

Jewish National Fund Negev & President's Societies Mission

May 22 – 26, 2016

*Optional Extension for
Negev Society Members:
May 26 – 28, 2016*

Leadership

Bruce Gould, *Mission Chair*

Sharon Pikus, *Mission Chair*

Ida Raye Chernin, *Mission Chair*

Professional Staff

Glen Schwartz, *National Executive Director, Major Gifts*

Deb Rochford, *Executive Director, Desert States*

Tour Guide

Izzy Herzog

Itinerary is Subject to Change.

SUNDAY MAY 22 • ARRIVAL / TEL AVIV

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival, meet your driver and transfer to the luxurious **David Intercontinental Hotel** in Tel Aviv.

This evening, the mission will officially commence with an **opening dinner** at the **Azrieli Center**. Hear from the Mission Chairs as they give opening remarks about what to expect throughout the trip.

Overnight, Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Intercontinental Hotel



Azrieli Tower

MONDAY MAY 23 • TEL AVIV

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed to an exclusive tour of **The Palmachim IDF Air Force base**. See JNF's **Special in Uniform** program, a one-of-a-kind initiative that aims to integrate youth with disabilities into the IDF and assist in preparing them for careers after service. Pending confirmation, we will meet with an expert **Drone Operator Officer** and lone soldier, who made Aliyah with **Nefesh B'Nefesh**.

Afterward, head towards Ashkelon to visit the new **Ashkelon Desalination Plant**, the largest in the world that was voted 'Desalination Plant of the Year' in 2006. Located along the Mediterranean coast, learn how this new project has significantly enhanced water technology in Israel. Enjoy **lunch** at a local restaurant in the area.

Continue on to **Kibbutz Nitzanim**, a memorial that honors female heroism of past and present, serving as an education center where visitors and school children learn about the contributions of female Jewish soldiers. Learn about how JNF's **Sapphire Society** has launched initiatives that provide infrastructures and resources that are essential for enhancing the quality within local communities.

Next, tour the **Ayalon Institute**, a secret bullet factory that was established by the Hagannah in 1945. This fascinating museum presents the story of a secret factory that manufactured ammunition, built underneath a limestone hill. As the largest bullet factory during that time, it produced 2.25 million bullets from 1946 - 1948, completely in secret.



Special in Uniform



Ashkelon Desalination Plant



Ayalon Institute

Itinerary is Subject to Change.



Neve Tzedek

Later this afternoon, we will go on a special walking tour of the trendy **Neve Tzedek** neighborhood. Built in 1909, Neve Tzedek is Tel Aviv's first neighborhood that has now transformed into a town filled with galleries and artists' studios. Take the time to wander around and shop.

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in the **Old Train Station**, the site of the first train station ever built in the Middle East in 1892.

Overnight, David Intercontinental, Tel Aviv

TUESDAY MAY 24 • TEL AVIV / GO NORTH

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, we will visit the **Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)**, the only nondenominational, pluralistic, accredited academic program in Israel for English speaking North American High School students. Tour the campus and participate in a fun, interactive activity with students.



AMHSI

Following our tour, we will depart Tel Aviv and drive north along the scenic coastal route to **LOTEM**. LOTEM is dedicated to helping people with special needs maximize their enjoyment of nature by offering field trips, extracurricular activities and creative workshops. Take a tour along an inclusive trail and through the outdoor park, see LOTEM's accessible wine and olive presses, and pick wheat with the kids that will later be used to make fresh pita at the new bakery.



LOTEM

Enjoy lunch before continuing towards the **Valley Train** at Kfar Yehoshua, the site of one of Israel's first railways created nearly 50 years ago. Learn the history of this station and plans to renovate and recreate the railway. Visit **Good Bread**, a small local bakery located next to the station that specializes in homemade bread. Hear from the founders and **Nefesh B'Nefesh Olim Joshua Geldzahler and Ruth Oppenheim**.



Valley Train Station

Next, visit the new state-of-the-art **Usafiya Fire Station**, which serves as a lifeline of aid for the Carmel area still recovering from devastating life and property loss as a result of the 2010 Carmel Forest fire. Meet several firefighters, hear their personal stories, and tour the station and firetrucks.



Usafiya Fire Station

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at the hotel restaurant in a private room.

Overnight, Dan Carmel, Haifa

Itinerary is Subject to Change.



Baha'i Gardens

WEDNESDAY MAY 25 • GO NORTH

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, depart for Haifa and take in the breathtaking panoramic view from the **Baha'i Gardens**. Take advantage of this perfect picture-taking opportunity at a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is described as the “eighth wonder of the world.”



