

# Jewish National Fund Negev & President's Societies Mission

April 26 – 30, 2015  
*Optional Extension for  
Negev Society Members:  
April 30-May 2, 2015*

## Leadership

Bruce Gould, *Mission Co-Chair*

Sharon Pikus, *Mission Co-Chair*

## Professional Staff

Glen Schwartz, *National Executive Director, Major Gifts*

*Itinerary is Subject to Change.*

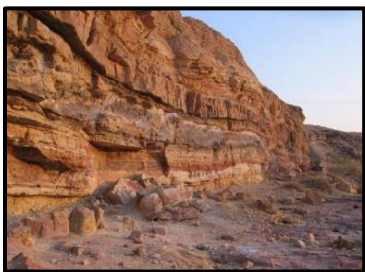


Beresheet Hotel

## SUNDAY APRIL 26 • MITZPE RAMON

Welcome to Israel! Meet your driver and transfer south to the luxurious **Beresheet Hotel** in **Mitzpe Ramon**. Situated on the edge of a cliff overlooking the Ramon Crater, the hotel offers breathtaking views of this unique geological phenomenon. This evening, the mission will officially commence with an **opening dinner** featuring a special **guest speaker** (TBA).

**Overnight, Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon**



Ramon Crater

## MONDAY APRIL 27 • NEGEV

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, take an in-depth tour through Mitzpe Ramon with **Mayor Roni Marom** and learn more about his vision for this central Negev city of 5,000 residents. See the progress being made by JNF's Housing Development Fund.

Afterward, continue toward the central Negev and visit **Halutza** where several communities have been established for the Gush Katif evacuees. Meet several 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.



Halutza greenhouse

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 of the clinic, 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 the Chairman of Aleh Negev.



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

Following **lunch** in the home of a nearby community resident, continue to the **Bedouin town of Hura** to see the progress of Project Wadi Attir. As a part of the Blueprint Negev campaign, JNF has taken on this uniquely innovative initiative that aims to develop a model for sustainable, community-based agricultural enterprise adaptable to a desert environment. Project Wadi Attir is designed to combine the Bedouin

*Itinerary is Subject to Change.*



Be'er Sheva River Park

aspirations, values, and experience with sustainability principles, modern day science, and cutting-edge technologies. Meet with Bedouin community members who will share how Wadi Attir has impacted their lives.

Continue 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.

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 is 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.



Abraham's Well

Meet with **Be'er Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich** at City Hall before proceeding to the new **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which features a multimedia museum for visitors to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps.

Later this afternoon, return to the hotel in Mitzpe Ramon. This evening, enjoy **dinner** at the hotel followed by special **star gazing** activity under the night sky of Mitzpe Ramon, also known as nature's planetarium.

**Overnight, Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon**

## TUESDAY APRIL 28 • ARAVA / EILAT



Central Arava Medical Center

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, head to 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.



AICAT Students

Visit the new **Central Arava Visitor Center**, which serves as a “tourism anchor” for the region before visiting 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.

Enjoy a picnic **lunch** in Sapir Park, an oasis in the desert. Afterward, visit 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.



Therapeutic Riding Center

Following this visit, continue further south through the Arava. Visit **Kibbutz Yahel**, a vibrant agricultural kibbutz with a focus on the tourism industry. Visit the recreational and educational park in the heart of the Southern Arava that serves as a tranquil, green retreat for tourists and travelers. During a tour, learn how the park demonstrates a central theme of JNF's work in the desert: water conservation and development. The anchor of the park is a reservoir surrounded by date palms to provide shade and the feeling of a desert oasis.

Later this afternoon, visit the **Red Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center**, which focuses on children from Israel suffering from mild to severe emotional and physical disabilities. A representative from the center will lead a tour of the facility and provide an update of the center's current activities.



Eilat

Afterward, continue south to **Eilat** and check into the hotel. After some time to relax and freshen-up, enjoy a festive **dinner cruise** on a private yacht in the Red Sea.

**Overnight, Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat**

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 29 • ARAVA / EILAT



Arava Institute

Following breakfast at the hotel, proceed to a private room to hear from a **leading expert in Israel's high-tech industry**. Learn about Israel's latest innovations, start-ups and high-tech contributions to an ever-changing and evolving field.

Pending confirmation, proceed to a nearby **IDF Air Force Base** for an exclusive tour and VIP access. Enjoy lunch with **IDF Soldiers**, who will share what life is like serving in Israel's armed forces.

This afternoon, visit the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)**, the leading graduate level environmental education institute in the Middle East, which brings Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians together to help solve environmental challenges - not through disagreement - but through true coexistence. Meet with current students and staff who will share how they cross boundaries to create a vibrant - and more tolerant - Israel.



Solar Fields in the Arava

Continue to a nearby **solar power station** in Kibbutz Yotvata, one of several in the area that provides electricity and power to neighboring communities. Learn how the region serves as a role model for the world in leading the way in the field of solar energy.

Early this evening, proceed to **Timna Park**, a site of great historical significance and a premier recreation destination for Israelis and tourists. Pass through the front gates to the chronosphere and become immersed in a fascinating 360-degree multi-media experience called the Mines of Times. Learn about ancient Egyptian and Midianite cultures dating from the time of the Exodus.



Solomon's Pillars at Timna Park

As the sun sets, see the spectacular beauty of Timna Park in the dark. Enjoy **cocktails and dinner** in the park before returning to the hotel for the evening.

**Overnight, Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat**



Tel Aviv

## THURSDAY APRIL 30 • EILAT / TEL AVIV

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, proceed to the Eilat airport for a morning flight to **Tel Aviv**. Upon arrival, spend the remainder of the morning meeting with top Israeli leaders and high-ranking government officials (TBA) for in-depth discussions about the current geo-political situation in Israel as well as international issues impacting the country today.

Spend the afternoon exploring **Tel Aviv**. Activities are TBA, but will focus on the city's cultural and historical highlights.

Enjoy a special **farewell dinner** before transferring to the airport for return flights to the USA.

**Overnight, En Route**



Cramim Hotel and Spa

## Optional Extension for Negev Society Members

### THURSDAY APRIL 30 • TEL AVIV

Following the farewell dinner, enjoy an exclusive **dessert reception** for Negev Society Members only.

Continue to the luxurious **Cramim Hotel and Spa**, Israel's newest five-star hotel and spa, situated in the heart of the Judean wine region in the Jerusalem Hills.

**Overnight, Cramim Hotel & Spa, Judean Hills**



Gush Etzion Visitor Center

### FRIDAY MAY 1 • JERUSALEM REGION

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart for **Gush Etzion**. Begin at the **Gush Etzion Visitor Center** to see a memorial to the heroic men and women who gave their lives to protect the communities of the Etzion Bloc - strategically located between Jerusalem and Hebron - during Israel's War of Independence. Hear personal stories about the founders and defenders of Gush Etzion and the critical events that led to their surrender. 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.

Afterward, explore modern-day Gush Etzion and see how the region has transformed into a leading center of tourism. Enjoy some of the area's unique experiences with an optional zip-lining activity, a visit to a local brewery or winery and lunch at local restaurant.



Zip-lining in Gush Etzion

This evening, enjoy **Shabbat dinner** with a special guest.

**Overnight, Cramim Hotel & Spa, Judean Hills**



Shabbat Shalom!

## SATURDAY MAY 2 • JERUSALEM REGION

Today will be spent at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Consider attending optional morning **Shabbat services** at the hotel.

After lunch, proceed to a private room in the hotel for an afternoon session with a scholar in residence.

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

**Overnight, En Route**