

Jewish National Fund

# SUNSHINE MISSION

June 8 – 17, 2014

For Active Adults, 55+

## Leadership

Buddy Freed, *Mission Chair*

Dr. Melinda Wolf, *Mission Chair*

Hal Linden, *Honorary Mission Chair*

## Professional Staff

Matthew Bernstein, *Chief Planned Giving Officer*

Judy Feig, *Executive Director, Planned Giving*

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## SUNDAY JUNE 8 • ARRIVAL / JERUSALEM



Inbal Hotel

Welcome to Israel! Upon our individual arrivals into Israel, meet your transfer driver and proceed to **Jerusalem**. Our mission will officially begin this evening with a **welcome dinner** at the hotel. **Shahar Hermelin**, JNF-USA's Director of Tourism, will join us as a special guest speaker. Following a brief introduction and welcome, he will review the mission program for the coming days.

**Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**



Old City of Jerusalem

## MONDAY JUNE 9 • ANCIENT JERUSALEM

Following a delicious Israeli breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart for the **Old City** of Jerusalem. During a driving tour, we will explore ancient Jerusalem before we visit the **Western Wall**, the last remaining wall that enclosed the Temple Mount in the Second Temple Period. We'll hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation and then continue to the **Southern Wall Excavations** to see the original steps that lead to the Temple Mount.

Following **lunch**, we will proceed to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the famous battle during the Six-Day War. During a tour, we'll follow the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here. We will see the new "Seam-Line" multimedia show about the Six-Day War and reunification of Jerusalem before ending at JNF's **Wall of Honor**, honoring Jewish veterans from around the world.



Ammunition Hill

Later this afternoon, we'll take a stroll down the **Cardo**, which was the main street in Jerusalem more than 2000 years ago. We'll have time to shop in the local galleries and shops before returning to the hotel.

Following dinner on our own this evening, there will be an optional visit to the **Tower of David** for the **Light and Sound Show**, a cutting edge pyrotechnics show that unfolds with a blaze of images while telling the story of Jerusalem's rich history.

**Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**



Light & Sound Show



Yad Vashem



Mt. Herzl



Mahane Yehuda Market



Zichron Ya'acov



Wine tasting and lunch

## TUESDAY JUNE 10 • JERUSALEM

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will depart 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.

After an emotional tour, we will enjoy a light **lunch**. This afternoon, we'll visit **Mt. Herzl** to see the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli dignitaries.

Later this afternoon, we'll return to the hotel to rest, relax and rejuvenate after a long day. This evening, we will enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant in Jerusalem. Joining us as our special guest speaker will be **Gil Hoffman**, Chief Political Correspondent and Analyst for The Jerusalem Post. He will discuss the current social, cultural, economic and political climate in Israel at this time. We'll also have an opportunity to ask questions and engage in a lively discussion about the current issues making the headlines.

**Overnight, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 • JERUSALEM / NORTH

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will visit the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. As we wander through the maze of stalls, we'll become immersed in the bustling energy of the market.

We will then begin the drive north along the scenic coastal route. Along the way, we'll stop in **Zichron Ya'acov**, a town rich with Zionist history. We will take a stroll through the town's cobblestone streets and learn about Baron Edmond de Rothschild's vision for one of the first Jewish settlements in Israel.

Not only is Zichron Ya'acov a town rich in history, but it is also known as the "Napa Valley" of Israel, and is home to several world famous wineries. We'll enjoy **lunch** at the Tishbi Winery's restaurant overlooking part of the Tishbi Estate vineyards. We'll dine on local cuisine including fresh vegetables,

*Itinerary Subject to Change*



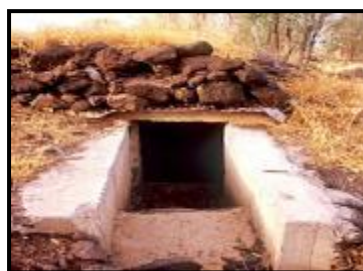
Caesarea Port



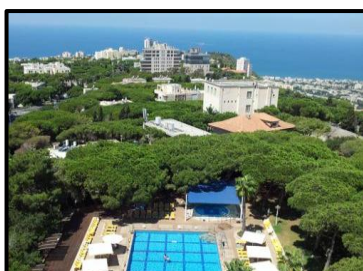
Kinneret



Golan Heights



Bunker at Mitzpe Gadot



Dan Carmel Hotel

homemade bread and fresh cheeses from the nearby Yaakob and Meiri Dairy farms, and taste some of the spectacular wines produced here.

We will then continue to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. We will see the excavations of the Crusader's city, the aqueduct and the amphitheater that has been restored as a concert venue. Afterward, we'll continue to the hotel for **dinner** and the remainder of the evening.

**Overnight, Dan Carmel, Haifa**

## THURSDAY JUNE 12 • NORTHERN ISRAEL

Today begins at the **Kinneret**, Israel's main fresh water source, where we will see, first-hand, the true extent of Israel's water shortage. We'll learn about the current water crisis and hear how JNF is utilizing the most up-to-date water conservation and harvesting techniques to help preserve, recycle and develop Israel's water resources over the long term.

Afterward, we'll take a leisurely **boat ride** on the Kinneret before continuing to a nearby **Druze village** for an authentic **lunch**. During a tour through the town, we'll become immersed in the rich and unique culture of the Druze people.

This afternoon we will explore the **Golan Heights**, one of Israel's most beautiful and strategic regions. As we follow in the footsteps of Israel's IDF Soldiers and their battles during the Six Day War, we'll gain insight into the complexities of the region. Our tour begins at **Mitzpe Gadot**, a former Syrian base and site of particularly harsh battles during the 1967 war. As we walk through an old army bunker, we will see what life was like for soldiers manning the outpost.

