place at the hotel. In the afternoon we will take a walking tour of the Arab Quarter of the Old City. In the evening we can stroll on Ben Yehuda Street, the famous pedestrian mall for dinner on your own and shopping. **Overnight at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem**

### **Day 6 – Sunday, June 6: Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Galil**

After an early breakfast and check out we will have our last view of Jerusalem as we descend to the lowest point on Earth, the area of the Dead Sea. We continue south passing the ancient caves of Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found; we'll take the cable car up to Masada, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod and renowned as the last stronghold of the Jewish Rebellion against the Romans. We can now swim (float) in the Dead Sea, an amazing experience. At Ein Gedi, where David hid from King Saul, we can see the beautiful flora and fauna of the area as well as an ancient synagogue with an amazing inscription on the floor. We now drive through the Jordan River Valley passing biblical Gilgal and the crossing point of Joshua Ben Nun and B'nai Yisroel to the Galil. **Dinner and overnight at Kibbutz Lavi.**

### **Day 7 – Monday, June 7: Golan**

After breakfast we climb to the Golan Heights, stopping for an overlook of the Kineret from the top of the heights. Our first stop is Gamla where the oldest Beit Knesset was found and where, according to Josephus, 5,000 people jumped to their deaths rather than be sold into slavery by the Romans. Driving to Katzrin, the capital of the Golan, we will visit the Golan Winery, sampling some of the best wines in Israel. We continue to Mount Bental where you can explore this former Syrian Bunker, see the magnificent view overlooking Syria, and hear about the battles on the Golan during the 1967 and 1973 wars. In the evening we drive to Tiberius, stroll in the town, visit the tomb of the Rambam and the graves of other Talmudic Era sages. A lovely boat ride on the Kineret will complete this day of touring. **Dinner in the famous Decks Restaurant, overnight at Kibbutz Lavi.**

### **Day 8 – Tuesday, June 8: Northern Golan**

Traveling north we stop at Tel Dan, one of the sources of the Jordan River. We'll hike through the park, see foliage, running water and the remains of an ancient altar from the time when the tribe of Dan settled here. Dan became one of the two places where a golden calf was worshipped. We continue north passing Druze villages for an off-road jeep tour. Hope you bring a waterproof camera with you! We now have a rafting adventure down the Jordan River. **Dinner and overnight at Kibbutz Lavi.**

### **Day 9 – Wednesday, June 9: Galil**

After breakfast we stop at Kfar Kedem where we can ride on one of the well-trained and friendly donkeys and join the caravan, headed for the hills. Then hitch a plow to one of the donkeys and work the land in the style of our forefathers. Finally, put your shoulder to the wheel of an ancient grindstone to prepare the whole-grain flour. We continue to Tzfat, one of the four holy cities in Israel. We will visit ancient synagogues, walk to the gravesite of the Ari zl and other holy mystics, visit the Ari's Mikvah and meet with some of the prominent and flourishing Chabad community. Our next stop is Meron for a visit at the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the author of the holy Zohar. **Dinner and overnight at Kibbutz Lavi.**

### **Day 10 – Thursday, June 10: Galil, Tel Aviv, Airport**

On our last day in Eretz Yisroel we drive through the Galil to Caesarea, the city that Herod built for a look of restored Roman ruins. In Caesarea the first Jewish revolt against the Romans broke out. Traveling south along the coast we stop in the first all Jewish City in modern times, Tel Aviv, which was founded on sand dunes in 1909. In Tel Aviv we will visit the famous Palmach Museum for an intriguing look at the clandestine operations during the time of the British Mandate. We continue to the port city of Jaffa, where the prophet Jonah set sail; we can walk the alleys and byways of this ancient city with historic evidence dating back to the Pharaoh of the Exodus. We'll experience the charm of the artists' area and the port with its fishing boats. Our last stop before dinner is Kfar Chabad, Israel's first Chassidic settlement, established by the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1949. At the Kfar you will see "Shtetle life" recreated and the famous brick replica of "770". After our farewell dinner we proceed to the airport for your trip home. Say Shalom to Eretz Yisroel until your next trip.

### **Events not yet scheduled:**

- Meeting with Israeli dignitaries and scholars.
- Deliver aid to families of terror victims.