

Gene Kay, Mission Chair • Roberta Witkow, JNF Professional



Tel Aviv

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 • ARRIVAL / TEL AVIV

Welcome to Israel! Upon individual arrivals into Israel (today or beforehand), transfer to the Sea Hotel, a lovely boutique hotel located on the Mediterranean coast in the vibrant heart of Tel Aviv.* After some time to unpack and unwind, we will meet as a group in the hotel lobby for a **welcome dinner** at the nearby Olive and Fish restaurant. 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, Sea Hotel, Tel Aviv

(*transfer to hotel not included in mission price)



Desalination Plant

MONDAY OCTOBER 29 • COASTAL ROUTE

At 8:30am this morning, like every other morning on the trip, we will enjoy a delicious Israeli breakfast at our hotel. After the meal, we will meet our guide, Neil Eisenstadt, and head north along the scenic coastal route. Along the way, we will visit the **Hadera Desalination Plant**. During a tour of the plant, a representative will explain the desalination process in which seawater is purified into fresh water using reverse osmosis technology.



Caesarea

We will continue to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. We will visit the ancient port, see the excavations of the Crusader's city and tour the hippodrome and Roman amphitheatre. As we walk through the palace ruins, we'll hear the sounds of our voices echoing with the ancient sounds of our ancestors.



Zichron Ya'acov

Afterward, we'll visit the nearby town of **Zichron Ya'acov**, a town rich with Zionist history. Following lunch on our own, we will take a leisurely walking tour through Zichron Ya'acov's cobblestone streets to learn about Baron Edmond de

Itinerary Subject to Change



Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp

Rothschild's vision and contribution to one of the first Jewish settlements in Israel. During the tour, we'll also walk through the beautiful gardens of Ramat HaNadiv, Baron Rothschild's Memorial Gardens.

From here we will continue to the **Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp**, which JNF helped restore in partnership with the Society for the Preservation of Israel's Heritage Sites (SPIHS). Converted into a detention camp by the British Mandate, Atlit imprisoned thousands of Jewish immigrants upon arriving into Israel. After a tour, we will continue to the restored Galina ship, a replica of a ship that carried 122,000 "illegal" immigrants in defiance of the British blockade to Israel.



Carmel Forest re-growth

Following the tour, we'll continue the drive north toward Haifa. Our route will take us by **Carmel Forest**, which was all but destroyed from the 2010 forest fires that burned more than 5 million trees across 12,500 acres of woodlands and planted forests. Our guide will discuss some of JNF's efforts to repair the damage, rehabilitate the forests and prevent future fires.

Upon our arrival into Haifa, we'll check into the **Colony Hotel**, a unique 103 year-old boutique hotel situated in the German Colony, the restored historic center of Haifa. This evening will be at leisure, providing us with an opportunity to enjoy the area at our own pace. Consider taking a stroll down Ben Gurion Boulevard, considered the city's premier address for dining, shopping and nightlife.



Colony Hotel

Overnight, Colony Hotel, Haifa

TUESDAY OCTOBER 30 • COASTAL REGION

At 6:30am, an **optional early morning walk** will be offered. Led by our guide, the hike will offer scenic views of the Haifa Bay and surrounding region, at a leisurely pace, returning to the hotel before breakfast.



Baha'i Gardens in Haifa

Following breakfast, we'll take a drive through the port city of Haifa and stop at **Mt. Carmel** for a panoramic view of the entire Haifa Bay. We'll visit the magnificent **Bahia Hanging Gardens**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and walk through the garden terraces to witness the beauty that is described as the "eighth wonder of the world."



Kishon River

From here we will proceed to the **Kishon River**, one of Israel's largest and most important rivers that, until a few years ago, was so toxic that no living organism could survive. We will visit with the Kishon River Authority, charged with cleaning up and maintaining this important, historic river that flows from the Jenin into the Haifa Harbor.

Afterward, we will enjoy lunch on our own in Haifa's **German Colony**, which was established in 1869 by the German Templar movement and has since been restored to a bustling neighborhood known for its many cafes, restaurants and shops.



Acco

Following lunch, we'll begin the drive north toward the Upper Galilee, Israel's most northern region. Along the way, we will drive through the campus of the **Technion**, Israel's Institute of Technology and among the top ten sciences and technology research universities in the world.

