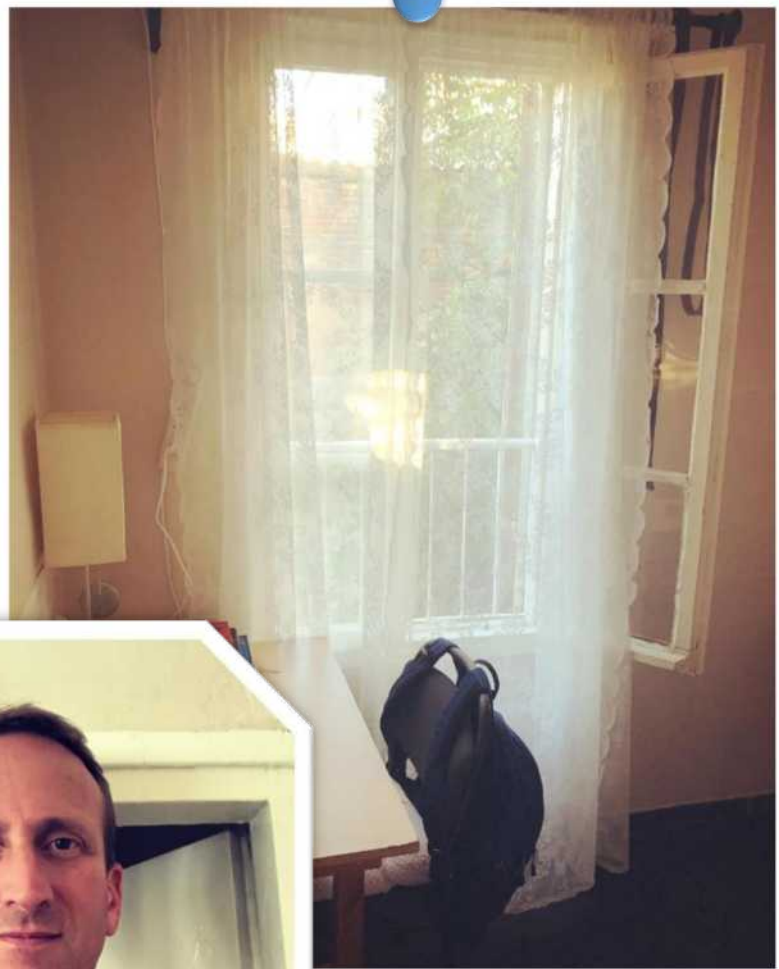


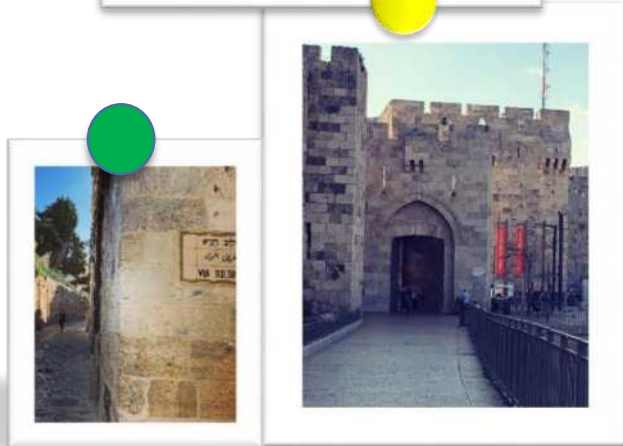
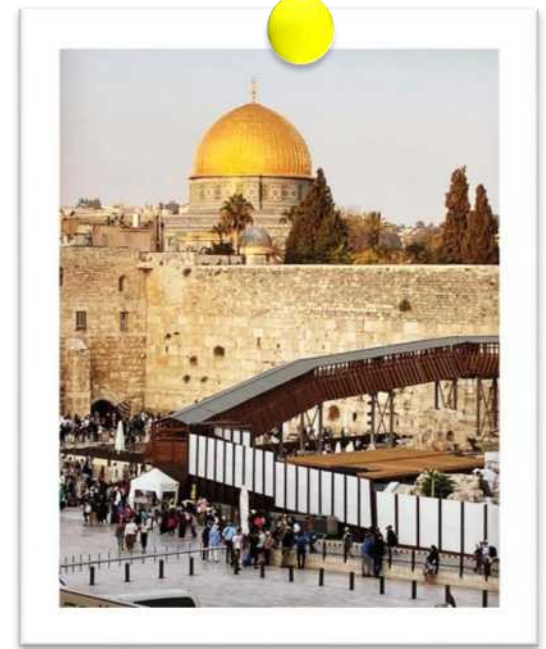
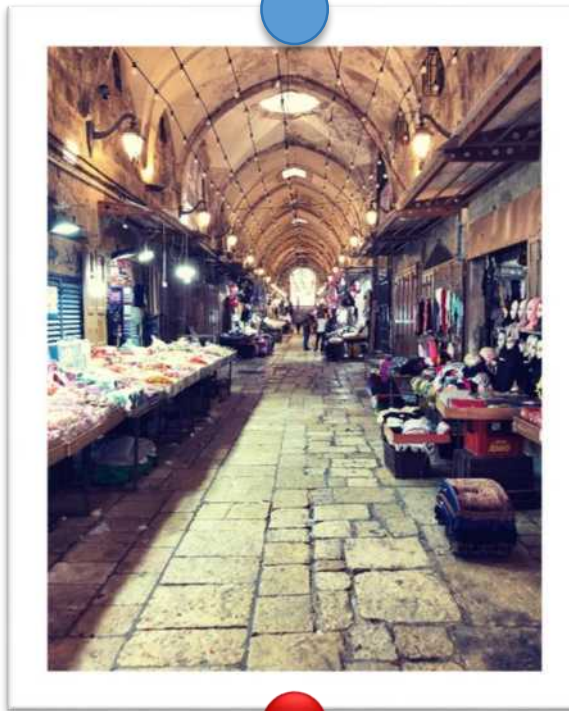
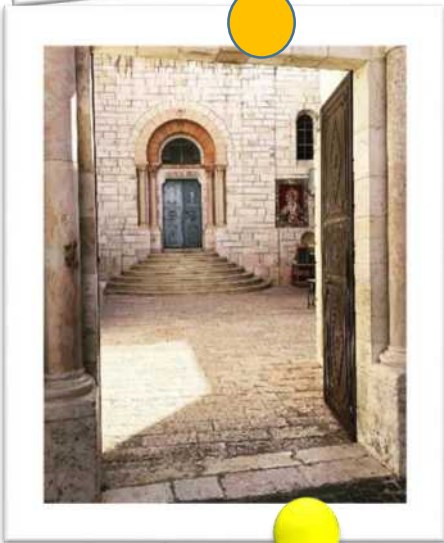
Landing in Tel Aviv



My Jerusalem Home



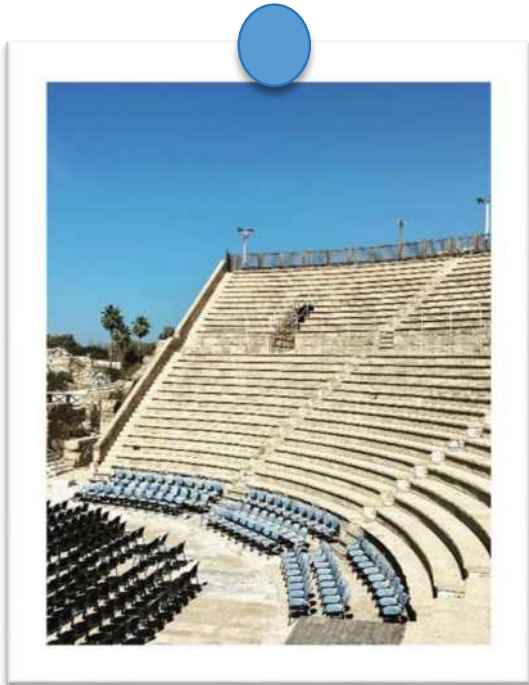
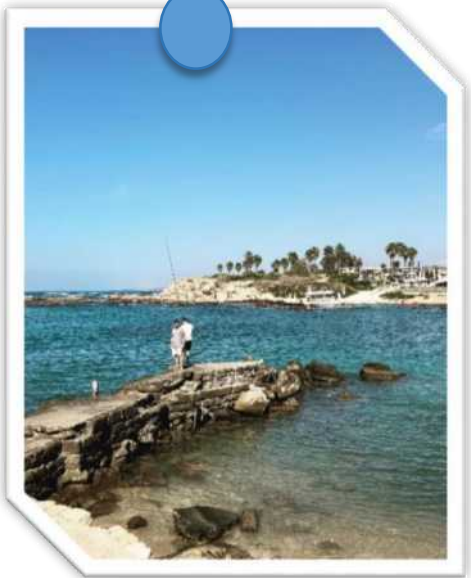
Venturing into the Old City



Fulbright Israel Orientation



Visit to ancient Roman city of Caesarea



Fulbright Israel Orientation



Entertainment provided by Fulbrighter, Dr. Vicky Hioureas, and husband, Dr. Nikos Michailidis – who happens to be quite an accomplished musician of the traditional Greek instrument: the Lyra.

