

Jewish National Fund

# ISRAEL'S GREAT FRONTIER MISSION

November 3 – 12, 2013

Stanley Kamlet, Mission Professional

## Sunday November 3 • Arrival / Eilat



Dan Hotel in Eilat

Welcome to Israel! Our mission begins with dinner in a private room at the **Dan Eilat Hotel**\*\*. Joining us for dinner will be a **JNF representative**, who will provide us with an introduction to the mission and overview of current JNF activities and work in Israel.

**Overnight, Dan Hotel, Eilat**

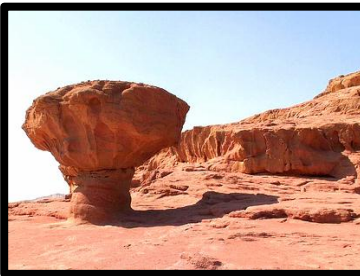
*\*\*flight to Eilat and transfer to the hotel not included in mission price*

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## Monday November 4 • Eilat



Solomon's Pillars at Timna Park



Mushroom at Timna Park



Eilat

This morning, like every other morning during the trip, we will enjoy a delicious Israeli breakfast no later than 8:30am. Afterward, we will depart for **Timna Park**, known as the site of King Solomon's mines. Alphonso Nussbaumer will join us for a guided tour of this extensive geological park and nature preserve whose planning and development was largely executed by JNF.

Following a falafel lunch on our own in Eilat, we will proceed to a nearby **desalination plant** to learn about the process in which seawater is purified into fresh water using reverse osmosis technology.

Later this afternoon, there will be an optional trip to **Holland Park**, a unique park that extends for more than 90 acres. With desert trees and a wide variety of plants, the park is a "green site" for birds and an ideal place for bird watching. We will spend some time observing the desert bird species within the park.

This evening will be at leisure, providing us with the opportunity to explore Eilat's nightlife and restaurant at our own pace.

**Overnight, Dan Hotel, Eilat**



Arava Institute

## Tuesday November 5 • Eilat / Arava / Negev

This morning, make sure to check out of the hotel before breakfast and bring your luggage to the lobby. After departing the hotel, we will proceed to Kibbutz Ketura, the home of the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies**, the leading graduate-level environmental educational institute in the Middle East. Upon our arrival, **David Lehrer**, Director of the Arava Institute, will welcome us and provide an overview of the Institute's work bringing Jews and Arabs together to study environmental and sustainability initiatives.



Solar Fields at AIES

**Dr. Elaine Soleway**, Director of Plant Research at the Institute, will give us a tour of the campus and then join us for **lunch with students** at the institute.

We will proceed to the new **Central Arava Medical Center** in Sapir. In partnership with the Central Arava Regional Council and the Israeli government, JNF is building a world-class medical center to replace the dilapidated clinic and provide quality care to local residents and workers. Several **Arava doctors** will explain how the medical center will improve the quality of life and care for those who need it most.



Central Arava Medical Center

We will continue to the town of **Arad**, one of the last in a series of development towns founded by the Israeli government to absorb waves of immigrants in the 1950's and 1960's. During a tour we will see the new **skate park**, built by JNF in partnership with the Arad municipality, in an effort to improve Arad's image and enhance quality of life.



Kibbutz Kramim

This evening, we will enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in Arad. Pending confirmation, Israeli writer, journalist and Professor at Ben-Gurion University, **Amos Oz**, will join us as a special **guest speaker**. Afterward, we will proceed to Kibbutz Kramim, where we will catch a glimpse of what life is like living on a kibbutz.

**Overnight, Kibbutz Kramim, Negev**

## Wednesday November 6 • Negev



Project Wadi Attir

After checking out, we begin our day with a visit to the Bedouin community of **Hura**. After a tour, we will meet with residents and community leaders to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges facing Israeli Bedouins. We will also learn about JNF's involvement in Project Wadi Attir, which seeks to develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable, community-based agriculture, adapted to a desert environment.



