

Jewish National Fund
ISRAEL@70 TOUR
San Diego Community Experience

April 11-19, 2018

Optional Extension: April 19-22

Chairs Lauren & Dr. Sol Lizerbram, Shari & Frederick Schenk, Congregation Beth Am

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JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND

Your Voice in Israel



Wednesday, April 11 – Arrival / Tel Aviv

PM

Welcome to **Israel!** Upon individual flight arrivals, transfer to the luxurious Sheraton Hotel in **Tel Aviv**, Israel's most cosmopolitan city located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

This evening join the group for an optional activity and dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Tel Aviv

Itinerary is subject to change.

Thursday, April 12 – North

AM

Begin the day with a delicious welcome breakfast at the hotel before departing north. Visit the **Fire Station** in **Usafiya**, where you will meet with local firefighters and **Ariel Kotler**, JNF's **Development Officer of Israel Operations**, to learn about JNF's firefighting efforts.

PM

Enjoy an authentic **Druze lunch** in Usafiya, situated along the scenic slopes of Mount Carmel. Dine on authentic, ethnic cuisine while learning about Druze culture and traditions. Hear firsthand stories from the afternoon's hosts and leaders of the community about the history of the Druze faith and its present-day model of coexistence.

Afterwards, head to **Atlit Detention Camp**, where thousands of Jewish immigrants were once imprisoned upon their arrival into Israel during the British Mandate. See the restored **Galina**, a replica of a ship that carried 122,000 "illegal" immigrants in defiance of the British blockade to Israel.

Then visit **Ein Hod**, the only artists' village in Israel, where artists live and create various forms of artistic media ranging from visual arts, to theater, to music and literature. Take free time to explore the galleries and exhibits, before returning to the hotel in Tel Aviv.

This evening, dine at one of the many delectable restaurants that are a testament to Israel's booming culinary scene.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv



Atlit Detention Camp

Friday, April 13 – Tel Aviv



Spices at Carmel Market

AM

Following breakfast, visit **Independence Hall**, where Israel was officially declared a state by David Ben-Gurion on May 14, 1948. Learn about the fight for Israeli independence from a special guest speaker and hear a reenactment of the powerful speech delivered on that day.

Proceed to the south of Tel Aviv for a unique tour through the alleyways of the **Florentin neighborhood**. See the impressive street art and graffiti that makes Florentin the neighborhood of choice amongst young adults.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with a visit to **Buza Ice Cream Parlor** in Tel Aviv. Founded by an Arab Muslim and a Jewish Kibbutznik, this unique establishment promotes coexistence and reflects the diverse and complex nature of Israeli society.

PM

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

- **The Nachlat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Fair:** a festival of arts, crafts, pottery, and street performances. Pass through 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 hotel to prepare for Shabbat. Meet with the other tracks of JNF's Israel@70 for our first joint event, a festive Shabbat dinner with a special guest speaker.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, April 14 – Shabbat



Masada

AM

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat, providing the opportunity to relax and explore Tel Aviv at your own pace. Services will be offered at the hotel for those who wish to attend.

Consider visiting **Beit Hatfutsot** (the Diaspora Museum), strolling down the iconic **Rothschild Boulevard**, or joining one of the following optional day tours:

- ***Masada & Dead Sea Day Tour:** Depart on the bus to begin your 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 Zealots made their last stand against the Romans, and learn about the history of the Jewish fighters before taking a cable car ride to the top of the Herodian Palace Complex. Afterwards, descend the mountain to the depths of the Dead Sea and float in the buoyant waters or simply relax at the beach.
- Take a walking tour of **Sarona**, a former German colony that has transformed into a beautiful park and blossoming culinary scene with the help of JNF and the **Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites (SPIHS)**.
- Stroll through **Tel Aviv's "White City"** to see some excellent examples of the famous German-inspired Bauhaus architecture. Walk down Rothschild Boulevard, an iconic cultural and commercial center, and hear about the story of Tel Aviv.

PM

Dinner will be on own this evening.