We will then continue to **Acco**, an underground crusader city and one of the only coastal cities never conquered by sea. We will explore the gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways of this ancient city before touring the famous Acco Prison, built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison members of the Jewish underground.



Security Road

Later this afternoon, we'll drive along the border with Lebanon and see the **JNF security roads** that have protected residents by providing a safe route for travel during times of conflict in the region. During the drive, our guide will brief us on the current security situation in Israel's northern region.

We will then continue to our luxurious spa hotel in Rosh Pinah. We'll have time to relax in the hotel's tranquil atmosphere, take a dip in the pool, or enjoy an **optional spa treatment*** at the hotel. This evening, we'll enjoy **dinner** at the hotel, consisting of food from the hotel's own organic farms, gardens and dairy.



View from Mitzpe Hayamim

Overnight, Mitzpe Hayamim Hotel & Spa, Rosh Pinah

**additional cost not included in mission price.*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31 • UPPER GALILEE



Hula Valley

At 6:30am, an **optional early morning nature walk** will be offered. Led by our guide, the hike will offer scenic views of the Upper Galilee and surrounding region, at a leisurely pace, returning to the hotel before breakfast.

After breakfast, we will visit the magnificent **Hula Valley**, one of the world's preeminent bird sanctuaries. During a tour along the migration route, we hope to see some of the millions of birds that stop in the Hula during the seasonal migration between Europe and Africa.



Alternative Break participants

We will continue to **Kiryat Shmona**, a northern town along the Lebanese border. During a tour, community residents will share their experiences living on the border with Lebanon during times of conflict. We will also see the bomb shelters that participants on JNF's Alternative Break helped to refurbish and repaint in an effort to rebuild the communities that suffered from Israel's 2006 war with Lebanon.



Shamir Drills

We'll continue to Kibbutz Shamir to see the **Shamir Drills**, which extract 6.6 billion gallons of potable fossilized water each year from one mile below the Earth's surface to help restore the severely depleted Kinneret, Israel's largest fresh water reserve. A **water expert** will update us on the current water crisis and discuss JNF's efforts to preserve, recycle and develop Israel's water resources.

This afternoon, we'll tour the **Golan Heights**, one of Israel's most beautiful regions. As we follow in the footsteps of Israel's IDF Soldiers and their battles during the Six Day War, we will gain insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan region.



Golan Heights

We will then continue through the "**Valley of Tears**" to the Oz 77 memorial, named after 76 soldiers from the armored corps of the 77th Brigade, who sacrificed their lives in some of the fiercest battles of the Yom Kippur War.

Early this evening, we will return to the hotel. We'll have time to relax in the hotel's tranquil atmosphere, spend some time in the sauna, steam room and hot tub, or enjoy an **optional spa treatment*** at the hotel. This evening, we'll enjoy **dinner** at the spa hotel and then gather together to trade Halloween stories.



Valley of Tears

Overnight, Mitzpe Hayamim Hotel & Spa, Rosh Pinah

**additional cost not included in mission price.*

Itinerary Subject to Change

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1 • NORTH / JERUSALEM



Safed



Beit She'an



View from Mt. Gilboa



Mamilla Avenue



Inbal Hotel

At 6:30am, an **optional early morning nature walk** will be offered. Led by our guide, the hike will offer scenic views of the Upper Galilee and surrounding region, at a leisurely pace, returning to the hotel before breakfast.

After breakfast, we'll visit the mystical city of **Safed**. We'll stroll through the alleys of this ancient city and learn about the origins of Kaballah, the Rabbis that lived here and the artist community that remains. Time permitting, we'll continue along Gallery Street for some time to shop and explore the local galleries.

We will then begin our drive toward the center of the country. Along the way, we'll stop in **Beit She'an**, Israel's largest archeological park and one of the country's most ancient cities. During a tour through the park, we'll see ancient ruins and excavations from the Roman and Byzantine periods.

From here we will continue to **Mount Gilboa**, to meet with **Colonel (res.) Shimon "Katcha" Cahaner** at his ranch. He will share his experience as the Deputy Battalion Commander of the Paratroopers Brigade during the Six Day War and his involvement in the reunification and liberation of Jerusalem.

