

Jewish National Fund

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jerusalem's Reunification Mission:

**YOUNG LEADERSHIP TRACK**

May 21 - 28, 2017

## Participating Mission Tracks

Young Leadership Track

Spirit of Israel Track

President's Society Track

Positively Israel: Interfaith Track

## Leadership

Lauren France, *Mission Chair*

Stephanie Kelman, *Mission Chair*

Matthew Leebove, *JNF Senior Campaign Executive, Mountain States*

Anna Richlin, *JNF Campaign Executive, Central New Jersey*

## Overall Mission Leadership

Michael Blank, *Head Mission Chair, National Board of Directors*

Talia Aviani, *Head JNF Professional, National Missions Manager*

## Tour Guide

Daniel Jacob

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## SUNDAY MAY 21 • ARRIVAL / SOUTH

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival, meet your arranged transfer and proceed south to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev.

This evening, our journey will officially begin with a **home hospitality dinner** in Ofakim, a small but rapidly growing city in the northern Negev. Hear from the chef and local resident, **Osi**, who will share her captivating story of growing up in the area and the challenges of living near the Gaza border. Pending confirmation, joining us will be the **Mayor of Ofakim, Zvika Greengold**, who was awarded the Medal of Valor, the nation's highest medal for heroism, in 1973 for his service during the Yom Kippur War.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

## MONDAY MAY 22 • NORTHERN NEGEV

Following breakfast, depart the hotel for **Sde Boker** to visit Ben Gurion's hut, where he lived after retiring from the political scene in 1970, until his death in 1973. See how the hut has been transformed into an interactive museum devoted to displaying Ben-Gurion's special connection to the Negev.

Embark on an exciting **jeep tour ride** around the Ramon Crater and discover the colorful landscapes and hidden treasures that this natural phenomenon has to offer.

Afterward, enjoy **lunch** en route back to Be'er Sheva. Upon arrival, visit **Earth's Promise**, a community initiative that uses local, sustainable solutions such as urban agriculture to stimulate self-reliance and economic development in the area. Engage in an interactive workshop with locals and gain firsthand experience in working with urban agriculture.

End the day with a visit to **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city by offering residents and tourists with social, economic, and recreational opportunities. Stop at the Pipes Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. Visit the new **Lauder Employment Center** and meet with the young leaders from **Tor HadMidbar**, a JNF partner organization that focuses on supporting the growth of social businesses in the Negev region. Learn about its success in generating socioeconomic and entrepreneurial opportunities.

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at the delicious **Golden Goose Restaurant** before proceeding back to the Be'er Sheva River Park to see the beautifully-lit up 12,000 seat **amphitheater**, which is the largest open-air performance venue in Israel.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva



Be'er Sheva



Home hospitality dinner



Ben Gurion's hut



Earth's Promise



Be'er Sheva River Park

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## TUESDAY MAY 23 • CENTRAL / JERUSALEM



Abraham's Well

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, proceed to **Abraham's Well**, which allows visitors to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps.

Explore the wondrous **Beit Guvrin Caves** at Beit Guvrin National Park, recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014. Make your way through this spectacular archaeological phenomenon that bears witness to the region's tapestry of cultures and evolution over the past 2,000 years, dating back to the 8th century BCE.



Beit Guvrin National Park

Continue to **Gush Etzion**, site of one of the deadliest battles during the War of Independence in 1948, where we will join with the **President's Society Mission** track. Visit the JNF **Gush Etzion Visitor Center** to learn about the importance of preserving this part of Israel's legacy. See the **Boys' Promenade**, a JNF project built in memory of Gilad Shaer, Naftali Frankel, and Eyal Yifrah, the three teenage boys whom were kidnapped and killed by terrorists in the summer of 2014, sparking Operation Protective Edge. Pending confirmation, meet with **Racheli Frankel**, bereaved mother of Naftali Frankel.



Gush Etzion Visitor Center

Enjoy lunch & a wine-tasting at the **Gush Etzion Winery**, which provides beautiful mountain views of Gush Etzion's surrounding vineyards and gardens.

