

Jewish National Fund Israel through a Photographic Lens

March 12 – 19, 2015

Leadership

Chet Stein, *Mission Co-Chair*

Phil Waldman, *Mission Co-Chair*

Professional Staff

Stuart Diamant-Cohen, *Washington DC Regional Director*

Guide

Eyal Bartov, *Tour Guide and professional photographer*

Overview

The Israel through a Photographic Lens Tour is a unique trip open to all amateur (and not so amateur) photographers who want to experience Israel in a unique way. Each day will have a different theme – Landscape, Wildlife, Urban, Art & History, Archeology and Desert Landscapes, as well as a professional Israeli photographer who will share his expertise and skills as the day's photographer-in-residence.

All of this is under the direction of our guide Eyal Bar-Tov. Eyal is a *National Geographic* photographer and one of the world's most outstanding wildlife photographers. In addition to guiding the trip, he will also lead evening workshops for participants to refine their skills and abilities.



About the Guide

Eyal Bartov, a director and photographer for the *National Geographic* Channels, took on photography as a hobby in the early 1980's, and very soon became one of the leading nature photographers in Israel.

Eyal's work is published in various professional magazines, books, encyclopedias, commercials, and television magazines.

As a photographer and a movie director, Eyal benefits from his knowledge in nature, wildlife, zoology and anthropology which he obtains from his endless travels and expeditions around the world as a guide to various groups. Eyal's career as a nature guide enables him to witness and photograph very unique moments and scenes of animals, tribes, people and landscapes.

THURSDAY MARCH 12: URBAN PHOTOGRAPHY IN TEL AVIV



Welcome to Israel! Upon your arrival into Ben Gurion Airport, transfer to **Tel Aviv** and check into the Carlton Hotel.

The trip will officially commence with an opening lunch at the hotel. After a brief introduction from the trip co-chairs, get to know **Eyal Bartov**, your Israeli tour guide and renowned photographer. He will also introduce today's photographer-in-residence.

Following lunch, participate in this afternoon's photography session that focuses on **Urban Photography in Tel Aviv**.

Explore the various neighborhoods and diverse sections of Tel Aviv as you refine your skills and learn new techniques for taking photographs in an urban setting. Begin on **Rothschild Boulevard** to photograph some of the excellent examples of Bauhaus architecture. Continue to **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods, which



is now one of the trendiest areas of the city. Walk along **Nahalat Binyamin**, the famous pedestrian street filled with musicians and cafes and then stop at the open-air **Carmel Market**. End the afternoon in **Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year-old port city, and walk through the winding alleyways, stop at the ancient ruins and explore the restored artist's quarter filled with galleries and boutiques.

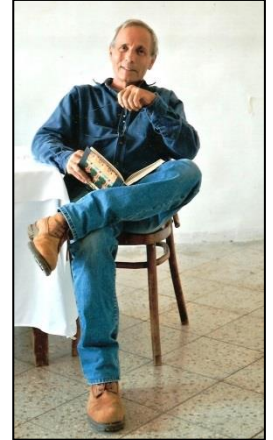
This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in Tel Aviv. Following dinner, participate in an **optional workshop** and critique with Eyal.

Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

FRIDAY MARCH 13: ART, HISTORY & LANDSCAPE



Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, meet today's photographer-in-residence, **Dan Chamitzer**, who will introduce today's theme of **Art, History and Landscape**. Regarded as something of a national treasure in Israel, Dan is an accomplished photographer, sculptor, visual artist and inventor who resides in Ein Hod, a picturesque



artists' colony nestled on the western slopes of Mount Carmel, amid vineyards and trees bearing olives, figs, pomegranates and figs. Visit Ein Hod and meet local artists and explore the local galleries within the village's winding streets and alleyways. See the award winning creations of Ein Hod's sculptors, potters, photographers, textile artists and more. Learn the proper techniques and approach to photographing this unique community surrounded by such natural beauty.

Following lunch, proceed to the port city of **Haifa**. Start at Mt. **Carmel** for a panoramic view of the entire Haifa bay. Continue to the magnificent **Baha'i Hanging Gardens**, an UNESCO World Heritage site. Walk through the garden terraces and photograph the beauty that many describe as the "eighth wonder of the world." Pending confirmation, proceed to the **Baha'i Temple** for a tour and another unique photo opportunity.



Later this afternoon, continue north and check into the hotel, with time to prepare for Shabbat. This evening, enjoy a special **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight, Kibbutz HaGoshrim, Galilee

SATURDAY MARCH 14: SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Spend the day relaxing at the hotel, attending optional Shabbat services or taking advantage of some of the hotel's facilities. **Lunch** and **dinner** will also be offered at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight, Kibbutz HaGoshrim, Galilee

Itinerary Subject to Change

SUNDAY MARCH 15: NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY



Today's theme is **Nature Photography**, which happens to be Eyal's expertise. He will be today's photographer-in-residence and use his experience as a *National Geographic* photographer to teach everyone new skills.

Early this morning, depart for the **Hula Valley**, one of the world's preeminent bird sanctuaries and a major feeding stop for migratory birds en route between Africa and Europe. Arrive in time to photograph the beautiful **sunrise** before returning to the hotel for breakfast. Afterward, head back to the Hula Valley for a **nature photography workshop** and tour in camouflaged observation wagons. Experience, first-hand, why *BBC Wildlife* calls the Hula Valley "one of the most important photography and observation sites in the world."