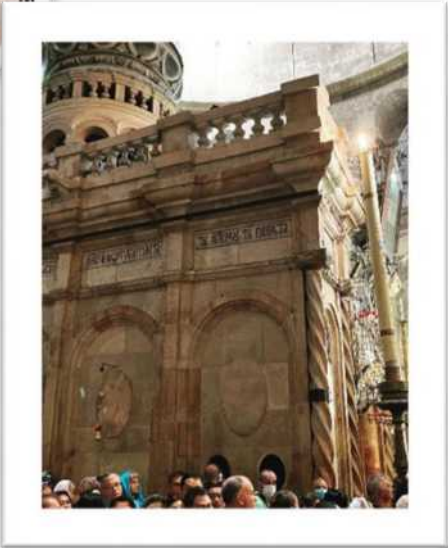
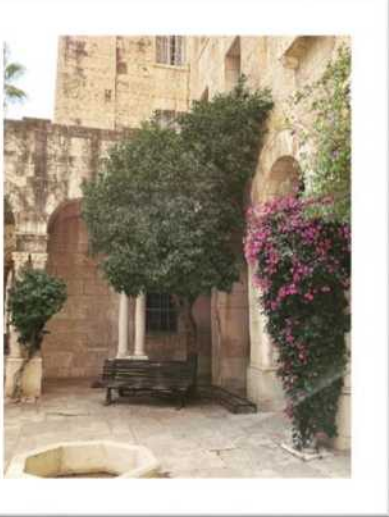
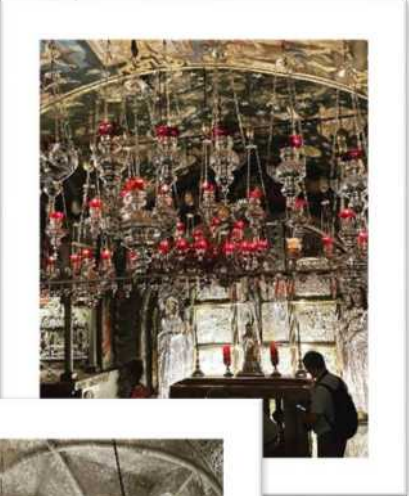
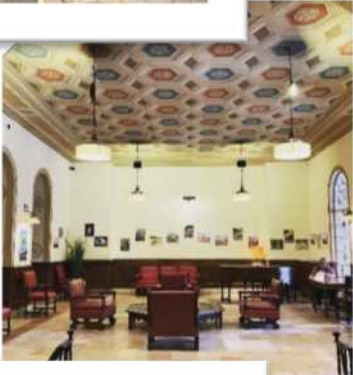
Fulbright Israel Orientation

Beautiful hike through Wadi Ayun that runs along the border of Israel and Lebanon and Agamon Hula Nature Reserve, one of the world's most significant bird migration routes



Jerusalem

The Jerusalem International YMCA, Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre & more



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City



The Montefiore Windmill (1857), constructed on the site of the first Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem built outside the Old City walls



