

Jewish National Fund

ISRAEL: From a Torah Perspective

March 4 – 11, 2019

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JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND

Your Voice in Israel

Monday, March 4 – Arrival

PM

Welcome to **Israel!** Upon individual arrivals, meet your arranged transfer and head to your hotel.

In the evening, your journey will officially commence with a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight

Nir Etzion Hotel, Nir Etzion



Welcome to Israel

Itinerary is subject to change.

Tuesday, March 5 – Costal Route

AM

Following a delicious Israeli buffet breakfast at the hotel, begin the day in **Zichron Ya'akov**, one of the first Jewish communities founded by modern pioneers in 1882. Take a walking tour of this charming town, steeped with Zionist history. Explore the art galleries and the unique architecture as you stroll along the pedestrian cobblestone streets.

Head to **Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp**, a historic detention camp where thousands of Jewish immigrants were once detained upon their arrival to Israel during the British Mandate. See the restored Galina ship, a replica of a ship that carried thousands of “illegal” immigrants in defiance of the British blockade of Israel. Tour the premises with **Noa Gefen**, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites, and see the **new exhibit within a C46 airplane** that interactively tells the story of clandestine Jewish immigration by air, allowing visitors to feel as if they themselves were making the secret journey to Israel.

PM

Following lunch, depart north for **Rosh HaNikra**, one of Israel's most incredible natural wonders. Here, experience the cavernous tunnels and caves of the Rosh HaNikra Grottoes, take in the turquoise blue waters of the Mediterranean, and learn of the site's biblical significance.

Return to the hotel with some time to prepare for dinner.

Overnight

Nir Etzion Hotel, Nir Etzion



View of a grotto at Rosh HaNikra

Wednesday, March 6 – Northern Negev

AM

After breakfast and hotel checkout, depart south to the **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, a JNF signature project that has provided a much-needed sense of normalcy to the hard-hit town of Sderot—located less than one mile from Gaza. This secure playground was strategically built so that play areas double as bomb shelters, ensuring that all occupants can quickly reach safety during a rocket attack. Engage with local kids and families before taking a drive-through tour of the area.

Proceed to **ALEH Negev-Nahalat Eran**, a one-of-a-kind rehabilitative village that provides high quality care, support, and medical services to people with severe cognitive and developmental disabilities. During the tour, see the various therapeutic services and beautifully landscaped grounds and flower gardens constructed to positively stimulate the senses.

PM

Following lunch visit **Halutza**, located in the Northwest Negev, a kilometer from the Gaza border. Halutza was founded in 2005 by a group of families who left their homes during Israel's disengagement from Gaza. In cooperation with JNF, Halutza's pioneers laid roads, created an infrastructure, brought in temporary housing, erected hundreds of greenhouses, planted crops, and built fields of solar energy panels. Guided by **Yedidya Harush**, see Halutza's greenhouses, the state-of-the-art Medical Center, the new kindergarten and the progress of the Young Farmer's Incubators Project.

Check into the guest houses at Halutza, and enjoy dinner here as well this evening.

Overnight

Halutza Guest Houses



Families at the Jewish National Fund-Halutza Community Playground.



Masada

AM

Following breakfast and checkout see **Abraham's Well**, where Abraham is said to have dug a well and made a pact with the Philistines. Visit the **Visitor Center** and experience an innovative multi-media presentation showcasing the life of Abraham.

Depart to **Be'er Sheva River Park**, the centerpiece of JNF's efforts to support the renaissance of the city. Learn about how this urban renewal project is serving as an anchor of tourism and recreation. See the Pipes Bridge, a pedestrian and cycling bridge that links the Old City of Be'er Sheva and the 12,000-seat amphitheater, now the largest in Israel.

Participate in a program with the local **MAKOM Community** in Be'er Sheva. MAKOM communities see the strengthening of the social fabric of Israel as their mission. They are led by groups of young people who move to underprivileged parts of the country and empower those places from within through a variety of projects involving employment, culture and education. JNF works with local MAKOM communities to help develop the region.

