



Beyond Borders Tour

March 27 – April 6, 2022

ITINERARY

Join a small group journey on a curated tour through Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank. Participants will have exclusive access to the culture, politics, and environment of the region. Led by regional experts, this luxury trip goes beyond borders and takes you off the beaten track to delve into the complex environmental realities in the Middle East.

Sunday, March 27: Arrival

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, you will travel to the deluxe Orient Jerusalem, located in the German Colony with views overlooking the Old City. After settling in, you and your fellow travelers will enjoy a delicious welcome dinner together at the hotel.

Monday, March 28: Jerusalem

Begin the day with a tour of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, and meetings with Government Ministers and Members of Knesset. Continue on a tour of East Jerusalem with Arava Institute Executive Director and East Jerusalem resident Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed. Enjoy Dinner with Arava Institute alumni at the Old Train Station. We will stay in Jerusalem one more night at the Orient Jerusalem.

Tuesday, March 29: West Bank

We will depart Jerusalem in the morning for the West Bank, where we will visit a Palestinian village and learn about the Arava Institute's transboundary water treatment technology in action. We will continue onto the new Palestinian city of Rawabi, which is the first planned city built for and by Palestinians in the West Bank. There, we will meet with leaders from Arava

Institute's Palestinian partners, Damour for Community Development. We will travel to Tel Aviv where we will enjoy dinner with Arava Institute alumni. We will stay overnight at the Carleton Hotel located on the Tel Aviv Promenade and on the beach.

Wednesday, March 30: Tel Aviv

We will meet with Arava Institute researchers working in and around Tel Aviv. In the evening, we will have dinner with some current Arava Institute students who will be in Tel Aviv for a trip of their own. We will spend the night at the Carleton Hotel in Tel Aviv.

Thursday, March 31: Depart Tel Aviv and continue South

We depart Tel Aviv to travel further south and conclude the day at the Arava Institute. On the way, we will visit the Bedouin Village of Wadi Aricha with which the Arava Institute has partnered to introduce wastewater treatment and reuse system. We will continue onto beautiful Mitzpe Ramon for an ecological tour with Dr. Elli Groner, a specialist in desert ecology, member of the Arava Institute faculty, and researcher at the Institute's Center for Arid Socio-Ecology. We conclude the day arriving at Kibbutz Ketura where we will stay overnight and will enjoy a BBQ dinner with Arava Institute staff.

Friday, April 1: Kibbutz Ketura, Arava Institute and Eilat

We offer two options in the area today:

- Tour the Dead Sea Arava Science Center and the Southern Arava Regional Agricultural Research and Development Center and learn about the Arava Institute's research and development in water and energy including work in agrovoltatics and more.
- Alternatively, travel by bus to Eilat for a free day to enjoy this resort city, its beaches and seaside opportunities.

Return to Kibbutz Ketura for optional Shabbat evening services followed by a festive communal dinner in the Kibbutz Ketura dining room. Overnight again in the guest house at Kibbutz Ketura.

Saturday, April 2: Kibbutz Ketura

Our day will again offer two options:

- Tour the Arava Institute and explore achievements such as the Off-Grid Technology Village, Methuselah, the date tree sprouted from a 2,000-year-old seed found at Masada, and the Institute's orchards, which feature endangered, indigenous, and biblical species of plants. Afterwards, there will be time to relax at the kibbutz.
- Alternatively, travel by bus to Eilat for a free day to enjoy this resort city, its beaches and seaside opportunities.

In the evening, enjoy a communal dinner in the Kibbutz dining room and a final overnight at Kibbutz Ketura.

Sunday, April 3: Crossing into Jordan, Aqaba, and Wadi Rum

We will depart the Kibbutz and Arava Institute, cross the border to Jordan and spend the morning in the seaside resort town of Aqaba, where we will meet with Arava Institute alumni engaged in sustainability efforts. We will then depart to Wadi Rum, where we will have a Bedouin-style lunch followed by a Jeep tour of Wadi Rum, a beautiful and otherworldly section of the Arabian Desert that features red sand dunes and towering sandstone mountains. We'll

continue onto Petra where we will have dinner and overnight at the luxurious Movenpick Hotel Petra.

Monday, April 4: Petra and Dead Sea

We will spend the morning touring and exploring the World Heritage site of Petra, an ancient Nabatean city and archeological site. Another option can be available for those who would prefer a different excursion. We will continue onto the Dead Sea to enjoy a reception and dinner at the private home of Jordanian businesswoman Ola Masri and enjoy the beautiful view of the Dead Sea looking across into Israel. Mrs. Masri was chosen by Forbes as One of the “Top 50 Business Woman” in the Arab world as well as chosen by the Prime Minister of Jordan as one of the Distinguished Business Woman in Jordan. She has also been recognized for the distinguished achievements in the field of exchanging cultural traditions between nations by the Jordanian Minister of Culture. We will stay overnight at the luxurious Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, located on the shores of the Dead Sea.

Tuesday, April 5: Madaba and Amman

In the morning we will check out of the hotel and head to Madaba where we will visit the Byzantine mosaics. We will continue onto the Jordanian capital of Amman where we will meet with government leaders. The afternoon will offer free time to explore the city. In the evening, we will enjoy dinner with Jordanian Arava Institute alumni. We will stay overnight at the Kempinski Hotel Amman.

Wednesday, April 6: Departure

With our tour finally complete, we will transfer everyone to the airport for their flights.

Please note: Itinerary is subject to change.

All hotels are 5 star rated.

For more information contact, visit arava.org/beyond-borders-tour
or contact beyond@friendsofarava.org.