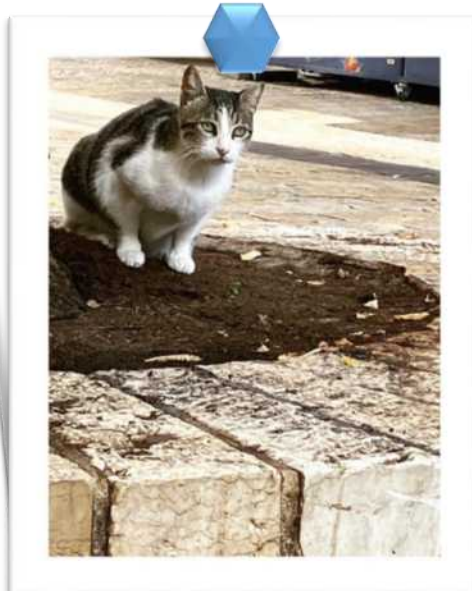
Jerusalem

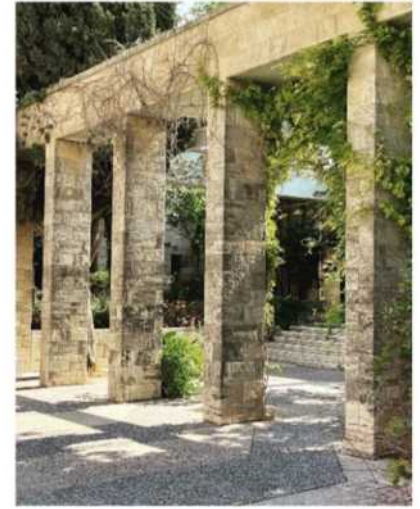
The "First Station" welcomed the first train to Jerusalem in 1892. The site now offers a row of restaurants, shops, rides for children, and cafes.



Same But Different

Things that function the same but are slightly different in Israel.
(Ok, so maybe one is dramatically different - some might say a completely different animal)

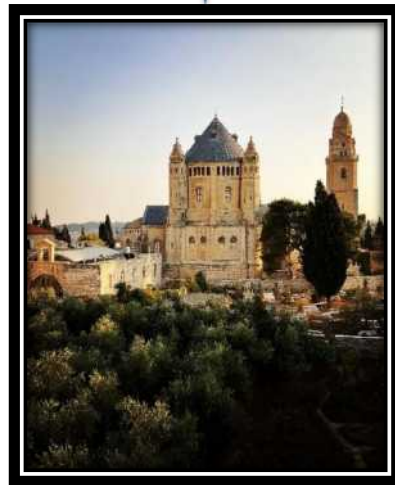
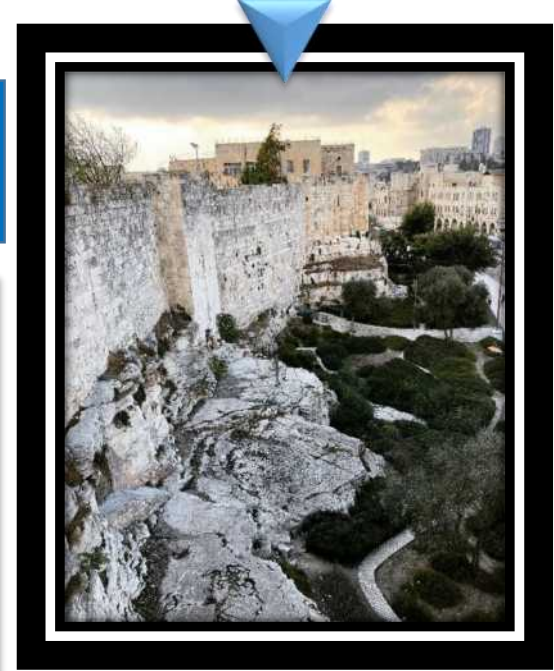
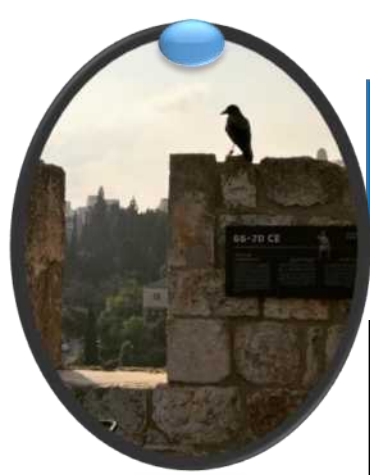




