

ZOOM IN™ Israel Photography Trip **13 – 17 October, 2010**

INFORMATION

When?

On-the-ground program dates in Israel are October 13 - 17, 2010. You should arrive *before* October 13 to cure your jet lag and be ready to roll. The morning of October 13, we'll gather in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem to meet our transport to the program point-of-beginning in the Negev town of Mitzpe Ramon.

Who's it For?

Zoom In™ is for 5 photography beginners, hobbyists and amateurs wanting a unique, up-close & personal look at a few aspects of diverse, modern Israel -- *bringing-your-own* lenses and filters to this complex land. Digital SLR or point&shoot will be the assumed camera. Film shooters are welcome, but there will not be access to darkrooms or commercial film processing services along the way. Beginners should know their basic camera controls and functions as explained in the camera manual. There are also many courses that provide that instruction in just a few sessions and on-line materials.

B'YahadTREX programs emphasize information exchange; community engagement & experiential learning; and cultural, educational & recreational programs for understanding and connection with Israel. *Zoom In* is not intended as a religious exploration, and there will be vehicle travel and photography activities on Shabbat. Personal practice is welcomed; religiously observant persons may opt out of any activities. (Also see dietary information, below). See www.byahadtrex.org for our mission statement.

Leaders & Planners

Our engaging photography leader, Irus Hayoun Rozenfeld*, has an impressive background as a photographer and instructor, strong knowledge of a diverse range of photography subjects, and ByahadTREX energy and attitude. B'YahadTREX organizer Bruce Shaffer is planning the itinerary, in-country logistics and related activities. Bruce previously planned B'YahadTREX' *Bike the Negev™* (2005) and *Israel PG13™* (2008) programs, and organized our *Team Boulder: Shift Into Chai Gear™* groups in the *AIES/Hazon Israel Ride* (2007 & 2008).

* <http://www.boulderjcc.org/Admin/Editor/assets/trex/CV%20-%20Irus%20Hayoun%20Rozenfeld.pdf>

Itinerary & Activities

Activities will be centered in the southern Israel Ramat HaNegev and Mitzpe Ramon regions, and greater Jerusalem. The program of photography subjects and activities will include a variety of elements such as –

- Movement workshop & Dance photography at the *Adama* center
www.adama.org.il/EventsSystem/DefaultEN.aspx
- Bedouin village culture
- Sunrise at Maktesh Ramon

- Street markets
 - African immigrant community http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Hebrew_Israelites_of_Jerusalem
 - Winery & Spa
 - Lifta village
 - Jerusalem neighborhoods & markets
 - East-side Jerusalem areas and/or Hevron tour
 - Activity with families of Kehillat Yotzer Or www.kbyonline.org/yotzer-or/index.html
- and daily instruction and critique sessions.

This trip is not a guided tour of Israel. First-timers and others wanting to visit major tourist sites, museums & memorials should add time in Israel for that. (Everyone should add time in Israel!)

Trip Style, Lodging & Food

Zoom In™ is for adventurous and experienced travelers. We involve locals in many of our activities, stay in modest accommodations and, in cities, use public transportation. We try to balance a healthy plan of activities (which means *lots* of walking) with ample free time. Participants should expect the unexpected and be geared to go with the flow of necessary on-the-ground changes. Good health is essential. Some travel in areas remote from modern medical facilities should be expected.

All overnight lodging includes breakfast, and trip price includes most lunches and dinners. See itinerary. B'YahadTREX and services providers assume no responsibility for special dietary requirements (such as Kosher, vegan, etc.).

First night's lodging is at the *I Bike hotel* in Mitzpe Ramon, a very nice hostel (all rooms with private baths) in a revitalizing warehouse row. www.ibike.co.il

Next 2 nights at basic but comfortable field school lodging at *Midreshet Sde Boker* www.boker.org.il/english/

Last night Jerusalem lodging in the centrally located *Little House in Rahavia hotel*. www.jerusalem-hotel.co.il/Hotel-Rahavia/

Trip price assumes double occupancy in all lodging. Extra for single, where available.

Post-Trip Exhibition

Zoomers may contribute to a post-trip group exhibition to be shown at the Boulder Jewish Community Center, and may speak about their experience at the exhibition opening. Costs of printing and framing for the exhibition to be paid personally by trip participants .

Pre-Departure Services

Participants are personally responsible for all of their own air and ground transportation, transports and travel arrangements prior and up to the designated gathering points in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv on October 13; and from the end of the group itinerary in Jerusalem on October 17 to Ben Gurion airport and/or other destinations in Israel. For assistance with airline, transportation and in-Israel arrangements, B'YahadTREX suggests the experienced services of Rivka Grinberg at Polk Majestic Travel Group 303 333 6161 rivka@polkmajestic.com

Zoom In™ will be enhanced by having a friendly, cohesive and supportive group from the outset. There will be pre-departure group gatherings and conference calls to get acquainted, review goals, expectations and questions, and exchange travel information & plans.

Insurance

B'YahadTREX does not provide trip cancellation or lost luggage insurance, medical insurance, or any other insurance. Check with your medical insurance provider regarding coverage outside the U.S. Participants must be covered by a current major medical insurance policy for the duration of the program. Proof of such coverage may be requested.

U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings

“ **August 14, 2009** The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and about threats to themselves and to U.S. interests in those locations. The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to remain mindful of security factors when planning travel to Israel and the West Bank and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip. This warning replaces the Travel Warning issued January 15, 2009, to update information on the general security environment in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.” [**see full text at <http://travel.state.gov/>**]

“Current information on travel and security in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or, from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. For additional and more in-depth information about specific aspects of travel to these areas, U.S. citizens should consult: the [Country Specific Information](#) for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza; and the [Worldwide Caution](#) . These along with other Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts and [Country Specific Information](#) are available on the Department's Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov/>. Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be accessed at <http://usembassy-israel.org.il/> or <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/>. Additionally, Americans are encouraged to sign up to receive security-related information from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv via email at the following link: <http://telaviv.usembassy.gov/consular/acs/index.aspx>. “

A good everything-about-travel-in-Israel website is

<http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/israel.htm>

We welcome your questions. Contact byahadtrex@boulderjcc.org

copyright B'YahadTREX 2010
™B'YahadTREX. All rights reserved.

#062810