

Jewish National Fund

SPIRIT OF ISRAEL TOUR

May 18 – 26, 2016

Leadership

Susan Farber, *Mission Chair*

Professional Staff

Roni Raab, *JNF Executive Director, Southern Florida*

Amy Hart, *JNF Director, San Diego*

Itinerary Subject to Change



Carmel Forest Spa Hotel

WEDNESDAY MAY 18 • ARRIVAL / HAIFA

Welcome to Israel! Upon individual arrivals into Israel, transfer to the Carmel Forest Spa Hotel in Haifa.

Later this evening, meet in a private room at the hotel for some wine and mingling. Hear opening remarks from our Mission Chairs before **proceeding to the main dining room for dinner.**

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa Hotel, Haifa



Usafiya Fire Station

THURSDAY MAY 19 • NORTH

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, 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 result of the 2010 Carmel Forest fire. Meet several firefighters, hear their personal stories, and take a joyride on the actual fire trucks.

Enjoy **lunch** and a wine-tasting at **Kishor Winery**, which overlooks the vineyards and the beautiful Galilean scenery. Learn about the process of wine-making at Kishorit, a community that is home to adults with special needs who work as professional staff in grape cultivation, bottle-making, and more.



Kishor Winery

Proceed to **Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp**, which JNF helped restore in partnership with the Society for the Preservation of Israel's Heritage Sites (SPIHS). Converted into a detention camp by the British Mandate, Atlit imprisoned thousands of Jewish immigrants upon arriving into Israel. Tour the restored camp with **Noa Gefen**, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites.



Atlit

Later this afternoon, explore the village of **Ein Hod**, a picturesque artists' colony that was rebuilt following the Carmel forest fires. The village has been transformed into the only artists' village in Israel, where artists live and create in every artistic media from the visual arts, theater, music, and literature. Explore the many galleries and meet local artists that reside there.



Ein Hod

Return to the hotel for time to relax. Consider indulging in an **optional spa treatment*** at the hotel's luxury 5-star spa. Enjoy **dinner** in the main dining room at the hotel this evening. (*additional cost - not included in tour price)

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa

Itinerary Subject to Change

FRIDAY MAY 20 • COASTAL ROUTE / TEL AVIV

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, drive along Israel's scenic coastal route. Along the way, 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 since been restored as a concert venue.



Caesarea

Proceed towards the famous **Palmach Museum**, a state-of-the-art experience that allows a glimpse into the fight for Israeli Independence and the development of the renowned Israeli army. The "Palmach" was the elite striking force of the "Hagannah" - the underground military organization of the Jewish community prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.



Palmach Museum

Later this afternoon, continue to the **Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair** for a festival of arts, crafts, pottery, and street performances. Stroll through the **Carmel Market**, the most famous market in Tel Aviv, and capture all the liveliness and vibrancy of this bustling economic focal point. Enjoy **lunch** on your own from one of the many vendors or local cafes.



Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair

Afterward, return to the hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**. Consider attending Shabbat services at a local synagogue before enjoying a special **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with **Nefesh B'Nefesh (NBN) lone soldiers**, who will share their personal experiences leaving their family, friends, loved ones and homes in order to serve the State of Israel in the Israel Defense Forces.

Overnight, **Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv**

SATURDAY MAY 21 • TEL AVIV

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Optional Shabbat services and lunch* will be offered at the hotel. (**additional cost - not included in tour price*)

Alternatively, go on a **walking tour** through Tel Aviv. Begin on **Rothschild Boulevard** in the central portion of Tel Aviv, known as "**The White City**," which has the largest group of buildings in the world built in the Bauhaus style. Proceed to **Rabin Square**, the place of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Stop in **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods, which is now one of the trendiest areas of the city.

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in the area and a free evening on own.

Overnight, **Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Rothschild Boulevard



Tel Aviv

Itinerary Subject to Change

SUNDAY MAY 22 • CENTER / NEGEV



Ayalon Institute

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will begin today with a tour at the **Ayalon Institute**, a secret bullet factory established by the Haganah in 1945. As the largest bullet factory during that time, it produced 2.25 million bullets from 1946 - 1948, completely in secret.



Psagot Winery

Afterward, head to the **Psagot Boutique Winery**, located in a beautiful stone structure overlooking the Kelt Wadi and the mountains of Edom. We will have an exclusive tour to see the wine production process, partake in a wine tasting, and watch a sound and light presentation in the winery's barrel room about working the land in Hevel Binyamin, in light of historical events. Enjoy **lunch** with scenic views of the vineyards.



Gush Etzion

Proceed to **Gush Etzion**, site of one of the deadliest battles during the War of Independence. Visit the **JNF Gush Etzion Visitor Center**, home to a new memorial which commemorates the heroic men and women who gave their lives to protect the communities of the Etzion Bloc- an area strategically located between Jerusalem and Hebron. Walk through the actual bunker where the defenders hid, learn about the importance of preserving this part of Israel's legacy, and hear about JNF's deep roots in the area.



