



## WINNIPEG FEDERATION MISSION TO VIENNA & ISRAEL March 18-30, 2017

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 – Saturday, March 18

Air Canada Flight #266 - Leaves Winnipeg at 12:20p.m. - Arrives in Toronto 3:47p.m. - Leaves Toronto at 6:00 p.m.

### VIENNA

#### Day 2 – Sunday, March 19

Air Canada Flight arrives in Frankfurt at 6:30 a.m. Lufthansa Flight Leaves Frankfurt at 8:50 a.m. Arrives in Vienna 10:10 a.m.

Go through immigration. Collect luggage. Guide and bus will be waiting for the group at the airport. (You cannot check into the hotel before 2:00 p.m.) Enjoy a panoramic tour of the major sites of the city which feature: the **Hofburg**, a drive along the famous Ring to view the **State Opera House**, **Empress Maria Theresia Monument**, the **Building of Nature** and **Kunsthistorische**, **Museums Quarter**, **Votice Church**, **City Hall**, the **Parliament**, **Belvedere Palace**, **Prater Amusement Park**, **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, the **MAK**, the cultural district, the **Burg Theatre** and the **Natural History Museum**. We begin with a visit to the **Museum of Fine Arts**. This monumental structure, built as part of Emperor Franz Joseph's expansion of the city in 1858 was intended to both unite and appropriately represent the artistic treasures that had been collected by the Habsburgs over the centuries. Construction work lasted 20 years from when ground was first broken in 1871 to completion in the year 1891. Stop for lunch (at own expense). Check into the hotel. Time to relax. Dinner at the hotel or a restaurant. **Will have a list of cultural events available this evening.**

Overnight Vienna –AUSTRIA TREND HOTEL SAVOYEN VIENNA (D)

#### Day 3 – Monday, March 20

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, we begin with the Jewish Heritage tour of Vienna, a city that has served as home to famous Jewish personalities such as Sigmund Freud, Theodore Herzl, Gustav Mahler and Martin Buber. Our tour will take us to sites including the Stadtempel, where you will learn how the temple survived the Nazis, and the Judenplatz; serving as the main square of the Jewish community for nearly 500 years. Visit the **Judenplatz Museum**, the Memorial to Austrian Holocaust Victims by the artist Rachel Whiteread, and the Jewish Community Center. Continue to the **New Jewish Museum at Palace Eskeles**, chronicling the history of Viennese Jewry in the city. A member of the Jewish community will address the group about Jewish life in Vienna today. Lunch this afternoon in the Jewish Museum or the Schonbrunn Palace restaurant. This afternoon enjoy a visit to the **Schönbrunn Palace**, with its surrounding buildings and the huge park that is one of the most significant cultural monuments in Austria. The castle was built to rival French Versailles in Baroque beauty and importance but House Habsburg lacked funds to outdo its rivaling nation France. In earlier times it served as summer residence to various Habsburg rulers. Emperor Franz Joseph (ruled 1848-1916), who was born here in 1830, spent the last years of his life entirely in Schönbrunn. In 1918, the palace became the property of the new republic. Due to this historical importance, its beautiful location and its gardens this palace is one of the very top sights in Vienna. Furthermore the entire complex was added to the UNESCO's world cultural heritage list. The sculpted garden space between the palace and the *Sun Fountain* is called the *Great Parterre*. After the tour visit the fascinating Hundertwasser House. Rest of the day is free to explore Vienna. Take time to walk along the famous Graben and enjoy Viennese coffee and Sachertorte while people gazing in one of the many cafes. Dinner

this evening at the Simchas Kosher Restaurant - owned by a Jewish man from Uzbekistan.  
**Will have a list of cultural events available this evening.**  
**Overnight Vienna -AUSTRIA TREND HOTEL SAVOYEN VIENNA (B/L/D)**

#### **Day 4 - Tuesday, March 21**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of hotel. This morning we begin with a visit to the **Clock Museum (Uhrenmuseum)**. This is where things will really run like clockwork for you. There is a 3000 clock collection from the Wein Museum. The Clock Museum has a collection that is unique in Europe. It is accommodated in an enchanting Viennese house in the historical city, with foundation walls dating from the Middle Ages and situated very close to Judenplatz. The greatest imaginable diversity of types and models from around the world is on show in the Clock Museum; witty and ingenious picture types with hidden dial-plates; richly decorated long case commode clocks telling of the social rank of their owners; pocket watches and pendants with luxurious ornamentation as the most exquisite pieces of jewelry.

