Israel

PAST AND PRESENT

April 1 to 14, 2016

a program of the stanford alumni association
In 2013 I had the opportunity to visit Israel for the first time. Although I knew this tiny country boasted an extraordinary number of historic sites, holy places, archaeological excavations and diverse landscapes, considering its diminutive size, and although I knew that the nature of its existence elicits passionate and varied opinions, I was unprepared for the wealth of opportunities we were able to harness in order to gain insight into this complex land and create a true Travel/Study experience. Join us and faculty leader Stephen Krasner, a former member of the State Department’s Foreign Policy Advisory Board, on this exploration of modern and ancient Israel as we visit historical and contemporary cities, both Israeli and Palestinian; experience the most sacred sites of the world’s three great monotheistic faiths; and meet with a vastly diverse array of people that comprises this multifaceted and ever-evolving society.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

EXPLORE Jerusalem’s Old City, home to the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Dome of the Rock—three of Judaism, Christianity and Islam’s holiest sites.

MEET with some local scholars, settlers, soldiers, economists and journalists to gain insight into regional geopolitics and to better understand and appreciate Israel’s complex society.

VISIT the Palestinian city of Ramallah and the cutting-edge Palestinian development of Rawabi, an example of positive self-determination seldom visited by tourists.
STEPHEN D. KRASNER is the Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations and a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, the Hoover Institution and the Center for International Development, all at Stanford University. He was senior associate dean for the social sciences and deputy director at the Freeman Spogli Institute from 2008 to 2013. From February 2005 to April 2007 he served as director of the policy planning staff at the U.S. Department of State. In 2002 he was director for governance and development at the National Security Council. He is also a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace and was a member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Board of the Department of State from 2010 to 2012. Regarding Israel, Professor Krasner says, “No one can visit Israel without being stunned by the weight of history, struck by the small size of the country, and humbled by the complexity and depth of its political conflicts.” During our program his lectures will address some of the historical roots of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, its contemporary dimensions, and politics within both Israel itself and the Palestinian community.

“I have never learned so much in such a short time.”

ANN REYNOLDS, ISRAEL PAST AND PRESENT, 2015

OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
MONDAY, APRIL 4
JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM
Return to the Old City to explore its Christian Quarter. Walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is widely considered to be the place of Jesus’ crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Travel to the West Bank city of Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, the basilica constructed around the cave traditionally considered the birthplace of Jesus. Meet with an Arab-Israeli journalist for perspective on Palestinian society. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 5
JERUSALEM—THE NEW CITY
Attend a guest lecture by a local scholar to learn how the Holocaust is viewed in contemporary Israeli society, then explore Yad Vashem, Israel’s national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Explore the Israel Museum, home to artifacts, such as the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls, plus Judaica and an open-air model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple Period. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
JERUSALEM / RAMALLAH
Embark on an early-morning excursion to the Temple Mount or Noble Sanctuary, arguably the most hotly contested piece of real estate in the world. Site of the First and Second Temples, this platform is home to Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, Islam’s third-holiest site. Drive to the Palestinian West Bank city of Ramallah to meet with key Palestinian personalities before continuing to Rawabi, a new Palestinian city in the process of development, and meeting one of the project’s chief architects. Dine tonight independently. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
JERUSALEM / GUSH ETZION
After hearing a political science professor from Hebrew University lecture on Israeli politics, gain a behind-the-headlines insight into current developments in Jerusalem, including a visit to the Security Barrier/Separation Fence. Drive to Gush Etzion, the block of West Bank settlements originally established in the 1920s, and engage in a dialogue with a settler. Return to Jerusalem for a meeting with the Israeli and Palestinian co-founders of an international grassroots movement on dialogue and coexistence. Dinner this evening is on our own. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L,L)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
JERUSALEM—THE OLD CITY
Take a walk along the rooftops of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities of Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other. Explore the Jewish Quarter, stopping to view some of the sites excavated over the past 30 years, including the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, home to the Southern Wall steps where Jewish pilgrims once entered the Temple Mount and where Jesus is said to have overturned the tables of the money-changers. Observe the faithful praying at the Kotel (Western Wall) and wind through the Western Wall Tunnel, which runs along the length of the Temple Mount. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 1 & 2
U.S. / TEL AVIV, ISRAEL
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Israel on Saturday. Transfer to our hotel in Jerusalem and gather for a welcome reception and dinner. KING DAVID HOTEL (D)

