

Off the beaten track



FOODIE

Tour a Kibbutz in the Galilee

This unique food tour to the Galilee introduces visitors to the region's organic and sustainable cuisine. The morning starts off with a breakfast on an organic vegetable farm at a kibbutz in the area and is followed by a serene walk through the farm's harvests and an organic dairy, with a tour guide leading the way. The best part? Getting your own hands dirty while you're at it. This tour includes volunteering in the fields. Yes, that's right. So be prepared to get a feel for how it is to work on the land. Afterward, a hearty lunch at the organic kibbutz restaurant is enjoyed before touring the markets of Nazareth. At the city's markets you'll have the chance to taste delicious sweets and visit a 100-year old spice factory. And before calling it a day, dinner is included at one of Nazareth's best restaurants. This tour requires a minimum of four participants and is not offered in the summer due to the heat.

Price of tour varies by the size of the group. Contact info@israelfoodtours.com to book tour. (israelfoodtours.com/galil.html)



URBAN

Learn Hebrew through graffiti tour

Who says you have to learn Hebrew from an Ulpan textbook? Guy Sharett, a former journalist who studied linguistics at the Hebrew University, offers an alternative to the typical classroom-learning format. His is a Hebrew lesson/ neighborhood jaunt/crash course in Israeli society via studying the graffiti, street signs, advertisements, banners, bumper stickers, and impromptu chats with locals — even eavesdropping on conversations in a cafe. For his most popular tour, Sharett explains cool Hebrew slogans and signs painted on the walls of the Florentin neighborhood and talks about the unique culture and history of the hip and trendy area. You'll also get to learn new words, roots, and verbs — so be prepared with a notebook to jot down notes as well as a camera (so you can refer to the photos later). This tour is for levels Bet Plus-Gimel Dalet only. Alef-Bet tours are also available.

Contact Guy Sharett directly for the next tour. NIS 40. 38 Florentin St, Tel Aviv (054-6623314/guysgha@hotmail.com/guysgha.weebly.com)



GEOLOGICAL



Explore the Ramon Crater

Tour the Negev's Ramon Crater, the largest erosion crater in the world, from inside a Jeep Land Rover! Learn about the history of the desert as you drive back in time. Spanning 40km, the Ramon Crater is 9km long and 300 meters deep. The earliest rocks are from the Triassic period, about 250 million years old. During this geological and historical tour, dwellings, graves, ancient water systems and trade routes from pre-man times are pointed out throughout the region. A nature reserve filled with a plethora of geological and historical sites, the Ramon Crater is a must-see for the tourist and local alike, and is a fantastic opportunity to view southern Israel's diversified wild life. The tour guide will talk about the desert, history, nature and geology of the preserve. Insured and certified by the Ministry of Tourism, each Land Rover jeep can hold up to eight passengers.

This tour is private, leaving daily from Mitzpe Ramon and Sde Boker with pick-up from hotels in the area. Tour hours: 09:00-10:00 and 14:00-16:00; NIS 175 to NIS 400 depending on tour length. (052-8813112/negevjeeptours.com)