

Jewish National Fund

# QUEEN OF SHEBA WOMEN FOR ISRAEL TOUR

November 10-16, 2016

## Leadership

Helene Blumenfeld, *Co-Chair*

Barbara Burry, *Co-Chair*

Toni Dusik, *Co-Chair*

Patty Stegman, *Co-Chair*

## Professional Staff

Sharon David, *Director of Affinity Groups and Market Research Analyst*

Talia Tzour, *KKL-JNF Chief Israel Emissary*

## Tour Guide

Izzy Hertzog



David Citadel

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10 • ARRIVAL/JERUSALEM

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival, transfer to the luxurious **David Citadel Hotel** in Jerusalem, situated directly across from the historic walls of the Old City.

Your journey will officially commence at **7:30pm** this evening with a **welcome dinner** at **Angelica Restaurant**, known for its exquisite kosher cuisine. Hear welcoming remarks from **Tour Chairs Toni Dusik, Helene Blumenfeld, Barbara Burry, and Patty Stegman**, who will provide a brief introduction and overview of the coming days.

**Overnight, David Citadel, Jerusalem**



Mt. Scopus

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11 • JERUSALEM: “We are Here”

Following breakfast, depart the hotel for a visit to **Mt. Scopus**, which provides spectacular, panoramic views of Jerusalem.

Proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous battle during the Six Day War. See the new multimedia exhibit about the reunification of Jerusalem and stop at **JNF’s Wall of Honor**, which commemorates Jewish veterans from around the world. Leading the tour will be **Yoel Rosby, JNF-Ammunition Hill Liaison**.

This afternoon, enjoy a **culinary walking tour** at the **Mahane Yehuda Market** and become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem’s “Shuk”. Taste all the delicious flavors of the shuk as you wind through the colorful stands filled with different cheeses, pastries, and other flavors.

Afterward, take the time to shop and wander on your own down **Ben Yehuda Street**, Jerusalem’s open-air pedestrian mall filled with cafés, stalls with funky jewelry, and musicians playing their instruments. Enjoy lunch at one of the many local food vendors before heading back to the hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**.

The group will meet in the lobby at **3:45pm** for ceremonial candle lighting before heading to the **Kotel** for a traditional **Kabbalat Shabbat** experience. Enjoy a special **Shabbat dinner** this evening with **Nefesh B’Nefesh Lone Soldiers**, who will share their experiences of leaving their family, friends, and homes in order to serve the State of Israel in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Learn about how JNF supports Nefesh B’Nefesh’s goal to make each individual’s Aliyah experience as successful as possible by providing olim with employment resources, housing assistance, aid with government absorption and community-based support.

**Overnight, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem**



Ammunition Hill Trenches



Mahane Yehuda Market



Shabbat at the Kotel

*Itinerary is Subject to Change.*

# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Optional Shabbat services will be offered at the hotel. Consider participating in one of the following **optional tours**:

## **OPTION I: Masada & Dead Sea\***

Spend the day at **Masada** and the **Dead Sea**.\* The bus will depart this morning and drive via the Judean Hills along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth. Continue to 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. (\*additional cost - not included in tour price).



Masada



Dead Sea



Israel Museum

## **OPTION II: Israel Museum\*\***

Visit the newly renovated **Israel Museum**, one of the leading art and archeology museums in the world. During a tour, stop at the Shrine of the Book to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world. Be sure to check out the Holy Land Model, a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple Period, as well as the beautiful sculpture garden. (\*\*additional cost - not included in tour price).



Train Track Park

## **OPTION III: Walking Tour of Jerusalem**

Take a leisurely **walking tour of Jerusalem**, led by our tour guide Izzy. See how this ancient city is becoming a bustling town, filled with cafes, bakeries, and boutiques, while still preserving the deep-rooted culture and history. Walk by the newly renovated **Train Track Park**, which begins at the Old Jerusalem Railway Station and passes through various landscaped gardens in the midst of some of Jerusalem's most beautiful neighborhoods.



Mamilla Mall

This evening will be at leisure, providing an opportunity to enjoy Jerusalem's nightlife and restaurant scene at your own pace. Consider a walk along the open-aired shopping center at **Mamilla Mall**, often described as the "Saks Fifth Avenue" of Jerusalem. Alternatively, consider attending the beautiful **light show** at the Tower of David.

**Overnight, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem**

# SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13 • JERUSALEM/HAIFA

## “Remembrance”



Yad Vashem

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will begin today with a private tour of **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 the experiences of survivors through original artifacts, testimonies & personal possessions. Afterward, hear from a **Holocaust survivor**, who will share her story.



Mt. Herzl

Proceed to **Mt. Herzl** to visit the gravesites of former Israeli leaders such as Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and other dignitaries. Pending confirmation, meet with **Miriam Peretz**, a bereaved mother who lost her two sons while they were serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

Continue to **American Independence Park**, which serves as JNF's central location for commemorating the support of our generous donors to the State of Israel. Proceed to the **Sapphire Wall**, and participate in a special **dedication ceremony** honoring recent contributions to JNF.



American Independence Park

Enjoy a **picnic lunch** prepared by **Jamie Geller**, best-selling cookbook author and creative force behind the famous *JOY of KOSHER* magazine.

Afterward, head north to **Zichron Yaakov** for a brief walking tour of this charming village. See the beautifully designed stores, explore the wide array of art galleries, and admire the unique architecture as you stroll along the pedestrian cobblestone streets.



Tishbi Winery

Later this afternoon, unwind with a **wine-tasting** and **tour** of the **Tishbi Winery**, which overlooks the estate's vineyards, spreading from the slopes of the Carmel Mountains to only a few kilometers from the Mediterranean coastline. Afterward, take the time to wander and shop on your own.

