

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: August 2, 2019

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN
JOURNEY TO UZBEKISTAN
March 16-25, 2020**

**Day One: Monday, March 16, 2020
DEPARTURE**

- Depart the US.

Overnight: Flight

**Day Two: Tuesday, March 17, 2020
ARRIVAL IN TASHKENT**



- Arrive at the International Airport of Uzbekistan in Tashkent.
- Transfer to the hotel on your own. *(Transfers can be arranged at additional cost.)*
- Check into the hotel. *(Official hotel check-in is from 3:00 p.m., if your room isn't ready upon arrival, you can leave your luggage with the concierge.)*
- 7:00 p.m. Meet your tour educator and other group members in the hotel lobby.
- **Welcome dinner** and orientation dialogue with your tour educator. Overview of the group journey, including reviewing the itinerary, group themes, different narratives, and sharing of group and personal goals.

Overnight: Tashkent



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Day Three: Wednesday, March 18, 2020

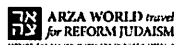
URGENCH-KNIVA

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Meet with a local journalist or academic for an overview of Uzbekistan's current political and financial status.
- Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for a short flight to **Urgench**.
- Drive from the airport to **Khiva**, a museum of a city, located in one of the central spots on the Silk Road in the Khorezm Region. According to legend, this ancient city was erected when Noah's son found a well there.
- Explore the many architectural wonders of Khiva, most of which are found inside the walls of **Ichan Kala (Royal Court)**, with buildings dating back to the 12th century. Visit many of the architectural marvels that earned it the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site, including:
 - **The Necropolis of Pahlavan Mahmud**, the religious center of this city, formed around the tomb of its namesake. Pahlavan Mahmud was a famous Khiva poet, craftsman, and renowned wrestler. His gravesite became a popular site of pilgrimage, leading to the erection of many other sites around it.
 - **The Djuma (Friday) Mosque** displays ancient Arabian-style architecture, boasting 218 wooden columns supporting its roof.
 - **The Kalta Minar Minaret**, famously covered with blue and white tiles and majolica, was never completed, yet this mighty building stands tall at 29 meters, a recognizable feature of the local skyline.
 - **Minnerat and Madrasah**, named after **Khoja Islam**, the smallest madrasah along with the highest minaret in Khiva.
 - **The Muhammed-Amin-Khan Madrasah** is the largest not only in Khiva, but in all of Central Asia.
 - **Kunya-Ark (Old Fortress)**, known as "the city within the city", was separated from Ichan-Qala by a high wall. The fortress once boasted a reception hall, harem, winter and summer mosques, and outbuildings, including stables, warehouses, and workshops.
- Lunch (*not included in package*), en route.
- Check into the hotel with free time to freshen up.
- Visit **hand-craft workshops** and see firsthand how the local wooden sculptures and papier-mâché puppets are created.
- Continue to soak up the local culture at a **performance of Uzbekistani song and dance**.
- Dinner (*not included in package*).

Overnight: Khiva



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Day Four: Thursday, March 19, 2020

TRAVEL TO BUKHARA

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Drive through the **Kyzylkum Desert**, named for its red sand, and cross the **Amu Darya River** toward **Bukhara**, considered the prettiest of the cities along the Silk Road.
- **Lunch en route**.
- Arrive at Bukhara and check into your hotel with time to freshen up.
- Visit **Magoki Attori Mosque**, the most ancient place of worship and prayers. The Zoroastrians used it as their place of worship to the fire. After the invasion of the Arab Caliphate, it became the mosque. But there is a rumor that until the 16th century, prayer times were divided between the Muslims and the Jews, and whilst they were praying in the same mosque, they were restricted to their allocated times.
- Explore **Poi Kaylan**, the spiritual center of the city. See the **Kalyan Minaret**, known in the past as one of the tallest buildings in the world, and the **Miri-Arab Madrasah** towering above all the surrounding buildings.
- Visit **Ark**, a citadel dating back to the 4th century BCE, which functioned as the residence of the Bukhara Khans.
- Explore shaded **marketplaces** to interact with locals and purchase local wares.
- Enjoy dinner and a **folklore show**, with an **Uzbekistani fashion show** in **Nadir Divan-Beghi**.

