

SPNI Yarok schedule September - October 2008



Come join SPNI's tours for individuals and families. Tours are held in Hebrew, although many of the guides and participants speak English. Children up to the age of 3 can join for free.

For further information, or to make a reservation, please call 011-972-3-6388625 or 6388688, to the cell-phone number 011-972-57-2003030, or by e-mail to teleteva@spni.org.il. Information and reservations by phone can be made during Israeli business hours, Sunday–Thursday 1:00 am–9:00 am, EDT; Friday 1:00 am–6:00 pm, EDT.

Trip times and starting points are given at time of registration.

Required equipment on all SPNI hikes: high shoes, hat, sunscreen, and two liters of water per person.

FAMILY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Springs in the Jerusalem Mountains

Saturday, September 19th. Code: 71909818.

A hike in the beautiful Jerusalem Mountains, from the top of Mt. Aminadav to the remnants of an ancient farm and the water tunnel of Ein Hindak, where we will take a cool dip.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

The Negev Lily

Har-HaNegev SPNI Field School

Saturday, September 20th. Code: 52009813.

A special end-of-summer trip to the beautiful Negev Desert. We will hike to the top of the great waterfall of the Yamin River and look for the blooming Negev Lily, enjoying the rock formations and dry waterfalls. At the end we will dip our feet in the last of the winter pools, and learn who uses this water.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Here comes Goliath

Friday, September 26th. Code: 82609802.

A hike to the Judean Prairie, where King David beat the giant Goliath. We will visit this beautiful area, see the Madras ruins and learn about Samson. We will also walk through orchards and lookout to the Elah Valley.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Sweetness in the Sands

Tuesday, September 30th and Sunday, October 19th Code: 33009825.

For the new year we will venture to the dune expanses of the Nitzanim park, observe nature's beauty and learn about the flora and fauna of the sands, and end by making pita's and dipping them in honey.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Waterfalls and Stakes in the Judean Desert

Tuesday, September 30th. Code: 43009826.

A hike to the short canyon in the bottom part of the Ogg River that combines reclusive monks, the desert, cliffs and dry waterfalls, and majestic vistas of the Dead Sea and the Moab Mountains.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

On the Walls of Acre

Wednesday, October 1. Code: 90110878

A walk along the walls of ancient Acre: We will visit the Eastern Market, hear tales of Napoleon and Al-Jazar and visit the lively port, the Han and the lighthouse!

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Ga'ash Fun

Saturday, October 4th. Code: 92009819.

A fall hike for families to the cliffs of the Ga'ash beach and the hidden nature reserve, amongst the special plant and animals that live here. We will end with a lookout on the Mediterranean.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Short on Saturday

Saturday, October 4th. Code: 90410893.

A fall hike for families with small children to the cliffs of the Ga'ash beach, amongst the special plant and animals that live here.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 15; price for non-members is NIS 30.

To the Coolness of Earths Depth

Saturday, October 4th. Code: 30410881.

An original way to cool off from summer's heat is to enter earth's depths...on this trip to Tel-Goded, Luzit and the ruins of Madras we will get accustomed to giant bell caves, mysterious burial caves and dark and winding hideaway caves from the days of the Bar Kochva revolt..

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Fingers of Fall

Saturday, October 11th. Code: 91110873.

We will begin in the artist's village of Ein Hodl, and start this climb up the Etzba Ridge for a beautiful lookout upon the coastal plain and the Mediterranean. We will peek into the gaping opening of the Etzba Cave on the western Carmel range, learning about early man, and exploring the special cave.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

SUCCOTH FAMILY HIKES AND VACATIONS

Rappelling in the Galilee

A family rappelling workshop

Monday-Tuesday, October 13-14. Code: 71310875.

We will begin by learning the secrets of ropes & knots on Mt. Gilboa, sleep under the stars and wake for a hike to the Druze village of Beit Jan, visit the 'Huta 6' stalactite cave.

The excursion is by private car. Price for members is NIS 585; price for non-members is NIS 819. **No prior rappelling experience needed.** Price includes professional repelling guides and equipment, night sleeping equipment and meals.

The Yellow Queen

By private car: Tuesday, October 14th. By bus: Monday, October 20th. Code: 51410876

A beautiful trip to see the blooming autumn crocus, passing the Yeruham Range and the desert of the Tzin Valley, ending with some sand dune fun in the Big Crater.

Cars: Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Bus: Price for members is NIS 150; price for non-members is NIS 210.