Itinerary
FRIDAY, APRIL 8
MASADA / DEAD SEA
Drive through the Judean Desert to Masada, Herod’s mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots’ last stand against the Roman legionnaires. Float in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea, and drive by Qumran, the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Participate in a traditional Shabbat dinner this evening. KING DAVID HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
JORDAN VALLEY / SEA OF GALILEE / ROSH PINNA
Drive along the Jordan Rift Valley to Bet She’an, one of Israel’s largest archaeological sites. Continue to the Sea of Galilee and visit Tabgha, where Jesus is said to have performed his miracle of multiplying a few loaves and fishes to feed multitudes of people. Explore Capernaum, which served as a base for Jesus during his Galilean Ministry, and enjoy a spectacular view from the Mount of Beatitudes, traditional site of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” MITZPE HAVAMM (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 10
GOLAN HEIGHTS / TZFAT
Travel into the Golan Heights to visit former Israeli and Syrian fortifications in order to better understand the complexities of the Golan Heights in the context of current-day Middle East geopolitics. Drive to the top of Mount Bental for a view of Quneitra, the largely destroyed and abandoned Syrian garrison town that now lies in the U.N. demilitarized zone, then enjoy lunch with soldiers of the Israeli Defense Force. Visit the 16th-century synagogues and explore the lovely art galleries in the picturesque town of Tzfat, a center of Kabala for hundreds of years and a contemporary artists’ colony. MITZPE HAVAMM (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 11
NAZARETH / HAIFA / CAESAREA / TEL AVIV
Drive to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation, which has been venerated since Byzantine times as the place where the Virgin Mary was visited by the Archangel Gabriel. Enjoy a panoramic view of Haifa Bay from Mt. Carmel and see the Bahá’í Gardens and gold-domed Shrine of the Bab, one of the holiest sites of the Bahá’í religion. Drive along the coast to Caesarea Maritima. Built by Herod the Great, Caesarea was home to one of the most impressive architectural feats of the ancient world: an artificial harbor built in the open sea. Continue to Tel Aviv, the first Hebrew city of modern times. DAVID INTERCONTINENTAL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
TEL AVIV
Explore the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies, which was established to perpetuate Prime Minister Rabin’s legacy by promoting tolerance across all sectors of Israeli society. Visit the Rabin Memorial and wander through the outdoor Carmel Market and bi-weekly crafts fair. DAVID INTERCONTINENTAL (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
TEL AVIV
Visit Jaffa where, according to tradition, Jonah emerged from the whale and St. Peter was born. Visit Independence Hall, where Prime Minister Ben Gurion declared Israel’s independence in 1948, and stroll through a neighborhood famous for its Bauhaus buildings, the proliferation of which won Tel Aviv recognition as a World Heritage site. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure before gathering for a festive farewell reception and dinner. DAVID INTERCONTINENTAL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
TEL AVIV / U.S.
Check out of our hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
Trip Information

DATES
April 1 to 14, 2016 (14 days)

SIZE
34 participants (single accommodations are limited—please call for availability)

COST*
$9,885 per person, double occupancy
$12,625 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

INCLUDED
12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 8 dinners
Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
All tours as described in the itinerary
Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare
Passport and visa fees
Immunization costs
Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
Independent and private transfers
Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
Excess-baggage charges
Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines between San Francisco and Tel Aviv is approximately $1,900 as of June 2015 and is subject to change without notice. Information on booking flights will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous and at times physically demanding and busy. We will have a very full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events, with very little downtime and most days will require early-morning starts. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking with tours lasting as long as four hours. Much of the walking takes place at ancient sites, where paths can be rocky and uneven and you may be required to walk through tunnels, caves or dimly lit spaces, as well as on city streets, which can be uneven, cobblestoned and slippery. In some instances, such as museums, guided tours require standing in one place for 40 to 50 minutes at a time and climbing up and down several flights of stairs that may not have handrails. Many sites and buildings do not have elevators and also do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus requiring a walk of several minutes, sometimes uphill, to reach the entrance. Our journey at times requires several hours of travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to six hours long. Participants must be physically fit, in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/israel2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window:
14 to 21 days of your written confirmation of participation on the trip, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“It was an incredible experience packed full of variety—excellent lectures and discussions; opportunities to meet and hear locals; [visits to] sites of archaeological, historical, biblical, political and current significance; a superb guide; and a well-planned itinerary—beautifully put together.”

HARRIET KOSTIC, ’60, ISRAEL PAST AND PRESENT, 2015

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