

Jewish National Fund
President's Society Mission

October 6 – 10, 2013

Leadership

Michael Blank, *Mission Chair*

Professional Staff

Glen Schwartz, *Executive Director, Florida*

Marina Furman, *Former Refusnik and Leader of the Soviet Jewry Movement*

Itinerary is Subject to Change.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6 • ARRIVAL /TEL AVIV



Tel Aviv

Welcome to Israel! This evening, meet in the lobby of the new Royal Beach Hotel in Tel Aviv. After a short introduction, board the bus and head to a special venue for an **opening dinner** and introduction to the mission. Several special guests will join us for the evening as well.

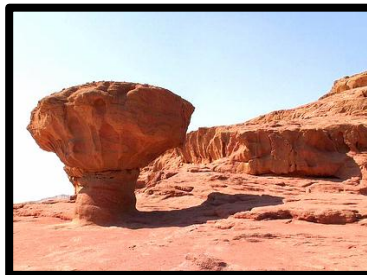
Overnight, Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

MONDAY OCTOBER 7 • ARAVA



Solomon's Pillars at Timna Park

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight to **Eilat**. Upon arrival, proceed to **Timna Park**. Pass through the front gates to the newly built chronosphere and become immersed in a fascinating 360-degree multimedia experience called the Mines of Time. Through a dramatic audio-visual computer simulation and state-of-the-art animation, learn about ancient Egyptian and Midianite cultures dating from the time of the Exodus - a prelude to what we'll encounter further into the park.



Mushroom at Timna Park

Following **lunch** by Timna Park's lake, continue to Kibbutz Grofit for a visit to 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.

Proceed to **Kibbutz Yahel**, a vibrant agricultural kibbutz with a focus on the tourism industry. JNF is continuing its long-standing partnership with Kibbutz Yahel and developing a recreational and educational park in the heart of the Southern Arava that will be a tranquil, green retreat for tourists and travelers. Called Paradiso Arava, this five-acre compound will not only bolster the kibbutz's existing eco-tourism industry, but it will also provide much-needed employment opportunities that will attract new residents and continue the growth and sustainability of the kibbutz.



Therapeutic Riding Center

During a tour with the park's architect, 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. Attractions will include a new farmers market, petting zoo, lake and a variety of other activities.

Itinerary is Subject to Change.

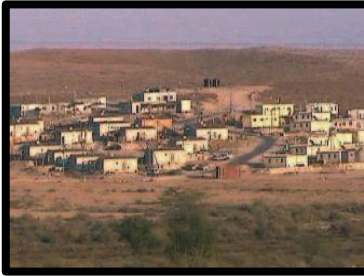


Beresheet Hotel

Later this afternoon, continue to the **Beresheet Hotel** in Mitzpe Ramon, one of Israel's newest & most luxurious hotels overlooking the Ramon Crater. After checking in, indulge in an **optional spa treatment**, take a dip in the hotel pool or simply relax in the hotel's tranquil atmosphere. This evening, enjoy **dinner** in the hotel's dining room.

Overnight, Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 • ARAVA



Merchav Am

Following breakfast, depart the hotel for the new community of **Merchav Am**, built by JNF in partnership with the OR Movement. During a tour of the community, see the public facilities that offer residents the necessities to make this new community a true home. Meet with residents who will share what life is like as a true modern day pioneer.



AICAT Students

Continue to Sapir in the Central Arava for a visit to the **Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT)**, a 10-month agriculture work-study program where students from Asia learn farming practices and agricultural techniques that they can bring back to their home countries. Visit with students and staff and hear about their experiences taking part in this apprenticeship program.

Afterward, proceed to the new **Central Arava Medical Center** in Sapir. In partnership with the Central Arava Regional Council and the Israeli government, JNF is building a world-class medical center to replace the dilapidated clinic and provide quality care to local residents and workers. Meet several **Arava doctors** who will explain how the medical center will improve the quality of life and care for those who need it most.



Central Arava Medical Center

Enjoy **lunch** with **Mayor Eyal Blum** of the Central Arava for an in-depth overview of recent developments in the Arava and the efforts to attract new residents and visitors to the region.



R & D Station

Later this afternoon, proceed to **Yair Research and Development Station**. Learn how agricultural experts and farmers are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture.

Afterward, return to the hotel for **dinner** and the remainder of the evening.

Overnight, Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Itinerary is Subject to Change.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 • NEGEV / TEL AVIV



Halutza greenhouse



Be'er Sheva River Park



Pipes Bridge in Be'er Sheva



Project Wadi Attir

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, depart for the Central Negev. Visit **Halutza**, where several communities have been established for the Gush Katif evacuees. During a tour, see Halutza's organic vegetable farms and greenhouses that are flourishing despite their desert surroundings.

Continue to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev. Following **lunch**, proceed to the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the entire city and bring 250,000 new residents to the city. A representative will provide an update on the project and lead a tour of through the Park.

During the tour, stop at the **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. See the progress of the 12,000 seat **amphitheater**, which will be the largest open-air performance venue in Israel.

Continue to the future **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which will feature a multimedia museum where visitors will be able to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps. The tour will conclude with an update on 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.

Afterward, proceed to the Bedouin community of **Hura**. Gain a deeper understanding of the current issues and challenges facing Bedouin communities and take an in-depth look at JNF's involvement in Project Wadi Attir, which seeks to develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable, community-based agriculture, adapted to a desert environment.

Later this afternoon, continue to **Tel Aviv**. After checking into the hotel, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight, Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv



Ayalon Institute



Green Horizons activity



Winery

THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 • TEL AVIV

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, depart for 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.

Afterward, meet with members of **Green Horizons**, Israel's elite youth leadership organization, and **Lavi Zamir**, Green Horizons Managing Director. Learn about this unique program before they give a demonstration of their special skills.

From here, proceed to a local **winery** for a tour, wine tasting and lunch.

Pending confirmation, continue to the **Shaldag IDF Base**, a special air force commando unit of the IDF.

Following an exclusive tour, enjoy a special farewell dinner with soldiers, who will share their experiences serving in this elite unit (*pending confirmation*). Afterward, continue to the airport for return flights to the USA.

Overnight, En Route