Canada park for the Young Ones

Thursday, October 16th, Sunday, October 19th. Code: 81610892

A short hike in the Canada Park. We will walk along the Valley of Springs and its fig, pomegranate and palm trees, stop to rest at the Spring of the Dates, listen to interesting tales of the Hasmoneans (Maccabeas) fighting the Greeks, and of the miracle that occurred here.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

Night on the Sands

Tuesday night, October 21. Code: 32110874

Come nightfall, we will head on a fascinating hike on the magical dunes of Nitzanim Sand Park. We will follow footprints of animals; set rodent traps, after which the animals will be freed; and end with a bonfire that includes pita bread and delicious tea.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 66; price for guests is NIS 90.

Family Challenge

Ein-Gedi SPNI Field School

Friday–Sunday, October 17-19. Code: 71710879.

A wild desert challenge at the beginning of autumn that will include challenging activities, dry waterfall climbing and learning of survival skills. We will hike the Arugot river in the Ein Gedi nature reserve, and hike around Masada at dusk.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 885; price for children is NIS 525. **Price includes sleeping in the field school and full meals. Trip is for ages 6 and above.**

Eilat Mountain Experience

Saturday to Monday, October 18-20. Code: 51810879.

Three days of family fun in the Negev. We will look for the squill flowers, that signal the coming of the fall. We will enjoy children activities, a moonlight hike, a hike in the Ramon Crater, kite flying and outdoor cooking. We will also see the beautiful fall flower – the Yellow Crocus!

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 927; price for children is NIS 678. **Includes full field meals, lodging and snorkel equipment.**

The Squill hunters

A weekend in the Mt. Negev SPNI Field School

Saturday to Monday, October 18-20. Code: 61810895.

Three days of family adventure to the mountains of Eilat, between canyons and dry waterfalls that run through granite rocks and colorful sandstone. We will hike in the Red Canyon and its surroundings, climb to the sandstone pillars of the Timna Valley, and descent to the copper mines. At the last day we will snorkel in the Corral Beach nature reserve and visit the underwater sea observatory on an exiting tour, and get to know the wonderful life in the Red Sea. A special experience for the whole family!

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 756; price for children is NIS 645. **Includes full field meals and lodging.**

To The Greenest Mountain

A family vacation in the Mt. Meron SPNI Field School

Sunday to Tuesday, October 18-20. Code: 71910878.

A family vacation in the coolest place to be: Cool mountain wind, majestic Galilee views, shaded nature hikes, bird ringing, water holes, a trip to the village of Peki'in and activities for kids. We will view the beauty of the Galilee from above, and descend from its eastern side walking through oak forest, reaching a hidden spring an ancient synagogue. We will visit the Amud stream, descent the Pa'ar cave, and end with a fun bonfire, a move and popcorn.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 845; price for children is NIS 525. **Includes full field meals and lodging.**

NIGHT HIKES

A night on the Dunes

Tuesday Night, October 14. Code: 31410877

A night hike on the great dune of Ashdod: come nightfall, we will head on a fascinating hike on the magical dunes. We will follow footprints of animals; set rodent traps, after which the animals will be freed; and end with a bonfire that includes pita bread and delicious tea.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 66; price for guests is NIS 90.

WINGS: BIRDING TOURS FOR ALL AGES

Kabalat Shabbat with Wings

Friday afternoon, September 26th. Code: 72305814

A festival of nature and birds for the whole family at dusk: a tour to the fish pond of Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael and to the beach, where we will observe common and little tern, plovers, herons, gulls, storks and ducks and learn about their lives. The tours will be led by some of the best SPNI birding guides, and will include family activities, ending with a **Kabalat Shabbat ceremony**.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 51; price for non-members is NIS 75.

Counting Birds

Saturday, September 20th. Code: 72009818.

With the coming of the fall begins the great bird migration, when hundreds of thousands of birds pass overhead. One of the best observation places is near the town of Rosh Ha'Ayin. We will hike in local fields, place ourselves in a shaded location and with the help of telescopes and binoculars observe the southbound birds- including lesser spotted eagles, levant sparrowhawks and many other raptors.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 72; price for non-members is NIS 102.

The Bird Kingdom

A multi-day happening in the Ma'agan Michael bird park

Wednesday-Monday, October 15-20. Code: 715108892

A special and professional tour to the fish ponds of Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael and to the beach, where we will observe some of the migrating birds taking rest here on their way to winter in Africa. We will see seagulls, storks, waders and ducks, and observe bird ringing travel by tractor on the beach- led by the best birding guides of the SPNI.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 35; price for non-members is NIS 55. Tours will leave from the Ma'agan Michael field school.

Eagles in the Sky

Saturday, September 27th and Wednesday, October 1st. Code: 72709891.

