

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE IN ISRAEL  
PRESENTS

**ISRAEL NATURE AND DISCOVERY TOUR (tentative schedule, subjected to change)**

*November 13th – November 21st, 2016*

**Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>**

You will be picked up at the airport and be taken directly to your hotel in Tel Aviv. After checking into the hotel and refreshing we'll meet with an activist from the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel who will give an overview of SPNI's history and current projects and campaigns.

*Overnight Tel Aviv: Prima Tel Aviv Hotel*

**Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast we'll drive north along the coastal road. Our first stop is to the 'Bassa' Wetland Park in Herzliya. In the wetland park is one of Israel's last seasonal or winter ponds. We'll hear how SPNI is working to protect this rare habitat and the rare and endangered amphibians who live in them.

We'll continue on to Caesarea to visit the historical Roman and Crusader city and after lunch to hike through the Alexander Park Natural Reserve, visit the swamp turtles and learn a little about how SPNI is helping restore Israel's rivers.

*Dinner and overnight in the Galilee/Golan: Kibbutz Ginnosar*



## **Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>**

We'll drive to Haifa to visit one of SPNI's Community Garden projects. We'll learn how SPNI uses the concept of gardening to create a community spirit and a love for nature and have a chance to put our green thumbs to the test.

After we'll tour the city of Acre, in particular its underground tunnels and the Crusader remains. We'll then continue north to the grottos of Rosh Hanikra where you will descend via cable car into the caves.

*Dinner and overnight in the Galilee/Golan:  
Kibbutz Ginnosar*



## **Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>**

We'll wake up before dawn for the unforgettable mobile blind tour in the Hula Valley Nature Reserve. We'll watch the 10,000's of cranes wake up and take off from the lake as the sun rises and the mists rise off the shallow waters.

After returning to the hotel for breakfast we'll walk through the Banias Waterfall, ascend the Golan Heights and stop at the Gamla Reserve to observe raptor center and the ancient city of Gamla (the Massada of the Galilee) the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt against the Romans in the north. After we finish our tour we'll travel through the Valley of the Jordan to Jerusalem.

*Overnight Jerusalem: Prima Kings Hotel*

## **Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>**

We'll start the morning visiting the Jerusalem Bird Observatory Israel's first urban nature site, watching a bird banding activity and learning about the JBO's green roof. We'll also learn about the Knesset (Israel's Parliament Building) which is literally next door. After we'll tour the magnificent Gazelle Valley – home to a herd of wild gazelle and Jerusalem's newest public park. After we'll tour Yad Vashem and then spend the afternoon walking through the famous Machane Yehuda market.

*Overnight Jerusalem: Prima Kings Hotel*



### **Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Today we will focus on the Old City and its three religions. We'll enter the old city walls via the Jaffa Gate; walk on the ramparts and through the Armenian Quarter to the Jewish Quarter, the Cardo, and Western Wall. View the Temple Mount and continue along the Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. And continue through the colorful bazaars to exit the walls of the Old City.

Before dinner, there will be an option to join the Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday Night prayers) at the Kotel (Western Wall).

*Overnight Jerusalem: Prima Kings Hotel*

### **Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Options to visit the Israel Museum, Botanical Gardens, Biblical Zoo or Free Day

*Overnight Jerusalem: Prima Kings Hotel*



### **Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Drive thru the Judean Desert to the lowest place on earth – the Dead Sea! We'll take a nature walk in the ancient Ein Gedi oasis to the waterfall, take a dip in the sea and cover yourselves with the local mud. Then continue to Masada where you will ascend via cable car to visit the ruins and learn about the tragic history of this Jewish stronghold and Herodian mansions.

Overnight and Dinner at Mitzpe Ramon : SPNI 's Mitzpe Ramon Field School

### **Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Visit the Machtesh Ramon – enjoy the 4 wheel drive tour of the crater, getting out to learn about the unique geology and local flora and fauna. On our way back to the airport we'll stop at Sde Boker – David Ben Gurion's desert home and walk through the Ein Zin nature reserve before returning to Tel Aviv for departure flights.



**Price:**

**Price for Tour: \$2,699: per person, sharing double room**

**Single Supplement: \$649**

**Includes:**

- Accommodations 4 star hotels and 1 night at an SPNI Field School (Mitzpe Ramon)
- Professional Tour Guide
- Professional SPNI experts at SPNI's projects
- Accommodations 4 star hotels and 1 night at Field school
- Luxury mini Bus for 8 days of touring
- 8 Days of Comprehensive Sightseeing
- 1 Shabbat Free Day with special options
- Arrival Meeting and Assistance, Transfer to Hotel
- Daily Israeli Buffet Breakfast
- Three dinners: two at Kibbutz Ginnovar and one dinner at Mitzpe Ramon Field School
- Entrance Fees to all sites as per itinerary
- Jeep at Mitzpe Ramon
- Special visits to SPNI projects as per program
- Overnights for guide and driver when out of Jerusalem
- Portage at all Hotels

**Not Including:**

- Flights
- Transfers upon departure for those not leaving last night of the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Meals not mentioned
- Gratuities
- Any type of insurance
- Personal expenses

Itinerary is subject to change

If you want to book your place on this trip or request more information  
please contact **Robin Gordon** on **1-800-411-0966** or e-mail **aspni@aol.com**.