



The Western Wall in Jerusalem.
Photo: Peter Haskin

Historic sites with a musical treat

The sound of music will never be far away for travellers joining tours next year that will be led by Brett Kaye, who is renowned for his singing, whether as a cantor in shuls or in concert halls. **Danny Gocs** reports.

IT'S a busy life for Brett Kaye between teaching at Mount Scopus Memorial College, being chazan at St Kilda shul, performing at the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut concerts and singing at simchas.

Next year he will add tour-group leader to his workload, escorting a heritage tour of Lithuania and Latvia, a musical tour of Israel and two cruises that are being organised by Executive Edge Travel and Events of Caulfield.

And a special bonus for guests travelling on these tours will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy his singing.

"You can't stop me from singing," Kaye says.

"This is the perfect opportunity to combine the things I love – Jewish education, singing and travel."

Kaye has a wealth of experience travelling with groups, having led school groups on trips to Israel and Europe for many years, as well taking groups to Poland for March of the Living.

For the tour of Latvia and Lithuania, the group meets in Copenhagen on June 13 and travels from Riga to Vilnius, exploring historic sites and shuls.

"There is still a lot of unspoiled charm in these countries," he says.

"When we visit old Jewish buildings and

shuls there, just to bring music back into them is very special, and I try to do it as often as I can.

"It's not just me singing – I try to get everyone involved and by the time we finish the tour we have formed our own amazing choir."

Kaye has a personal link to the region – his great-grandparents lived in the Lithuanian town of Kaunas (formerly Kovna).

"When we get there I will do more research of my family history. One of the special features of the tour is having the services of a local genealogist to allow everyone in the group to do their own personal research."

In many Lithuanian cities the old yeshivahs



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