

Experience Shmita Yisraeli on Your Next Trip to Israel!

Visiting Israel in 2014-15 will present a once-in-seven-years opportunity to experience the country as it engages Jewish tradition and today's most critical societal issues. This Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a Shmita year, and thanks to the work of Teva Ivri's "**Shmita Yisraeli**" project, hundreds of individuals, organizations, educational institutions, and government offices are implementing innovative projects for a more sustainable and just society.

Shmita Yisraeli is where the values and practices of the Shmita tradition meet Israel's most pressing social and environmental issues. Shmita Yisraeli projects, ranging from debt relief programs to community organizing to resource conservation efforts, showcase the values and practices of the Jewish Sabbatical year in a creative and contemporary way.

Our more than 50 partner organizations are re-weaving the social fabric of our country, and are excited to include the global Jewish community in the process. Shmita Yisraeli will enhance your tour group's Israel experience with a range of unique educational, religious, and cultural perspectives.

JiVE! (Jerusalem Volunteers for the Environment), offers volunteer opportunities, tours and study sessions designed to introduce your tour group to Shmita Yisraeli. Half-day programs or full-day seminars are adaptable to Israel visitors of all backgrounds, including high school students, Federation delegates, synagogue groups, and more. Our educational team will work with you to weave the content of the programs into the narrative of your trip. Sample programs include:

1. **Fruit Harvest** – Join Project Leket to collect fruit for distribution to food banks in N'halel, and learn about the agricultural aspects of Shmita in a group study session.
2. **Shmita "B'Shetach"** – Enjoy a tour of a religious Kibbutz observing Shmita and learn the laws of Shmita through a group study session.
3. **Social Change on the Streets** – Tour some of south Tel Aviv's most vulnerable neighborhoods, exploring issues of poverty and immigrants and learning about Shmita Yisraeli's debt relief project.
4. **Social Change within the System** – Meet with local government officials and non-profit organizations to learn how they are adapting Shmita as a practice for sustainability.

These and other JiVE! programs provide a one-of-a-kind, hands-on encounter with the intersection of Jewish values and modern Israel's progressive vision. In addition to special Shmita programs, JiVE! continues to offer its standard modules on environmental thought and action in Israel. To learn about these popular programs, see here.

For more information, and to add the Shmita Yisraeli experience to your Israel trip, contact us now!

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