

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Eilat

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Today we got up really early to go on a breathtaking hike. Everyone got up at 5:00am and we went to Har Tzfachot, which lies within the Eilat mountains. The hike was treacherous, full of steep ascents and descents, but at the end it was worth it! At the summit of the mountain, we were able to see four countries surrounding the Gulf of Eilat: Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. It is sure to be one of the most memorable hikes of the trip.

After finishing the hike, we went to the beach to snorkel. We gathered under our shaded covering, slathered on the sunscreen, and were off to the Sea. It was amazing to see all of the sea life, including fish, crabs, and a coral reef. Everyone really enjoyed the swimming and snorkeling, and some just enjoyed the sun.

Our third activity of the day was eating and shopping at the mall and *tayelet* (promenade) in Eilat. After receiving a brief lesson about the conquest of Eilat during the War of Independence, everyone set off to explore the area. After some shopping we returned to the Kibbutz where some of us swam, and others took the opportunity to rest and recover from our early wake up and hike.

We've just finished preparing for Shabbat and will soon join the kibbutz for Friday night services. We look forward to a restful Shabbat, and we're thinking of all of you at home.