The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



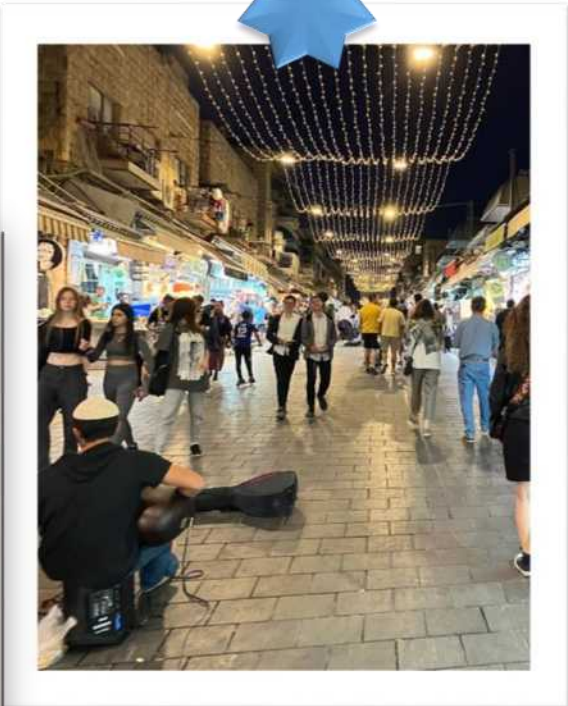
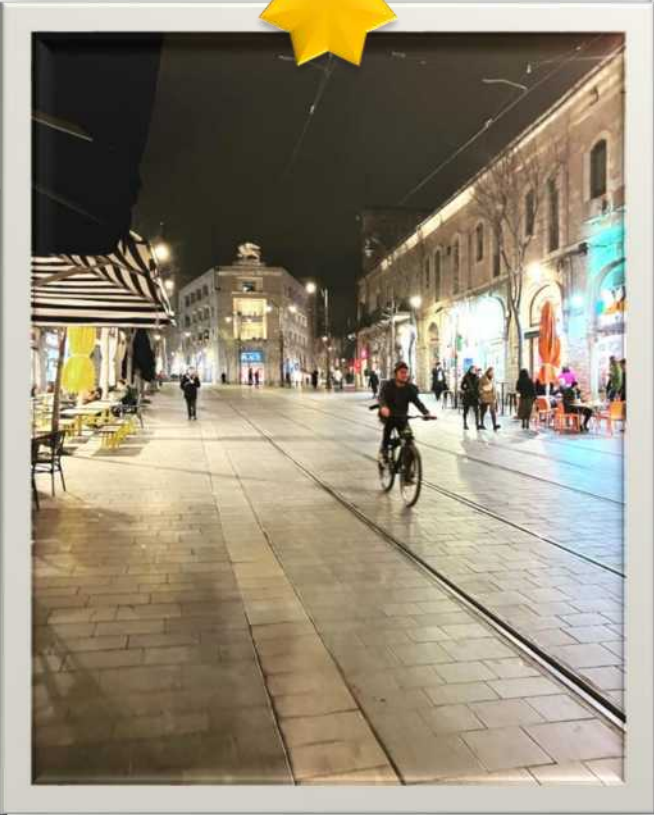
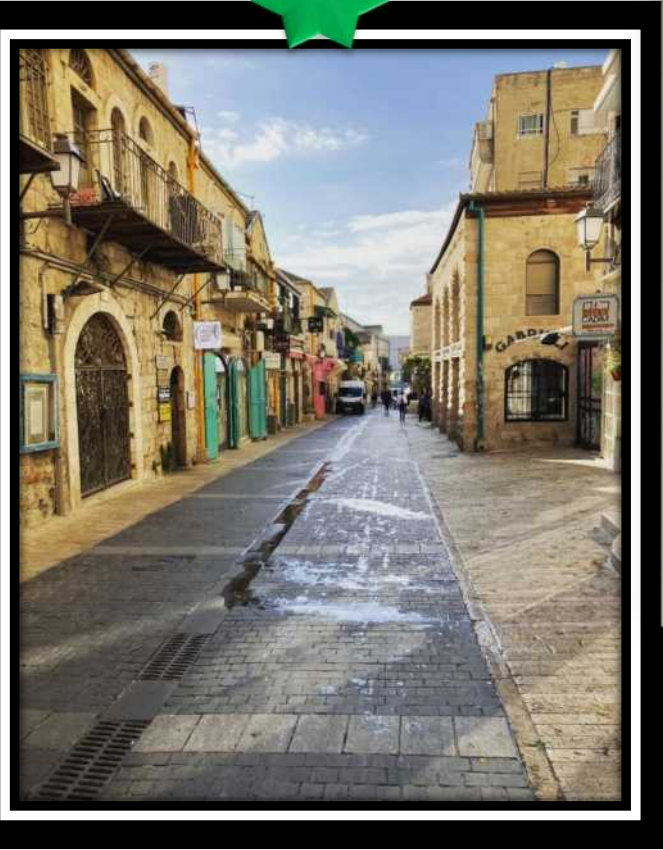
View from
the Rampart Walk around the Old City