Overnight

Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Additional Cost – not included in tour price*

Sunday, April 15 – South / “Life on the Border”

AM

After breakfast, visit the **Sderot Indoor Recreation Center**, a JNF signature project that has provided a much-needed sense of normalcy to local families 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. Tour the newly built **C. Hugh Friedman Music Room**, aimed to enrich the lives of the children of Sderot by teaching them how to play instruments and cultivating an ongoing appreciation of music.

PM

Head to **Moshav Ein HaBesor** in **Sha’ar HaNegev** and enjoy lunch at **Tzela Dairy Farm** upon arrival. Hear from local residents as they discuss what their lives are like on the border of Gaza. Then, tour the moshav and dairy farm, before an interactive cheese preparation workshop.

Proceed to **Halutza**, founded by 21st century pioneers who have partnered with JNF to create vibrant, viable communities from an area once comprised merely of sand dunes. Tour the newly built medical center, kindergarten, and see the flourishing greenhouses and taste the organic produce fresh off the vine.

Enjoy dinner tonight at the finest restaurant in Israel’s south, which boasts authentic Moroccan cuisine cooked overnight in traditional clay pots, and hear from a special guest speaker who specializes in Hi-tech.

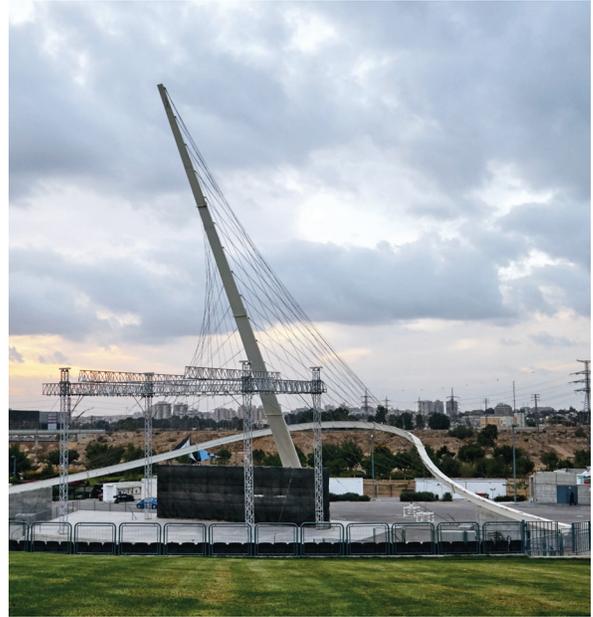
Overnight

Leonardo Hotel, Be’er Sheva



Sderot Indoor Recreation Center

Monday, April 16 – Negev



Be'er Sheva River Park

AM

Following breakfast at the hotel, proceed to **ALEH Negev-Nahalat Eran**, a one-of-a-kind residential facility that provides high-level medical and rehabilitative care to people with severe cognitive and developmental disabilities. Take an extensive tour of the medical clinic; high dependency hospital; and various therapy centers offering a wide range of services such as horseback riding, hydrotherapy, and physiotherapy. Meet with **General Doron Almog, Chairman of ALEH Negev** and former Commander of the IDF Southern Command.

PM

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

After lunch, head to **Be'er Sheva**, the capital of the Negev and the crown jewel of JNF's Blueprint Negev initiative to improve the quality of life in Southern Israel. Upon arrival, visit 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.

Take an excursion to **Yatir Winery** for a tour and a wine-tasting before returning to the hotel to freshen up for dinner at a restaurant this evening.

Overnight

Leonardo Hotel, Be'er Sheva

Tuesday, April 17 – Jerusalem

AM

After breakfast and hotel check-out, depart for **Hatzerim Air Force Base** to see JNF's **Special in Uniform**, a unique initiative that integrates special needs youth into the IDF and assists in preparing them for career placement following army service. Meet with soldiers and hear about how this program not only instills valuable social and personal development skills, but helps graduates contribute to the workforce and Israeli society in meaningful ways.