We'll proceed to **Mt. Bental**, one of Israel's most strategic observation points, overlooking Syria, and then continue through the "Valley of Tears" to the **Oz 77 Memorial**, named after 76 soldiers who sacrificed their lives in some of the fiercest battles of the Yom Kippur War.

This evening, we'll enjoy **dinner** at the hotel.

**Overnight, Dan Carmel, Haifa**

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## FRIDAY JUNE 13 • NORTH / TEL AVIV



Baha'i Gardens

This morning we will visit the port city of **Haifa**, also known as the “capital of the north” and the hub of Israel’s technology and research industries. We’ll tour the **Baha’i Hanging Gardens**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is described as the “eighth wonder of the world.”



Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp

We will continue to **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 during the British Mandate, Atlit imprisoned thousands of Jewish immigrants upon their arrival into Israel. The tour will include the restored Galina ship, a replica of a ship that carried 122,000 “illegal” immigrants in defiance of the British blockade to Israel.



Tel Aviv

We will proceed to the **Ein Hod Artist Colony**, a quaint artist’s village filled with galleries, museums and restaurants. Following **lunch**, we’ll have time to explore the artist colony and all of the local galleries before we see the new JNF-KKL Park that has helped to restore the region after the devastating Carmel Forest Fires.

Later this afternoon we will arrive in **Tel Aviv**, Israel’s cultural center and most cosmopolitan city. This evening, we will enjoy **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Tel Aviv Beach

## SATURDAY JUNE 14 • SHABBAT

Today will be at leisure in honor of **Shabbat**. Optional Shabbat services will be offered at the hotel. Consider these additional options for the day:

OPTION I: Take a stroll along Tel Aviv’s **beach**, situated along the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean or relax at the hotel pool. Later this afternoon, sit at an outdoor café on the Tel Aviv Promenade and watch as Israelis and tourists come together for some festive folk dancing.

OPTION II: Participate in an **optional day tour to Masada and the Dead Sea.\*** 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 for a cable car



Masada

*Itinerary Subject to Change*



Cable car ride to Masada

ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Visit the ancient fortress where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans and see 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.



Dead Sea

Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of **Dead Sea** for an opportunity to “float” in the buoyant waters and experience its therapeutic effects. Later this afternoon, return to **Tel Aviv**. (*\*Additional cost. See registration form for details*)

This evening, enjoy dinner on your own in one of Tel Aviv’s many restaurants.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Palmach Museum

## SUNDAY JUNE 15 • TEL AVIV

Today begins with a tour of the famous **Palmach Museum**. We will walk through 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.



Independence Hall

Afterward, we will visit **Independence Hall** to see where David Ben Gurion announced the independence of the State of Israel.

Following **lunch**, we’ll have the afternoon to explore Tel Aviv and take advantage of some of the city’s best shopping areas. Starting in Tel Aviv’s own Soho, we’ll walk down **Shenkin Street**, the lively and colorful street especially known for its unique shops, café life and youthful ambiance. Afterward, we’ll continue to the open-air **Carmel Market**.



Carmel Market

This evening we will enjoy **dinner** together at a local restaurant in Tel Aviv.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

## MONDAY JUNE 16 • NEGEV



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center



Halutza community



Aleh Negev Rehabilitative Village



Be'er Sheva River Park



Abraham's Well

This morning we will head south to the **Negev**. Along the way, we'll visit JNF's **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, the largest indoor playground in Israel. This fortified facility provides Sderot's youth with a safe, secure place to have fun and simply be children. We will meet with **Sderot residents** to understand how the indoor playground has enriched their lives.

We'll then continue to the **Halutza Sands** where several communities have been established for the Gush Katif evacuees. We will meet with a **Halutza resident**, who will explain how JNF has helped him, as well as many others, rebuild their lives. During a tour of the community, we will see Halutza's **organic vegetable farms** and **greenhouses** that are flourishing despite its desert surroundings.

We will continue to **Aleh Negev**, a state-of-the-art residential facility for people with severe cognitive and developmental disabilities. During a tour of the facility we will see where JNF is landscaping Aleh Negev's grounds, preparing infrastructure for new therapy buildings and housing, and building enhancements including a hydrotherapy pool and a therapeutic riding camp.

Following **lunch** in the home of a local resident, we will proceed to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev. We will visit the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to provide a renaissance for the city and hear an update on the project's amazing progress.

During a tour, a representative will update us on recent progress and discuss plans for continued development. We will see a few of the park's main attractions, such as the new **Abraham's Well Visitor Center**, which showcases the life of the patriarch Abraham. We'll also see the new 12,000 seat **amphitheater**, which is Israel's largest outdoor performance venue.

Later this afternoon we will begin the drive back to **Tel Aviv**. Tonight will be at leisure, providing us with the opportunity to explore Tel Aviv's nightlife and restaurants at our own pace.

**Overnight, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

## TUESDAY JUNE 17 • TEL AVIV



Ayalon Institute

Following breakfast, we will visit 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, we will head to **Nahalat Binyamin**, the famous pedestrian street filled with musicians, handmade jewelry and artifacts.



Jaffa

After lunch on our own, we'll head to JNF's **American Independence Park**, which serves as the central location for commemorating American support of the State of Israel. A **KKL representative** will lead us in a special dedication ceremony honoring recent gifts to JNF.

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



Planting a Tree

This evening we will enjoy a **farewell dinner Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year-old port city. We'll take a walk through the winding alleyways, stop at the ancient ruins and explore the restored artist's quarter filled with galleries and boutiques. Afterward, we'll transfer to the airport for our return flights to the USA.

**Overnight, En Route**