

Jewish National Fund SUNSHINE TOUR 2018

August 26-September 4, 2018

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JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND

Your Voice in Israel



Sunday, August 26 – Arrival / Tel Aviv

- AM** Welcome to **Israel!** Upon individual arrivals, meet your arranged transfer and head to the Sheraton Hotel in **Tel Aviv**, Israel's most cosmopolitan city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- PM** This evening, your journey will officially commence with a welcome dinner in a private room at the hotel.
- Overnight** Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Tel Aviv

Monday, August 27 – Tel Aviv

AM

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for Ramat Aviv and visit the **Palmach Museum** to learn about the strike-force arm of the Haganah, Israel's pre-State underground defense organization. Here, a multimedia tour will share the stories, struggles, and motivations of the brave men and women who made declaring an independent State of Israel possible.

Proceed to **Old Jaffa**, one of the world's oldest seaports now home to a multiethnic community of Muslims, Christians, and Jews. See the ancient ruins, explore the restored artists' quarter, and stroll through the winding alleyways while learning about the rich history of the area. Explore Jaffa's flea market, boutique shops, and have lunch on own in one of the many restaurants or cafés.

PM

Take this afternoon to experience all Tel Aviv has to offer at your leisure. Consider exploring one of the following options:

- The **Carmel Market** and capture all the liveliness and vibrancy of this iconic, open-aired market.
- **Dizengoff Street**: named after Tel Aviv's first mayor Meir Dizengoff, this is one of Tel Aviv's most popular streets. Check out the shops and restaurants that line the street and the flea market found at the recently revamped Dizengoff Square.
- Take time to relax on one of Tel Aviv's pristine beaches.

Return to the hotel to prepare for dinner at a local restaurant with the group and a special guest speaker.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Jaffa

Tuesday, August 28 – Tel Aviv

AM

Have breakfast at the hotel before heading to an IDF base to visit **Special in Uniform**, a unique initiative that integrates special needs youth into the IDF and prepares them for career placement following army service.

Continue to **Ayalon Institute** a clandestine 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, in complete secrecy. Tour the grounds of Ayalon, which played a major role in aiding the Jewish soldiers that fought for Israel's Independence.

PM

Following lunch at a restaurant in Tel Aviv, tour the iconic **Rothschild Boulevard**—a cultural and commercial center of Tel Aviv. Stroll through the “**White City**” and see excellent examples of the famous, German-inspired Bauhaus architecture.

Take the evening to explore Tel Aviv on your own and enjoy dinner at one of the many delectable restaurants that are a testament to Israel's booming culinary scene.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Special in Uniform

Wednesday, August 29 – Western Galilee



Akko

AM

Following breakfast, check-out from the hotel and depart north to explore the historic **Atlit Detention Camp**. This unique heritage site is where thousands of Jewish immigrants were once imprisoned upon their arrival into Israel during the British Mandate. See the restored Galina ship, an exact replica of the actual ship that once carried 122,000 “illegal” immigrants in defiance of the British blockade to Israel.

PM

This afternoon, enjoy lunch and an authentic kibbutz experience at **Kfar Masaryk**. After lunch, tour the kibbutz, enjoy an interactive chocolate-making workshop, and hear from a local leather artist before partaking in a traditional “Hora” dancing session led by a local member of the community.

Continue north to **Akko** for a tour of the **Knights’ Halls**, built 800 years ago by the Hospitallers (a monastic military order), these halls served as the headquarters for the Second Crusader Kingdom from the years 1191-1291. Wander the echoing chambers and learn what life was like for the medieval knights who built their lives within these walls. Following the tour, stop at the **Western Galilee Now Visitor’s Center**, a remarkable multimedia facility that showcases the vast array of activities and attractions in the area. Meet with **Michal Shiloah, CEO of Western Galilee Now (WGN)**, who will discuss how the partnership between WGN and JNF has significantly enhanced economic, social, and tourism opportunities in the area.

Proceed to **Tiberias**, a city on the western shore of the **Sea of Galilee**, for dinner and hotel check-in.

Overnight

Nof Ginosar, Tiberias

Thursday, August 30 – North

AM

After breakfast at the hotel, head out for an exhilarating **Jeep Tour of the Golan Heights**. Venture across the hills and valleys of Israel's northern-most region and learn about the security issues and strategic significance of the Golan Heights.

PM

Later, delight in lunch and a guided wine-tasting at the **Golan Heights Winery**. Lookout out over the breathtaking scenery and discover firsthand the regional influences that make this wine so unique.

After lunch, enjoy a walking tour of the mystical city of **Tzfat** with members of **MAKOM**, a JNF partner that specializes in providing social services to new and struggling communities in Northern and Southern Israel. Afterwards, dine at a boutique restaurant in Tzfat with MAKOM members and learn more about the important work they do for the land and people of Israel.

This evening, tour the **Kinneret**, also known as the Sea of Galilee, on a **sunset boat cruise** and learn about the water issues that affect Israelis from a guest speaker.

