

Jewish National Fund

SPIRIT OF ISRAEL TOUR

May 18 – 26, 2016

Leadership

Susan Farber, *Tour Chair*

Michael Kapiloff, *Tour Chair*

Professional Staff

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Tour Guide

Eve Harow

Itinerary Subject to Change



Carmel Forest Spa Hotel

WEDNESDAY MAY 18 • ARRIVAL / HAIFA

Welcome to Israel! Upon your individual arrivals, meet your transfer driver and proceed to the luxurious Carmel Forest Spa Hotel in **Haifa**. Suggested check-in time is **3:00pm**, so you will have ample time to scope out the hotel amenities, schedule spa treatments*, and freshen up for the evening. (*additional cost - not included in tour price)

The group will meet in a private room at the hotel at **6:00pm** for **wine & mingling**. Hear welcoming remarks from our **Tour Chairs** before proceeding to the main dining room for your **opening dinner**.

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa Hotel, Haifa



Usafiya Fire Station

THURSDAY MAY 19 • NORTH

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, the group will depart the hotel at **8:30am** this morning for a visit to the new state-of-the-art **Usafiya Fire Station**, which serves as a lifeline of aid for the Carmel area still recovering from devastating life and property loss as result of the 2010 Carmel Forest fire. Meet several firefighters, hear their personal stories, and take a joyride on the actual fire trucks.

Proceed to **Zichron Ya'akov** for a walking tour of this charming village. See the beautifully designed stores selling local art, explore the wide array of art galleries, and admire the unique architecture as you stroll along the pedestrian cobblestone streets.



Zichron Ya'akov

Afterward, continue onto **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. Tour the restored camp with **Noa Gefen**, **Executive Vice-Chairman** of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites.



Atlit

Later this afternoon, explore the village of **Ein Hod**, a picturesque artists' colony that was rebuilt following the Carmel forest fires. The village has been transformed into the only artists' village in Israel, where artists live and create in every artistic media. Explore the many galleries and meet local artists that reside there.



Ein Hod

Return to the hotel for time to relax. Meet the group in the main dining room for **dinner at 8:30pm** this evening.

Overnight, Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa

Itinerary Subject to Change

FRIDAY MAY 20 • COASTAL ROUTE / TEL AVIV



Caesarea

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will depart at **8:15am** this morning to drive along Israel's scenic coastal route. Visit the historic **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.

Proceed towards the famous **Palmach Museum**, a one-of-a-kind 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.



Palmach Museum

Later this afternoon, continue to the **Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair** for a festival of arts, crafts, pottery, and street performances. Stroll through Tel Aviv's famous **Carmel Market** and capture all the liveliness and vibrancy of this iconic bustling focal point. Enjoy **lunch** on your own from one of the many food vendors or local cafés.



Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Fair

Afterward, return to the hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**. Consider attending Shabbat services at a local synagogue before heading to the main dining room at the hotel at **6:30pm** for a special **Shabbat dinner**. Joining us will be **Nefesh B'Nefesh (NBN) 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 Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Overnight, Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

SATURDAY MAY 21 • TEL AVIV

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Optional Shabbat services and lunch* will be offered at the hotel. (**additional cost - not included in tour price*)

Alternatively, go on a **walking tour** through Tel Aviv. Begin on **Rothschild Boulevard**, also known as "**The White City**," which has the largest group of buildings in the world built in the unique Bauhaus style. Proceed to **Rabin Square**, the place of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Stop in **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods which has become one of the trendiest areas of the city.

Tonight, enjoy a free evening and dinner on own.

Overnight, Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv



Rothschild Boulevard



Tel Aviv

Itinerary Subject to Change

SUNDAY MAY 22 • CENTER / NEGEV



Ayalon Institute

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will depart at **8:15am** for a tour of the **Ayalon Institute**, site of the 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.



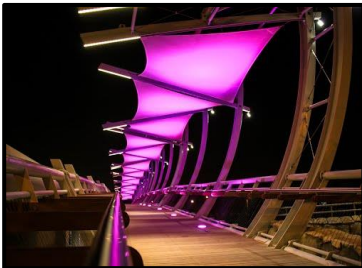
Psagot Winery

Afterward, head to the **Psagot Boutique Winery**, located in a beautiful stone structure overlooking the Kelt Wadi and the mountains of Edom. Enjoy an exclusive tour to see the wine production process, sample some of the delicious wines, and watch a sound-and-light presentation in the winery's barrel room about working the land in Hevel Binyamin. Enjoy a light dairy lunch with scenic views of the vineyards.



Gush Etzion

Proceed to **Gush Etzion**, site of one of the deadliest battles during the War of Independence. Visit the brand-new **JNF Gush Etzion Visitor Center**, which just opened its doors earlier this month. See the new memorial commemorating the heroic men and women who gave their lives to protect the communities of the Etzion Bloc- an area strategically located between Jerusalem and Hebron. 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.



