



Camp Israel

2006



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Camp Israel/ Camp Eretz



Draft

ISRAEL *in* DC

An Initiative of

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הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Jewish Agency for Israel

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Israel. In Real Life.



Day 9

Israel- 1998

Background:

On its 50th birthday, Israel is a country of about 5.5 million people. The last decade and a half have been years of battle with terrorism (in Lebanon since 1982 and in the West Bank and Gaza since the first Intifada- 1987). However, while Israel copes with security challenges, everyday life continues.

Houses, neighborhoods, streets and roads are being built rapidly. Community centers, museums, art galleries, industrial areas and malls pop up everywhere. The Israeli hitech industry has become famous worldwide, with Israel holding the following records:

- Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.
- Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin - 109 per 10,000 people - as well as one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed.
- In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of startup companies in the world. In absolute terms, Israel has more startup companies than any other country in the world, except the US (3,500 companies mostly in hi-tech).
- Israel ranks third (in what?) in the industrialized world after the United States and Holland - and 12 percent hold advanced degrees

But Israelis don't invest their time only in building their country and work. The old Zionist tradition of hiking the land, walking the paths and picnicking in JNF forests is still very popular. In the 80s and 90s, new kinds of adventure sports were introduced in Israel. Rafting the Jordan River, gliding and mountain climbing join the adventures sports already known in Israel (such as snow and water skiing, boating and biking). Israelis love to spend a lot of time out in nature. During holidays and Saturdays, it is very common to hear on the news a message coming from the national parks service asking the Israelis not to head toward the parks as they are totally full...



Winter Skiing on Mt. Hermon



Summer Fun on Mt. Hermon



Rafting the Jordan River



Boating in Nitzanim



Boating in a 1000-old Water Cistern in Ramla



The Arch Cave in Upper Galilee



Biking in the Golan Heights



Day 9 Adventures in Nature

8:00 – 9:30

Breakfast, make lunches and break down camp

9:30

White water rafting in the Jordan River

Israel is 50 years old now. We have a huge future in front of us and many challenges as we enter the 21st century. But now is a good time to relax, look at our achievements and enjoy our beautiful country. Since we love going out, how about rafting on the Jordan today?

Counselors- Make sure this day does not turn into a “regular” day in a “regular adventure” camp. We want to frame what we are doing for the campers. After the overnight, as we take the camp down, we have to gather our campers and give them the background for the day. Where are we on the timeline? (Pay attention- we are entering the time that they know personally as they were born in the end of the 90s). This day is dedicated to modern Israel. One of the most advanced places in the world in technology and scientific research - a state with impressive achievements recognized by the whole world.

Going out to the Jordan River- again, we need to frame it. Remember how we did the tour when we just arrived to Israel? The same tradition holds in Israel till today. People love going out and rafting on the Jordan River, This is an example of how Israelis love to vacation.

3:00 pm

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