Proceed to **Shomria School** to see the **Schenk Family Sports Field and Playground**, before enjoying lunch en route to the next destination.

PM

Arrive in **Jerusalem** and immerse yourself in the bustling energy of Israel's capital city. Spend free time to shop before returning to the hotel to freshen up for the evening's ceremony.

Following dinner at the hotel, the evening will be spent observing **Erev Yom HaZikaron**, known as "The Evening of Remembrance Day." Join together with all of the Israel@70 Tour participants at **Ammunition Hill**, the site where the definitive battle for the reunification of Jerusalem took place during the Six-Day War, for an exclusive ceremony in honor of soldiers who have fallen protecting their country and victims of terrorist attacks. Hear personal stories from Lone Soldiers, young Israeli immigrants who volunteered to leave their family, friends, and homes to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces and serve the State of Israel.

Overnight

David Citadel, Jerusalem



JNF's Special in Uniform

Wednesday, April 18 – Yom HaZikaron

AM

Today marks Israel's Memorial Day. The day will begin at the **9/11 Living Memorial**, built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Designed by award-winning Israeli artist Eliezer Weishoff, this unique memorial is the only place outside of the United States that recognizes the names of the people who were killed on 9/11. Participate in a powerful ceremony with all tour participants and pay tribute to those who lost their lives as victims of a terrorist attack or brave soldiers who fell in battle protecting their country. At 11:00 am, hear the sirens sound as we pause with all the people of Israel for a moment of silence.

PM

Following lunch at a local restaurant, spend the afternoon on a comprehensive walking tour of the **Old City of Jerusalem**. Explore the Jewish and Christian Quarters in all of their history and wonder, hear the soft sounds of prayer and contemplation at the Kotel, and enjoy some free time in the Old City.

Tonight marks the beginning of **Yom Ha'atzmaut**, Israel's Independence Day. Enjoy dinner at your own pace before immersing yourself in Israeli culture by celebrating at one of the many open concerts and parties. Consider spending time on **Ben Yehuda Street**, the beating heart of Jerusalem's center-city life, or heading to Machane Yehuda to experience the lively night scene as bars and restaurants open up while the rest of the market shuts down.

Overnight

David Citadel, Jerusalem



Old City Jerusalem

Thursday, April 19 – Yom Ha'atzmaut

AM

After breakfast and hotel checkout, begin your day with a visit to **Ammunition Hill** and follow in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought here as you walk through the battlegrounds and bunkers. See the new, state-of-the-art Six- Day War Museum and multimedia show about the historic battle that reunified Jerusalem. Conclude at **JNF's Wall of Honor**, which honors Jewish veterans from around the world.

Later, join with all of the tracks of the Israel@70 Tour for a special **IDF Air Show**. Look on from a clear vantage point as a range of aircrafts from the Israeli Air Force fleet perform their annual air show and flyover the city.

PM

This afternoon, rejoice with everyone one last time and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut like local Israeli's do during a festive farewell BBQ lunch at **Yitzhak Rabin Park**, which features forests, scenic paths and outlooks, and heritage sites of Israel's recent and ancient past. The location of this celebratory event is made even more special given the namesake of the park and the role he played in Israel's independence. In April 1948, during the War of Independence, 26-year-old Yitzhak Rabin held command of the Harel Brigade, which engaged in the heaviest of combat operations for the crucial passageway, Sha'ar HaGai, to Jerusalem and the city, itself, and was also involved in the construction of the strategic Burma Road. Once a scene of battles waged for an independent Israel, the Burma Road and Sha'ar HaGai are now part of the Yitzhak Rabin Park.

Afterwards, take a drive along the **Burma Road** and see the oversized silhouette figures that have been placed to recall the fortitude of the Haganah, who worked tirelessly to construct the road. The remainder of the afternoon will be spent rejoicing in this joyous occasion marking Israel's 70th Anniversary.

Enjoy a **farewell dinner** before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to the U.S. (unless joining the optional extension).