Afterward, proceed to **Jerusalem**, the religious and spiritual hub of Israel. Upon arrival, partake in a traditional **Shehecheyanu ceremony** on Mt. Scopus while taking in a spectacular panoramic view of the holy city.



Jerusalem view from Mt. Scopus

Check into the Dan Panorama Hotel before enjoying **dinner** at a local restaurant in the area. Joining us will be **Nefesh B'Nefesh olim** (new Israeli citizens), and **Doreet Freedman**, Vice President of Partnerships & Development at Nefesh B'Nefesh (NBN), who will discuss Nefesh's critical work, and how JNF has played a key role in its success.

This evening features an exciting night tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of underground arches, tunnels, and passageways. Alternatively, see the **Sound and Light Show** at the Citadel, which tells the story of Jerusalem through breathtaking virtual reality images and sounds.



Western Wall Tunnels

**Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

*Itinerary Subject to Change*



Jerusalem Day Ceremony at Ammunition Hill



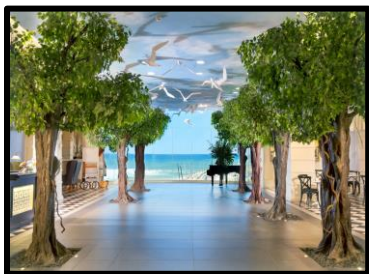
Mercaz Shimshon



Yad Vashem



Old City of Jerusalem



Herods Hotel

## WEDNESDAY MAY 24 • YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Today will be spent commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem, known as Yom Yerushalayim. Join with all four mission tracks at **Ammunition Hill**, site of the pivotal battle of the Six-Day War, for the State of Israel's official **Jerusalem Day Ceremony**. Hear from various high-level dignitaries, public figures, and other Deputy leaders attending this VIP exclusive event. Afterward, visit **JNF's Wall of Honor**, which memorializes Jewish veterans from around the world.

This evening, enjoy a festive **dinner** with all mission participants at **Mercaz Shimshon**, situated in the heart of Jerusalem that offers breathtaking views of the Old City walls. Afterward, consider experiencing Jerusalem's nightlife at the **Shuk**, and see the new after-hours art gallery called "*When the Shutters Close*", which portrays modern-day heroes, scholars and musicians in a contemporary, graffiti-style art display.

**Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

## THURSDAY MAY 25 • JERUSALEM

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, today will begin with a solemn visit to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**, Israel's main Holocaust remembrance and education center. During your tour, see how the museum tells the stories of the Jewish communities in Europe through photographs, films, documents, and other artifacts and testimonials from survivors.

Proceed to **Gazelle Park** in Jerusalem with all mission tracks for a special program with **LOTEM**, the leading organization in Israel that offers nature activities to people with special needs. See firsthand how LOTEM promotes inclusion, compassion, and healing as special needs students and other local youth come together for a powerful and inspiring experience. Learn about JNF's deep-rooted partnership with LOTEM as part of its mutual commitment that no member of Israeli society is left behind.

Lighten the mood by exploring the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market** and immerse yourself in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's "Shuk." Enjoy lunch on own at one of the many local restaurants or cafés.

Continue on to the **Old City of Jerusalem** for a walking tour. Explore the historic **Jewish & Christian Quarters** before taking time for silent contemplation at the **Western Wall**, where Jews from around the world gather and pray. Afterward, depart for Tel Aviv for an evening and **dinner** with **JNFFuture-TLV**, our partner chapter in Tel Aviv that engages and empowers young leaders in Israel.

**Overnight, Herods Hotel, Tel Aviv**

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

# FRIDAY MAY 26 • SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

Following breakfast, you will have two program options to choose from this morning.

**OPTION 1:** Tour the **Palmach Museum**, which tells the story of the Palmach legacy. Learn about the elite striking force of the Haganah, the underground Jewish organization during the British Mandate, and the Zionist Movement prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.

**OPTION 2:** Visit **Independence Hall**, where members of the Provisional State Council, the leading government during the British Mandate, assembled to listen to David Ben Gurion's powerful speech declaring the creation of the State of Israel.