Stop for lunch (at own expense). Visit **St. Stephen's Cathedral** - Stephansdom, one of Vienna's most famous sites. St. Stephen's Cathedral defines the city center and has been the heart of Vienna for centuries. The oldest remaining parts of St. Stephen's (the beautifully Giant Gate and the Towers of the Heathens) date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Vienna was growing in importance and significantly expanding its city limits. Duke Rudolph IV of Habsburg, in 1359, laid the cornerstone of the Gothic nave with its two aisles. From then on, it took over two hundred years for the building to reach its present shape. The most important feature of the Cathedral is the Gothic South Tower, which was completed in 143. The unfinished North Tower was capped with a makeshift Renaissance spire in 1579. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the cathedral was decorated with Baroque altar pieces - the panel of the main altar shows the stoning of its namesake St. Stephen, the first martyr of Christendom. Continue to **Mozart House** a center devoted to the life and works of Austria's musical genius, housed in the last remaining of Mozart's apartments. The composer lived here in grand style from 1784-87. We will learn about his life and his most important works. Time permitting, last minute shopping before leaving for the airport. Transfer to airport (must be there by 6:00 p.m.) EL AL flight leaves Vienna at 8:00 p.m.) Dinner will be served on the flight. **Overnight en route (B&D)**

## ISRAEL

#### **Day 5 - Wednesday, March 22**

EL AL flight arrives in Tel-Aviv at 12:30 a.m. Go through immigration & pick up luggage (**can take about 30 minutes**). Guide and bus will be waiting for you. Transfer to Jerusalem. Check into hotel and go straight to bed. Leisurely breakfast. Time to relax. We begin the day with a visit to the Latrun Armored War Memorial in the old British police fortress, where you will find a large array of tanks, half trucks and other armored vehicles. Many of these are of World War II vintage, others have seen battle during the Suez crisis in 1956, the 1967 and 1973 wars. Most interesting are some Soviet armor captured from Arab armies. The site also includes an amphitheatre where military ceremonies and memorials are held. Dinner at the hotel this evening at the hotel. This evening - **Tower of David Sound and Light Show this evening.**  
**Overnight Jerusalem - HOTEL DAN PANORAMA(B&D)**

#### **Day 6 - Thursday, March 23**

Breakfast at the hotel. Arrangements will be made for the group to be addressed by a speaker this morning after breakfast. \*The hotel will provide a small room for the meeting with the speaker. Begin with a drive to the Mount of Olives and enjoy a panoramic view of the Old City. Walk through the Jewish cemetery to Palm Sunday Road ending at the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations. Proceed to the Old City where you will discover the history of the different religions and witness the mix of cultures currently living

here. Enter via the Lion's Gate passing by the Pool of Bethesda and walk along the Via Dolorosa stopping at the Stations of the Cross. Continue through the colourful Arab Market to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Enter the Cardo, the main thoroughfare of Byzantine Jerusalem, where you will visit the four Sephardic Synagogues restored in the Jewish Quarter after the 1967 war. Stop for lunch in the Old City. Onto the Davidson Museum to view the unique audio visual presentation of life in the time of the Second Temple. Visit the ancient southern wall excavations in the archeological park. Continue to the exterior portion of the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) a sacred Jewish site which is a remnant of the Second Temple, built by Herod the Great. Descend into the Western Wall tunnel, a subterranean passage that runs above the underground 1<sup>st</sup> century wall. See relics discovered within it. Free time for a little shopping before returning to the hotel. Dinner on your own this evening (own expense).

