



## ***Israeli Art and Culture Immersion Tour, March 24-29, On behalf of the Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod***

**March 24** Afternoon/early evening arrival at Kibbutz Ein Harod; dinner at the Mishkan. Welcome program. Overnight at the [Ein Harod Kibbutz Guest House](#), country-style accommodation, steps away from the Museum, with its beautiful views of Mount Gilboa and the surrounding valley.

**March 25** After breakfast at the Guest House, plunge into the inspirational history of the [Mishkan](#) and its collection of 18,000 works going back to pre-State times. Expert lectures by the Museum Director and the Head of the Collection, guided tour of the iconic building and the Israeli contemporary art [exhibits](#) which will be on view at this time, and meetings with some of the artists. Lunch in the area, followed by visits to artists' studios. At sundown, go to the historically and Biblically significant archeological ruins of [Beit Shean](#) which go back over 5000 years. Our guide will take us on a walking sound and light tour of the extensively excavated site, with large-scale remains from pre-historic, Egyptian, Israelite, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Crusader, and Ottoman times. Dinner on Mount Gilboa at a family-owned restaurant renowned for its culinary creativity based on locally grown ingredients. Overnight at the Guest House.

**March 26** Breakfast at the Guest House followed by an exhilarating day which will combine taking a hot air balloon ride over the Mount Gilboa/Jezreel Valley area (the cradle of Biblical history at the time of Kings Saul, David and Solomon and continuously fought over and settled 18 times by a myriad of forces) and a deep dive into the Museum's permanent collection. We will also be given a privileged guided visit to the archives and storage vault which is closed to the general public. There we will see works which tell the history of the Jewish people, works which came to the Mishkan through unexpected channels, and works from world-renowned masters...hardly the trove one associates with a kibbutz! We will also peek at some of the many children's activities which take place at the museum. After lunch in the garden café, we will spend the afternoon visiting additional artists' studios. Late afternoon departure for [Zichron Yaakov](#) where we will spend the first of 3 nights at the luxurious contemporary arts complex, [The Elma Hotel](#). Dinner in the area.

**March 27** Breakfast at the Elma, located on the edge of the charming hillside town of Zichron Yaakov, founded by Baron Rothschild, with a lovely view overlooking the Mediterranean. Our day will begin with a guided tour of the Elma building and its magnificent art collection and be followed by an "invitation only" visit to [Kishorit](#), a beautiful kibbutz in the Lower Galilee which is home to a community of special needs adults. Residents (members) of this extraordinary place live a meaningful and busy lifestyle that includes the world of work and the art of creating magnificent wall tapestries that have been exhibited at the Mishkan. We will indulge in a lunch which will include Kishorit's prize-winning wines, organic cheeses, homegrown vegetables and in-house baked breads. After lunch we will visit artists who reflect the diverse populations of the region. Dinner will be taken in the port of [historic Caesarea](#), known for its antiquities dating back to Roman times and Herod the Great of Masada fame.

**March 28** Breakfast at the Elma, followed by departure for the city of Haifa, known for its climate of coexistence and multicultural fusion between Jews and Arabs. We will see cutting edge galleries, architecture which reflects the city's long history as well as the developing street art scene. After a lunch of local Israeli Arab street food we will return to Zichron Yaakov to discover and buy the beautiful creations of a number of Israeli designers and/or enjoy the hotel's spa and other facilities. Dinner will take us to an area venue where we will learn to cook local specialties while we sip wine and soak in this unique experience.

**March 29** Breakfast, checkout and morning departure to Tel Aviv, where we will be hosted by some of Israel's most prolific collectors of Israeli art at their homes and/or offices. Afterwards there will be time for shopping or meandering before Shabbat closings (ask us for recommendations!). Our tour will end with a farewell Shabbat dinner at the Tel Aviv home of Andrea Wine, Chair of the Friends of the Mishkan, and her partner, Gershon Silbert, a Julliard-trained pianist, where we can expect an evening of great food, Israeli wines, beautiful music and bonhomie.

### **Pricing, Bookings and Additional Information:**

**The group will be limited** to 26 participants. It will be led by Tel Aviv-based Andrea Wine, Chair, Friends of the Mishkan, formerly of New York ([andreamarciawine@gmail.com](mailto:andreamarciawine@gmail.com)), and Wendy Kantor, USA representative of the Mishkan, of New York and Park City ([wendykantor@gmail.com](mailto:wendykantor@gmail.com)). To book your place on the tour, please contact our travel partner, Donna Karasic Davidson, CEO of Uncommon Israel ([donna@uncommonisrael.com](mailto:donna@uncommonisrael.com)).

### **Tour Cost and Minimum Donation:**

**-The all-inclusive tour price of US\$ 3010 (US\$ 3250 after August 31)** covers 5 nights accommodation, 3 meals/day (except on arrival day when only dinner is provided and the last day when breakfast and Shabbat dinner are included), transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach during the entire tour, expert guides, all entrance fees, and activity/visit costs. It does not include wine/alcoholic beverages nor tips. At the **Kibbutz Ein Harod Guest House**, there is a variety of room options. At the **Elma Hotel**, accommodation is in a double- occupancy "Classic" room. Various upgrades are available at a surcharge. All prices are based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$500. **Early booking is strongly recommended.**

**- Minimum per person donation** to the Museum is US\$ 1500, payable at the time of sending the trip deposit. Donations are tax-deductible for US and Israeli taxpayers. Payment details will be provided.

**-Flights to Israel and transportation to Ein Harod** are not included. When participant arrival information is known, transfer arrangements to the Mishkan will be proposed.

**-Travel add-ons** before and/or after the Art and Culture Immersion Tour can be arranged by our highly experienced Travel Concierge, Donna Karasic Davidson, CEO of Uncommon Israel ([donna@uncommonisrael.com](mailto:donna@uncommonisrael.com)). Whether you want to visit Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the spectacular Ramon Crater in the Negev, go as far as Petra in Jordan or hear about other options, Donna will be happy to hear from you.

\*\*\* Note: The program outlined above is subject to possible change and/or adjustments due to weather or other conditions beyond the control of the organizers.