PM

After lunch, drive to **Masada** – a natural fortress of majestic beauty, built by King Herod. Take a cable car ride to the top of the mountain, where religious zealots made their final stand against the Romans. Explore the ancient palace with its water cisterns, ritual baths (Mikvah) and the ruins of the synagogue and learn about the new **JNF Torah Scroll initiative**, and see the Torah Scribe in action!

Afterwards, continue to **Jerusalem**, the religious and spiritual hub of Israel.

Enjoy dinner this evening at your leisure.

Overnight

Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, March 8 – Gush Etzion / Jerusalem

AM

Following breakfast, depart for the historic **Gush Etzion**, site of one of the deadliest battles during the 1948 War of Independence. Start atop the Neve Daniel Lookout, the highest peak in the area, for scenic views of the Judean Hills, Herodian Complex, and Jerusalem.

Continue to the **Gush Etzion Visitor Center**, home to a memorial commemorating the heroic men and women who gave their lives to protect the communities of the Etzion Block. See the **Boys' Promenade**, a JNF project built in memory of Gilad Shaer, Naftali Fraenkel, and Eyal Yifrah – the three teenage boys who were kidnapped and killed by terrorists in the summer of 2014, sparking **Operation Protective Edge**.

PM

Visit the **Gush Etzion Boutique Winery**, surrounded by vineyards that are still farmed using traditional methods, for a delicious lunch and wine tasting.

Return to Jerusalem, and head to the **Kotel** to observe the beginning of Shabbat with local Israelis and recite traditional Kabbalat Shabbat blessings and prayers.

This evening, enjoy **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel as a group.

Overnight

Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem



View of Gush Etzion from the Boys' Promenade

Saturday, March 9 – Shabbat



View of the Kotel in the Old City of Jerusalem

- AM** Today will be spent in honor of **Shabbat**. Services will be offered at the hotel for those who are interested or walk next door to the Great Synagogue.
- PM** Enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure, experiencing Jerusalem at your own pace.
- Overnight** Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, March 10 – Jerusalem

AM

After breakfast, depart to **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum & Memorial** – situated on the green slopes of Har HaZikaron (“Mount of Remembrance”). The museum tells the story of the Holocaust by emphasizing the experiences of Jewish victims and survivors using original artifacts, testimonies, and personal possessions. Tour this sprawling complex and visit the Grove of the Righteous Among the Nations, and the Children’s Memorial.

Enjoy the **Machane Yehuda Market** and immerse yourself in the bustling energy of Jerusalem’s shuk (Hebrew for “market”). Have lunch on own and wander among the many local vendors selling delicious cheeses, pastries, spices, and more.

PM

Spend the afternoon on a comprehensive walking tour of the **Old City of Jerusalem**. Explore the Jewish Quarter in all of its history and wonder, hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation at the Kotel and walk back in time through the **Western Wall Tunnels**, an incredible labyrinth of underground arches, tunnels, and passageways.

Visit the **City of David**, an exciting area of discovery in the heart of ancient Jerusalem – home to many of the most impressive archaeological finds of recent years.

Enjoy dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Overnight

Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem



Mahane Yehuda Market

Monday, March 11 – Jerusalem / Departure

AM

Following breakfast and hotel checkout head to the local **Fire Station** to meet with local firefighters and learn of the impact of JNF's fire and rescue efforts in Israel.

Continue 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.

PM

After lunch, visit the **JNF 9/11 Living Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This unique site serves as the only place outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on this tragic day.

Depart to **Neot Kedumim** and plant a tree in the soil with your own hands at the **Harvey Hertz-JNF Ceremonial Tree Planting Center**. Contribute to JNF's ongoing afforestation efforts while solidifying your connection with the land and people of Israel.

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



Planting trees at Neot Kedumim