

Wednesday, June 3rd
The Golan Heights
Written by Daniel Saltzberg

This morning we left the youth hostel early for our hike in order to try and avoid the heat wave. When we arrived at Jilaboon for our hike, we set out for this beautiful hike over rock and through water. We walked through a stream that went from ankle to thigh high at points, and most of us were able to stay upright the entire time. It was shaded and beautiful. We helped one another get through the stream while also admiring the view of flowers, rocks, and hanging vines. Once we completed the portion of the hike that took us through the stream, we went over to see a beautiful waterfall, then climbed a very steep hill to get to the bus.

Following this “short tiyul,” we stopped for a picnic lunch and to discuss the situation in the Golan Heights. We viewed abandoned Syrian bunkers, and blocked off sections where land mines still exist from the Six Day War. We then stopped to look at a memorial for fallen soldiers.

After lunch, we went to Tzfat, where we visited several beautiful synagogues and learned about the history of the city, and about the roots of Kabbalah. We then spent some time walking around on our own to explore the city and look at (and purchase) some of the artwork that is made in Tzfat, such as the candle store, where they make really beautiful Shabbat and havdallah candles.

We then went to Tiberias and took a boat ride on the Kinneret. We listened to Israeli music and enjoyed each other’s company while riding on the Kinneret, in a nice, relaxing way to end our day. After dinner, we had a discussion of closure for the trip as tonight is our last night. We’re really looking forward to the kayaking on the Jordan River tomorrow, but we’re sad to be leaving Israel tomorrow night.