Foods I have
thoroughly
enjoyed in
Israel



Cool Streets of Jerusalem



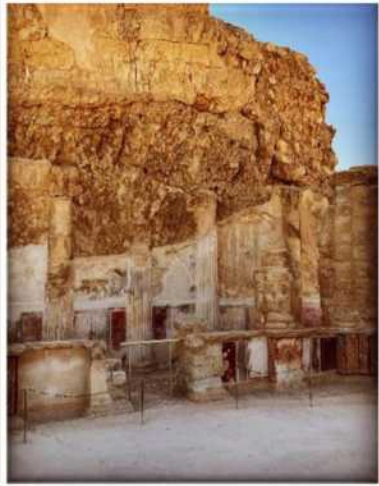
Postdoc Seminar at Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem



Masada, Ein Gedi

Masada National Park climb and descent. Beautiful view of the Dead Sea. Frescoes and columns on the lower terrace of Herod's palace overlooking the Dead Sea. Masada National park.

*The frescoes are exact replicas of original remains that are now housed in a museum at the foot of Masada.



En Gedi. An oasis of spring water, streams and waterfalls in Judaeen Desert near the Dead Sea.

*David sought refuge from Saul at En Gedi. (I Samuel 24)



Visit to Tel Aviv-Jaffa & Wonderful Thanksgiving dinner in Jaffa! Thank you #fulbrightisrael



A visit to the Knesset building where the Israeli house of representatives meets.



Israel Museum

I highly recommend the Israel Museum with its amazing archeology section, the Shrine of the Book, a 1:50 scale model of the Second Temple and Jerusalem Old City, reconstructed synagogues, and Jewish life & art exhibits.



A walk to Van Leer Institute and Artistic and inspiring design around town in Jerusalem





The National Library of Israel on the Safra Campus
of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Giant inflatables adorn buildings in the city's anticipation of Purim



Tel Aviv University



Impressive campus at Tel Aviv University



Jerusalem



The umbrellas are back. [#jerusalem](#)

The eastern gate – or Golden Gate – that once provided access into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Until sealed in the Middle Ages, this passage delivered passers to the Temple Mount.



Arbel National Park overlooking the Sea of Galilee,
prehistoric cave dwellings, and the remains of a 17th C
Ottoman fortress

Up North

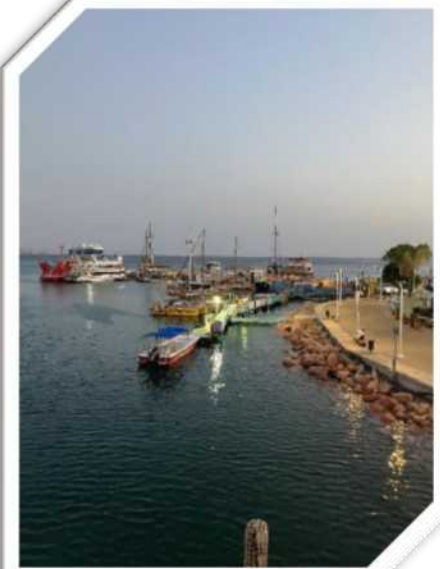
Fourth-century synagogue in Capharnaum
(Capernaum) built on the remains of a Second Temple
Period synagogue referenced in John 6:59.

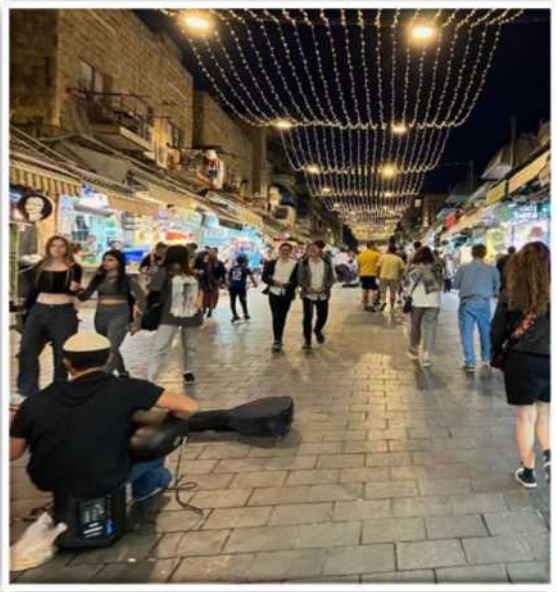


The Red Sea



The Red Sea from Eilat, Israel; Coral Reef.