Pipes Bridge

This evening, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant before proceeding to **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city. Stroll down the beautifully lit-up **Pipes Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park, and hear an overview about how this urban renewal project has become an anchor for tourism and commerce for the city.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

MONDAY MAY 23 • NORTHERN NEGEV



Special in Uniform

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast, depart the hotel at **8:15am** for the **Tze'elim Army Base**. After an exclusive tour, see an exciting live-shooting demonstration. Meet with **Colonel (res.) Bentzi Gruber**, Vice Commander (reserves) of Division 252, an armored division of 20,000 soldiers. Hear his famous presentation on *"Ethics in the Field"*, which debunks current myths in lieu of hard facts missing in today's discussion of Israeli counter-terrorism. Afterward, learn about JNF's **Special in Uniform**, a powerful program that integrates youth with disabilities into the Israel Defense Forces and assists in preparing them for careers following army service.



Halutza greenhouses

This afternoon, we will head to **Halutza**, where several communities have been established in result of the Gush Katif evacuees. Enjoy **lunch** with Halutza residents, who will share their experiences and stories of rebuilding their lives here. During a tour, visit the new on-site **JNF Medical Center** and see the blooming organic vegetable farms and greenhouses that are flourishing in their desert surroundings.



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village

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, 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 involved with Aleh Negev.



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Proceed south for a visit to **JNF's Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. Learn about how this fortified facility provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children.

Pending confirmation, enjoy **dinner** at the playground with local children and residents, who will discuss how the center has impacted the community and changed their lives.

Overnight, Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

TUESDAY MAY 24 • MASADA / DEAD SEA



Abraham's Well

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, an optional visit will be offered to **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which showcases the life of the patriarch Abraham. For participants wishing to see Abraham's Well, wake-up time will be around **6:00am**, with time to check-out and eat a small breakfast. Alternatively, spend a little extra time sleeping in before loading the bus at **8:30** this morning.



Masada

The group will join together to begin south towards **Masada**. Meet with Colonel Bentzi Gruber to participate in his revolutionary initiative called **Chesed-In-The Field**, where he brings together IDF reservists and chronically ill and disabled children for special events throughout the year. Following a ceremony for the soldiers, you will have the one-of-a-kind opportunity to board a plane with Col. Bentzi, a certified pilot, and special needs children for a brief flight over the southern landscape.

Afterward, proceed to **Masada**, the mountain fortress built by King Herod, where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Hear the story of the Jewish fighters before a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Tour the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogues, water cisterns, mosaic floors and Roman baths.



Dead Sea

Descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth in any land mass. Spend the afternoon relaxing at the beach and floating in the buoyant waters to experience its therapeutic effects.

Later this afternoon, proceed to **Jerusalem**, the religious and spiritual hub of Israel. Upon arrival, partake in a traditional **Shehechyanu ceremony** on the **Haas Promenade** at sunset. Take in the panoramic view of this holy city before checking into the Mr. Zion Hotel.



Haas Promenade

This evening will be at leisure, allowing you to explore Jerusalem at your own pace. Consider strolling down Ben Yehuda Street, shopping at Mamilla Avenue, experiencing all the liveliness of the "Shuk", and enjoying dinner at a local food vendor or one of the many fine dining restaurants.

Overnight, Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

WEDNESDAY MAY 25 • JERUSALEM



Yad Vashem

Depart the hotel at **8:30am** this morning for a solemn visit to **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**. A sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, and memorials, Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust from a uniquely Jewish perspective, emphasizing the experiences of victims through original artifacts, survivor testimonies & personal possessions.



Ammunition Hill

Afterward, head to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. During a tour, sample some of the local spices, taste the fresh produce, stop at the local butcher stand, and meet the local fishmonger. Enjoy some time on your own to become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's Shuk, join local Jerusalemites in their weekly tradition of shopping, and enjoy lunch on own.



Mahane Yehuda Market

Proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous Six-Day War battle. Walk through the battleground and bunkers on a tour that follows the footsteps of the soldiers who 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, honoring Jewish veterans from around the world.

Continue to the **Begin Museum**, which highlights the life and work of Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The museum takes visitors on a time-journey that includes historical reconstructions and reenactments, rare dramatic documentary videos, and interactive touch-screen exhibits.



Festival of Lights

Afterward, enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant with **special guest Gil Hoffman, Chief Political Correspondent & Analyst for *The Jerusalem Post***. Hear his professional insight about the current social, cultural, economic and political climate in Israel.

Later this evening, take the **Festival of Lights Walking Tour** and see the light sculptures, fire shows, music and art installations that illuminate Jerusalem during this time of year.

Overnight, Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

THURSDAY MAY 26 • JERUSALEM / EN ROUTE



9/11 Living Memorial



Old City of Jerusalem



Jewish Quarter

Following a final breakfast and check-out this morning, depart the hotel at **8:30am** for a visit to the **JNF 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. Participate in a special **ceremony** by dedicating flowers at the site, which serves as the only memorial outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11.

Proceed to Jerusalem's **Old City** for an extensive walking tour. Visit the **Western Wall**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. Hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation before continuing to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount. Explore the **Jewish Quarter** in all its history and wonder. Enjoy an authentic **falafel lunch** before spending the remainder of the afternoon doing some last-minute shopping on own.

We will conclude with an early **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for your return flights to the U.S.A.

Overnight, En Route