

Jewish National Fund

SPIRIT OF ISRAEL MISSION

November 13 – 20, 2014

Leadership

Ellen Rosenberg, *Mission Co-Chair*

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Professional Staff

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Itinerary Subject to Change



Jerusalem

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 • JERUSALEM

Welcome to Israel! Upon your individual arrival into Israel, meet your driver and transfer to **Jerusalem**. This evening, the mission will officially commence with a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem



Ammunition Hill

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 • JERUSALEM

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, proceed to a private room to hear from a special **guest speaker**, who will discuss the current geo-political situation in Israel as well as international issues impacting the country today.

Afterward, proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous battle during the Six-Day War. During a tour, follow the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here and see the new “Seam-Line” multimedia show about the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. Afterward, continue to JNF’s Wall of Honor, which honors Jewish veterans from around the world.



Mahane Yehuda Market

Continue on a tour through the state-of-the-art **Herzl Museum** to learn about the life, vision and work of Theodore Herzl and other great Zionist leaders.

Following the Herzl Museum tour, proceed to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. Join local Jerusalemites in their weekly tradition of shopping for Shabbat in the market and become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem’s shuk.



Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel

Later this afternoon, return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat. Early this evening, there will be an optional visit to the **Western Wall for Kabbalat Shabbat**. Afterward, enjoy **Shabbat dinner** with Israeli friends at the hotel.

Overnight, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Rest and relax at the hotel, attend optional Shabbat services or consider one of the following **optional tours**:



Old City of Jerusalem

OPTIONAL TOUR I: OLD CITY WALKING TOUR

The tour will enter the ancient city through the Jaffa Gate and head directly to the **Western Wall**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Take a few minutes for prayer and contemplation before proceeding to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount. Afterward, take a stroll down the **Cardo**, the main street in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.



Masada

OPTIONAL TOUR II: MASADA / DEAD SEA FULL-DAY TOUR*

The tour departs the hotel in the morning and heads south 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. Take a cable-car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex and explore the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and Roman baths. During the tour, hear the heroic story of the Jewish fighters.



Dead Sea

Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea** for an opportunity to “float” in the buoyant waters and experience its therapeutic effects. Return to Jerusalem early this evening. (**Additional cost - not included in price*)

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem. Following dinner, consider a stroll down **Ben Yehuda Street**, Jerusalem’s open-air pedestrian mall filled with cafes, shops and the sounds of musicians playing their instruments on the street.



Ben Yehuda Street

Alternatively, consider a stroll along **Mamilla Avenue**, designed by world-renowned Israeli architect Moshe Safdie. 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, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Itinerary Subject to Change

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16 • JERUSALEM / NEGEV



Yad Vashem

Begin today with a solemn visit to **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**, a sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, and memorials. Learn the story of the Holocaust from a uniquely first-hand perspective through original artifacts, survivor testimonies & personal possessions.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

After this emotional visit, enjoy a **falafel lunch** before beginning the drive south toward the Negev. Stop in **Sderot** for a visit to the **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. This fortified facility provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children. Meet local residents, who will share what life is like living in Sderot and explain how the **Indoor Recreation Center** has positively influenced their lives and city.



Halutza greenhouse

Proceed to **Halutza** where several communities have been established for the Gush Katif evacuees. Meet some Halutza residents who will share their experiences and stories of rebuilding their lives. During a tour of the community, see Halutza's organic vegetable farms and greenhouses that are flourishing in their desert surroundings.



Beresheet Hotel

Later this afternoon, continue driving south to the Beresheet Hotel & Spa in **Mitzpe Ramon**. Situated on the edge of a cliff overlooking the magnificent Ramon Crater, the hotel offers breathtaking views of this unique geological phenomenon that can only be found in the Negev. This evening, enjoy authentic **Bedouin hospitality** and **dinner** at a local ranch.

Overnight, Beresheet Hotel & Spa, Mitzpe Ramon

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 • CENTRAL ARAVA

Early this morning, there will be an **optional sunrise hike** through the **Ramon Crater**. During the hike, discover the colorful landscapes and hidden treasures that this natural phenomenon has to offer.

Following breakfast, spend the morning in the **Central Arava** to see, first-hand, how JNF is transforming the region and revolutionizing the land and lives of the people who live there. Gain insight into the complex challenges and obstacles facing the region, hear updates on JNF's work to attract new residents and visitors and see the progress being made in the Arava.

Visit the **Yair Research and Development station** to learn how agricultural experts and farmers are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture. During a tour, see the cutting-edge research and development taking place in the Arava.

Continue to the **Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT)**, an agriculture work-study program where students from Asia learn farming practices and agricultural techniques to bring back to their home countries.