The world-famous Machane Yehuda Market



Summer Colors



North



The Montfort Castle in Upper Galilee;
a Crusader fortress built in the 12th C.



North



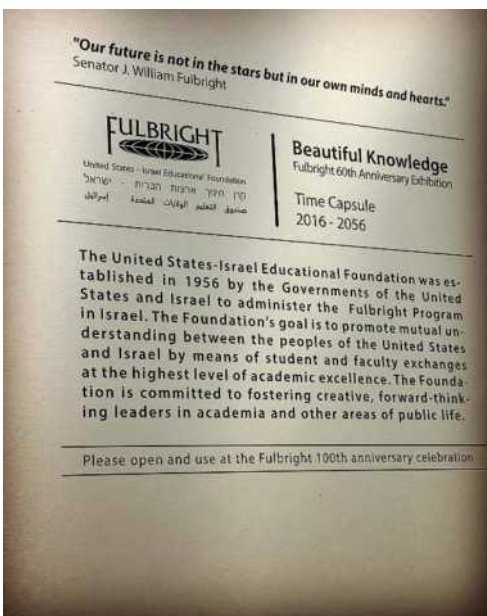
The ruins of a Roman temple (117 CE) in Kedesh built for Baalshamim – the god of the sky – believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake (363 CE).





A quick day trip to the Mediterranean Sea via lightrail tram, train, and bus.





Stimulating seminar followed by a delicious lunch at the Asif Culinary Institute of Israel. Thank you, [#fulbrightisrael](https://www.fulbrightisrael.org/)



The ruins of Hippos, an ancient Christian city established as the bishopric of the Galilee region by the 4th Century. Hippos was destroyed by an earthquake in 749 CE / AD.

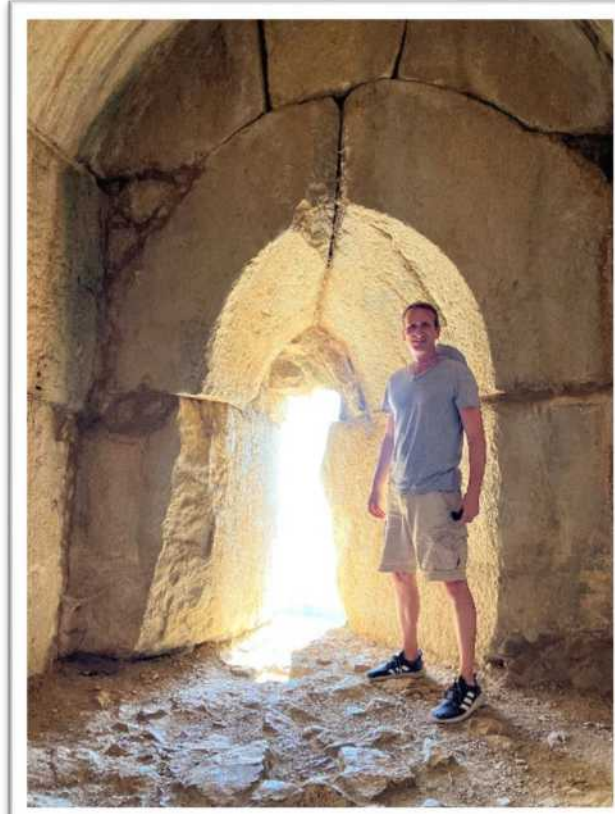
Susita National Park



Magdala of Galilee: synagogue & village ruins, and modern church overlooking the sea



Nimrod's Fortress, a castle built by the Mamelukes (Islamic dynasty) in the Golan Heights of northern Israel to defend against Crusaders in the 13th Century.



