

Jewish National Fund

SPIRIT OF ISRAEL TOUR: THE FUTURE IS NOW

October 20 - 27, 2016

Leadership

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Itinerary Subject to Change

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20 • GO NORTH



Zichron Yaakov

Welcome to Israel! Upon individual arrivals into Ben-Gurion Airport, meet your transfer driver and head north towards Haifa.

Along the scenic coastal route lies **Zichron Yaakov**, a charming village filled with culture and history. Tour through the pedestrian cobblestone streets to see stunning views of the Mediterranean shore, explore the quaint brick-paved downtown district, and learn about the town's rich Zionist history.



Inclusive Walking Trail

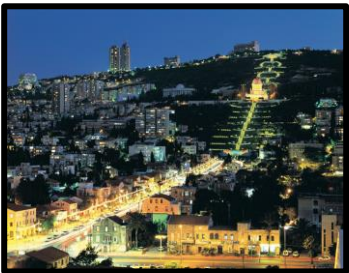
Proceed to a nearby ecological farm and visit **LOTEM**, a one-of-a-kind organization that enables special needs youth and at-risk women to maximize their enjoyment of nature by offering special outdoor activities and field trips. Stroll along the inclusive walking trail before enjoying a **picnic lunch** with the kids. See the accessible wine and olives presses and pick wheat from the harvest that will later be used to make fresh pita at the on-site bakery. Hear about JNF's involvement with LOTEM as part of its commitment to ensure that no member of Israeli society is left behind.



Haifa

Continue to the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa with time to check in and freshen up before the evening.

Enjoy your **opening dinner** at the acclaimed **Arnold's Restaurant** in the northwestern Galilee. Recently declared as one of Israel's "*Top Five Kosher Restaurants*", Arnold's gourmet menu flaunts an eclectic mix of Galilean bistro with French and Mediterranean touches.



German Colony in Haifa

Following dinner, explore the beautiful **German Colony**, filled with trendy cafés, restaurants, and boutiques.

Overnight, Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21 • WESTERN GALILEE/TEL AVIV



Akko

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, check-out of the hotel and depart for **Akko**, an underground crusader city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a 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.

Continue to the **Western Galilee Visitor Center**, a beautiful new multi-media facility that showcases the vast array of activities and attractions in and around the Western Galilee. See how this dynamic facility educates and inspires the 2.5 million tourists passing through Akko each year. Hear about the role it plays in JNF's goal to bring 300,000 new residents to the Galilee, strengthening the economic and social quality of life for everyone in the region.



Western Galilee Visitor Center

Make your way to the community of **Afula**, located in the Galil, to meet with representatives from the **Israeli Gay Youth (IGY)**, the only professional organization in Israel dedicated to serving all LGBTQ youth. IGY's goal is to empower LGBTQ youth within the formal and informal education systems, ultimately helping them become social youth leaders within their communities. Learn about how the organization promotes education and change for LGBTQ and heterosexual youth to eliminate violence in schools and thus creating a just, equal and democratic society.



Tel Aviv

Afterward, continue to **Tel Aviv**, Israel's cultural center and most cosmopolitan city. Arrive at the luxurious **Carlton Hotel** with time to check-in, relax and prepare for Shabbat. Enjoy a special **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel this evening.

Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Optional Shabbat services will be offered at the hotel. Explore Tel Aviv on your own, spend the day at the beach, or participate in one of the following **optional activities**:



Tel Aviv beach



Masada



Rothschild Boulevard



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

OPTION 1: 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. 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.)*

OPTION 2: Take an exciting walking tour through Tel Aviv, departing from **Rothschild Boulevard** at 11:00am. Stroll through “The White City,” a UNESCO World Heritage site, to see some wondrous examples of the famous Bauhaus architecture. Visit Rabin Square, the largest open public square in Tel Aviv that contains a beautiful memorial honoring former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

OPTION 3: Visit the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**, Israel’s leading museum of modern & contemporary art and home to one of the world’s largest Israeli art collections.

Enjoy dinner on your own this evening at one of the many fine dining restaurants in the area. Afterward, an optional walking tour of **Neve Tzedek** will be offered, Tel Aviv’s first neighborhood built in 1909 that has since transformed into a trendy town filled with various art galleries and studios.

Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Yad Vashem

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23 • JERUSALEM

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, depart for Jerusalem. Today will begin with a solemn tour of the **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.



Old City of Jerusalem

Afterward, continue to the **Old City of Jerusalem** for a comprehensive tour. Explore the **Jewish & Christian Quarters** in all of their history and wonder. Hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation at the **Western Wall** before taking an exciting tour through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of underground tunnels, arches and passageways. Visit the **Southern Wall Excavations** and see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount. Enjoy an authentic falafel lunch on own in the Old City.



