

Jewish National Fund

QUEEN OF SHEBA: WOMEN FOR ISRAEL TOUR 2018

November 8 – 14, 2018

Chair Rhonda Sheakly

Professionals Sharon David, *JNF Director of Affinity Groups & Market Research Analyst*
Talía Tzour Avner, *KKL-JNF Chief Israel Emissary*

Tour Guide Issy Herzog



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Your Voice in Israel



Thursday, November 8 – Arrival / Jerusalem

AM Welcome to **Israel!** Upon individual arrivals, transfer to the Orient Hotel in **Jerusalem**, the spiritual hub of Israel.

PM *Early arrivals have the option to meet in the hotel lobby at 12:15 pm for a visit to **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Museum & Memorial—strategically situated on the green slopes of Har HaZikaron, translated to mean “Mount of Remembrance.” Tour this sprawling complex of various exhibits, archives, and monuments that tell the story of the Holocaust from a unique perspective by emphasizing the experiences of Jewish victims and survivors using original artifacts, testimonies, and personal possessions.

Proceed to the **Knesset**, Israel’s House of Representatives, for a tour with a Member of Knesset. See where major decisions, which impact the daily lives of each and every Israeli citizen, are made every day.*

Our journey officially commences with an **opening dinner** at a local restaurant with the group and a special guest speaker.

Overnight Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

**Additional Cost – Early arrivals are responsible for transfer on own. The optional program for early arrivals does not include lunch.*



Jerusalem

Itinerary is subject to change.

Friday, November 9 – Jerusalem

AM

Following breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a guided walking tour through **Mahane Yehuda Market** for an authentic culinary experience with a renowned chef. Become immersed in the bustling energy of Jerusalem's *shuk* (Hebrew for "market") while sampling tasty foods from various vendors selling delicious cheeses, pastries, spices, and more.

Proceed to the **Old City** of Jerusalem for a walking tour. Explore the historic Jewish & Christian Quarters, take time for silent contemplation, and enjoy time in the heart of Israel's capital including lunch on own.

PM

Visit **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 new multimedia exhibit and movie that tells the story of this fierce battle and the reunification of Jerusalem. End at JNF's Wall of Honor, which commemorates Jewish veterans from around the world.

Participate in a symbolic candle lighting ceremony in the hotel lobby before heading to the **Kotel (Western Wall)** to celebrate the ritual of Kabbalat Shabbat with other local Israelis. This evening, enjoy a special Shabbat dinner with Lone Soldiers, who will share their personal accounts of leaving their family, friends, and homes in order to serve in the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)**.

Overnight

Orient Hotel, Jerusalem



Mahane Yehuda Market

Saturday, November 10 – Shabbat

AM

Optional Shabbat services will be offered at the hotel this morning following breakfast. Enjoy the day at leisure or consider participating in one of the following optional activities:

- **Masada & Dead Sea Tour***

Spend the day at Masada and the Dead Sea. The bus will depart from the hotel at 8:30 am and drive via the Judean Hills 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. Learn about the history of the Jewish fighters before taking a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Afterward, descend the mountain to the depths of the **Dead Sea**. Float in the buoyant waters or simply relax at the beach.

- **Walking Tour of Jerusalem**

Take a leisurely walking tour of the surrounding area. See how this ancient city is modernizing with the development of new cafés, bakeries, shopping areas, and boutiques, while still managing to preserve its deep-rooted culture and history. Walk along the newly renovated **Train Track Park**, which begins at the **Old Train Station** and passes through various landscaped gardens in the midst of some of Jerusalem's most beautiful neighborhoods.

PM

Enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure, exploring Jerusalem's nightlife at your own pace. Consider walking to the nearby **Mamilla Mall**, an open-ai red shopping center often described as the "Saks Fifth Avenue" of Jerusalem. Alternatively, consider attending the stunning **Night Spectacular Light Show*** at the **Tower of David**.

Overnight

Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

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



From left: Masada, Dead Sea

Sunday, November 11 – Jerusalem/The Negev



The amphitheater at Be'er Sheva River Park

AM

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, proceed to the **JNF 9/11 Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This JNF site serves as the only memorial outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11. Partake in a meaningful ceremony and remember those who lost their lives.

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

PM

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.

Take an exclusive tour of **SodaStream**, see how the factory brings together employees of various ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities and learn about the challenges it faces as the biggest employer of the Bedouin community in the Negev.

Proceed to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev and the crown jewel of Jewish National Fund's *Blueprint Negev* initiative. 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 generations 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. Visit the extensive promenade, Pipes Bridge, and JNF's 23-acre manmade lake—the largest of its kind in Israel.

Proceed to **Mitzpe Ramon** and check into your hotel before enjoying dinner at the hotel.

Overnight

Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Itinerary is subject to change.

Monday, November 12 – Central Arava

AM

Early this morning, consider joining an exhilarating **jeep tour** ride through the **Ramon Crater** and discover the unique landscapes and hidden treasures of this one-of-a-kind geological phenomenon.

Relax this morning and enjoy breakfast at the hotel at leisure. Consider indulging in a rejuvenating **spa treatment*** at the hotel's 5-star facilities.

PM

Following lunch, head to **Zuqim**, the first non-agricultural community established in the Arava. It was founded in 2004 by a nucleus of families from central Israel who wanted to live in the unique atmosphere of the desert far from the urban bustle. JNF has been involved in the development of Zuqim since its founding, carrying out land improvements and developing infrastructure. The promenade constructed at the entrance to the town promotes tourism and serves the local residents.

Continue to **Sapir** and visit the **Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT)**. The center's program is based on the principle of Learning by Doing—a winning combination of practical training on an advanced and modern farm and theoretical studies which provides the students with a unique and rich experience. Here, meet with a cacophony of voices of students from Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, and more who make up the student population at AICAT. These students receive professional agricultural training and a unique experience before returning home to develop their local agricultural industry.

Proceed to the **Yair Research and Development Station** to learn how agricultural experts and farmers are working together to find solutions to the challenges of desert agriculture.

Enjoy dinner this evening with the group in the main dining room at the hotel.

Overnight

Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

**Additional cost – not included in tour price*



View of the Ramon Crater

Tuesday, November 13 – Northern Negev



Kids playing at the JNF Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

AM

Following breakfast and hotel checkout, depart for the **Negev** to explore JNF's groundbreaking work in the desert.

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.

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. Learn how this secure playground was strategically built so that play areas double as bomb shelters, ensuring that all occupants can quickly reach safety in the case of a rocket attack. Hear how the playground has impacted the community and the lives of local families.

Continue to the **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.

After checking into the hotel, enjoy dinner tonight at a renowned restaurant in Tel Aviv, Israel's most cosmopolitan city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Overnight

Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Itinerary is subject to change.

Wednesday November 14 – Tel Aviv

AM

After breakfast at the hotel and checkout, 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.

Take a stroll along 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.

PM

This afternoon, head 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.

After lunch, take a walking tour of the **Neve Tzedek** neighborhood of Tel Aviv, the first Jewish neighborhood to be built outside the old city of the ancient port of Jaffa.

This evening, our journey concludes with a farewell dinner at one of the many delectable restaurants that are a testament to Israel's booming culinary scene. Following dinner, transfer to **Ben Gurion Airport** for your return flight to the U.S.



Old Jaffa