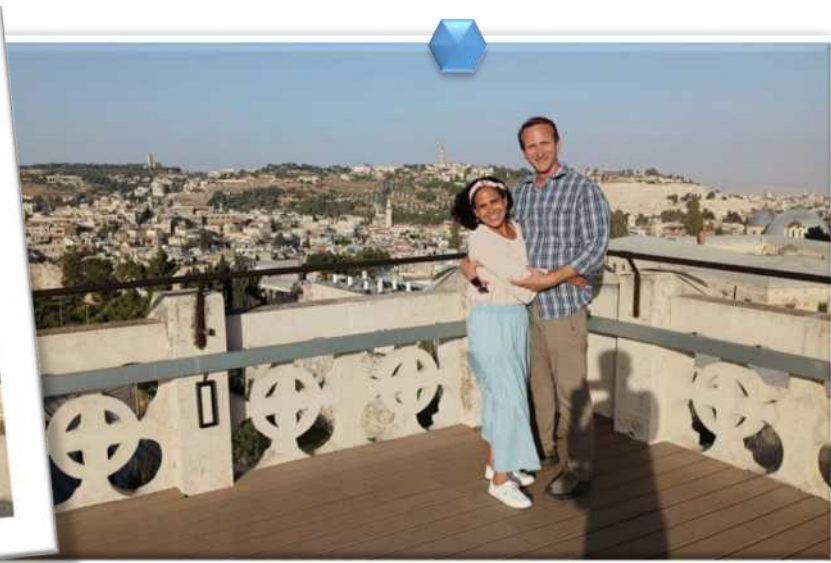


Proof I played in
the Jerusalem
hood 😊.

Sometimes
teenage boys
joined in and
other times I
shot around by
myself.

But it was a
great form of
exercise and
enjoyment.

Till we meet again



My Fulbright Israel Experience

By Chet Bush

US Fulbright Postdoctoral Research Fellow

My Fulbright Israel experience has led me to reflect on life from several perspectives. As a researcher of History and Pilgrimage Studies, it is easy for me to interpret living abroad as one step an individual takes in a longer journey of change. As a member of my own family, I see ways I have grown as a person among people who live and interact differently from ways I am accustomed. As an American citizen, I have reflected on the values that inform nation-building, and have watched ways people construct, participate, and seek to shape institutions and communities. In addition to the research agenda I set for myself I, also, had a more personal goal: Learn to be at home in another country.

During my stay in Israel I have studied, made friends, traveled, and created patterns for living unlike any other season in my life. I have read books and archives as well as the land and the people who belong to it. I have navigated public spaces and purchased groceries with only a cursory understanding of the primary language (but very grateful that English is a close runner-up). I have become adept at doing business with foreign currency and planning day trips that involve several different modes of transportation.

Plenty of surprises lay in store, teaching me more about what I thought was normal than what really is. While here I learned there are no universally agreed-upon notions of personal space, sidewalk etiquette, or the number of cats acceptable per square mile.

I found religious expression to inform many peoples' routine behavior as Hasidic families walked together to synagogue on Sabbath, Christian monks corralled tourists at sacred sites, Muslim taxi drivers stopped to bow in prayer beside the road, and protesters waved flags with spiritual fervor at organized demonstrations. People, here as elsewhere, unite around ideas that join them in solidarity and differentiate them from others.

Some of the greatest challenges come when despite one's efforts to be a hospitable guest, openness is met with closedness. Entering a different country can also mean facing another culture's social boundaries. I learned how important it was to relinquish being overly concerned about my personal space while respecting how others use theirs; this is not always an easy dance.

Common ground seems to emerge in the truly universal experiences, like eating, going to work, and appreciating nature. I have eaten food prepared by folk from every religion and region of the country. I wasn't able to designate a superior food to one faith over the other. I have sat on city buses silently facing forward, rocking with the rest and struggling to keep my balance when the driver abruptly halted to a stop. Inertia seems to impact the hijab and the tichel, alike. I have marveled at the terrain of this magnificent country alongside all sorts of people speaking all sorts of languages. Masada is apparently as spectacular in Dutch as it is in Hebrew, English, or Spanish.

During my stay, there have been institutions where I expected to make friends – such as the university campus, my apartment building, or the places of worship I attend – but there have also been unexpected encounters in unusual places that have helped ground me in this place. To my surprise, the most memorable conversations with strangers have occurred while washing my clothes. I had not thought to include the laundromat in my list of institutions through which to build relationship, but it happened, and it confirmed an important social principle for me: To become at home in a foreign country, I need to experience random, positive interactions in public just as much as I need to establish ongoing, reliable friendships. And this is a beautiful aspect of the Fulbright program as we seek to live with others and the land in ways that foster understanding. We discover shared livelihood on common ground.