Following **lunch**, make a brief stop at the new **Central Arava Medical Center**. In partnership with the Central Arava Regional Council and the Israeli government, JNF has built a world-class medical center to provide quality care to local residents and replace the dilapidated clinic.

This afternoon, visit the community of **Zukim**, JNF Sapphire Society's keystone project and the first non-agricultural community to be established in the region. With a residential community adjacent to an eco-tourism complex, with galleries B&B's and restaurants, Zukim is one of the key focal points for physical and economic expansion in the Arava.

Afterward, take a tour of **Avdat National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and ancient city with fascinating ruins. Continue on a **jeep ride** along the ancient **Nabatean Spice Route** and experience the same breathtaking sights as the merchants who traveled along the same route thousands of years ago.

Following **dinner** at the hotel, enjoy a special **star gazing** activity under the night sky of Mitzpe Ramon, also known as nature's planetarium.

Overnight, Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon



Inside the Ramon Crater



R & D Station



AICAT Students



Ruins along the Spice Route

Itinerary Subject to Change

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 • CENTRAL NEGEV



Be'er Sheva River Park

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, begin the drive to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev. Visit the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city and to turn the Negev into an attractive place for a new generation of Israelis to call home. Learn how this innovative urban renewal project is becoming an anchor for tourism and commerce and transforming Be'er Sheva into a green, vibrant and modern city.



Abraham's Well

During a tour, stop at the **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. See the brand new 12,000 seat **amphitheater**, which will be the largest open-air performance venue in Israel. Continue to the 23-acre manmade **lake** that will use recycled water from the city to offer boating, bird watching and other activities. It will also double as a recycled water reservoir for park irrigation.



Tel Aviv

Next, proceed to the new **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which features a multimedia museum for visitors to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps.

Following a falafel lunch, depart the Negev for **Tel Aviv**, Israel's cultural center and most cosmopolitan city.



Jaffa

This afternoon, take a tour of the **Palmach Museum**. Walk through a state-of-the-art multimedia experience that allows a glimpse into the fight for Israeli independence and the development of the renowned Israeli army.

This evening will be at leisure, providing an opportunity to enjoy dinner and Tel Aviv's nightlife at your own pace. Consider heading to **Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year-old port city. Walk through the winding alleyways, stop at the ancient ruins and explore the restored artist's quarter filled with galleries and boutiques.



Neve Tzedek

Alternatively, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in the trendy neighborhood of **Neve Tzedek** or take a stroll along **Tel Aviv's Port** and relax at a local restaurant or café, catch an outdoor performance or wander through some of the stalls exhibiting the work of local artists.

Overnight, Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

Itinerary Subject to Change

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 • COASTAL ROUTE



Caesarea Port



Wine tasting and lunch



Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp



Spa at Carmel Forest

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, visit **Ben Gurion's House** and tour the former residence of Israel's first Prime Minister. Learn more about Ben Gurion's leadership and vision for the future of Israel.

Afterward, begin the drive north along the scenic coastal route. Stop in **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. See the excavations of the Crusader's city, the aqueduct and the amphitheater that has been restored as a concert venue.

Continue to **Zichron Ya'acov**, a town rich with Zionist history and also known as the "Napa Valley" of Israel, as it is home to several world famous wineries. Enjoy **lunch** at the **Tishbi Winery's restaurant** overlooking part of the Tishbi Estate vineyards. Dine on local cuisine including fresh vegetables, homemade bread and fresh cheeses from the nearby Yaakob and Meiri Dairy farms, and taste some of the spectacular wines produced here.

This afternoon, visit the **Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp**. Converted into a detention camp by the British Mandate, Atlit imprisoned thousands of Jewish immigrants upon arriving into Israel. During a tour of the camp, see the challenges that the immigrants faced when they immigrated to Israel following their release from Nazi extermination camps.

Proceed to the luxurious **Carmel Forest Spa** in Haifa. After checking-in, take some time to relax in the hotel's tranquil atmosphere, take a dip in the hotel pool or indulge in an **optional spa treatment** (*additional cost - not included in price*). This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa



Akko



Akko



Ein Hod

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 • NORTH /EN ROUTE

Early this morning, consider joining an **optional nature walk** through the lush forests surrounding the property.

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart for **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. Take a tour through the Old City and explore the gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways of this ancient 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. Visit the famous Akko Prison, built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison members of the underground.

Following **lunch** at a local restaurant, learn more about JNF's Go North plan to develop and revitalize Akko and other areas in Israel's northern region.

This afternoon, continue to **Ein Hod**, a picturesque artists' colony that was rebuilt following the 2010 forest fires that devastated the Carmel Region. Drive by the new **Ein Hod Memorial Park**, which serves as a reminder of the destruction wrought by the fire and also as a symbol of the area's rebirth. Afterward, take some time to explore the area and take a leisurely stroll through the art galleries and museums.

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

Overnight, En Route