**Overnight Jerusalem – HOTEL DAN PANORAMA (B)**

#### **Day 7 – Friday, March 24**

Early breakfast at the hotel. Drive through Jerusalem neighbourhoods where you can see how the Orthodox Jewish communities begin preparing for the Sabbath. Proceed to Yad Vashem, dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust. Begin your visit at the Avenue of the Righteous, continue to the Valley of the Lost Communities, the Children's Memorial and the New Museum. Lunch in the cafeteria. Time permitting, visit the colourful Mechana Yehuda Market where you will be exposed to wonderful baked goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, spices, nuts, halva and treats you will find hard to resist. This is a good time to stock up on snacks.

\*Those individuals wanting to visit Bethlehem can do so this afternoon – this must be pre-arranged with an Arab driver. Cross into the Palestinian Authority and drive into Bethlehem where you visit Shepherd's Fields, the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Time is given for shopping for religious articles. Return to Jerusalem in time for the group to go to the "Kotel" the Western Wall, the most important Jewish site, and participate in welcoming Shabbat (the Sabbath). Return to the hotel for Shabbat Dinner. Everything closes down in Jerusalem on Friday night.

**Overnight Jerusalem – HOTEL DAN PANORAMA (B & D)**

#### **Day 8 – Saturday, March 25**

Early breakfast at the hotel. Leave the hotel and head south through the Judean Desert passing Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. Continue on to Masada, ruins of King Herod's mountaintop fortress and last stronghold of the Jewish revolt against the Romans in 73 C.E. Ascend by cable car and visit the remains of the wells, palaces, synagogue and bathhouses. Descend by cable car. Leave and travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the face of the planet, the earth's most unworldly body of water. Enjoy lunch at the hotel. Weather permitting you will have an opportunity to experience a "float in the Dead Sea" where you cannot sink, so don't forget your bathing suit and flip flops. Return to Jerusalem. Dinner at a restaurant. Gift shops in the hotels and on Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Walk and surrounding areas are open after Motza Shabbat for anyone that wants to browse and/or shop. Best to settle hotel bill this evening so as not to delay the morning's departure.

**Overnight Jerusalem – HOTEL DAN PANORAMA (B & L & D)**

#### **Day 9 – Sunday, March 26**

Early breakfast at the hotel. Check out. This morning head north with a stop in Nazareth to visit the Basilica of the Annunciation. Drive to Kibbutz Ginosar to see what is believed to be the Jesus Boat found in the Sea of Galilee. Time & weather permitting, enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. This lake remains as serene and mysterious as in ancient times and where the Bible comes alive. Stop for a falafel or shawarma lunch en route as you continue north to the Galilee Panhandle, called the Etzba Galil, which is Winnipeg's twinned P2Gether area. Group will visit one of the project sites. Following the project visit, go to Kibbutz Ne'ot

Mordechai home of the Naot Shoe Factory where shoes, sandals and boots can be purchased. Proceed to Kibbutz Hagoshrim & check into their hotel guest house. This evening visit Nurit Biderman in her home and gallery where she can tell you about life in the border communities. Continue to Dobrovin Farm, one of the Galilee's earliest settlements, in the northern town of Yessod Hamaal where you will enjoy a buffet dinner. **Overnight Kibbutz Hagoshrim - GUEST HOUSE\_(B & D)**

#### **Day 10 – Monday, March 27**

Breakfast at the Kibbutz. A member of the kibbutz will speak to the group at breakfast about the history of the kibbutz and how it operates presently.

**This morning visit the school(s) and/or projects connected to Winnipeg.**

Depending on the weather a route will be developed so you can visit **Tel Dan, the Banias and Nimrod's Fortress**. Tel Dan was where King Hazael of Damascus punctuated his invasion of Israelite territory with the erection of the famous House of David inscription, the oldest document to mention the historical King David. It is where King Jeroboams' temple can be explored which he, according to the Hebrew Bible, established to house the golden calf and challenge the temple in Jerusalem for religious supremacy. The Banias is a spring which rises from the base of Mount Hermon, the tallest mountain in Israel. The Banias site, according to the New Testament is where Jesus asked His disciples, who people were saying he was. You will visit Banias Falls, the impressive and beautiful reserve and waterfall. The Nimrod Fortress is the biggest Crusade-era castle in all of Israel and is situated in the northern Golan on a ridge rising about 800 meters above sea level. It is named after the hunter Nimrod as found in Genesis 10:8-9 and according to local tradition he dwelt on this summit. It overlooks the deep, narrow valley separating Mt. Hermon from the Golan Heights and the road linking the Galilee with Damascus. Founded in the Middle Ages, probably by the Crusaders, to defend the city of Banias in the valley below against Muslim incursions. Later, the Muslim rulers in Damascus rebuilt it to defend their border against the Crusaders. Travel through the Golan Heights to the Mount Bental Observation point offering a spectacular panoramic view of Syria, Lebanon and northeastern Israel. From the overlook you can see Mount Hermon, several Druze villages as well as a network of old bunkers and trenches. In the Yom Kippur War of 1973, it was the site of one of the largest tank battles in history. Return to the Kibbutz. Dinner at the kibbutz.