Overnight: Bukhara

Day Five: Friday, March 20, 2020

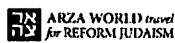
EXPERIENCE BUKHARA

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Meet with locals from the Jewish community for an in-depth understanding of their history and their reality today.
- Explore the Jewish quarter of Bukhara, the area named **Lyab-i Hauz** to visit:
 - **Kukeldash Madrasah**, the largest in the city.
 - **Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah** and **Khanaka**, both named after Vizier Nadir, by whose order they were constructed.
 - Meet local community leaders at the **Bukharan Jewish Synagogue**, one of the oldest synagogues in Bukhara, and learn about past and present Jewish life in the region.
- Lunch (*not included in package*).
- Explore the **Samani Mausoleum**, one of the most valued sites of Central Asian architecture, built between the 9th and 10th centuries.
- Continue to the **Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum**, its name meaning *Job's well*, after the story of Job who visited and created a well in this spot.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- **Shabbat dinner with a local Jewish family** in their home, where you will be able to touch, taste, and absorb the local atmosphere and traditions.

Overnight: Bukhara



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Day Six: Saturday, March 21, 2020

SHABBAT AT LEISURE IN BUKHARA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning at leisure.
- Lunch at the hotel.
- Afternoon guided walking tour.
- Havdalah followed by dinner and evening on own.

Overnight: Bukhara

Day Seven: Sunday, March 22, 2020

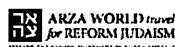
EN ROUTE TO SAMARKAND

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Travel to the last Emir of Bukhara's summer palace, **Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa**, on the outskirts of the city. This picturesque location inspired many enchanting stories.
- Visit **Shahrisabz**, the birthplace of the 14th-century conqueror Timur. While there, visit landmarks, including:
 - The **Ak-Saray Palace**, nicknamed *The White Palace*, boasts the lettering: "If you challenge our power – look at our buildings!" With only traces left of the once 65-meter-high gates, festooned with mosaics, it is still an impressive site.
 - The giant **Kok Gumbaz Mosque**, its name meaning *Blue Dome*, is a Friday mosque built in 1437.
 - Mausoleums **Dorus Siodat**, **Shamsad-Dina Kulyala**, and **Gumbazi-Seyidan**.
- Lunch (*not included in package*).
- Continue along the winding roads through the mountains towards **Samarkand**, a city that was the economic, cultural, and intellectual center of Asia in the 14th to 15th centuries.
- Stop at a **local family's home** for tea along the way.
- Arrive in Samarkand and check into your hotel.
- Dinner (*not included in package*) with free time to explore the city on your own.

Overnight: Samarkand



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Day Eight: Monday, March 23, 2020

EXPLORING SAMARKAND

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Explore the city of Samarkand, including:
 - The **Gur Emir Mausoleum**, built in the beginning of the 15th century.
 - The **Registan Square** – Registan (desert) was the center of Samarkand during the Timurid dynasty. The ancient square is flanked by three madrasas.
 - The **Shah-i-Zinda** complex of ritual buildings. The name, meaning *The Living King*, is based on the legend that the prophet Muhammad's cousin was buried there.
 - **Ulugh Beg Observatory**, built in the 1420's by the astronomer Ulugh Beg, is considered one of the finest observatories in the Islamic world.
- **Lunch** (*not included in package*).
- Visit the **Jewish cemetery** and the ancient **Synagogue Gumbaz**, where you will meet with local community leaders.
- View the remnants of **Bibi-Khanym Mosque**, which during the 15th century was renowned as one of the largest mosques in the world.
- Return to the hotel.
- Soak up the local culture while enjoying **dinner and a folklore show** at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Samarkand