Afterward, take a walking tour of the trendy **Sarona** neighborhood, a former German Templar colony that has transformed into a thriving urban complex with new restaurants, and beautiful outdoor gardens. Leading the tour will be **Noa Gefen**, **Executive Vice-Chairman** of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites (SPIHS). Hear about the work and partnership between JNF and SPIHS that has been preserving and restoring important historical sites throughout Israel before enjoying **lunch** in the area.

Proceed to **Old Jaffa** for the afternoon, the oldest seaport in the world dating back to 7,500 years BCE. Walk through the winding alleyways on your guided tour to see the ancient ruins, visit the old shops and houses of worship, and learn the history of this former pilgrimage hub that was once a beacon of hope for immigrants trying to make their way to Jerusalem. Afterward, you have the option to enjoy free time in Jaffa or head back to the hotel.

Early this evening, mark the beginning of Shabbat by participating in the spirited ritual of **Kabbalat Shabbat** before rejoining with all mission tracks for a special **Shabbat Dinner**.

**Overnight, Herods Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Independence Hall



Sarona



Old Jaffa



Shabbat Shalom!

## SATURDAY MAY 27 • SHABBAT / TEL AVIV

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Shabbat services will be offered for those who wish to attend. Spend the day relaxing by the hotel pool, or at the beach. Alternatively, consider joining one of the **optional day tours**:



Dead Sea

**OPTION I:** Spend the day at **Masada** and the **Dead Sea**. The bus will depart from the hotel in the morning and drive via the Judean Hills along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth. Arrive at Masada, the mountain fortress built by King Herod, where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Learn about the history of the Jewish fighters before taking a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of the Dead Sea. Take a swim in the buoyant waters or simply relax at the beach.



Bauhaus architecture

**OPTION II:** Stroll through Tel Aviv's "White City" to see some excellent examples of the famous German-inspired **Bauhaus architecture**. Walk down **Rothschild Boulevard**, an iconic cultural and commercial center, and hear about the story of Tel Aviv. End at **Independence Hall**, where Ben Gurion declared the creation of the State of Israel.

**OPTION III:** Visit the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**, Israel's leading museum of modern & contemporary art and home to the world's largest Israeli art collection.

Early this evening, we will be offering an **optional sunset yoga class** on the beach led by a certified yoga instructor for those who wish to participate.

Later on, enjoy dinner at leisure and explore Tel Aviv's exciting night life at your own pace.



Tel Aviv at night

**Overnight, Herods Hotel, Tel Aviv**

## SUNDAY MAY 28 • NORTHERN NEGEV / DEPARTURE



Special in Uniform



Halutza



Halutza Medical Center



Neot Kedumim

Following breakfast and check-out, depart to the **Palmachim Air Force Base** for a joint program with all the mission tracks. See JNF's **Special in Uniform**, a unique initiative that integrates special needs youth into the IDF and assists in preparing them for career placement following army service. Meet with soldiers and hear about how this program not only instills valuable social and personal development skills, but helps graduates contribute to the workforce and Israeli society in meaningful ways after strengthening the security of Israel.

Proceed towards **Halutza**, a community founded by a group of people whom were forced to evacuate their homes during Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005. See how JNF is helping to develop this formerly uninhabitable area with the establishment of new communities, greenhouses, fields of organic crops, and high-quality public facilities. See the new **medical center**, recently renovated with JNF's support. Enjoy **lunch** with the 21st century pioneers who reside here and hear their personal accounts of building their lives in this remote corner of the Negev desert.

End the day at the **Harvey Hertz-JNF Ceremonial Tree Planting Center** in Neot Kedumim, an eco-tourism site and "living museum" that recreates the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail. Everyone will have the opportunity to plant a tree and contribute to JNF's ongoing afforestation efforts in Israel.

Separate from the other mission tracks and proceed to a local restaurant for a **special farewell dinner** before transferring to Ben-Gurion Airport for your return flights back to the States.

**Overnight, En route**