

Sunday, May 17 – Monday, May 18

After leaving the Cardin parking lot with our parents waving goodbye behind us, we officially started our 2009 Senior Israel Trip. Our bus arrived at Newark airport at 11:30, and after several hours of waiting in line, we finally got through El Al and TSA security!

We boarded at 2:15 on El Al flight 28, however we were delayed about an hour; but we were in high spirits none the less. Besides, compared to a ten and a half hour flight, what difference does a one hour delay make?

After ten hours, we finally got a glimpse of the shore of Tel Aviv and we all cheered as the plane landed. Though there was still no time to rest, as soon as we got our bags we were loaded onto the bus and given water with commands to drink. Our first stop was at Tel Azeka, where we met our tour guides and got to see the very place where King David battled Goliath the Philistine in the ravine below. For the first time we got to see extraordinary sights, events we only read about in Tanakh, with our own eyes.

Shortly after this moving experience, we stopped for a well deserved lunch break of bagel sandwiches, fruit, soda, and dessert. We also all received our allowance in Shekels and were eager to try out the new currency in the nearby convenience store.

After being sufficiently cooled down with drinks and ice cream bought with our newly acquired currency, we went to Tel Mersha to participate in an archeological dig. We delved deep into candle lit caves, following one another into an unimaginable maze of rock and dirt. The challenges we face, climbing around one another, dropping down holes that appeared only big enough for half of one of us; all being routine for the guides that led us.

After being awake for nearly 30 straight hours, we were still conscious enough to participate in a program, led by our guides, in preparation for meeting the high school students from Ashkelon tomorrow afternoon. Finally, after a fun filled day, we all went to our rooms exhausted and still pretty jet lagged.

*Ben Jacobson & Lynn Bachman*