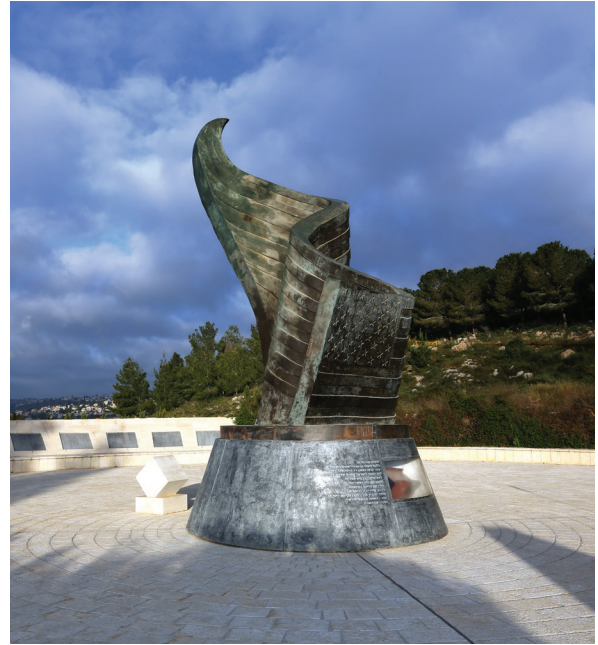
Overnight

Nof Ginosar, Tiberias



The Galilean coast

Friday, August 31 – North / Jerusalem



From left: Jerusalem, 9/11 Living Memorial

AM

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and head to **Kibbutz Gesher**, which was founded in 1939 in the Valley of Springs. Walk the ground of the kibbutz and learn about how communities were created prior to the founding of the State of Israel. This community was attacked by a regular standing army during the War of Independence, today Kibbutz Gesher is located on a scenic corner with geopolitical and historical importance. The museum on the Kibbutz houses a preserved and rehabilitated historic dining room, an audio-visual program and a multimedia presentation that helps bring the past to life for visitors.

PM

Enjoy lunch on the way to **Jerusalem**, before stopping at the **JNF 9/11 Memorial**, which serves as the only site outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11.

Next, participate in a **Schecheyanu Ceremony**, a special blessing recited the first time you do something each calendar year, atop **Mt. Scopus**.

Arrive to the **Old City** of Jerusalem, and head to the **Kotel** to celebrate the ritual of Kabbalat Shabbat and Kiddush (time permitting). This evening, enjoy a special Shabbat dinner at the hotel with **Nefesh B'Nefesh Lone Soldiers**, who will share their personal stories of leaving their family, friends, and homes in order to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Hear from **Doreet Freedman, VP of Partnerships & Development at Nefesh B'Nefesh (NBN)**, who will discuss NBN's critical work and how JNF has played a key role in its success.

Overnight

David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, September 1 – Shabbat

AM

Today will be at leisure in honor of **Shabbat**. Services will be offered at the hotel for those who are interested. Alternatively, consider participating in one of the following optional activities:

Option 1: Masada & Dead Sea Tour*

- Spend the day at Masada and the Dead Sea. The bus will depart from the hotel early this morning and drive via the Judean Hills along the shores of the Dead Sea. Visit Masada, the mountain fortress built by King Herod where religious zealots made their final stand against the Romans. Take a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex and learn about the history of the Jewish fighters. Afterwards, proceed to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth. Enjoy lunch, float in the buoyant waters, and spend time relaxing at the beach. (Note: Option to book massages on own at the Crowne Plaza Dead Sea Resort for added fee.)

Option 2: Day on own

- Take the day to enjoy Jerusalem at your leisure. Consider visiting sites such as Yemin Moshe, Ein Kerem, or the Israel Museum, one of the world's leading art and archeology museums. Here, see the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world; view the "Holy Land Model," a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple Period; stroll through the beautiful sculpture garden; and explore other fascinating exhibits at this one-of-a-kind cultural institution.

PM

Enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure, experiencing Jerusalem at your own pace.

Overnight

David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

**Additional cost—not included in tour price.*



Masada

Sunday, September 2 – Jerusalem

AM

Following breakfast at the hotel, we begin with a solemn visit to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial**, a sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to various exhibits, archives, monuments, and memorials. Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust from a unique first-hand perspective, emphasizing the experiences of survivors through original artifacts, testimonies, and personal possessions.

PM

Have lunch in the cafeteria of Yad Vashem before continuing to **Mt. Herzl**, site of Israel's national cemetery. Visit the gravesites of former leaders and dignitaries such as Shimon Peres, Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, and Yitzhak Rabin, before seeing the new **Six-Day War Memorial**.

Proceed to the Old City of Jerusalem for a falafel lunch followed by a comprehensive walking tour with instructors and students from the **Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI-JNF)**. Explore the historic Jewish & Christian Quarters, take time for silent contemplation, and enjoy free time in the heart of Israel's capital for an opportunity to shop and explore.

Join an optional night tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**; an incredible labyrinth of underground arches, tunnels, and passageways.

Enjoy dinner tonight at a local restaurant with a special guest speaker.