Afterward, continue to the **Golan Heights**, one of Israel's most beautiful and strategic regions. Following **lunch**, stop at the **Gamla Nature Reserve** and experience all the majesty of these historical remains. See the rare Griffon vulture's nest in the Gamla's cliffs, which are home to the largest vulture colony in the country and photograph the majestic eagles as they soar through the sky. Before departing, stop at the ancient synagogue for a brief visit.

Early this evening, enjoy a **sunset boat ride** on the **Kinneret**, Israel's only freshwater lake and main source of drinking water. Return to the hotel for **dinner** followed by an **optional workshop** and critique with Eyal.

Overnight, Kibbutz HaGoshrim, Galilee

MONDAY MARCH 16: ARCHEOLOGY

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, meet today's photographer-in-residence, **Shmuel Magal**. He will lead the group through today's activities, which focus on **Archeology**.

After departing the hotel, head to **Zippori National Park**, a partially restored 4,500-seat Roman theater that inhabits the ruins of a Talmudic city. Take in the beautiful view from atop the Crusaders fort, tour the Nile house, and get a first-hand look at famed mosaics such as the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee" and fifth-century synagogue floor.



Continue to **Akko**, an underground crusader city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Akko has a fascinating history, with a rare blend of east and west, ancient history and a unique meeting place of art and religion, as well as contemporary living cultures and communities. Begin in Akko's **Old City** and explore the gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways before enjoying **lunch** at a local restaurant. After **lunch**, check out the Crusader fortress, stroll through the shuk and witness the impressive remains built by the Hospitaller Order of Knights in the 12th and 13th centuries. Visit the famous Akko Prison, built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison members of the underground.



This afternoon, stop in **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. Photograph the excavations of the Crusader's city, the aqueduct and the restored amphitheater.

Afterward, check into the hotel and take some time to relax and rejuvenate after a long day. This evening, enjoy **dinner** at the hotel followed by an **optional workshop** and critique with Eyal.

Overnight, Dan Hotel, Caesarea

TUESDAY MARCH 17: JERUSALEM – URBAN, ETHNIC & RELIGIOUS



Following breakfast and hotel check-out, begin the drive to **Jerusalem**. Meet today's photographer-in-residence, **Baruch Gian**. As an accomplished photographer and author, he specializes in looking below the surface of Jerusalem and seeing new viewpoints and angles within the city. He will lead



the group in photographing Jerusalem's complex **urban, ethnic and religious layers** and provide instruction on how to capture these unique images.

Spend the majority of the day in Jerusalem's **Old City**. Begin in the **Jewish Quarter**, where echoes of history meet the voices of today in this living testament to the Jewish presence in Jerusalem. Harboring thousands of years of history, the Jewish Quarter is now a living, thriving community. Head to the **Kotel**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Set aside some time for a few minutes of prayer and contemplation before proceeding to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount.



Proceed to the **Christian Quarter** and walk along Via Dolorosa and photograph the ancient churches and artifacts along the way.



Continue through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of tunnels, arches and passageways that expose Jerusalem's rich history, archeology and topography. Afterward, take a leisurely walk down the **Cardo**, the main street in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

Later this afternoon, take a stroll through the vibrant **shuk** before checking into the hotel. This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem followed by **optional workshop** and critique with Eyal.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Itinerary Subject to Change

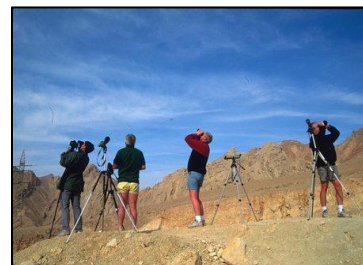
WEDNESDAY MARCH 18: DESERT LANDSCAPES

Following breakfast, depart the hotel and head south along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Today's theme is **Desert Landscapes**, so head to **Masada** for a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Photograph 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.

Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea**. Take a dip in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea and enjoy lunch at a nearby hotel.

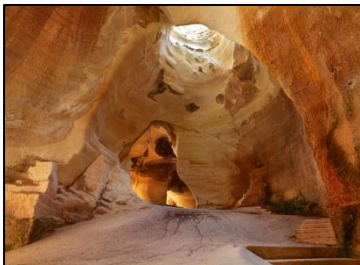
Continue to the ancient oasis of **Ein Gedi** and take a leisurely walk to the famous waterfall at Nahal David.

Early this evening, return to Jerusalem. Participate in an **optional workshop** and critique with Eyal. This evening will be at leisure, providing an opportunity to enjoy Jerusalem's nightlife and restaurants at your own pace.



Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

THURSDAY MARCH 19: BIBLICAL LANDSCAPES



Today, join Eyal for a photographic exploration of **Biblical Landscapes** in the Jerusalem region. Begin in **Beit Guvrin National Park**, which expands 1,250 acres over the Judean lowlands and was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park encompasses the remains of the ancient city of Tel Maresha, which the Bible refers to during the First Temple Period. Explore the underground caves that date back as far as the 3rd century BCE and see archeological finds, the remains of a Roman amphitheater and other evidence of ancient civilization.

Proceed to **Neot Kedumim**, a Biblical Landscape Reserve in Israel that recreates the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail. Experience the power of the landscapes that shaped the values of the Bible and provided a rich vocabulary for expressing those values. Stop at JNF's Ceremonial Tree Planting Center for an opportunity to plant a symbolic tree with your own hands in a special activity for the Shmita year.

Early this evening, enjoy a special **farewell dinner** before transferring to the airport for return flights to the USA.

Overnight, En Route