

Jewish National Fund

IsraelH₂O: A Tour on the Trail of Israel's Water Solutions

Sponsored by Ronald S. Lauder's JNF Water Initiatives

December 1 - 8,
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Leadership

Laureine Greenbaum, *Tour Chair*

Robert Lembke, *Tour Chair*

Dr. Mort Mower, *Honorary Chair*

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Professional Staff

Talia Tzour Avner, *KKL-JNF Chief Israel Emissary*

Tour Guide

David Beradt

Itinerary is subject to change.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1 • ARRIVAL / NORTH

Welcome to Israel! Upon individual arrivals, meet your group transfer in Tel Aviv at 3:00pm and head north. En route, hear from leading KKL-JNF Professional Talia Tzour Avner, who will provide an overview of Israel's water economy and JNF's pivotal role in its progress and achievements.

Arrive at **Ramot**, a charming moshav situated along the coast of the Sea of Galilee (Kineret). This evening enjoy your **opening dinner** with special guest speaker **Professor Eilon Adar**, who will discuss his work in Hydrology.

Overnight, Ramot, Golan Heights



Golan Heights



Moshav Ramot

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 • GOLAN HEIGHTS



Shamir Drillings Project

Following breakfast, begin the day hearing an overview of the **Kinneret** from **Eilon Adar**, and learn about its significance as Israel's largest freshwater lake.

Afterward, depart the Ramot to visit the **Shamir Drillings**, Israel's new strategy for the difficult water crisis, which involves drilling for and accessing new groundwater resources, as well as for agricultural purposes, further freeing up fresh water and replenishing water levels in rivers and lakes. Leading our tour will be **Shabtai Glass**, **Manager of the Galilee Water Association**, who will discuss the significance of the drillings, and how it has helped Israel overcome its water challenges.



Agmon HaHula

Take a guided tour through **Agmon HaHula**, one of the most significant bird migration routes in the world. Hear from **Dr. Doron Markel**, who will discuss how the park serves as a prominent center for eco-tourism in Israel and throughout the world as well as a model for cooperation between nature, tourism, and agriculture.



Banias River

Following lunch, continue to the **Banias River**, one of the main tributaries in the Upper Golan between the Hula Valley and Mount Hermon. See the abundance of natural and historical beauty from the ruins of ancient cities to the roaring Banias Waterfall.

Proceed to the **Mount Bental Observation Point** for stunning views of the surrounding area including the Golan Heights landscape, several local Druze villages, Mount Hermon, and Syria, which lies just east of Mount Bental.



Mount Bental

Return to the Ramot with time to relax and freshen up before enjoying a special **Shabbat dinner** this evening.

Overnight, Ramot, Golan Heights

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 • SHABBAT



Mount of Beatitudes

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Shabbat services will be offered for those who wish to attend. Alternatively, enjoy the day relaxing at the moshav or consider participating in an optional day tour exploring the fascinating Jewish and Christian history and heritage sites around the Sea of Galilee.

OPTIONAL DAY TOUR (departing at 9:00am):

Visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. Stroll through **Kfar Nahum (Capernaum)**, among one of the oldest synagogues in Israel, a place of great significance for Christ and his outreach efforts to the people of Israel. It is here that the inhabitants of Capernaum were given unique and abundant opportunities to hear Jesus Christ's message firsthand and witness his influence.



Capernaum

See the **Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish**, an impressive site that preserves an early Christian mosaic as well as traditional stone on which the miraculous meal was laid just before Jesus walked on water.



Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish

A few miles just north of Tiberias is the **Jesus Boat**, dating back to the 1st century CE, which was used by Jesus and his disciples on the Sea of Galilee for both fishing and transportation.



Jesus Boat

Enjoy lunch on your own today in the area.

Later on experience the tranquility and spiritual beauty of the waters in which Jesus was baptized at the **Yardenit of the Jordan River**. It is here where Jesus practiced and preached across this part of the Holy Land, which is home to a plethora of sites with powerful biblical significance. Lastly, visit **Magdala**, where one of the most ancient synagogues was revealed, and the birthplace of Mary Magdalene.