Depart for the Carmel Forest Spa Hotel. Upon arrival, enjoy **dinner** at the hotel in the main dining room area this evening.

**Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa Hotel, Haifa**

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 14 • GO NORTH

### “Discovery”



Tree Planting

Following breakfast, depart the hotel to the **KKL Golani Tree Planting Center**, located in the Lavi Forest, which covers roughly 750 acres between Tiberias and Nazareth. Have the opportunity to participate in planting trees and contribute to JNF’s ongoing afforestation efforts in Israel.



Birdwatching at Hula Valley

Proceed to the **Hula Valley**, an internationally acclaimed bird watching park in the Golan Heights. JNF, together with the Israel Land Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, undertook the Hula Restoration Project to restore and develop this magnificent Nature Reserve, which has since become one of the world’s preeminent bird sanctuaries. During a special **golf-cart tour** along the migration route, we hope to see some of the millions of birds that pass through here each year during their seasonal migration between Europe and Africa. Afterward, enjoy a **picnic lunch** on site.



Akko

Learn more about the political and security situation in the north as we drive along the **Lebanese Border** to Akko. Upon arrival, tour through the ancient gates, towers, tunnels, and secret passageways of this underground crusader city. 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 at this UNESCO World Heritage Site. End at the famous Akko Prison, built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison members of the underground.



Crusader Fortress

Visit the JNF **Western Galilee Visitor Center**, a multimedia facility that showcases the vast array of activities and attractions in and around the Western Galilee. The center is one of many initiatives that aim to attract and retain 300,000 new residents to the Galilee as part of JNF’s *Go North* campaign. Meet with **Michal Shiloah, Executive Director of Western Galilee Now (WGN)**, a consortium of artisanal businesses, local entrepreneurs and tourism operators that works in partnership with JNF to raise awareness of the region while enhancing economic, social, and tourism opportunities.



Western Galilee Visitor Center

Return to the hotel with time to freshen up and relax. Enjoy **dinner** in the main dining room at the hotel this evening with **Druze women** from the villages of Usafiya and Daliyat, who will share their personal stories and experiences.

**Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa Hotel, Haifa**

*Itinerary is Subject to Change.*

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15 • TEL AVIV

### “Inclusion”

This morning will be at leisure. Take the time to relax in the hotel’s tranquil atmosphere, or consider indulging in an **optional spa treatment\*** (\*additional cost - not included in tour price; participants should book on own in advance).



Spa Treatment

Later this morning, engage in a fun, interactive **cooking class** while learning more about Israeli cuisine and culture at the hotel.



LOTEM

This afternoon, depart the hotel as a group for a visit to an ecological farm in Emek HaShalom to learn about **LOTEM Integrated Nature Studies**, the leading organization in Israel that offers nature activities to people with special needs, as well as to women and at-risk youth. Several battered women who have benefited from LOTEM’s services will share their personal stories and experiences. Meet with employees and learn about JNF’s dedication to LOTEM as part of its commitment to ensure that no member of Israeli society is left behind. Conclude with a short walking tour on the inclusive nature trail with the battered women and kids with special needs who benefit from LOTEM.



Special in Uniform

Afterward, proceed to the **Ramat David Air Force Base** to see JNF’s **Special in Uniform**, a unique program 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 innovative 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.



Tel Aviv

Continue the drive south towards Tel Aviv. Check into the Carlton Hotel with time to freshen up before enjoying **dinner** this evening at a local restaurant with belly dancers.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

# WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16 • TEL AVIV

## “Present & Future”

Early this morning, you are invited to join a serene **optional yoga class** on the beach.

Following breakfast, we will depart to the **Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)**, the only non-denominational, pluralistic, accredited academic program in Israel for English speaking North American High School students. With over 24,000 alumni to date, AMHSI-JNF is the first program of its kind, designed to connect modern high school students to the land of Israel through an intense immersion formula. Leading our tour will be **Leor Sinai, Co-Executive Director of AMHSI**. Afterward, meet with students and visit the state-of-the-art radio station. Hear from the school’s leadership and administration, and learn about how this program combines high-quality education with experience that has proven to create a positive long-lasting effect.

Proceed to Jaffa for a visit to **i24 News** headquarters, Israel’s leading internet news outlet. Go behind the scenes and learn the tactics used to combat the ignorances and prejudices broadcasted about Israel. Meet with **Lucy Aharish**, Israel’s first Arab news presenter, reporter, television host and journalist. Hear her personal story of surviving a terrorist attack and how her experiences growing up have shaped her into who she is today. Afterward, proceed towards **Old Jaffa** for a guided walking tour of the 8,000-year-old port city, led by our tour guide Izzy.

Take the time to wander and shop in the trendy **Neve Tzedek**, the very first neighborhood built in Tel Aviv in 1909 that has since become one of the trendiest areas of the city. Pending confirmation, meet with **Galit Reismann**, Tel Aviv-based fashion entrepreneur and founder of *TLVstyle*, a unique brand and personalized service that offers an inside scoop on the local fashion and design scene.

Later this afternoon, we will rejoin for a walking tour of **Sarona**, one of Tel Aviv’s most up-and-coming areas. See how JNF in partnership with the **Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites (SPIHS)** is transforming this former run-down German colony into a blossoming urban and culinary scene with new metropolitan complexes, hip cafés, trendy shops, playgrounds and parks.

This evening, enjoy an emotional **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant in the area with **Michal Ansky**, top chef in charge of the Sarona Market. Afterward, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA.

**Overnight, En Route**



Yoga on the Beach



AMHSI students



i24 News



Old Jaffa



Neve Tzedek

*Itinerary is Subject to Change.*