

Jewish National Fund

SPIRIT OF ISRAEL MISSION

November 1 – 8, 2015

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Itinerary Subject to Change



Jerusalem

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1 • ARRIVAL

Welcome to Israel! Upon your individual arrivals and transfers, make your way to **Jerusalem**. This evening, join the rest of the group in the **Mamilla Hotel** lobby for a **cocktail and wine reception** to get to know your fellow participants.

Afterward, enjoy a special **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight, Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Mamilla Hotel

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2 • JERUSALEM

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, proceed to a private room to hear from a special **guest speaker**, who will discuss the current geo-political situation in Israel as well as international issues impacting the country today.

Depart the hotel for **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous battle during the Six-Day War. During a tour, follow the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here and see the new “Seam-Line” multimedia show about the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. Afterward, continue to **JNF’s Wall of Honor**, which honors Jewish veterans from around the world.



Ammunition Hill

Continue on to a tour of the state-of-the-art **Herzl Museum** to learn about the life, vision and work of Theodore Herzl and other great Zionist leaders.

Following the Herzl Museum tour, proceed to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. Become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem’s shuk and enjoy lunch on your own.



Mahane Yehuda Market

Spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring the **Old City**. Enter the ancient city through the Jaffa Gate and head directly to the **Western Wall**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Take a few minutes for prayer and contemplation before proceeding to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount.



Old City of Jerusalem



Western Wall Tunnel

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant with special guests. **Lone Soldiers** will join the group and share their personal experiences of leaving their homes and loved ones in order to serve the state of Israel in the IDF.

Following dinner, head to an exciting **night tour** through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of tunnels, arches and passageways that expose Jerusalem's rich history, archeology and topography.

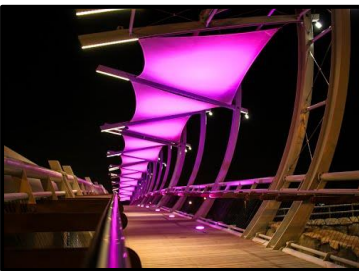
Overnight, Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Be'er Sheva River Park

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 • JERUSALEM / NEGEV

Following breakfast this morning, begin the drive 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.



Pipes Bridge

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 now 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. End at the **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which features a multimedia museum for visitors to walk through history in Abraham's footsteps.



Abraham's Well

Continue on to **Halutza**, where several communities have been established for the Gush Katif evacuees. Meet several Halutza residents for **lunch**, 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

Later this afternoon, head to **Sderot** for a tour of the **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. Hear an overview of this fortified facility which provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun. Meet local residents who will share their personal accounts of life

Itinerary Subject to Change



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center



Ben Yehuda Street



Caesarea Port



Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp



Spa at Carmel Forest

in Sderot and explain how the Recreation Center has positively influenced their lives and the city.

This evening will be at leisure, providing everyone with the opportunity to enjoy Jerusalem's nightlife and dining at your own pace. Consider a stroll down **Ben Yehuda Street**, Jerusalem's open-air pedestrian mall filled with cafes, shops and the sounds of musicians playing their instruments on the street.

Alternatively, consider exploring **Mamilla Avenue**, designed by world-renowned Israeli architect Moshe Safdie. Acting as a bridge between modern and ancient, the avenue is lined with 19th century buildings, street performers, restaurants, cafes and many designer boutiques, and is often referred to the Fifth Avenue or Champs-Elysees of Jerusalem.

Overnight, Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4 • NORTH

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, begin the drive north along the scenic coastal route. 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 been restored as a concert venue.

Enjoy **lunch** and a **wine tasting** at a local winery before proceeding to the **Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp**. Converted into a detention camp by the British Mandate, Atlit imprisoned thousands of Jewish immigrants upon arriving into Israel. During a tour of the camp, see the challenges that the immigrants faced when they immigrated to Israel following their release from Nazi extermination camps.

