

Thursday, May 21st

Down South

Written by Matt Marcus

This morning a few of us woke up early and went outside to watch the pack of Ibex grazing outside our room. While watching the Ibex, a fighter jet flew over us while doing a training exercise. After breakfast and Shacharit led by Daniel, we went for a tiyul through the Machtesh. A Machtesh is a “crater” made by a mountain caving in due to corrosion. While sitting on the Camel lookout, we saw a number of fighter jets flying through the Machtesh, one of which came out of the Machtesh and flew directly over our heads. For another three hours we walked, climbed down, and hiked through the Machtesh.

When we finally reached the end to our hike, we boarded the bus and made our way to Kibbutz Ketura, which will be our home until Sunday. This Kibbutz is mostly agricultural, and a number of different plants are grown to be sold in order to support the Kibbutz.

After dropping our bags off and taking a short rest, we went to Nachal Kisui. There, we hiked up a short mountain to a number of sand dunes. The view was picturesque. We spent time learning and playing in the sand dunes—rolling and running, with sand flying everywhere.

When we finally made it back to Ketura, we went straight to a wonderful cookout by the pool. Everyone enjoyed the food, and a few students took a quick dip in the pool before retiring for the night. We have a 5:30am departure for our hike tomorrow, so it’s off to sleep.