

Jewish National Fund

Young Professionals Tour:

For Singles Ages 30 – 45

July 17 – 24, 2016

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Tour Guide

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Itinerary is Subject to Change.



Tel Aviv

SUNDAY JULY 17 • ARRIVAL / TEL AVIV

Welcome to Israel! Upon individual arrivals, transfer to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** in Tel Aviv.

An **optional day tour** through **Neve Tzedek** will be offered to participants arriving early. See how one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods has developed into one of the city's trendiest areas.



Neve Tzedek

This evening, the program will officially commence with an outdoor **BBQ dinner** at the hotel pool. Following dinner, enjoy the night out on your own or experience the city's famous nightlife scene on an **optional group night tour** of some local clubs and bars.

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

MONDAY JULY 18 • TEL AVIV



Ben Gurion's Home

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, we will begin the day with a tour of the home of **Ben Gurion**, Israel's first Prime Minister and visionary for developing the Negev region of Israel. Learn about Ben Gurion's vision and the path he took towards the creation of the State of Israel.



Old Jaffa

Afterward, take a **walking tour** through **Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year old port city. Stroll through the winding alleyways, stop at the ancient ruins, and explore the restored artist's quarter filled with galleries and boutiques. Take time to wander and shop before enjoying **lunch** at a local restaurant.

Following **lunch**, proceed to **i24 News**, Israel's leading internet news outlet. Tour the headquarters and meet with local reporters. Go behind the scenes and learn about their approach to battling the ignorance and prejudices broadcasted about Israel.



i-24 News

Next, we will partake in a unique **street graffiti tour** through Tel Aviv's Florentine neighborhood. See the fascinating street art, discuss its distinction from vandalism, and explore the ways in which it differs from street art anywhere else in the world.



Sarona District



Street Graffiti



Nalaga'at Center

Afterward, take time to explore **Sarona**, one of Tel Aviv's most up-and-coming areas. See how this former German colony has transformed into a blossoming culinary scene with new urban complexes, hip cafés, trendy shops, tranquil parks and engaging playgrounds.

Later this afternoon, participate in an optional **sunset yoga** class on the beach, led by a **Nefesh B'Nefesh** oleh and certified yoga instructor. **Nefesh B'Nefesh** is a JNF partner that provides olim with employment resources, housing assistance, aid with government absorption and community-based support to make each individual's Aliyah experience as successful as possible.

This evening, enjoy a very unique **dining experience** at the **Nalaga'at Center**. The center's **BlackOut** restaurant offers visitors the experience of eating in complete darkness, awakening senses and providing patrons a temporary perspective on what it's like to live disabled and deprived of sight. Each table has a blind or visually impaired waiter. During our meal, we will have a **blind-date mixer** with Nefesh B'Nefesh olim.

Following dinner, participants will have the option of staying for a world-renowned performance by the **Nalaga'at Theater Company**.

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

TUESDAY JULY 19 • TEL AVIV / COASTAL ROUTE



Nefesh B'Nefesh Charter Flight

Early this morning, we will have the exciting and rare opportunity to witness a **Nefesh B'Nefesh charter flight** arrive at Ben Gurion Airport. This flight is filled with hundreds of new Olim, and is not only an incredibly inspiring and emotional experience, but a way to celebrate and support Israel's newest citizens.



Palmach Museum

Continue on towards the famous **Palmach Museum**, 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. The "Palmach" was the elite striking force of the "Haganah," the underground military organization of the Jewish community prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.



Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair

Afterward, proceed to **Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair** for a festival of arts, crafts, pottery, and street performances. Pass through the **Carmel Market**, the most famous market in Tel Aviv, and capture all the liveliness and vibrancy of this bustling economic focal point.



Caesarea

Later this afternoon, depart north 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.

Arrive at the Dan Carmel Hotel for time to relax and freshen up before enjoying **dinner** in the main dining room at the hotel this evening.

Overnight, Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

WEDNESDAY JULY 20 • NORTH/JERUSALEM



Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp



Akko



Baha'i Gardens in Akko



Alto Dairy



Kishor Winery

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, today will begin with a tour of the **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. Take a tour of the restored camp, explore the prisoner's barracks, see a replica of an illegal immigration ship, and search through a computerized database with information on detainees.

Proceed to **Akko**, an underground crusader city and designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour through the **Old City of Akko** and explore the ancient gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways. Afterward, visit the new **Western Galilee Visitor Center**, a JNF project that will increase tourism and social and business opportunities in the region.

Continue on towards the **Baha'i Gardens**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Called the "Al Bahaja," this is the most holy site for members of the Baha'i faith. See the beautiful, well-tended gardens, which were built into four segments with lawns, citrus groves, topiary and flowers. Learn how the gardens surrounding the religious shrine were designed and inspired by the doctrines of the Baha'i faith.

Enjoy **lunch** at **Alto Dairy**, a boutique family-owned dairy known for its magnificent goat cheeses made using both traditional and modern methods. Taste some of the famous cheeses that are prepared from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. See how this local business is thriving under JNF's partnership with **Western Galilee Now (WGN)**.

