

Possible Foreign Trip??

A member of the West Connecticut Chapter, Mr. Stuart Werner, had proposed the concept of our successful trip to Israel during 2011. Because of numerous changes in the rail scene there since then and because a number of members said they couldn't make that trip due to the short notice, he has been working to develop another rail trip to Israel.

An established travel agency, Authentic Israel, has responded with a proposal for an 8-day tour during September 2016. As with our previous trip, it would include a mix of rail interest and religious/cultural/historic activities. Hotels and most meals would be included as would transportation admissions, etc. It would be land arrangements only so each traveler would be on his own for travel to and from Tel Aviv.

Review of the itinerary suggests that in some ways it is superior to our other trip. There is ample time for rail activity but we would have to arrange that with Israel Railways ourselves. I do not see that as a problem as we have some good high-level contacts there as well as at the Jerusalem light rail operation.

The proposal gives a range of prices depending on the number of participants and whether "A" or "B" hotels are used. For example:

13-15 participants would cost \$2165 per person at A hotels and \$1800 using B hotels.

The question at hand is whether NRHS should support such a trip at this time. I believe it could be structured with no financial risk to us but a responsible NRHS person would have to manage it in Israel. On the last trip a lot of changes had to be made along the way as that travel agent had ignored some of our very specific instructions re rail travel. The railroad management people were outstanding hosts and have offered to "do it again." IF the Board should decide to support such an effort, I would like our organization to make a profit on it. The last trip with somewhat under 15 participants resulted in a profit of about \$2000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Global Director