Valley of Springs

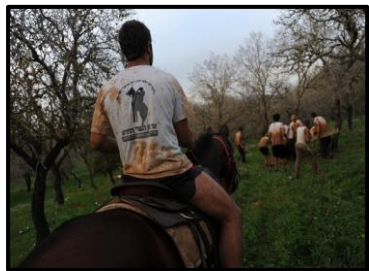
Continue on to the **Valley of Springs** for a **golf-cart tour** of the region and Gan Haslosa Park. Afterward, stop at the nearby **Spice Site** for an authentic glimpse into the local community. Hear an overview of JNF's *Go North Campaign*, which has been revitalizing the region by generating social, cultural, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Meet with **Mayor Yoram Karin**, who will discuss the regions progress and plans for the future.



Beit She'an

Afterwards, head to **Beit She'an** for **lunch** at the residence of a local Ethiopian family. Hear their personal story of moving to Israel and settling in the area.

Spend the afternoon exploring **Beit She'an**, Israel's largest archeological park and one of the country's most ancient cities. During a tour, we'll see ancient ruins and excavations from the Roman and Byzantine periods. Afterward, continue to the future site of the **JNF youth community center**, where local young adults will congregate for social and leisure activities.



HaShomer HaChadash

This evening, enjoy **dinner** with one of JNF's newest partners **HaShomer HaChadash**, a young grassroots volunteer organization established in 2007 to help farmers in the Negev and Galilee protect their land from squatters and the threat of illegal seizure. Join with HaShomer kids to cook a Galilean local favorite called **Poike**, a hearty beef stew made with seasonal vegetables.

Overnight, Dan Carmel, Haifa

THURSDAY MAY 26 • WESTERN GALILEE



Western Galilee Hospital

Following breakfast, depart for Nahariya to visit the **Western Galilee Hospital**. Expanding its accessibility to much needed medical care, the hospital is a pivotal element in the development and growth of the region. Discuss the doctor shortage facing the region and hear about the new **Frontier Physician Program**, a Nefesh B'Nefesh initiative that sponsors talented, skilled doctors to move to these regions. Meet with renowned Oleh **Dr. Massad Baroum**, the first Israeli-Arab to run a major hospital in Israel.



Alto Dairy

Afterward, enjoy **lunch** at **Alto Dairy** with local business leaders and learn about JNF's partnership with **Western Galilee Now** (WGN). This boutique dairy is known for their magnificent goat cheeses and use of both modern and traditional methods. Taste some of the famous cheeses and enjoy the **lunch** prepared from locally sourced ingredients. Meet with the owners and hear what it's like to run a business in the Galilee region.

Following lunch, we will visit **Akko**, an underground crusader city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Akko's fascinating history is expressed through its unique historical sites, rare blend of eastern and western cultures, and various art and religion institutions. Tour through the **Old City** and explore the ancient gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways. 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.



Akko

Continue to the **JNF Western Galilee Visitor Center**, which will showcase the wide variety of tourist opportunities in and around the Western Galilee through a dynamic multi-media experience. As part of JNF's *Go North* initiative, hear how the center will revitalize the region and boost tourism.

Enjoy a special **farewell dinner** at a local winery before transferring to the airport for return flights to the USA.

Overnight, En Route

Optional Extension for Negev Society Members

THURSDAY MAY 26 • ZICHRON YAAKOV

Following the farewell dinner, continue to **Zichron Yaakov**, a charming village with its pedestrian cobblestone streets, with time for shopping on own.

Overnight, Elma Hotel, Zichron Yaakov



Elma Hotel

FRIDAY MAY 27 • NORTH

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will enjoy fun outdoor water activities with **Green Horizons** students. Known in Israel as “Hugey Sayarut” (Hebrew for “hiking groups”), Green Horizons was formed by a group of friends as a memorial to Uri Meimon, an IDF soldier who was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Meimon’s passion for hiking inspired his friends to create an educational program in his memory that would cultivate his same love for hiking among Israeli youth.



Green Horizons

Enjoy **lunch** and a **wine tasting** at the nearby **Tulip Winery**, a boutique winery that produces delicious wine, while at the same time contributing to the community in a unique way. Meet the owners, who will share their philosophy about employing the community’s special needs residents in an effort to empower the disabled community and activate their potential.



Tulip Winery

This evening, enjoy a special **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at the hotel.

Overnight, Elma Hotel, Zichron Yaakov

SATURDAY MAY 28 • JERUSALEM REGION



Rothschild Park

Today will be spent at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Consider attending optional morning **Shabbat services** at the hotel.

Options for this afternoon include a walking tour of **Zichron Ya'acov**, a town rich with Zionist history. Enjoy a stroll through **Rothschild Park**, with cobblestone streets that will provide us with an understanding of Baron Edmond de Rothschild's vision and contribution to one of the first Jewish settlements in Israel.

Our tour continues with a visit to the **Aaronson House**, used during the First World War as the center for underground activity by NILL, the first Hebrew secret organization. The house is now a museum where one can learn about the understand members' activities, how they were caught and their ultimate fates.

Pending confirmation, this afternoon will include an optional learning session with a well-known **Scholar in Resident**.

This evening, enjoy a **farewell dinner** before transferring to the airport for your return flights to the USA.

Overnight, En Route



Aharason House