This afternoon, unwind with a wine-tasting at **Kishor Winery**, which overlooks the local vineyard and the beautiful Galilean scenery. Learn about the process of wine-making at Kishorit, a community that empowers adults with special needs to work as professional staff in the processes of grape cultivation, bottle-making, and more.

Proceed to Jerusalem, enjoying **dinner** en route before checking into the hotel.

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

THURSDAY JULY 21 • NORTHERN NEGEV



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Following breakfast, head south to **Sderot** for a visit to **JNF's Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. See 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 about how the center has impacted the community and their lives.



Nir Am Reservoir

Continue on to the **Nir Am Reservoir**, located on the Gaza border. Hear an update on the current security situation in Gaza and its bordering communities from this historical overlook.



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

Proceed to the **Aleh Negev-Nahalat Eran**, a state-of-the-art residential village 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 people each year on an outpatient basis. Pending confirmation, meet with **General Doron Almog, Chairman of Aleh Negev and former Commander of the IDF Southern Command**. Hear his moving story of his late son Eran, who inspired him to become involved in Aleh Negev.



Be'er Sheva River Park

Following **lunch** this afternoon at the home of a local Ofakim resident, depart 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 and to turn the Negev into an attractive place for a new generation of Israelis to call home. Stroll along the **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. End at the **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which features a multimedia museum that allows visitors to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps.



Bedouin Dinner

Afterward, enjoy an authentic **Bedouin dinner** at a local Bedouin community before departing back to Jerusalem.

This evening, we will see an amusing and informational comedy performance called the *"History of Israel through Comedies,"* with JNFuture member and ohl **Benji Lovitt**.

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

FRIDAY JULY 22 • JERUSALEM



Yad Vashem

Today begins with a solemn visit to **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**. Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust from a uniquely Jewish perspective using original artifacts, survivor testimonies & personal possessions. Following a guided tour, proceed to a private area for group discussion and reflection on your experience.



Mt. Herzl

Proceed to **Mt. Herzl** to visit the gravesites of Israeli dignitaries and leaders such as Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, and Yitzhak Rabin.

Continue on to the **Old City of Jerusalem** for a **walking tour** and an authentic **falafel lunch**. Begin at the Southern Wall Excavations to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount. Explore the Jewish and Christian Quarters before proceeding to the **Western Wall**, where you will have time for silent prayer and contemplation in this holiest of places.



Old City of Jerusalem

Observe **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the **Kotel** before returning to the hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**.

Tonight, enjoy a special **Shabbat dinner** in a private room at the hotel. Joining us will be young **Nefesh B'Nefesh 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 Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

SATURDAY JULY 23 • SHABBAT



Shabbat Shalom!



Masada



Dead Sea



Havdalah

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Consider attending optional Shabbat services, relaxing at the hotel, or taking the optional day trip to **Masada and the Dead Sea***.

The **optional day trip** to Masada and the Dead Sea will depart 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 story of the Jewish fighters before a cable car ride (or a hike) to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Tour the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and Roman baths.

Descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea**. Take a swim in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea or simply relax at the beach. Later this afternoon, return to Jerusalem.

As the sun sets, mark the end of Shabbat by participating in the ritual of **Havdalah**, a service infused with music, symbols and meaning. Recite the blessings, sing the prayers and learn more about the role of spices in the service.

This evening, enjoy a night out in Jerusalem on your own. Consider strolling down **Ben-Yehuda Street** or exploring the **Shuk** at night to experience the city's night-life scene. Check out the **First Train Station**, an old railway station that has been transformed into a strip of restaurants, bars, cafes, and local vendors. See the "*Artisans at the Station*" exhibit, a high-quality arts and crafts fair that runs until 9:00pm.

Overnight, Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

*(*additional cost, not included in price)*

SUNDAY JULY 24 • JERUSALEM / EN ROUTE



Knesset

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will visit the **Knesset**, Israel's primary Parliament building. Pending confirmation, meet with **Knesset Members** and learn about the inner workings of Israel's complex government structure.



Haas Promenade

Continue on to **Mt. Scopus**, a landmark vantage point and walking path that provides breathtaking views of Jerusalem.



Ammunition Hill

Proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous Six-Day War battle. Tour the battleground and bunkers that follow the footsteps of the soldiers who once 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, which honors Jewish veterans from around the world. Afterward, enjoy a **catered lunch** in a private room at this famous heritage site.



9/11 Memorial

Following lunch, proceed to the **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.



Neot Kedumim

Later this afternoon, head to **Neot Kedumim**, an eco-tourism site and "living museum" that recreates the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail. Visit the **Harvey Hertz - JNF Ceremonial Tree Planting Center**, which serves as JNF's primary planting center in Israel for an opportunity to plant a tree and contribute to our ongoing afforestation efforts.

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

Overnight, En Route