Western Wall Tunnels

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.



Ammunition Hill

Head back to the hotel with time to relax and freshen up before enjoying **dinner** in the main dining room this evening.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

MONDAY OCTOBER 24 • SUKKOT / JERUSALEM

Following breakfast, we will proceed to a local synagogue to honor the holiday of **Sukkot**, the Jewish festival of giving thanks to the fall harvest. Also referred to as **Simchat Torah**, this celebratory holiday marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Spend the afternoon with locals for an authentic experience of this joyous occasion.

Enjoy your last evening in Jerusalem as a group with **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Simchat Torah festivities

Itinerary Subject to Change

TUESDAY OCTOBER 25 • NORTHERN NEGEV



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

Following breakfast and check-out, depart south for the Negev, where you will get an insider's view into how the region is transforming from a barren desert into an attractive place to call home for the next generation of Israeli residents.

Visit the one-of-a-kind village of **Aleh Negev**, a JNF partner organization that provides high-level medical services and unparalleled rehabilitative care to children with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. Tour the various therapeutic amenities such as the petting zoo, horseback riding center, and hydrotherapy pool. Hear about how the beautifully landscaped grounds of Aleh Negev were meticulously constructed to positively stimulate the senses through the use of natural herbs and flower gardens.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Continue to the **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, a JNF signature project that has provided a much-needed sense of normalcy and fun to local residents and children living in the hard hit town of Sderot, located less than one mile from Gaza. This secure playground was strategically built so that play areas double as bomb shelters, ensuring that all occupants can quickly reach safety during a rocket attack. Witness local families enjoy themselves in this one-of-a-kind safe haven for the area.



Home Hospitality

Afterwards, enjoy a special **home hospitality** lunch at the home of a local Ofakim resident. Hear her personal story about what life is like living on the border of Gaza.

Spend the remainder of the evening with one of JNF's newest partners **HaShomer HaChadash**. Established in 2007, HaShomer HaChadash, or the "The New Guardians," is a volunteer organization dedicated to safeguarding the land in the Negev and Galilee. Hear how this unique program provides participants with the opportunity to work the land, learn about Zionism and the history of Israel, and become leaders of social change. Engage with young leaders over a **bonfire** and **dinner**, a tasty Galilean beef stew prepared by the volunteers themselves.



Bonfire & Dinner

This evening, enjoy live music by the **Be'er Sheva Conservatory**.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26 • ARAVA



Yair R&D Center

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart south for the Arava, where you will see first-hand the groundbreaking initiatives underway that aim to double the region's population over the next decade as part of JNF's *Blueprint Negev* campaign.

Begin with a tour of the **Yair Research & Development Center**. See the cutting-edge work of agricultural experts and farmers, who are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture.



Arava Valley

Proceed to the **Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT)**, a leading authority in sophisticated arid lands studies and training, as well as a central platform for global collaborations in the agriculture arena. This 10-month work-study program encourages students to bring their education and findings back to their home countries in Asia and return as goodwill ambassadors for Israel. Enjoy **lunch** on site with students.

Visit the village of **Zuqim**, a growing community that is developing unique desert eco-tourism for visitors. Hear about the community's rapid growth and increasing popularity as an attractive tourist destination.



Ramon Crater

Continue to **Mitzpe Ramon**, a geological landmine situated atop the one-of-a-kind **Ramon Crater**. See the beautiful, picturesque views and hidden treasures that this natural phenomenon has to offer. Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant overlooking the stunning landscape.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27 • NEGEV / DEPARTURE



Special in Uniform



Be'er Sheva River Park



Pipes Bridge



Ayalon Institute

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, proceed to the **Hatzerim Air Force Base** to see JNF's **Special in Uniform**, an innovative program that integrates special needs youth into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and assists in preparing them for career placement after army service. 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 holding an empowering role in strengthening the security of Israel. Special in Uniform is one of many JNF initiatives that aims to provide unique educational opportunities, specialized services, and unprecedented care and support to people with disabilities.

Continue to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev. Visit **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city. See how the park has become an anchor for tourism and recreation and helped to transform Be'er Sheva into a green, vibrant, and modern city. Stroll along the Pipes Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park; and see the 23-acre manmade lake that doubles as a source of irrigation for the park using recycled water.

Following **lunch**, proceed north for a tour of the fascinating **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. Meet with **Executive Vice-Chairman of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites (SPIHS), Noa Gefen**, who will discuss how JNF and SPIHS are working together to restore and preserve the countless historic and heritage sites throughout Israel.

This evening, our journey ends with a **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to the U.S.A.

Overnight, En route