With the coming of the fall begins the great bird migration, when hundreds of thousands of eagles pass overhead. We will go to an important sleeping station is the Ben Shemen Forest. We will visit the international bird tracking station in Latrun as well.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 84.

Bring the Fall

Saturday, October 4th. Code: 70410895.

With the advance of fall, the songbirds are returning home to Jerusalem after a long voyage from faraway lands. We will greet the birds at the Jerusalem Bird Observatory, watch the ringing process, and learn about their migration.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 54; price for non-members is NIS 75.

Family Weekend Programs

Mt. Meron Bliss

A weekend on the high Galilee

Friday–Saturday, September 19-20. Code: 71909818.

A weekend full of nature, ambiance, and various human landscapes in the mountains of the Upper Galilee. We will hike through the tall oak woods of the Bar'am Forest, and view the Lebanon and Hermon mountains- then congregate for greeting of the Shabbat, with a festive meal and activities. Come morning, we will visit the springs of Neria. We will end with a beautiful springtime hike and a traditional Druze lunch.

The excursion is by private cars. Price for members is NIS 414; price for guest is NIS 582.

Price includes a night in the Mt. Meron SPNI field school, dinner and breakfast and snacks. Children up to age 3 free.

ADULT HIKES Ages 18 and up

Ramadan Nights in Wadi-Ara

Friday, September 19th. Code: 71909825

During the Ramadan month the streets empty with sunset as Muslims return to their homes for the fast breaking Iftar meal. This trip through the sights and communities of Wadi-Ara will combine an in depth introduction with the people and land. We will walk through the town of Um-El-Fahem, visit the art gallery, be hosted in a private residence for the Iftar meal and continue with a night hike through the towns picturesque allies.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 180; price for non-members is NIS 252.

The Spirit of the Galilee

Wednesday, October 1st. Code: 70110870.

A distinctive human mosaic in the Yodfat Range of the Galilee. We will descend from the Jewish village of Hararit to the Netofa hermitage, visit Tel-Yodfat, the Muslim village of Kaukab, and a special sculpture garden.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 144; price for non-members is NIS 204.

The Majestic valley

Saturday, October 11. Code: 41110874.

There is nothing like a desert hike with a rest near a fresh spring. We will hike *Vadi-Kelt* in the northern Judea Desert, and we will descend to the *Ein-Mabua* spring. There, we will dip in the cool water.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 135; price for non-members is NIS 201.

Of Caves and Leopards

Wednesday, October 15. Code: 71510877.

A big stone arc above an abyss, stalactite caves, amazing views and a hike on the Admit plateau in the Upper Galilee. After this we will descent into the Namer (leopard) cave, and end on the Betzet beach.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 135; price for non-members is NIS 204.

MEDIUM- TO DIFFICULT-LEVEL HIKES Ages 18 and up

The Streams of Wadi Kelt

Friday, September 26. Code: 82609877.

There is nothing like a desert hike with a rest near a fresh spring. We will hike *Vadi-Kelt* in the northern Judea Desert, leaving from the village of Anatoth and we will descend to the *Ein-Mabua* spring. There, we will dip in the cool water.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 144; price for non-members is NIS 195.

Challenge in Tze'elim

Saturday, October 4. Code: 40410898.

A challenging hike to the Tze'elim River in the Judean Desert. We will begin by climbing to the Garney Hill. We will walk the desert plateau; descend the big canyon of the Tze'elim River; and reach the Dead Sea.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 168; price for non-members is NIS 252.

The East of Galilee

Saturday, October 11. Code: 71110897.

A fall hike to an unknown beautiful path in the eastern Upper Galilee, viewing the fall flower bloom, as we pass through a cave and an ancient synagogue.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 147; price for non-members is NIS 189.

Wellsprings in the Negev

Friday-Saturday, October 17-18. Code: 51710824.

Water cisterns in the Ovdad River, an afternoon dip in Ein-Akav, and rock paintings at Mt. Arkov, Green desert oases in Ein-Akav and Ein-Shaviv, and ancient agricultural farms along the Tzin River—all this and more, during this unusual excursion to the Negev Mount. We will camp at the Ein Zik desert oasis.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 360; price for non-members is NIS 504.

HIKING ON THE ISRAEL PATH

The Israel Path, 950 continuous Kilometers of marked paths, is an extraordinarily large project initiated by SPNI that has caused a revolution in Israel's hiking culture. For the first time, one can walk the length of Israel on one track, experiencing the dust of the Negev and desert, feeling the cool of the Jerusalem Mountains, and enjoying the abundance of water in the north. SPNI is harnessing itself to fulfill the dream of many: hiking along the Israel Path. For the first time, in an organized manner, you will be able to join a group, hiking the whole path from north to south once a month; or join a group of adults or families, hiking on 12 selected portions of the path. Those who finish the path will receive a special certificate. It is possible to join the hikes at any time and fill in missing portions in the future.