Ammunition Hill

Optional Extension – Thursday, April 19 – Eilat

PM

Transfer to **Sde Dov Airport** in Tel Aviv for your flight to Eilat.

Enjoy dinner tonight with a special guest speaker on Eilat's luxurious promenade parallel to the Red Sea, lined with various bars, restaurants, and trendy shops.

Overnight

Herods Palace Hotel, Eilat



The beach of Eilat

Itinerary is subject to change.

Friday, April 20 – Timna / Eilat

AM

Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before you visit **Timna Park**, a site of great historical significance and a premier recreation destination for Israelis and tourists. Start at the **JNF Chudnow Visitor Center** and discover the park's archeological and geological treasures, such as King Solomon's breathtaking pillars, ancient copper mines, and mountains that afford spectacular views.

PM

Enjoy lunch at the park before taking time to explore the beautiful hiking and biking trails at your leisure.

Continue to the **Botanical Garden of Eilat**. Grown on a former military outpost, this biblical style garden offers a unique combination of rare plants and herbs, bird sanctuaries, a rain forest, and an abandoned military bunker.

Return to the hotel to freshen up before heading to the promenade for a walking tour. Conclude at the **Ink Flag Sculpture Memorial**, which commemorates the Israeli victory and last military maneuver of the War of Independence.

Enjoy Shabbat dinner tonight at the hotel with a special guest.

Overnight

Herods Palace Hotel, Eilat



Botanical Garden of Eilat

Saturday, April 21 – Shabbat in Eilat

AM

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat, providing the opportunity to relax and explore Eilat at your own pace. Services will be offered at the hotel for those who wish to attend. Consider relaxing on Eilat's pristine beach, snorkeling around Eilat's coral reef, hiking the nearby Har Shlomo, or joining the following optional day trip:

***Day Trip to Petra:** Begin at the Arava border point in Jordan and drive to the Rose City of Petra. Enter Petra through a long, winding sandstone canyon called the "Siq," before viewing the jaw dropping grandeur of the Treasury. On a walking tour through the heart of this ancient city, see the spectacular architecture carved into the mountains, myriad tombs and monuments, and a one-of-a-kind amphitheater. Following lunch, walk or take a camel or donkey ride back through the modern city of before returning to Eilat.

PM

Enjoy dinner at leisure.

Overnight

Herods Palace Hotel, Eilat

**Additional Cost – not included in tour price*



Petra, Jordan

Itinerary is subject to change.

Sunday, April 22 – Arava / Departure

AM

Following breakfast and hotel checkout proceed to Yotvata, the oldest kibbutz in the Arava, and home to one of the leading dairies in Israel. Experience the famous ice cream and chocolate milk of Yotvata on a special “Chocolate Milk Trail” tour of the Dairy Farm. The original formula for Yotvata’s famous chocolate milk has not changed since it was first developed 40 years ago—in fact, only two people can access the kibbutz’s safe, where the Yotvata chocolate milk formula is kept.

Continue north to the **Vidor Visitor Center**, a multimedia facility that offers a taste of the Arava in all its variety. Take a multi-sensory tour to learn about the advanced agriculture of the region; watch a 3D film screening to hear about its rich history; visit a greenhouse that showcases quality local crops; and journey through an interactive museum for an insider’s view into the lives of Arava families and farmers. Meet with **Eyal Blum, PhD, Mayor of the Central Arava** and **Noa Zer, Resource Development Director of the Central Arava Regional Council** and hear an overview of agriculture and water sources in the area.

Next, head to the **Yair Agricultural R&D Center** in Hatzeva and pick fresh vegetables and herbs while hearing about the latest agricultural findings from the region.

PM

After lunch, head to Be’er Sheva, the capital of the Negev and the crown jewel of JNF’s Blueprint Negev initiative to improve the quality of life in Southern Israel. Upon arrival, visit 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.

Tour 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.

Indulge in a farewell dinner before ending our journey at Ben Gurion Airport to catch return flights back to the U.S.



Workers at the Yair Agricultural R&D Center