

Jewish National Fund

Volunteer Vacation: For Ages 25–35

December 23–29, 2019

SAMPLE ITINERARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND

Your Voice in Israel

Sunday, December 23 – Arrival

PM

Welcome to **Israel**! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport meet your guide and the other participants who are joining this unique experience.

Depart for **Be'er Sheva** to check into the hotel, enjoy a local dinner, and participate in an opening orientation.

Overnight

Beit Yatziv, Be'er Sheva



Itinerary is subject to change.

Monday, December 24 – Change Makers in Bedouin Society

AM

After breakfast at the hotel, depart to volunteer in **Wadi Attir**, a one-of-a-kind program in the Bedouin community that brings 21st technology together with the traditional Bedouin agricultural approach and provides much needed jobs for the Bedouin population.

Leave your mark on this community by creating an educational farm for schools to visit. Expect to get your hands dirty as you will be building a new terrace, and shading multiple paths that will allow for access beyond the winter months.

Here you will meet **Ibrahim Nassasra**, a successful Bedouin businessman who has invested his own profit into ventures that work to alleviate the biggest issues facing the community—unemployment and education—and **Ravit Greenberg**, former director of **Nefesh B’Nefesh (NBN)** Go South office, and CEO of **Merkaz Tamar** the educational non-profit started by Ibrahim. They will explain the way that the Bedouin community is creating bottom up solutions.

PM

Travel to the community of **Segev Shalom**. Dinner tonight will be with a group of extraordinary women from the non-profit, **Bedouin Women for Themselves**, who will share their personal stories and how they banded together to create grassroots change in their community.

Overnight

Beit Yatziv, Be’er Sheva



Project Wadi Attir

Tuesday, December 25 –
HaShomer HaChadash & Old Be'er Sheva



HaShomer HaChadash volunteers

AM

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for a day in the field with **HaShomer HaChadash**, an organization created to help farmers and ranchers protect and develop their land. This JNF partner educates youth and empowers volunteers. Spend the morning helping out a local farmer, before cooking *poyke* lunch outdoors.

PM

Return to Be'er Sheva to learn about the Ethiopian story with **Naftali Aklum**, one of the youngest members of one of the first Ethiopian families in Be'er Sheva and his brother, Ferede, who was the Mossad agent responsible for creating the path from Ethiopia to Sudan before Operation Moses. Naftali will share his story and that of his community about their Aliyah, the difficulties of integrating into Israeli society, and where they are today.

Next you will have the opportunity to **Bar Hop** in the Old City. We will visit a few bars and meet with the owners to better understand why they opened their businesses and what they see is the future of the Old City and of the city of Be'er Sheva.

Afterwards, consider joining in on an optional **Rock Climbing Session** in the Old City. As part of the city's resurgence there are many businesses popping up catering to a younger audience.

Overnight

Beit Yatziv, Be'er Sheva

Wednesday, December 26 – Gaza Envelope

AM

Visit **Halutza** and meet with JNF-Halutza Liaison **Yedidya Harush**, who will explain the tremendous change that has happened in the region and about the incredible will of the people to make the desert bloom.

Head to **Kibbutz Kerem Shalom**, a community in the Gaza Envelope region, to volunteer and meet with local community members who will discuss what life is like on the borders of both Egypt and Gaza. Tour the kibbutz and help the community establish a green park.

PM

This evening, enjoy a **Festive BBQ** with the volunteers, kibbutz members, and a very special family that has played a key role in the development of the community.

Overnight

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Volunteering in Halutza

Thursday, December 27 – MAKOM

AM

Meet with the founders of the **Reshet**. Be'er Sheva has an incredibly vibrant student population; however the overwhelming majority leave after their graduation. But not anymore! The Reshet is an international community with over 800 members that is looking to use the energy and vision of young adult in the city to help form a new scene in the city that will help attract graduates and other young Israelis to make their life in Be'er Sheva.

Volunteer with the Nagaria Kehiltatit (**Community Carpentry**). One of the ways the Reshet reaches different populations is through their social business initiatives. The community carpentry is one of them, and looks to bring young and old alike together by providing carpentry workshops and programs. We will help make over a local park by building benches, chairs, and tables for the benefit of the local population.

PM

This evening, have a beer and engage in a conversation at **Bialik 26**. Located next to the office of the Community Carpentry, Bialik 26 is the only LGBTQ friendly bar in the Negev. We will hear from the founder, a native of Be'er Sheva, on why she chose to open the place and what it means to the community at large.

Enjoy dinner at the **Lauder Employment Center – Eretz Ir** with Olim. Meet with young adults from the United States and Canada as they discuss why they moved to Be'er Sheva and the opportunities available for young adults in the city.

Overnight

Beit Yatziv, Be'er Sheva



Makom Community

Friday, December 28 – Central Arava/Shabbat



Central Arava Agricultural Center

AM

This morning, travel to the **Central Arava** for a meeting with the Jewish National Fund representative and visit the state-of-the-art agricultural educational center.

Enjoy lunch in **Moshav Idan** at **Mehsek Ofaiim**, one of the leaders in sustainable farming in Israel. We will meet with the owners and enjoy a true farm to table experience.

PM

Return to Be'er Sheva to prepare for Shabbat. Consider joining optional **Shabbat Services** with Beerot, a community of Olim from the U.S. and native Israelis who created a pluralistic partnership synagogue at Beit Yatziv.

Enjoy Shabbat Dinner at the Hotel, followed by **Oneg Shabbat**.

Overnight

Beit Yatziv, Be'er Sheva

Saturday, December 29 – Optional Activity/Departure

AM

Following breakfast in the hotel, optional services and text study are available.

PM

Consider joining on an optional hike in **Mitzpe Ramon** around the crater.

For those in Be'er Sheva, lunch will be in the hotel, followed by a conversation on the future of the Negev with **Bella Alexandrov**, CEO of **Eretz Ir**.

Our journey will end with a **Seuda Shlishit** and final conversation, followed by **Havdalah**.

Transfer to Ben-Gurion Airport for return flights to the U.S.



Be'er Sheva