Pipes Bridge

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant before proceeding to **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city. Stroll down the beautifully lit-up **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park, and hear an overview about how this urban renewal project has become an anchor for tourism and commerce for the city.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva



Special in Uniform

MONDAY MAY 23 • NORTHERN NEGEV

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, depart the hotel for the Tze'elim Army Base for a tour and live shooting demonstration. See JNF's **Special in Uniform** program at work, which aims to integrate youth with disabilities into the Israel Defense Forces, as well as assist them in participating for careers following army service. Meet with soldiers with disabilities and hear about how this initiative has changed their lives.



Halutza Greenhouse

Afterward, head to **Halutza**, where several communities have been established in result of the Gush Katif evacuees. Enjoy **lunch** with Halutza residents, who will share their experiences and stories of rebuilding their lives. During a tour of the community, visit the new on-site JNF Medical Center or Halutza's organic vegetable farms and greenhouses that are flourishing in their desert surroundings.



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

Continue to **Aleh Negev**, a state-of-the-art residential facility that provides people with severe cognitive and developmental disabilities with high level medical and rehabilitative care. A revolutionary facility that has changed the face of rehabilitative care in Israel, Aleh Negev is home to over 500 residential adults with disabilities and serves more than 12,000 children and young adults with disabilities each year on an outpatient basis. Following a tour, meet **General Doron Almog, Chairman of Aleh Negev** and former **Commander of the IDF Southern Command**, who will share memories of his late son Eran who inspired him to become involved with Aleh Negev.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Proceed south towards Sderot for a visit to JNF's **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. Learn about how this fortified facility provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children. Take a tour and meet local residents to learn how the recreation center has impacted the community and their lives.

This evening, enjoy a **catered dinner** at the playground with residents (pending confirmation) or at the hotel dining room.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

TUESDAY MAY 24 • MASADA / DEAD SEA



Abraham's Well

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, proceed to the **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which showcases the life of the patriarch Abraham.

Afterward, continue to **Masada**, the mountain fortress built by King Herod, where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Hear the story of the Jewish fighters before a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Tour the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and Roman baths.



Masada

Descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth in any land mass. Spend the afternoon relaxing at the beach and floating in the buoyant waters to experience its therapeutic effects.



Dead Sea

Proceed to **Jerusalem** and partake in **Shehecheyanu** ceremony on the Ha'as Promenade upon arrival into the holy city.

This evening will be at leisure, allowing you to explore Jerusalem and experience the city's nightlife at your own pace. Consider checking out the shopping scene, and enjoy **dinner** at one of the many fine dining options.

Overnight, Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

WEDNESDAY MAY 25 • JERUSALEM



Yad Vashem

Today begins with a solemn visit to **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 victims through original artifacts, survivor testimonies & personal possessions.



Ammunition Hill

Afterward, head to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. Become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's shuk, join local Jerusalemites in their weekly tradition of shopping, and enjoy **lunch** on own. During a tour of the market, sample some of the local spices, taste the fresh produce, stop at the local butcher stand, and meet the local fishmonger.



Mahane Yehuda Market

Proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous Six-Day War battle. Walk through the battleground and bunkers on a tour that follows the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here. See the new "Seam-Line" multimedia show about the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. End at JNF's Wall of Honor, honoring Jewish veterans from around the world.

Continue to the **Begin Museum**, which highlights the life and work of Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The museum takes visitors on a time-journey that includes historical reconstructions and reenactments, rare dramatic documentary videos, and interactive touch-screen exhibits.



Festival of Lights

Afterward, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant with special guest **Gil Hoffman**, Chief Political Correspondent & Analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*. Hear his professional insight about the current social, cultural, economic and political climate in Israel.

Later this evening, take the **Festival of Lights Walking Tour** and see the light sculptures, fire shows, music and art installations that illuminate Jerusalem during this time of year.

Overnight, Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem



9/11 Living Memorial



MUSC students



Old City of Jerusalem

THURSDAY MAY 26 • JERUSALEM / EN ROUTE

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, visit the **JNF 9/11 Living Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Designed by award winning Israeli artist Eliezer Weishoff, the memorial depicts the World Trade Center and Pentagon through sculpture and landscape architecture. It is the only place outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11.

Proceed to Jerusalem's **Old City** for a walking tour. Visit the **Western Wall**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation before continuing to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount. Join with students from the **Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)**, the only nondenominational, accredited academic program in Israel for English-speaking North American High School students, for a **falafel lunch** and tour of the **Jewish Quarter**.

Spend the remainder of the afternoon enjoying some last-minute shopping before our **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem.

Overnight, En Route