Be'er Sheva River Project

We will continue to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev. We will visit the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, a massive water, environment and economic development project that serves as the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to revitalize the entire city of Be'er Sheva. **Itai Freeman**, Director of the Be'er Sheva River Project, will provide an update on the project and lead us on a tour through the park. During the tour, we'll stop at the **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. Afterward, we will each have the opportunity to **plant a tree** and contribute to JNF's ongoing afforestation efforts before we depart Be'er Sheva.



Pipes Bridge

During **lunch** at a local restaurant, we will meet with a representative from the **OR Movement**, one of JNF's partners in developing new communities and resources in the Negev.

Following lunch, we will continue to **Tel Be'er Sheva**, where the ancient city of Be'er Sheva was located. During a tour of the ancient city, we will see the new **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which contains a well believed to have been dug by the patriarch Abraham.



Tel Be'er Sheva

Later this afternoon, we will visit the new community of **Sansana**, developed by JNF in partnership with the OR Movement. Several residents will open their homes to us. During **dinner**, they will share what life is like as true modern day pioneers forging new lives in the Negev.

**Overnight, Holiday Inn, Ashkelon**

## Thursday November 7 • Negev



Aleh Negev



Halutza greenhouse



Halutza community



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Following breakfast, we will visit **Aleh Negev**, a state-of-the-art residential facility for people with severe cognitive and developmental disabilities. Located in Ofakim, Aleh Negev provides vocational training, occupational therapy and medical facilities. During a tour, a representative will show us where JNF is landscaping Aleh Negev's grounds, preparing infrastructure for new therapy buildings and housing, and raising funds to support vital enhancements including a hydrotherapy pool and a therapeutic riding camp.

After lunch on our own in Ofakim, we will continue to the Halutza Sands, where several communities have been established for Gush Katif evacuees. Several Halutza residents will explain how JNF has helped them rebuild their lives. During a tour of the community, we will see Halutza's **organic vegetable farms** and **greenhouses** that are flourishing despite its desert surroundings.

We will then proceed to the **Besor Reservoir**, which allow neighboring communities to use harvested floodwaters for field irrigation.

Next we will continue to **Sderot** to visit the **JNF Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. This all-inclusive indoor recreation center provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children. We'll meet **Sderot residents** to hear how the facility has enriched their lives.

This evening we will enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant. Pending confirmation, a prominent Israeli politician will join us a special guest speaker.

**Overnight, Holiday Inn, Ashkelon**

## Friday November 8 • Negev / Jerusalem

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will visit **Mishmar David** to see the archeological remains of an ancient settlement that dates from the Early Islamic period to the Crusader period.

Afterward, we will visit a nearby **Research & Development Station** to learn how agricultural experts and farmers are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture.

After lunch on our own, we will continue to **Jerusalem**. Upon our arrival, we'll participate in a traditional Shehechyanu ceremony welcoming us into the city before continuing to the **King David Hotel**, Israel's most historic and legendary hotel. We'll have time to unpack and prepare for Shabbat before an optional trip to the **Kotel** for **Kabbalat Shabbat**. Also known as the Western Wall, the Kotel is the last remaining retaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Afterward, we will return to the hotel for **Shabbat dinner**. Pending confirmation, students from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion will join us as our special guests.

**Overnight, King David Hotel, Jerusalem**



R & D Station



Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel



King David Hotel

## Saturday November 9 • Shabbat



Cable car ride to Masada

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Spend the day relaxing at the hotel, attend optional Shabbat services at a local synagogue or at the hotel, or consider participating in one of the following **optional day tours**:

### Option I: Walking Tour of Jerusalem

Join the guide for a special walking tour through the Old City of Jerusalem.

### Option II: Masada and the Dead Sea\*

(\*additional cost, not included in the mission price)

The optional tour will depart the hotel in the morning and head south along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Continue to Masada for a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Visit the ancient fortress where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans and see the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and roman baths. During the tour, hear the heroic story of the Jewish fighters.