Day Nine: Tuesday, March 24, 2020

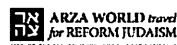
FROM SAMARKAND TO TASHKENT

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Visit **Abram Kalantarov House**, home of a Jewish merchant, built in the beginning of the 20th century with an amalgam of Uzbekistani and European design elements.
- Visit the local **rug manufacturing factory**, erected by refugees from Afghanistan, and see the process of dyeing and weaving that goes into each piece.
- Depart Samarkand for **Tashkent**.
- **Lunch** (*not included in package*), en route.
- 7:00 p.m. Arrive in Tashkent and begin with an evening panoramic tour of the city, including a view of **Amir Timor Circle**, the **Independence Circle**, the **Opera House**, and the **Parliament buildings**.
- Visit one of the **underground train stations**, which are practically museums of marble and granite.
- Check into the hotel.
- Join Birthright Taglit and Masa alumni for an around-the-table conversation followed by **dinner**.

Overnight: Tashkent



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Day Ten: Wednesday, March 25, 2020
EXCURSION TO THE CHIMGAN MOUNTAINS

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Morning program** with a speaker (possibly US or Israel ambassador).
- Drive to the **Tian-Shan Mountains** in the **Chimgan** region, utilizing this vantage point to take in the green scenery surrounding Tashkent. Ascend by **cable car** (weather permitting).
- Travel to **Lake Charvakm**, meaning *Four Gardens* in Persian, this body of water separates three different mountain ranges.
- Lunch (not included in package), en route.
- Return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure, with the opportunity to:
 - Stroll through **Navoi theatre square**.
 - Visit the **Museum of Useful Art**, opened in 1937.
 - Explore the big **Chaharsu bazaar**.
- **Final Thoughts and Feelings:** Farewell dinner and group reflection at the hotel.

Overnight: Tashkent

Day Eleven: Thursday, March 26, 2020
RETURN HOME

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
 - Transfer on your own to Tashkent International Airport. (Transfers can be arranged at additional cost.)
 - Departure flight to the US, arriving the same day
- OR**
- Group transfer to Tashkent International Airport, departure flight to Ben Gurion Airport and continue for the extension program in Israel.



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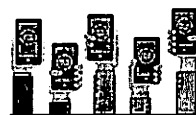
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JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEW HAVEN ISRAEL EXTENSION March 26-30, 2020

Day One: Thursday, March 26, 2020
TO ISRAEL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Enter **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complemented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- Check into the hotel (*arrival time TBA*).
- **Our Thoughts, Our Journey:** Enjoy a welcome dinner at the Lumina restaurant in the Carlton Hotel, where the seaside surroundings and internationally acclaimed chef **Meir Adoni**'s new interpretations of traditional Jewish dishes are particular highlights.

Overnight: Tel Aviv



Day Two: Friday, March 27, 2020
DIVERSITY IN THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- **The Innovation Nation:** The newly opened **Israeli Innovation Center** celebrates the people and companies that are making Israel the “innovation nation.” Located at the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**, it includes continually updated, high-tech exhibits on everything from artificial intelligence to the latest developments in water use.
- **What’s Going on in Bohemian Tel Aviv?** Join an expert on Tel Aviv’s alternative scene for an urban adventure and **graffiti tour**. Explore the latest street art and find out what it reveals about life, ideas, and ideology in Israel’s cultural capital.
- **Hallelujah! A People and Their Prayers:** Experience the diversity and dynamism of Jewish life at the rejuvenated **Beit Hatfutsot: The Museum of the Jewish People**. A highlight is their new **Synagogue Exhibition** which combines the museum’s famed collection of synagogue models with thrilling video art exploring the places where Jews pray, around the world and through the ages. The tour will include:
 - **Our Heroes:** Younger (and not so young) visitors will be inspired and entertained by **Heroes: Trailblazers of the Jewish People**, an interactive exhibition about Jews who have changed the world.
 - **Have You Heard the One About...?** Get ready to laugh and learn with **Inside Out and Outside In**, a celebration of Jewish humor from Sholem Aleichem to Seinfeld.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services:** As the sun sets over Tel Aviv, join Israelis from diverse backgrounds in welcoming Shabbat through prayer, song, and community. This musical Shabbat service will be with **Beit Tefilah Israeli**.
- **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Three: Saturday, March 28, 2020
SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV | WALKING TOUR

