

Texas A&M & the Arava Institute

Israel field study course

May 7-20, 2023



Sunday-Monday May 7-8: Arrival, Center

11:55PM Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport

1:00AM Travel to hostel in Tel Aviv

1:30 Check in to hostel

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Monday May 8: Center of the country

Lag Ba'Omer holiday eve

Free morning (breakfast at the hostel)

12:30PM Lunch at the hostel

1:30 Intro to program, with Dr. Clive Lipchin, Director of the Center for Transboundary Water Management, Arava Institute

3:15 Tour of Tel Aviv: local / regional / national environmental policy and politics, with Dr. Michael Alexander

7:45 Dinner at the hostel

8:30 Optional: Lag Ba'omer holiday eve, city events

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Tuesday May 9: Center of the country

Lag Ba'Omer holiday

Breakfast at the hostel

7:40AM Travel to site

8:30 Meeting with Mario Kummel, Water & Wastewater Process Engineer, Water Quality Division of Mekorot, Israel's National Water Company

Tour of the Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant

11:00 Lecture with David Weinberg, National Planning & Treated Effluent Reuse Manager, Environmental Health Dept, Israeli Ministry of Health

12:30PM Travel to site

1:55 Lunch at Givat Haviva

2:45 Lecture & tour of Givat Haviva, with Mohammad Darawshe, Director for Strategic Planning: From coexistence to shared society: an introduction to Arab society in Israel