Overnight

David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem



Old City of Jerusalem

Monday, September 3 – Northern Negev

AM

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart south for a day in the northern Negev exploring JNF's groundbreaking work. Visit the **JNF Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, a signature project that has provided a much-needed sense of normalcy for residents living in the hard-hit town of Sderot located less than one mile from Gaza. Hear how the playground has impacted the community and the lives of local families.

Proceed to **ALEH Negev-Nahalat Eran**, a one-of-a-kind rehabilitative village that provides high-level medical services and unparalleled care to individuals with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. Tour the beautifully landscaped grounds and see the various therapeutic services offered to the residents and population of Southern Israel.

PM

Enjoy a home hospitality lunch in **Ofakim**, a small but rapidly growing city in the northern Negev. Hear from **Chef Osi**, a local resident who will share her story of growing up in the area and the challenges of living near the Gaza border.

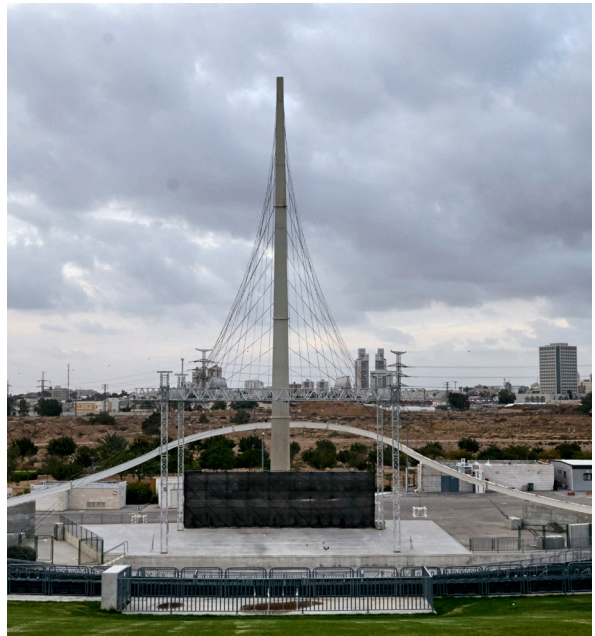
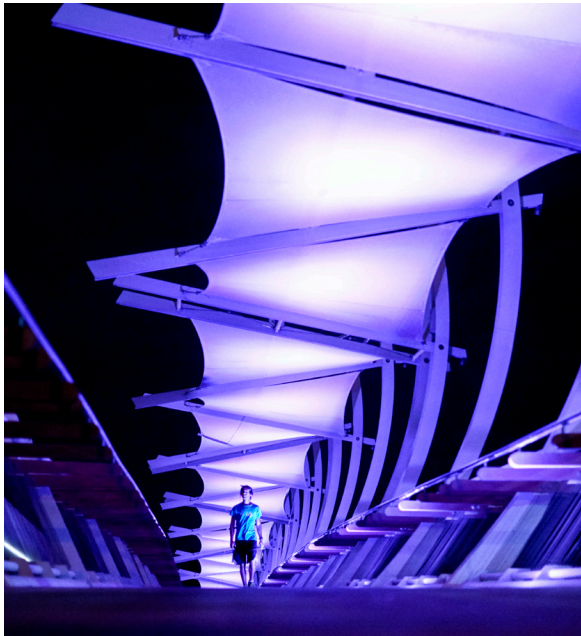
Next, travel to Be'er Sheva and walk in the footsteps of Abraham, the founding father of the Covenant, during to a visit to **Abraham's Well** on the banks of the biblical Be'er Sheva River.

Continue to the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to create a renaissance for the city. Hear how this urban renewal project has served as an anchor of tourism and recreation. See the Pipes Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge that links to the Old City of Be'er Sheva, and the 12,000-seat amphitheater—now the largest in Israel.

Return to Jerusalem for dinner on own. Consider spending time this evening on **Ben Yehuda Street**, the beating heart of Jerusalem's center-city life.

Overnight

David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem



Be'er Sheva River Park

Tuesday, September 4 – Central / Departure



Tree Planting in Neot Kedumim

AM

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, begin the day with a visit to **Ammunition Hill**, site of the most pivotal battle of the Six-Day War. Walk through the battlegrounds and bunkers to follow in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here. See the multimedia exhibit and movie that tells the story of this fierce battle and reunification of Jerusalem. End at JNF's Wall of Honor, which commemorates Jewish veterans from around the world.

Proceed to the famous **Machane Yehuda Market** and become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's *shuk* (Hebrew for "market"). Take time to wander among the many stalls where local vendors sell delicious cheeses, pastries, spices, and more and enjoy lunch on own.

PM

This afternoon, head to **American Independence Park (AIP)**, where JNF honors the support of generous donors to the State of Israel. Witness a special dedication ceremony to recognize those who have pledged their commitment to JNF and Israel.

Continue to **Neot Kedumim**, Israel's Biblical Landscape Reserve. Following a brief tour, plant a tree in the soil with your own hands at the **Harvey Hertz-JNF Ceremonial Tree Planting Center** and contribute to JNF's ongoing afforestation efforts in Israel.

Our journey concludes with a farewell dinner before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to the U.S.