Later this afternoon, arrive at the luxurious **Carmel Forest Spa** in Haifa. After checking-in, take some time to relax in the hotel's tranquil atmosphere, take a dip in the hotel pool or indulge in an **optional spa treatment** (*additional cost - not included in price*).

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa

Itinerary Subject to Change

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 • WESTERN GALILEE



Akko



Akko Prison



Bouza ice cream



Kalderon glassware

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart for **Akko**, an underground crusader city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Akko's fascinating history is expressed through its unique historical sites, rare blend of eastern and western cultures, and various art and religion institutions. Take a tour through the **Old City** and explore the gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways of this ancient city. 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. Visit the famous **Akko Prison**, built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison members of the underground. Afterward, visit the new **JNF Visitor Center** and hear an update on its progress and development plans.

During **lunch** at a local restaurant, meet with **Michal Shiloah** from **Western Galilee Now**. Learn about how this dynamic group is revitalizing the area and making the Western Galilee an attractive place to both live and visit.

Later this afternoon, satisfy your sweet tooth at the **Bouza Ice Cream Parlor**, a participating business of Western Galilee Now. Founded by an Arab Muslim and a Jewish kibbutznik, this ice cream shop attracts a diverse clientele of Muslims, Christians, and Jews from Israel and abroad. During a conversation with the restaurant's owners, understand how Bouza embodies peaceful coexistence and reflects the diverse and complex nature of Israeli society.

Proceed to **Kalderon MD**, a top quality glassware manufacturer and business member of Western Galilee Now. Hear from the owners and browse the wide range of hand-made glass tableware and dinnerware.

Afterward, head to Tel Aviv and check into the **Intercontinental Hotel** for the evening. Enjoy dinner and the evening at leisure.

Overnight, Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6 • TEL AVIV



Neve Tzedek



Florentine



Carmel Market

This morning, take a **walking tour** through Tel Aviv. Begin on **Rothschild Boulevard** to see some excellent examples of **Bauhaus** architecture. The central portion of Tel Aviv, known as the “**The White City**” contains the largest group of buildings in the world built in the Bauhaus style and has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

Stop in **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv’s oldest neighborhoods and now one of the city’s trendiest areas. Pass through the charming **Florentine** quarter and see the progress of the **Sarona Complex**, a once neglected area that is being brought back to life with recent renovations.

Afterward, head to **Nahalat Binyamin**, the famous pedestrian street filled with crafts, musicians, and handmade jewelry. Stroll through the open-air **Carmel Market**, often called the heartbeat of Tel Aviv, and feast your eyes on the wide array of fresh produce. Stop at one of the many local cafes or restaurants for lunch on your own.

Later this afternoon, return to the hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**. Enjoy **Shabbat dinner** this evening in a private room at the hotel.

Overnight, Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv



Shabbat Shalom



Dead Sea



Ayalon Institute



Independence Hall



Tel Aviv

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Rest and relax at the hotel, attend optional Shabbat services or consider one of the following **optional tours**:

OPTIONAL TOUR I: MASADA / DEAD SEA FULL-DAY TOUR*

The tour departs the hotel in the morning and heads south 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. Take a cable-car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex and explore the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and Roman baths. During the tour, hear the heroic story of the Jewish fighters.

Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea** for an opportunity to “float” in the buoyant waters and experience its therapeutic effects. Return to Jerusalem early this evening. *(*Additional cost - not included in price)*

OPTIONAL TOUR II: AYALON INSTITUTE

Tour the Ayalon Institute, a secret bullet factory that was 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.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 • TEL AVIV / EN ROUTE

Following breakfast, visit **Independence Hall** to see where David Ben Gurion announced the independence of the State of Israel in 1948.

Afterward, proceed to **i24 News**, Israel’s leading internet news outlet. Tour the headquarters and meet with local reporters.

Enjoy your last few hours in Israel with free time for some last-minute shopping and exploring through Tel Aviv.

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

Overnight, En Route

Itinerary Subject to Change