4:45 Return to Tel Aviv

5:45 Free evening including dinner

Optional: Lag Ba'omer holiday, city events

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Wednesday May 10: Center of the country	
	Breakfast at the hostel
8:30AM	Study group time for reflection & preparation
10:45	Travel to site
11:30	Tour of the Rabin Center
1:15PM	Travel to lunch
1:30	Lunch at the local neighborhood center
2:30	Travel to site
3:00	Lecture at Bar-Ilan University: Introduction to public health in Israel, with Prof. Nadav Davidovitch, Director, School of Public Health, Ben Gurion University
5:00	Bar-Ilan University academic tour & panel: Dispute resolution and judicial interventions, with Prof. Michal Alberstein, Dean of Law Faculty, Bar-Ilan University, & Prof. Omer Shapira, Associate Professor of Law, Ono Academic College Faculty of Law
7:00	Return to Tel Aviv
7:45	Dinner at the hostel
	Overnight in Tel Aviv
Thursday May 11: The Negev	
	Breakfast at the hostel
	Check-out and load the bus
8:00	Travel to Bedouin city of Rahat
9:00	Meet with Layla Al-Sana, Naqab Media CEO, who will lead the day trip
	Meet with representatives from the local water corporation and local Rahat council: Mansoor Siam - Water corporation; Mazen Abu Siam - Council's Public Health Department; Naofaf Zayadne - local resident
12:00PM	Lunch & talk with a Bedouin woman who leads a local tourism initiative
1:00	Talk with Zubaida Ezery, PhD student at Ben Gurion University, researching Bedouin society
2:00	Travel to Abu Tlul
3:00	Meet with Attia Al-Aasam, Head of the Council of Bedouin Unrecognized Villages in the Negev
4:00	Travel to Al-Fura'a unrecognised Bedouin village
4:45	Tour of Al Fura'a with Fareed Mahameed, environmental public health specialist and Assistant Director of the Arava Institute's Center for Transboundary Water Management, & Gil Yassor, Co-CEO of Shamsona NGO, that provides solar energy for off-grid Bedouin communities
6:45	Travel to Mitzpe Ramon
8:15	Check-in and dinner at the hostel
	Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon
Friday May 12: Negev	
	Breakfast at the hostel
8:30AM	Lecture by Dr. Emir Galilee: Negev Bedouins - Law, Tribe and State
10:30	Community tour of Mitzpe Ramon by foot & bus
1:30PM	Lunch in the Mizpe Ramon Spice Route Quarter
2:30	Free time in the area
3:45	Travel to site
4:00	Meet Dr. Elli Groner from the center of Arid Socio-Ecology, Arava Institute & Dead Sea-Arava Science Center, for afternoon walk & talk: Nature at the Edge of Life
6:30	Back to hostel
7:00	Dinner at the hostel
	Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Saturday May 13: Negev	
	Breakfast at the hostel
7:45AM	Travel to site
9:00	Ramon crater guided hike in the world's largest "Erosion Makhtesh"
12:30PM	Lunch at the hostel
	Free time
3:30	Travel to site
	Wadi Aricha Bedouin village: meet Salman Sadan, village representative & Dr. Miri Lavi-Neeman, Center of Political Ecology, Arava Institute
6:00	Bedouin dinner
7:00	Return to hostel
	Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon
Sunday May 14: Arava	
	Breakfast at the hostel
	Check-out and load the bus. Load laundry for cleaning
08:30AM	Travel south
	Observation viewpoint stop at Har Ayit
10:30	Welcome to Kibbutz Ketura. Kibbutz tour
12:00PM	Lunch in Kibbutz Ketura's dining hall
1:00	Introduction to the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, with Cathie Granit, Program Director
1:45	Student panel with Israeli, Palestinian, and International students who are learning and living together
2:45	Check in to Ketura guesthouse
	Free time, pool open
4:45	Group discussion & reflection, with Dr. Clive Lipchin
6:30	Dinner in the Kibbutz dining hall
	Evening activity
	Overnight in Kibbutz Ketura
Monday May 15: Arava	
Nakba Day	
	Breakfast in the guest house dining hall
8:30AM	Tour of the experimental orchards of the Arava Institute's Center for Sustainable Agriculture
10:30	Tour of the regional wastewater treatment facility
11:45	Travel to Eilat
12:45PM	Lunch
1:30	Explore the challenges & uniqueness of the Coral Beach: "dry talk" & snorkeling in the Red Sea
4:00	Free evening including dinner
	Overnight in Kibbutz Ketura
Tuesday May 16: Dead sea	
	Breakfast in the guest house dining hall
	Check out and load the bus
7:30AM	Travel to the Dead Sea
9:30	Regional field trip with Dr. Clive Lipchin: Dead Sea crisis
11:00	Tours of Dead Sea sinkholes
1:30PM	Lunch
	Meet with the Dead Sea Revival Project
	Swimming in the Dead Sea & a short boat excursion
4:30	Travel to Jerusalem
5:45	Check in to the hostel
07:00	Dinner with Arava Institute alumni
	Overnight in Jerusalem

Wednesday May 17: Jerusalem	
	Breakfast at the hostel
07:30AM	Guided tour of the Old City
12:45PM	Lunch
1:30	Visit to the Israeli Supreme Court
5:00	Evening activity
	Dinner
	Overnight in Jerusalem
Thursday May 18: Jerusalem day eve. Jerusalem and the West Bank	
	Breakfast at the hostel
8:30AM	Field trip to Wadi Kidron & Al-Auja, with Dr. Jawad Hasan, faculty member at Al Quds University and at the Arava Institute, on water resources and soils
	Lunch
4:00PM	Travel back to Jerusalem
6:00	Free evening including dinner
	Overnight in Jerusalem
Friday May 19 - closing day, Jerusalem day. Jerusalem region	
	Breakfast at the hostel
8:30AM	Guided hike in the Jerusalem hills
12:00PM	Tour of Abu Ghosh and lecture: Living in the Levant - bridging narratives and cultures
1:30	Lunch
2:30	Closing session, with Dr. Clive Lipchin
4:00	Return to hostel
6:00	Dinner
	Overnight in Jerusalem
Saturday May 20: Departure	
	Check out and load the bus
03:45AM	Travel to airport
4:15	Arrive to the airport
7:00	Depart back to the USA