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<p>Day 1 – Beer Sheba and Beyond</p> <p>We will begin the day at Tel Beer Sheba, where we will descend into the amazing ancient Biblical period water system. We will then reach new heights at the Air Force Museum in Hatzerim! Near Beer Sheba’s huge new mall is the renewed Visitor’s Center and “Abraham’s Well”. Before we descend further south, we will discover the fascinating history and culture of Kochin’s Indian Jewish community at Moshav Nevatim.</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Prosperity in the Desert.</p> <p>Overnight: Mashabei Sade</p>
<p>Day 2 – The Negev Highlands</p> <p>We start at nearby Mitzpe Revivim, an outpost kibbutz which pioneered the development of this part of the Negev. We continue to Ein Avedat for a nature hike in Israel’s grandest canyon. The view from the top is breathtaking! We continue to Sde Boker to see David Ben Gurion’s hut (Tzrif) and conclude at the fascinating Nabatean ruins of Avedat.</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: The Desert Blooms!</p> <p>Overnight: Mitzpe Ramon</p>
<p>Day 3 – Machtesh Ramon and vicinity</p> <p>An early morning jeep ride in Machtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater) is ideal. We will follow this with a visit to the Alpaca Farm (watch out, they spit!) and the Ramon Visitor’s center. Perhaps a short hike at the “Carpentry” in the Machtesh, then on to Eilat!</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Fun in the Desert</p> <p>Overnight: Eilat</p>
<p>Day 4 – Eilat</p> <p>I like to start an Eilat vacation with a very early morning hike at the “Four Countries” trail up in the Eilat Mountains. After breakfast, the underwater observatory is a good introduction to the magnificent Red Sea. Swim, snorkel, snuba, parasail, or just sunbathe. The hike in the Red Canyon just before sunset is spectacular!</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Nature at its Best</p> <p>Overnight: Eilat</p>
<p>Day 5 – Petra</p> <p>Cross over to Jordan and tour for the day the Nabatean necropolis at Petra, with its world famous façade! Visit nearby Wadi Musa, where Moses brought water out of the rock!</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Petra and the Nabateans</p> <p>Overnight: Eilat</p>
<p>Day 6 – Timna and area</p> <p>After perhaps a bit more water fun in Eilat, we head up the Arava route, stopping at the Yotvata rest stop, famous for their delectable treats. Timna Park is a must see, and we will ascend the famous Solomon’s Pillars to the ruins of the Temple of Hathor. The Hai Bar across the road is a great spot to see animals in their natural habitat.</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Secrets of the Arava</p> <p>Overnight: Ein Bokek</p>
<p>Day 7 – Massada, Ein Gedi</p> <p>We start the day with an enjoyable float in the Dead Sea, shmeering black mud on ourselves, and perhaps a spa treatment. A panoramic view from the cable car will open our exploration of Massada, site of the last stand of the Zealots in the Jewish battles for independence from Rome. We continue to the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve for a short hike to the refreshing waterfalls, and perhaps glimpse the ancient synagogue and its colourful mosaic floor.</p>	<p>Themes of the Day: Life and Death near the Dead Sea</p> <p>Overnight: Jerusalem</p>