**Overnight Kibbutz Hagoshrim - GUEST HOUSE (B & D)**

#### **Day 11 – Tuesday, March 28**

Leisurely breakfast in the kibbutz. Check out. Drive to the coastal resort town of Nahariya and visit the underground hospital serving the northern Galilee. Proceed to the port city of Akko (Acre) with its romantic minarets, massive city seawalls and palm trees framed against the sky. Visit the British Mandate prison of Exodus fame and the subterranean Crusader City. Wander through the medieval streets of the Bazaar filled with spice shops, delicious Arabic bakeries and fruit and vegetable stalls. Akko is a city populated by Jews and Arabs. Have lunch in Akko. Continue on to Haifa, beautifully situated on a mountain overlooking the sea where you will stop for a panoramic view of the bay and the magnificent Bahi Gardens, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. From there you head south to Zichron Yaakov, one of the first settlements of modern Israel and the centre of Israel's wine industry. The Baron Edmund de Rothschild and his wife are buried in the Ramat Ha'Nadiv Gardens. Buffet Dinner at the Carmel Winery - Bistro de Carmel. Enjoy a walk along the Pedestrian Mall housing shops, galleries, cafes and historical sites identified by plaques. Continue on to Tel-Aviv. Check into hotel.

**Overnight Tel-Aviv -HEROD'S HOTEL (B&D)**

**Day 12 – Wednesday, March 29**

Breakfast at the hotel. Begin the day with a drive through Tel-Aviv starting with the Bauhaus district or “White City” better known as one of the “Bauhaus” architectural centres in the world followed by Rabin Square, place of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin. Stop at Neve Tzedek, first community of Tel-Aviv built in 1887 outside the old port city of Jaffa; explore the narrow alleys and the unique low buildings where you can enjoy galleries, cafes and shops. Onto Jaffa, an ancient port city, named for Japheth, one of the sons of Noah who built it after the flood; Stop at the visitor’s center and enjoy a multimedia presentation of the 800 year old port town and its history; stroll through the zodiac alleys, a network of quaint alleyways boasting exciting combinations of old, new and restored structures, filled with artists’ quarters, studios and art galleries as well as a popular flea market. See the Clock Square and the famous Abulafia Bakery (open 24/7). Lunch at your own expense at the restored Jaffa Railway Station. This was the first railway station in the Middle East serving as the terminus for the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway. In 1892, construction of the whole line was completed and inaugurated in the presence of the city’s dignitaries, Jews and Arabs. Not in use since 1948 and after many years of neglect, the Tel Aviv Municipality initiated a restoration project and in 2009 it was completed and the station converted to an entertainment and leisure venue named Ha Tachana (The Station). The grounds of the adjacent Israel Defense Forces History Museum are part of the historical station. Rest of the day is free to explore, shop or just relax. Weather permitting you could have a sunny day to lie on the beach or walk along the promenade adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea. This evening enjoy your closing dinner at a restaurant in Jaffa. People should settle their bill at the hotel this evening to save time.

**Overnight Tel-Aviv –HEROD’S HOTEL (B & D)****Day 13 – Thurs. March 30**

Early breakfast at the hotel. Check out of hotel. Transfer to airport at 8:00 a.m. (or earlier because of busy rush hour traffic in the morning)

Air Canada flight leaves Tel-Aviv at 11:55 a.m. - Arrives in Toronto at 4:35 p.m. - Leaves Toronto at 8:55 p.m. - Arrives in Winnipeg at 10:39 p.m.