Afterward, we'll pass the hand-gliding launch site that attracts paragliding enthusiasts from around the world. We'll see gliders taking off from the top of Mount Gilboa at the tip of a JNF park before we begin the drive down the mountain and along the Jordan River to Jerusalem,

Upon our arrival into **Jerusalem**, we'll participate in a traditional Shehechyanu ceremony welcoming us into the city before continuing to the Inbal hotel, ranked #4 by Conde Nast Travelers Readers Choice Awards for Best Middle Eastern Hotels. This evening will be at leisure, allowing us to explore Jerusalem and experience the city's nightlife at our own pace.

Consider a walk along **Mamilla Avenue**, designed by world-renowned Israeli architect Moshe Safdie, who made sure to retain the unique character of ancient Jerusalem while offering one of the best shopping experiences in the city. Acting as a bridge between modern and ancient, the avenue is lined with 19th century buildings, street performers, restaurants, cafes and many designer boutiques, and is often referred to the Fifth Avenue or Champs-Elysees of Jerusalem.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Itinerary Subject to Change



Yad Vashem

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2 • JERUSALEM

Before breakfast, an optional walking tour of Jerusalem, led by our guide, will be offered. Following breakfast, we will visit 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, sculptures, 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.

After this emotional visit, we'll head to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market** for lunch on our own. We'll become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's shuk as we join local Jerusalemites in their weekly tradition of shopping for Shabbat in the market.



Mahane Yehuda Market

This afternoon, we'll take a walking tour through **Jerusalem neighborhoods**. We'll begin in **Yemen Moshe**, established by British philanthropist Moshe Montefiore to help relieve congestion and poverty in the Jewish Quarter. We'll continue to **Mishkenot Sha'ananim**, the first neighborhood established outside the walls of the Old City. After a brief stop to see the famous **Montefiore Windmill**, we'll take a stroll down Nahalat Shiva Street and Ethiopia Street before a final stop in the ultra-orthodox neighborhood of **Mea She'arim**.



Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel

Later this afternoon, we'll return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat. Early this evening, there will be an optional visit 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**.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Old City of Jerusalem



Dead Sea



Ben Yehuda Street



Mt. Herzl



Tree Planting

Itinerary Subject to Change

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Optional Shabbat services will be offered within local synagogues of all denominations as well as at the hotel. A variety of optional day tours will also be offered (*additional cost, not included in the mission price*). Options include Masada and the Dead Sea, Jewish and/or Christian tours of Jerusalem's Old City and other tours to regions throughout Israel. For more information or to sign up, please contact our travel agent at IsramWorld prior to the mission or the hotel concierge during the mission.

This evening will be at leisure. 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, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4 • JERUSALEM

Before breakfast, an optional walking tour of Jerusalem, led by our guide, will be offered. Following breakfast, we will visit **Ir David**, which is the actual location of the Biblical city of Jerusalem founded by King David over 3,000 years ago. We will see the world's most significant archeological finds related to the Biblical period in Jerusalem, evidence of the more than 3,000 year long Jewish presence in the city beginning with King David.

Afterward, we will proceed to **Har Herzl** to visit to the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli dignitaries.

We'll continue to the **Yad Kennedy Memorial**, built in honor of former President John F. Kennedy. Designed as a tree stump to symbolize a life cut short, it has 51 pillars representing the United States of America and is almost 24 feet tall. Here, we will each have the opportunity to **plant a tree** and contribute to JNF's ongoing afforestation efforts in Israel.

Afterward, we'll stop at the **9/11 Living Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Designed by award winning Israeli artist Eliezer Weishoff, the memorial depicts the World Trade Center and Pentagon through sculpture and landscape architecture. This unique memorial is the only



9/11 Living Memorial

place outside of New York that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11 as well as their countries of origin.

This afternoon, we will visit the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament building, to learn the inner workings of Israel's government during a tour. Pending confirmation, we'll have the opportunity to meet with a Member of Knesset as well.



