



INVITATION TO SERVAS ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
“LIVING IN THE NEGEV DESERT, THEN AND NOW”
MAY 21-27, 2018

WRITE TO: Israel@servas.org

Servas Israel invites you to a guided tour in The Negev desert in Israel, which will provide the unique opportunity to experience for yourself, first-hand and up-close the life in this desert – then and now:

- We will visit sites in the Negev desert, with its ancient history, agriculture and modern research – at Midreshet Ben Gurion, Avdat ancient city, Massada,
- Its various communities, cultures and intercultural projects – old and new - Kibbutz, Beer Sheva city, Bedouins, Nabateans, Ethiopians, Bilingual school,
- Its exquisite landscape and geology – at Makhtesh Ramon, Zin valley/river, the Dead Sea,
- Having fun at the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
- Participating in Meetings, Lectures and Workshops, as delivered by guests,
- Personal presentations, by guests,
- At last, and not least – getting to know each other – Servas friends from around the world.

This event is specially intended to provide a special and deep experience of one of the wonders of the world.

Servas Israel members will be happy to host you before and after the guided tours.

Come enjoy Israel with us.

Write to: israel@servas.org for details and registration.

Please read important information at the end, after the program.

Day - Time	Activity	Place / remarks
Before the meeting	Guests will be hosted in Hasharon - Tel Aviv - Hashfela areas.	Servas Israel team will assign the hosts

Day 0 - Monday 21 May 2018

18:00 – 19:00	Welcome meeting – guests and hosts. Registration and payment. Program presentation & practicalities.	Beit Haam – Sde Warburg - with hosts
19:00 - 21:00	Welcome party – breaking the ice, songs, dancing	Beit Haam – Sde Warburg - with hosts

Day 1 – Tuesday 22 May 2018

8:00 - 10:30	guided tour by bus from Tel Aviv - Beer Sheva to Sde Boker Field School.	Meeting point at Tel Aviv - Savidor Merkaz train station at 8am. Our guide - Yochi Gordon , Servas host, will join in Beer Sheva - http://www.beer-sheva.muni.il/Eng/Pages/default.aspx
10:30 - 12:30	visit Joe Alon center - Bedouin culture .	Our guide - Yochi Gordon , Servas host. Joe Alon center - 08-9913322, 08-9913394, http://www.joealon.org.il/?page=category&cat=63
12:45 - 13:45	Light lunch in Beer Sheva (purchased individually).	at BIG center in Beer Sheva
14:00 - 15:00	Continue by the tour bus to Sde Boker Field School at Midreshet Ben-Gurion . On the way - Beer Sheva sites / viewpoints - Negev Brigade monument.	
15:00 - 16:00	Check-in	Sde Boker Field School at Midreshet Ben Gurion - 08.6532016. http://www.boker.org.il/english/
16:30 - 17:30	Get-together, practicalities, register for activities, workshops and optional trips. Sign up for guests' presentations & volunteering.	Sde Boker field school
17:30 - 18:30	Preparations for dinner	organizers and volunteers
18:30 - 19:30	Dinner	Sde Boker field school
19:30 - 21:30	Social meeting, countries presentations, and folklore, bed time story	Sde Boker field school

Day 2 – Wednesday 23 May 2018

7:00 – 8:00	Morning activities – yoga, gymnastics	by volunteers
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7:30 - 9:30	Breakfast	at Sde Boker field school
10:00 - 11:00	Tour and explanations at the Desert Research Institute and solar facility at Midreshet Ben-Gurion.	Our guide - Jeff Gordon , the institute lecturer, Servas host. Midreshet Ben Gurion - http://www.boker.org.il/english/aboutmidrasha.htm
11:00 - 12:00	Walking tour to Kibbutz Sde Boker, Ben-Gurion memorial, Nahal Zin viewpoint , learn about everyday life in the kibbutz, modern desert agriculture.	Our guide - Nitzhona Ben Dror , Servas host
12:00 - 13:00	Ben-Gurion heritage – lecture / visit Ben Gurion cabin - learn about Ben-Gurion's vision and about the man.	Our guide - Nitzhona Ben Dror , Servas host
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch at the kibbutz	at the Kibbutz dining room
15:00 - 17:00	Free time / recreation activities / workshops / lectures	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon - by volunteers
17:30 - 18:30	preparations for dinner	organizers and volunteers
18:30 - 19:30	Dinner	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club
19:30 - 21:30	Social meeting, countries presentations, and folklore, bed time story	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon

Day 3 – Thursday 24 May 2018

7:00 – 8:00	Morning activities – yoga, gymnastics	by volunteers
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast	at Sde Boker field school
9:00 - 10:30	guided tour by bus to Massada and Ein Bokek beach on the Dead Sea	Our guide - Hevgad Levran , Servas host
10:30 - 14:30	Visit Massada - up and down with cable car from the east side near the Dead Sea. Enjoy Ein Bokek beach at the Dead Sea. Lunch (purchased individually).	Our guide - Hevgad Levran , Servas host . Massada - http://www.parks.org.il/sites/English/ParksAndReserves/masada/Pages/default.aspx.08-6584207/8 Swimming suites and towels recommended for the Dead Sea.
14:30 - 16:00	back by the tour bus to the kibbutz / rooms	
16:00 - 17:30	Free time / recreation activities / workshops / lectures	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon - by volunteers
17:30 - 18:30	preparations for dinner	organizers and volunteers

18:30 - 19:30	Dinner	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club
19:30 - 21:30	Social meeting, countries presentations, and folklore, bed time story	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon

Day 4 – Friday 25 May 2018

7:00 – 8:00	Morning activities – yoga, gymnastics	by volunteers
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	at Sde Boker field school
9:00 – 13:00	guided tour by bus – visit Mitzpe Ramon and Makhtesh Ramon - view from Ramon center promanade, by bus to see the rock layers, the colored sands and the Minsara ("carpentry shop")	Our guide - Arthur du Mosch , Servas host. Mitzpe Ramon and Makhtesh - http://www.parks.org.il/sites/English/ParksAndReserves/ramon/Pages/default.aspx
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch at Mitzpe Ramon center (purchased individually)	Our guide - Arthur du Mosch , Servas host
14:00 - 15:30	Continue by tour bus and visit Avdat Nabatean city - the view and rock drawings.	Our guide - Arthur du Mosch , Servas host. Avdat Nabatean city - http://www.parks.org.il/sites/English/ParksAndReserves/avdat/Pages/default.aspx
15:30 - 16:00	Back by the tour bus to the kibbutz / rooms	
16:00 - 17:30	Free time / recreation activities / workshops / lectures	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon - by volunteers
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner in the kibbutz dinner hall with kibbutzniks	at the Kibbutz dining room
20:00 - 22:00	Social meeting, countries presentations, and folklore	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon

Day 5 – Saturday 26 May 2018

7:00 – 8:00	Morning activities – yoga, gymnastics	by volunteers
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	at Sde Boker field school
9:00 – 12:00	Options: 1) free time in the kibbutz , meeting with kibbutzniks 2) cycling along Zin cliff to Kibbutz Sde Boker, 3) learning about horses in the desert and riding them	Our guides - Zvi Ben-Dror / Hevgad Levrán / Arthur du Mosch - Servas hosts. Prior registration necessary. Options 2 and 3 - purchased individually
12:30 - 13:30	lunch at the kibbutz	at the Kibbutz dining room
14:00 - 15:30	Guests' lectures or free time	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon

16:00 - 17:30	Free time / recreation activities / preparations for the farewell party	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon - by volunteers
17:30 - 18:30	Preparations for dinner	organizers and volunteers
18:30 - 19:30	Dinner	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club
19:30 - 21:30	Farewell party – artistic program by countries and workshops presentations (Optional: hosts will join sometime during the day)	Sde Boker field school / kibbutz youth club / moadon

Day 6 – Sunday 27 May 2018

7:00 – 8:45	Breakfast and Check-out	at Sde Boker field school
9:00 – 10:30	guided tour by bus from Sde Boker field school to Tel Aviv. Stop at Beer Sheva	Our guide – Yochi Gordon , Servas host
10:30- 14:30	Visit the Bilingual school and the Ethiopian heritage center in Beer Sheva. Ethiopian cuisine tasting.	Bilingual school https://www.hajar.org.il/en/home/ Ethiopian heritage center http://www.shavubanim.org/default.asp
15:00 - 17:00	continue by tour bus to Ashdod beach and port on the Mediteranean sea.	swimming suite and towels recommended
17:00 - 18:00	continue by tour bus to Tel Aviv (Savidor Merkaz Bus/Train station.	
	Saying Good bye, hugs and kisses. Go to hosts or fly home (Optional: hosts will join sometime during the day)	hosts in Hasharon - Tel Aviv - Hashfela areas. Servas Israel team will assign the hosts.

Important information for preparing your trip to Israel:

- Registration is open for up to 40 participants, and will end on 28 February 2018, or earlier, as soon as the event is fully booked. Registration will be fully accepted after receiving the following documentation at: israel@servas.org:
 - registration form** (attached separately) in Word format,
 - approved flights booking** - as provided by the agent/airline company. Please try to arrive two days before 22 May and leave two days after 27 May, so that you have the opportunity to be hosted properly before and after the guided tours.
- The breakdown of the price for the event is as follows. All amounts are to be paid in cash in shekels at the welcome meeting on 21 May 2018.

- a. **Activities - 1400 shekels** per person, covering entrance fees to sites, guides, lecturers, bus rentals, transportation between the event's sites, lunch and dinner at the Kibbutz dining room, materials and refreshments at meetings and some unexpected expenses,
 - b. **Accommodation** (depends on the number of persons in the room - price per night: During week days - **370 shekels for 2 persons and 130 shekels for each additional person/child**.
Friday night - **450 shekels for 2 persons and 150 shekels for each additional person/child**.
(We booked 10 rooms for couples with or without one child, and 6 rooms for 4 persons at Hamburg section, at Sde Boker Field School).
 - c. **Optional activities**, only for those who will book in advance at registration: **70 shekels per person for bike rental** (not less than 20 participants), **horse riding experience** (up to 5) – price to be published soon.
3. **Estimated expenses** per participant (for information only) – approximately 800 euro, depending on the total number of days in Israel.
 4. **Cancellation fee** – 50% of the above-mentioned costs if less than 30 days before the event starts – to cover service providers' cancelation fees.
 5. Participants are **responsible** for:
 - a. Booking flights to and from Ben Gurion airport in Israel.
 - b. Arranging and paying for their own transportation from/to airport and/or to hosts/meeting points.
 - c. Purchasing their own health and travel insurances and tourist visa (if necessary).
 - d. Paying individually for refreshments, lunch during the day tours and at hostel (excluding breakfasts) as well as in kiosks, cafes, restaurants, market, etc.
 - e. Sending to israel@servas.org valid Letters of Introduction (LOI), if participants wish to stay with Israeli hosts.
 6. Servas Israel organizing team will assign hosts willing to host two days before and two days after the event.
 7. Certificates of attendance will be provided upon request.

See you in Israel

Servas Israel Organizing Team

Write to: israel@servas.org

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