Yardenit

En route back to the Ramot see some of the Kineret's premier water sites such as the Sapir pumping station, Movil Hamaluach, and Deganya Dam.

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant as a group with special guest speaker **Ram Aviram**, who will discuss the current water challenges in the north.

Overnight, Ramot, Golan Heights

Itinerary is subject to change.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4 • NORTH / TEL AVIV



AMIAD

Following breakfast and check-out, visit **AMIAD**, a high-tech company located on Kibbutz Amiad, which specializes in developing and marketing environmentally-friendly filtration systems for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use.

Depart the area towards Eshkol. En route, engage in a group discussion about the National Water Carrier project-- Israel's largest water project that aims to transfer water from the Sea of Galilee to the highly populated center of the country.



Eshkol Filtration Plant

Tour the state-of-the-art **Eshkol Filtration Plant** facility, which is the fourth largest filtration plant in the world. Learn about how the treated water is supplied by Mekorot to one-third of Israel's population via the National Water Carrier.

After a short lunch break at Alonim, continue south to **Emek Hefer**. Here we will see a firsthand example of a trans-boundary water issue that is polluting Israel's streams. Hear about how this new program is producing polluted filtrated water as a byproduct of its efforts to convert waste into bio-gas that can be used to produce electricity.



Emek Hefer

Proceed to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival, check into the Carlton Hotel and freshen up before proceeding to **Old Jaffa** for a lecture and dinner at a local restaurant with special guest speaker **Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure**.

Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

MONDAY DECEMBER 5 • CENTRAL ISRAEL



Yarkon River

Following breakfast, depart the hotel for the **Yarkon River**. See the inner workings of the **Yarkon Restoration Project** -- a KKL-JNF initiative that uses purified effluents from the Hod HaSharon and Kfar Saba sewage purification plants to improve the river's water quality. Meet with **Dr. David Pergament, Head of the Yarkon River Authority**, to learn more about the progress and challenges of this ambitious initiative.



Sorek Desalination Plant

On our way to the Sorek Desalination Plant, hear from **Avraham Tene, former Head of the Desalination Division at the Israel Water Authority**, who will provide the group with an introduction of Israeli Desalination Plants.

Arrive at the **Sorek Desalination Plant**, the world's largest seawater desalination plant with a treatment capacity of 624,000m³/day. See firsthand how this facility uses seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) to provide water to Israel's national water carrier system. Joining the group will be one of its owners **Ronen Wolfman, Former Chief Executive Officer of Mekorot, Israel's National Water Company**.



Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant

Following lunch, proceed to the **Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant**, the largest in Israel. Learn about how it recycles water from 22 municipalities in the center of the country, which is then piped to the northern Negev for much-needed irrigation use.

Proceed back to the Carlton Hotel with time to freshen up and relax. This evening, dinner will be hosted by **Israel NewTech**, a national program that works to promote Israel's water and sustainable energy sectors. Meet with various key Israeli water figures and company representatives, including the **Chairmen of the Israel Water Authority, CEO/Minister of Infrastructure, Amir Peleg, Founder & CEO of TaKadu**, as well as other water scholars. Hear a panel discussion from innovative water companies that focus on venture capital in water in Israel.

Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Israel NewTech

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6 • NEGEV / JERUSALEM



Besor Reservoir

Following breakfast and check-out, depart the hotel to visit the **Besor Reservoirs** and learn about the KKL-JNF initiative -- the building of a system of giant reservoirs that store recycled water from the center of the county to capture rainfall and use it to recharge the local groundwater reserves. Engage in a dynamic discussion with the group on various topics including recycled water, runoff water, agriculture, and tourism.

En route toward Be'er Sheva, visit an **agricultural R&D**, which supports and enhances the essential knowledge of farmers in the Negev desert.