- **Anochi – Talking to and About God in Modern Israeli Poetry:** **Dr. Rachel Korazim** will demonstrate that the need to connect to God is alive in modern Israeli poetry, secular and religious alike. From rebellion and denial to acceptance through creativity, we’ll look at how Israeli poets including Yehuda Amichai, Admiel Kosman, and the pop star Kobi Oz (who recorded the album, *Psalms for the Perplexed*) approach God and Judaism. Dr. Korazim is a renowned educator who uses song, poetry, and literature to shine a light on Israeli life and society.
- **An Avenue for Art:** Walk down **Bialik Street**, home to many of Tel Aviv’s finest early artists and authors. We’ll see where cultural leaders, including Israel’s National Poet, **Haim Bialik**, lived and created, examine the street’s outstanding, eclectic architecture including **Beit Ha’ir** (the old municipal center), before taking a guided tour of **Rubin House**, the home and studio of the painter **Reuven Rubin**.
- **Free afternoon** to enjoy the city.
- **From Templars to Chefs:** **Sarona** was once a colony of Templars, German Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, but is now a center of Tel Aviv cuisine. Tour its food and spice markets and visit the **Historic Olive Mill and Press House** for olive oil tasting. Afterward, there will be time on your own to explore Sarona’s eating options, ranging from great street food to fine dining with top chefs.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Four: Sunday, March 29, 2020

ALL ROADS LEAD TO JERUSALEM

- **Breakfast** at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet.
- Meet your tour educator who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- Drive to **Jerusalem** and tour the Bukharan Quarter, founded in the 1880s by Bukharan Jews who wanted to build a new European-style neighborhood in the holy city.
- Take a **multi-cultural tasting journey** through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market. Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop. This doubles as a delicious lunch.
- Meet with participants of the **Alma Pre-Army Academy (Mechina)** a JAFI-sponsored gap year program designed to empower young women before they enlist in the army.
- **The Geopolitics of Jerusalem:** Travel through the city of Jerusalem, exploring some of its political and diplomatic complexities – including the **Security Barrier** – to gain a behind-the-headlines insight into current developments.
- Go back in time with a contemporary dinner at **Anna**, a Mediterranean restaurant with an Italian influence, situated in the serene and historic **Ticho House** in Jerusalem's city center.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Five: Monday, March 30, 2020

MOVEMENT, SPIRIT, AND CHANGE

- **A Hive and Hub for Innovation:** Lod is only a 20-minute drive from Tel Aviv but is one of Israel's most impoverished cities. It is also the home of a major, JDC-supported attempt to bring opportunities to the country's most economically vulnerable populations. We'll visit **Hackaveret** (based on the Hebrew word for "hive" and the English term "hack") which provides expert guidance, tools, and seed funding to young "social business" entrepreneurs from disadvantaged populations
- Visit the award-winning **Ella Winery** at Kibbutz Netiv Halamed Hey, established by a Napa Valley vineyard owner in order to create a true-blue Israeli winery; wine tasting is included.
- **The Art of Movement:** Israel is considered a world center of modern dance. See why with a performance by the **Vertigo Dance Company** that combines exhilarating movement with a social message. We will talk with Vertigo's dancers and their artistic director, choreographer, and co-founder, **Noa Wertheim**, about what's local and what's international in their work.
- Experience Georgian Jewish cuisine with a **farewell dinner** at **Racha**. The owners and chefs are from Georgia's Racha district and specialize in that area's renowned salads and pastries (often filled with beef and tart sauces). After the plentiful starters, settle into the traditional Georgian barbeque meats and vegetarian dishes. The elegant Neve Tzedek setting, the restaurant's extensive alcohol menu, and the warm atmosphere add to the fun.
- Late check-out from the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Flight

Day Six: Tuesday, March 31, 2020

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight to the US.