Be'er Sheva River Park

This evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Jerusalem. Pending confirmation, **Silvan Shalom**, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for the Regional Development and the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, will join us as a special guest speaker.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

MONDAY NOVEMBER 5 • NEGEV



Pipes Bridge in Be'er Sheva

Before breakfast, an optional walking tour of Jerusalem, led by our guide, will be offered. Following breakfast, we will make our way south 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 discuss the progress of the amphitheatre, Lake Park and the newly unveiled Pipes Bridge.

We will then continue to **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. A representative will lead us on a tour of the facility and 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.



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

We'll drive through **Park Ofakim**, which JNF developed as a recreational space for Ofakim's residents, complete with picnic areas, playgrounds and a restaurant.

Itinerary Subject to Change



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

We'll continue driving to **Sderot**, a town plagued by continuous rocket attacks that hold life at a standstill for its residents. Our first stop will be at **Sapir College**, the largest public college in Israel. Located two kilometers from the Gaza Strip, Sapir College was directly hit numerous times by kassam rockets in recent years. **Ze'ev Tzahor**, President of Sapir College, will lead us on a tour of the campus before we enjoy lunch with several Sapir students, who will share their experiences living in Sderot over the last few years.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

After lunch, we'll take a driving tour through Sderot and stop at the local police station to see only a few of the thousands of rockets shot into the town. A **municipal representative** will brief us on the current situation and review the impact of past conflicts with Hamas. We will climb "Hill #3" and look down on Gaza City, only 10 miles away.

We will then see the new **JNF Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel and built by JNF. This all-inclusive indoor recreation center provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children. Here, we will meet with a few **Sderot residents** to understand how the indoor playground has enriched their daily lives.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Pending confirmation, several residents will host us in their homes for dinner, which we will pay for on our own in an effort to help the devastated economy in this town. After dinner, we will continue to our hotel in Be'er Sheva for the evening. En route, we'll regale each other with stories about Guy Fawkes Day.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6 • CENTRAL NEGEV



Byzantine remains in Nitzana

This morning, we will depart the hotel earlier than usual, so there may not be time for another optional morning walk. **Raz Arbel**, former shaliach (emissary) to the Colorado community, will join us for the day as our special guest. We'll visit **Nitzana**, where he will lead us on a walk along a KKL trail that begins in the Nitzana Peace Forest and includes plentiful wildlife, KKL greenhouses and the remains of a Byzantine farm.



Ramat R & D Center

Afterward, we will continue to the nearby **Ramat Negev Agricultural Research and Development Station** to learn how agricultural experts and farmers are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture. We will learn about the methods of planting winter vegetables in experimental greenhouses, refrigeration, unique ventilation and irrigation methods. We will also see the breeding aquariums of salt-water and fresh-water fish, which are rapidly becoming a growing source of income for Negev farmers.



View from Sde Boker

Following lunch, we'll continue driving south to **Sde Boker**, former home of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister and visionary for developing the Negev. After taking in some of the stunning views, we will see Ben Gurion's hut and grave before making our way back to Be'er Sheva.

Dinner will be at a local restaurant in Be'er Sheva (*paid for on our own*). Joining us as our guest will be a representative from the **OR Movement**, one of JNF's partners in developing new communities and resources in the Negev.



Be'er Sheva Old City

Following dinner, we may return to the hotel or choose to join our guide on a **walking tour** through the **Old City of Be'er Sheva**, a former Turkish neighborhood. With newly cobblestoned streets, widened sidewalks and restored Turkish homes, the Old City is being transformed into a destination for shopping, dining and nightlife. As we walk through the Old City, we'll see some of the sites being developed as part of JNF's plan to revitalize the city of Be'er Sheva, such as the Central Promenade, Beit Eshel Park and Abraham's Well.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva



Ayalon Institute

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 • TEL AVIV

Before breakfast, an optional walking tour led by our guide, will be offered. After checking out of the hotel, we'll begin our drive toward Tel Aviv, Israel's most cosmopolitan city. En route, we'll 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.

Once in Tel Aviv, 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.

Following lunch on our own in Tel Aviv, we'll visit **Independence Hall** to see where David Ben-Gurion announced the Independence of the State of Israel.

Time pending, 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 a local restaurant before transferring to the airport for our return flights home.

Overnight, En Route



Tel Aviv Port



Nahalat Binyamin