Blueprint for the manmade lake

Arrive at the **Be'er Sheva River Park**--an innovative water, environment, and economic development project that is transforming the riverfront into a 1,700-acre civic paradise. Learn about how JNF cleaned up the river that was formerly used as a wasteland and dumping ground. See the site of the **23-acre manmade lake** that will use recycled water from the surrounding area to offer boating, bird watching and other activities to visitors. It also doubles as a water reservoir for park irrigation. Pending confirmation, meet with Be'er Sheva **Mayor Ruvik Danilovich**.

Continue to **Netafim**, an Israeli pioneer of drip and micro irrigation products for agriculture, greenhouse, landscape, and mining applications. Visit the field to see first-hand the drip irrigation in act. Enjoy **lunch** upon arrival.



Netafim

Later this afternoon, hear from **Dr. Clive Lipchin, Director of the Center for Transboundary Water Management** at the **Arava Institute**, the leading graduate level environmental educational institute in the Middle East. As director, Dr. Lipchin oversees research projects, workshops and conferences that focus on transboundary water.

Later this afternoon head to the Bedouin town of Hura and see **Wadi Attir**--an innovative project that seeks to develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable community-based agricultural enterprise that adapts to a desert environment. Learn about how this JNF initiative is designed to combine Bedouin aspirations, values and experience with sustainability principles, modern day science, and cutting-edge technologies. Pending confirmation, meet with **Mayor Muhammad Elnabari**.



Wadi Attir

Continue to Jerusalem and upon arrival, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in the area. Afterward, check into the Inbal Hotel.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Itinerary is subject to change.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7 • JERUSALEM



Western Wall Tunnels

Following breakfast, depart the hotel for a tour through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of underground tunnels, arches, and passageways.



Old City of Jerusalem

Proceed to the **Old City of Jerusalem** for an extensive walking tour of the **Jewish and Christian Quarters** in all its history and wander. Stroll down the **Via Dolorosa**, the same path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, and end in the **Jewish Quarter**, where echoes of history meet the voices of present day in this living testament to the Jewish presence in Jerusalem. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many authentic food vendors.



Yad Vashem

This afternoon, proceed to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**, for a tour of Israel's main Holocaust remembrance and education center, situated on the green slopes of Har HaZikaron, which translates to mean the "Mount of Remembrance." See how the museum tells the stories of the Jewish communities in Europe through photographs, films, documents, and other artifacts and testimonials from survivors.

Afterward, stop at the **Haas Promenade**, which offers a sweeping view of the Old City and, in true Jerusalem fashion, is replete with thousands of years of history.



Haas Promenade

Spend the remainder of the evening at leisure, enjoying Jerusalem's night life and growing culinary scene at your own pace.

Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 • JERUSALEM/DEPARTURE



Hagihon

Following breakfast and check-out, depart the hotel for a visit to **Hagihon** -- Jerusalem's main water company that supplies water, sewage, and drainage services to approximately 1,000,000 residents in the city of Jerusalem and surrounding areas. Visit the control center with **Zohar Yinon, CEO of Hagihon**, and learn about how Hagihon is responsible for the development, expansion, operation, and continual maintenance of the various water, sewage and drainage networks in Jerusalem.



9/11 Memorial

Afterward, stop at the **JNF 9/11 Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. It is the only place outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11.

Spend the afternoon on a tour of **Mahane Yehuda Market**, Israel's largest open market. Filled with fresh fruit, olives, nuts, vegetables and just about anything else grown or picked from the Israeli soil, the "Shuk" is also a good place to purchase spices, teas, cheese, dried fruits, tahina, bread and pastries.



Mahane Yehuda

Our program concludes with a visit to **Ayyeka**, a company that provides cyber-secure, plug-and-play, and remote monitoring solutions designed for various markets. Meet with a wide array of experts from water technology companies and startups in the Jerusalem region.

We will wrap-up our incredible journey with a special **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem with special guest **MK Erel Margalit**, an Israeli politician and high-tech & social entrepreneur. Afterward, transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to the U.S.A.

Overnight, En Route