



JNF, for
ISRAEL
forever.

JNF Alternative Spring Break Program

Week 3

March 21 – 29, 2009

Saturday, March 21

Departure from New York Meet together with 40 other American college students and young professionals, as you embark on a journey to do your part in building the Land of Israel. Together you will learn about the challenges of creating sustainable settlements in Israel's desert regions, and take real steps to take part in that continuing reality.

Sunday, March 22

Arrival in Israel! After a brief snack and refreshment, together you travel south to the Negev desert to begin your seven-day adventure on this incredible JNF Alternative Spring Break Program!

Travel South to the Negev Desert We will stop along the way to have dinner and watch the moon rise.

Check in and Orientation You and your peers begin to learn about each other and review the goals and highlights of the program. Learn about each other, where you come from, and what brought you to this program

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham (Development Town in the Negev Desert)

Monday, March 23

"A Hand to the Elderly" After meeting an official from the development town of Mitzpe Ramon and learning about the day's work, you will begin the beautification project in an home for the elderly. You will be improving the quality of life for residents, some of whom have lived in this town on Israel's periphery for much of their lives. Development towns have been hit hard by economic slowdown, and social services – like those provided to this home – are increasingly strained.

Lunch and Rest – *Menucha* After a hard of meaningful work, you will have time to unwind, relax, and reenergize for the afternoon ahead.

Continuation of the Work Project

Evening Cultural Program

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Tuesday, March 17

"Earth's Promise" Meet with the Director of *Shavuat Ha'adamah* (Earth's Promise), which works with economically-disadvantaged Ethiopians in Beersheva. Their current project is to take vacant parcels of land filled with garbage and debris, and with your help and the help of others in the neighborhood, clean the plot, lay down compost, and then gave out parcels of land on to Ethiopian families to farm. This urban farming is a twenty-first century version of Ben Gurion's dream to settle the desert, as well as a way to restore self pride and improve quality of life.

Picnic Lunch

Lunch and Rest – *Menucha* After a hard of meaningful work, you will have time to unwind, relax, and reenergize for the afternoon ahead.

Continuation of the Work Project

Nahal Beersheva Tour the JNF project at the Beersheva Promenade, part of the giant Beersheva River development and restoration project that also includes sport and recreation facilities This project has already made a positive change in the quality of life of the residents of Israel's fourth largest city.

The Bedouin Story Following time to rest, freshen up, and eat dinner back in Dimona, you will meet Kher Albaz, a prominent leader in Israel's Bedouin community. Through an interactive discussion, Kher will tell you about the Bedouin history in Israel and how the Bedouin population "fits" into the current Israeli narrative and landscape of the Negev.

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Wednesday, March 25

A Light in the Desert You will be briefed this morning by the leaders of the OR Movement, an Israeli nonprofit that is building new communities in the Negev with the help of JNF, in order to fulfill Ben Gurion's vision.

Working the Land at Na'ama Farm After the briefing, you will travel to a small independent farm supported by the OR/JNF communities to work with residents to build communal living structures and much-needed terraces and fences.

Desert Hike After completing our work, we will take some time to explore the Negev as you hike on a local trail, using this time to think and reflect on your week in the desert.

Making the Desert Bloom Sixty years ago, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion proclaimed that the success of the new state will depend upon its ability to "make the [Negev] desert bloom." We will watch the sunset over Nahal Zin at Ben Gurion's Grave as we discuss whether or not his dream has (or will) become a reality.

Return to the Guest House for Dinner and Relaxation

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Thursday, March 26

Depart from the Negev Desert

Table to Table Spend the morning in a field outside of Ra'anana, gleaning a harvest that will be donated to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout Israel later that day.

Travel to the Jerusalem Area

Night Out On the Town After time to rest, freshen up and eat dinner, we will head to downtown Jerusalem on foot for a fun night out at the end of a long week of hard work!

Overnight: Kibbutz Harel Guest House – Jerusalem Area

Friday, March 27

New Spirit Student Organization Meet the leaders of the New Spirit Jerusalem students organization and learn about their mandate to volunteer in Jerusalem, their home while attending university

Jerusalem "Green Project" Spend the morning working with New Spirit students to help create and beautify an urban green space in one of Jerusalem's less affluent neighborhoods, Kiryat Yovel. Together you will build paths and help maintain this nature sanctuary which provides a peaceful place for the residents of this hectic and at times stressful city.

Shopping No trip to Israel would be complete without a shopping stop at Jerusalem's famous Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall and Machane Yehuda Market (the *shuk*)

Shabbat Preparation After working and shopping you will return to our hotel with time to rest and prepare for a special Shabbat in Jerusalem

Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat We will welcome in Shabbat together with communal singing and lighting the Shabbat candles. You will then have the option of attending Shabbat services at a local traditional synagogue, attending our own egalitarian services in the hotel, or attending a discussion about Shabbat, also with our group.

Shabbat Dinner We will all come back together after Kabbalat Shabbat for a festive dinner followed by a "Shabbat party" in which we will tell stories about the week, sing, enjoy Israeli snacks, and take advantage of having time to relax together.

Overnight: Kibbutz Harel Guest House – Jerusalem Area

Shabbat, March 28

Optional Worship

Shabbat Rest - *Menuchah*

Shabbat Workshop on Justice and Judaism Learn about the weekly Torah reading and discuss how it relates to the work you have been doing all week in Israel.

Shabbat Lunch

Closing Discussion You've taken the time to learn and do community service in Israel. How do you take these learned ideas and values home to your community?

Havdallah

Final Dinner Enjoy a final meal together after a week of hard work and fun!

Travel to the Airport

Sunday, March 29

Depart on a 1:00 a.m. flight back to the U.S.

Contact Numbers

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