

WALK – 2018

KEREN HAYESOD – UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL
3rd ANNUAL ISRAEL NATIONAL TRAIL MISSION

The Galilee

28 October - 2 November 2018

Proposed Itinerary 5.2.18

The Israel National Trail (Hebrew: Shvil Yisrael) is a 620 mile (1,009 km.) hiking trail that crosses Israel from south to north. Beginning in the resort town of Eilat on the Red Sea, it runs north to Dan, near the Lebanese border, linking the extraordinary variety of Israel's landscapes and human mosaic. The trail blazes through a variety of natural and human landscapes, exposing hikers to Israel's many eco-systems and habitats. *National Geographic* magazine called it one of the "holy grails of hikes."

Our third annual National Trail Mission will allow us a personal encounter with the pastoral beauty of the Golan Heights and the upper Galilee, where the geographical conditions make the north home to unique flora and fauna of incredible diversity. The area that abounds with Biblical landmarks and ancient ruins, historic sites and some of the most beautiful nature and scenery in Israel.

"Go and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you" (Genesis 13:17)

"קום התהלך בארץ, לאורכה ולרוחבה: כי לך, אתננה" (בראשית יג:יז)

The hike will have three levels of difficulty: difficult, medium and easy.

Sunday, 28 October

WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

15:00 – 17:00 Pickup from Tel Aviv / Ben-Gurion Airport

Drive to the Upper Galilee and check in to the Galilion Hotel

The Upper Galilee an enchanting haven of greenery and tranquility, with green forests and woodlands, flowing streams, and natural water springs – ideal for resting the body and healing the soul. In ancient times, the region was inhabited primarily by the tribes of Naftali.

Evening **Mission opening and briefing**

Overnight: Galilion hotel. <http://www.galilion.co.il/en/>

Monday, 29 October

Breakfast

Leave for the hiking trail

A Day in the Golan Heights

Rising close to 2,000 meters above sea level at its highest point, the Golan Heights is a basaltic plateau characterized by its rugged beauty, spectacular landscapes and flowing streams.

Zavitan Stream

The Zavitan Stream runs through basalt canyons down to the Beit Tsaida (Bethesda) basin on the northeastern tip of the Sea of Galilee. Along the way, it creates dozens of pools and flows down waterfalls - the highest of which, the Zavitan Waterfall, is 25 meters high.

Hiking time: 7 hours

Section length: 13 km.

Lunch in the field

Afternoon and Evening (Options- TBD)

- *Activity in the synagogue at Um El Kanatir*
- *Golan Magic experience in Katzrin*
- *Talmudic Village in Katzrin*
- *Tour + Dinner at boutique winery*

Lecture on the migration of birds in Israel

Overnight: Galilion hotel , Upper Galilee

Tuesday, 30 October

Agamon HaHula

Up before sunrise! We need to awaken the cranes in Agamon Hahula (Small Hula Lake). At this paradise of nature, you will see birds, animals and plants in their natural habitat. Situated along one of the most significant bird migration routes in the world, between Europe and Africa, Agamon Ha-hula is one of the largest bird sanctuaries in the world. Every fall and spring, over half a billion birds of 400 species migrate in the skies above the Agamon, with thousands remaining there. Agamon Hauula is located in the Hula Valley Park and Nature Reserve, recognized by BBC Wildlife Magazine as one of the world's outstanding sites for nature observation, ninth on a list of 20 exceptional sites around the world. The marshland around the lake was drained in the 1950s, with funding from Keren Hayesod, among others. A small section was later reflooded to restore the ecosystem.

Breakfast

Leave for the hiking trail

From Dan to Tel Hai: Pastoral Beauty, History and Moving Stories of Heroism

Our hike will start in Kibbutz Dan, at the foot of Mt. Hermon. Biblical Dan was the northernmost city in the Kingdom of Israel and we, too, are just a few kilometers from Israel's northern border. To our left we will see the Dan Nature Reserve and Tel Dan - one of Israel's largest and most impressive archaeological mounds, with the remains of a 5,000 year-old city. We will follow a green trail that take us through two of the sources of the Jordan River – the Dan and the Snir (Hatsbani) Streams, passing through breathtakingly beautiful scenery. Our hike will end at the famous Roaring Lion monument in Kfar Giladi, next to Tel Hai.

Tel Hai, which had been burned to the ground, was resettled the following year, and in 1926 it was absorbed into Kibbutz Kfar Giladi. Trumpeldor, whose last words were reportedly, "Never mind, it is good to die for our country" (Ein davar, tov lamut be'ad artzeinu), became a symbol of Jewish self-defense.

Hiking time: 6 hours

Section length: 14 km

Afternoon and Evening (options- TBD)

- *Tel Hai Museum and Walk along the "Path of the Wounded"*
- *Refreshing afternoon at the hotel*
- *Hot Air Balloon Flight at Sunset.* You'll have an enchanted panoramic view of northern Israel as you watch the sun set over the green fields of the Galilee.

Dinner

Overnight: Galilion hotel , Upper Galilee

Wednesday, 31 October

Breakfast

Leave for the hiking trail

Mount Meron to the Amud Stream

In the morning, we will climb **Mt. Meron** – at over 1,200 meters above sea level, the second highest peak in Israel. Each of the trail's three lookouts reveals a different, magnificent view: the Upper Galilee from Lake Kinneret to Mount Hermon, northward to the Maronite Christian village of Jish (known in the Mishneh as **Gush Chalav**) and southern Lebanon, and westward to the Haifa Bay area.

We will walk through the **Amud Stream** toward Lake Kinneret. The stream flows through rock pools in the shade of the lush vegetation that includes apple, lemon, date, pomegranate, plum, olive and fig trees as well as vineyards, and passes prehistoric caves. The *amud*, from which the stream takes its name, is an impressive 20-meter high limestone pillar that was separated from the adjacent cliff through the process of erosion standing alone in the channel.

Hiking time: 6 hours

Section length: 11 km.

13:00–14:00	Lunch in the Hotel
15:00– 17:00	Youth Futures Project: Empowering the Next Generation The revolutionary Youth Futures program, supported by Keren Hayesod-UIA, helps empower over 14,000 at-risk children and their families in 36 locations, every year. The project provides personalized attention, positive social experiences and educational enrichment, enabling the youngsters to develop their strengths and bridge scholastic, social, and cultural gaps.
18:00 – 19:00	Synagogue Carpentry Workshop, Kibbutz Lavi Special craftsmanship and design, combined with meticulous attention, have created the Holy Ark and furnishings for many synagogues around the world.
19:30	Dinner

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Lower Galilee. <http://hotel.lavi.co.il/en/>

Thursday, 1 November

Breakfast

Leave for the hiking trail

The Amud Stream to Lake Kinneret

We will continue walking through the Amud Stream all the way to the northwestern part of Lake Kinneret (also known as the Sea of Galilee). Lake Kinneret, whose name derives from the Hebrew word for harp - *kinor* - because of its shape, is the lowest freshwater lake in the world, at 212 meters below sea level.

Immortalized in song and celebrated in poetry, Lake Kinneret has become the symbol of the romance of the Zionist renewal in the Land of Israel.

Hiking time: 5 hours

Section length: 10 km.

14:30 – 17:00 Rest and enjoy the place

18:30 – 22:00 **Dinner and Special Festive Closing Evening**

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Lower Galilee

Friday, 2 November

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast

Transfer to Tel Aviv / Ben Gurion airport

END OF OUR JOURNEY