The Galilee Plateau

Saturday, September 20th. Code: 72009829.

A trip through the green spans of the Lower Galilee that includes panoramic views and water springs of the hidden eastern Galilee.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 135; price for non-members is NIS 189.

CYCLING TOURS

A bicycle and helmet can be rented for an extra NIS 75. A technician from the Rozen & Meents Bike Company will accompany the tour and advise the participants. Trips are intended for persons with off-road cycle experience and are meant for ages 10 and up.

Desert Drifters

Wednesday-Thursday, October 15-16. Code: 51510868.

A two day desert cycle adventure: A trail along the upper Bsor river *wadi*, with remnants of the famed Spice Trail, grand acacia trees, and a visit to Shivta, a beautiful archeological site. We will cook dinner together and sleep under the stars.

The excursion is by private cars. **The distance cycled will be approximately 50 km.** Price for members is NIS 348; price for non-members is NIS 489. Price includes technical escort by the Rosen & Meents Bike Company. Bicycles can be rented for an extra price. **Trip is intended for persons with off-road cycle experience and is meant for ages 10 and up.**

HIKES FOR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

Galilee Roll

Saturday, September 20th. Code: 72009823

A hike in the Western Galilee, through the meandering Yehiam stream, oak forest and the ecological village of Klil. We will end with an introduction to the world of non-poisonous snakes.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 186; price for non-members is NIS 255.

Ein-Gedi of Water and Desert

Saturday, October 11th. Code: 71110824.

We will wet our feet in the cold pools of Ein Gedi, hike the Arugot stream in the Ein Gedi nature reserve, and hike along a challenging desert path.

The excursion is by bus and private car. Price for members on the bus is NIS 186; price for non-members is NIS 255. By private cars: Price for members is NIS 60; price for non-members is NIS 90.

TEVA-DATE SINGLES TOURS

The Green Incline (ages 25-35)

Saturday, September 20. Code: 72009832.

Shaded paths and graceful spots meet at the top of the green mountain. We will descend the steep channel of the Yagur River with the help of stakes and rock stairs between oaks and other trees. We will conclude in the Murad winery, tasting special wines and liquors.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 144; price for non-members is NIS 204.

Cooking in Nature (ages 30-45)

Saturday, October 4. Code: 70410893.

An unknown path in the Galilee will challenge us as we walk through the Meron stream and the Shema ruins. Finally, we will enjoy a cooking workshop in nature, by a bonfire.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 144; price for non-members is NIS 204.

The Beauty on the Mountain (ages 25-35)

Saturday, October 11. Code: 71110895.

A hike in the footpaths of Joseph's son of Matityahu and the story of the great revolt against the Romans. We will begin from the peak of the Shabi Mountain, where we will view the wide, open space of the Lower Galilee, and we will descend to the Yodfat River and Yodfat Mound. We will end in the Eblayim Stream springs. We will end at the Muslim village of Kaukab, and a special sculpture garden.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 144; price for non-members is NIS 204.

The Mountains around Nazareth (ages 45-60)

Thursday, October 16. Code: 71610866.

A trip to beautiful old town of Nazareth, ended by a hike on Mt. Devora.

The excursion is by bus. Price for members is NIS 177; price for non-members is NIS 219.

JEEP TOURS

Up to Samaria

Friday, September 26th. Code: 822609822. Easy navigability.

A Jeep tour through the breathtaking scenery of the Samaria. After an amazing lookout, we will drive along the Ka'ne River, the largest in Samaria. Along the trip we will stop to wet our feet, see ancient ruins, terraces, and cisterns—a beautiful trip.

The excursion is by private Jeeps. Price for members' Jeep is NIS 270; price for non-members' Jeep is NIS 378. **When registering, please make sure that you have the right kind of Jeep for the tour. You must have experience in off-road driving, and towing and rescuing equipment.**

Land of desert Canyons

Wednesday, October 1. Code: 40110828. Easy-intermediate navigability.

A fascinating drive through a desert landscape with beautiful vistas towards the Dead Sea and the desert valleys, in the intermediate zone between the Judean Desert and the Aravah Valley. We begin with a drive along the Dead Sea cliffs, stop for an amazing lookout from Ras-Fesha, and then by hiking the Salvadora stream area.

The excursion is by private Jeeps. Price for members' Jeep is NIS 270; price for non-members' Jeep is NIS 378. **When registering, please make sure that you have the right kind of Jeep for the tour. You must have experience in off-road driving, and towing and rescuing equipment.**