Dead Sea

Afterward, descend the mountain to the edge of the **Dead Sea** for an opportunity to “float” in the buoyant waters and experience its therapeutic effects. Later this afternoon, return to Jerusalem.



Jerusalem

This evening will be at leisure. After Shabbat ends, everyone is invited to an **optional dinner** (*paid on own*) at the **Anna Ticho House**, which was originally built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by an Arab dignitary and last occupied by Dr. Albert Ticho and his artist wife Anna, who bequeathed the house and its collections to the people of Jerusalem as a public center for art.



Ben Yehuda Street

After dinner, consider a stroll down **Ben Yehuda Street**, Jerusalem’s open-air pedestrian mall filled with cafes, stalls with funky jewelry and the sounds of musicians playing their instruments on the street.

**Overnight, King David Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Sunday November 10 • Jerusalem / Tel Aviv

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we may choose one of the following tracks for the morning:



Yad Vashem

### Track A

We will begin at one of the most important sites for Jewish visitors: **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**. A sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, and memorials, Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust from a uniquely Jewish perspective, emphasizing experiences of the individual victims through original artifacts, survivor testimonies and personal possessions.

### Track B

We will begin at the **Menachem Begin Heritage Center**, which highlights the life and work of Prime Minister Menachem Begin.



Ammunition Hill

Those of us participating on Track II will then continue to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous Six-Day War battle. A representative will lead us through the battleground and bunkers on a tour that follows the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here. We will see the new “Seam-Line” multimedia show about the Six-Day War and reunification of Jerusalem. The tour will conclude at JNF’s **Wall of Honor**, honoring Jewish veterans from around the world. Here we will reflect on the meaning of service and commitment to Israel and its freedom.



Western Wall Tunnel

After lunch on our own, everyone will continue to the Old City for an exciting tour through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of tunnels, arches and passageways that expose Jerusalem’s rich history, archeology and topography.



Tel Aviv

Later this afternoon, we will begin to make our way to **Tel Aviv**, Israel’s most cosmopolitan city. This evening will be at leisure, providing us with an opportunity to enjoy Tel Aviv’s nightlife and restaurants at our own pace.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**



## Monday November 11 • Tel Aviv



Ayalon Institute

This morning we will visit we will visit the **Ayalon Institute**, a secret bullet factory established by the Haganah in 1945. As the largest bullet factory during that time, it produced 2.25 million bullets from 1946 - 1948, completely in secret.

Afterward, we will continue to the **Weizmann Institute**, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary research institutions. We will walk through unique interactive exhibits and state of the art multi-media presentations that offer a rare glimpse into the wonders of the Weizmann Institute. We'll continue to the Clore Garden of Science, a unique outdoor science museum.



Palmach Museum

After lunch (on our own) in the Weizmann Institute cafeteria, visit the **Palmach Museum** to learn more about the fight for Israeli independence and the development of the renowned Israel army.

This evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Tel Aviv.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Independence Hall

## Tuesday November 12 • Tel Aviv / En Route

Pending confirmation, we will begin today with a private tour of the **US Embassy in Tel Aviv**.

Afterward, we'll visit the **People's Provisional Council and Administration Museum in the JNF House** to see where leaders of the Yishuv decided to declare Israel's independence.

Next, we will proceed to **Independence Hall** to see where David Ben-Gurion announced the Independence of the State of Israel. During a tour, we'll be able to see how Israel's first modern city came to life.



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Following lunch on our own, there will be an **optional visit** to the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**, Israel's leading museum of modern & contemporary art and home to one of the world's largest Israeli art collections.

*Itinerary Subject to Change*



Nahalat Binyamin

We'll have the remainder of the **afternoon at leisure**, providing us with an opportunity to relax, take a walk along the Tel Aviv Port, explore Tel Aviv or do some last minute shopping.

This evening, we'll enjoy a **farewell dinner** at the Olive Leaf restaurant at the Sheraton Hotel before transferring to the airport for our return flights home.

### **Overnight, En Route**