



The 5th International Conference | November 2014  
**November 17-20, 2014**  
**Sede Boqer Campus, Israel**  
**Before you arrive...**

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**Still have a question?**

If you have questions we have not addressed, don't hesitate to contact us at [desertification@bgu.ac.il](mailto:desertification@bgu.ac.il) or at any of the phone numbers listed at the end of this document.

**CONFERENCE EVENT ONLINE SITE**

**NEW!!!** Browse the special site we have created for the event to access the online program, read about the speakers, review the abstracts, check the map, comment on lectures, post pictures, approach other participants and more! Information is currently being uploaded to be used during the event, but you can already check it out NOW...Either scan the QR or link to the Event site at <http://www.meet.ee/DDD2014/> (NOTE: optimized for mobile devices).





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### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Weather:** It's the end of autumn, beginning of winter in Israel in November. When you arrive in Tel Aviv, it may be anything from warm to cold and rainy. Wear clothing that you can use to layer. Sede Boqer is part of the Negev Desert, and will be cool in the mornings, warm during the day and rather cold at night (13°C-15°C), so you will want to consider that when packing for the trip and dressing in the morning.

**Packing List:** Several outdoor activities are planned for during the conference. Therefore, **please be sure to pack a pair of decent walking shoes, a hat and warm clothes.**

Bring, rent or buy a **cell phone**. Cell phones are very important in Israel, as landlines are by far less common. Cell phones will also make it easier to coordinate with the other people at the conference and to reach someone if anything changes or goes wrong in your plans.

**Weekend in Israel is: Fri-Sat.** If you arrive on Friday/early Saturday, we suggest spending the night in Tel-Aviv or near the airport, joining the conference day trip to Jerusalem on Sunday, Nov. 16, which continues to the conference venues in the afternoon. If you need help finding a room, please contact the organizers. **If you plan on spending the weekend at any of the conference venues, please make sure to purchase food in advance, as almost all shops will be closed, and there will be no food to buy.** Please further note that there is no public transportation during the weekend (except pre-arranged taxis). There are also no taxis available at any of the conference venues.

**Health Issues and Medical Insurance:** It is extremely important to have medical insurance, as health costs are very high for tourists. There are limited medical facilities around the conference venues; therefore if you need medications or special care, please arrange it well in advance.

### GENERAL TIMELINE:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Pre-conference tour	Jerusalem	Nov. 16
Lecture Days	Sede Boqer Campus	Nov. 17, 18, 20
Field Trip Day	Sede Boqer Campus	Nov. 19

### MEETING VENUE

The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research are situated on the Sede Boqer campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 50 km south of Beer-Sheva, Israel. Overlooking the beautiful Zin Wadi, the Sede Boqer Campus serves as home to several institutions, among them another university research institute: the Ben-Gurion Research Center, a boarding high school for environmental education, and a desert field school.



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It is also the burial site of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and a great believer in the potential of the desert. For a map of the area: <http://ramat-negev.org.il/en/main.php?m=1677> . For tourist information on the Ramat Hanegev area: <http://ramat-negev.org.il/en/main.php?m=1175&s1=1593&ban=1>

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided either at Sede Boqer (Midreshet Ben Gurion), or at Mashabim Country Inn (at Kibbutz Mashabei-Sade, 20 minute drive from the conference venue), or at the Ramon Inn hotel (in Mitspe-Ramon, 30 minute drive from the conference venue).

In the Sede Boqer area: You may be staying at the **Sede Boqer Guest House, Sede Boqer Field School** and/or the **University Guest House**, all located within walking distance of the meeting venues, in Midreshet Ben-Gurion.

#### Some general notes regarding accommodation:

- Check-in time is 2 pm. Check-out time is 9 am. There will be storage facilities on campus during the conference to guard your luggage if necessary.
- A meeting representative will provide you with a key to your room, upon your arrival. If you intend to arrive at unusual hours, please make sure you coordinate your arrival with your lodging contact person (see Table below) or with the conference organizers.
- **Due to the early check out time, please be sure to check out on the morning of your departure before leaving the premises and attending the lectures.**

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

### VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please remember that all visitors to Israel must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date they enter the country. People with no nationality must hold a valid laissez passer, as well as a visa back to the country that issued it. Israel has agreements for the waiver of visa requirements with over 60 countries. For the full list, check the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](#).

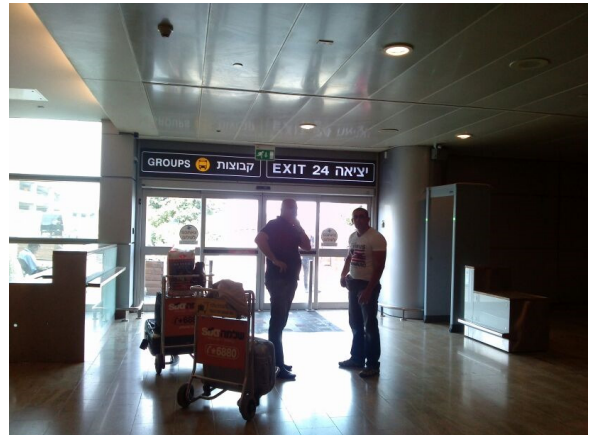
For all other countries, a VISITOR'S VISA should be **pre-arranged** to enter Israel (it **cannot be provided upon entry**). **All participants are responsible for making their own visa arrangements.** The meeting organizers have provided an official letter confirming your attendance at the meeting to assist in the process of obtaining a Visa, provided that you have fully registered (including payment). If you have not received such a letter, please contact the organizers ASAP. Please also remember that you may need a transit visa, depending on your flight itinerary.

### ***International Arrivals (general):***

The nearest airport is Ben-Gurion Airport (near Tel-Aviv, and coded TLV) in Israel. The airport is situated about two hours drive north of the Sede Boqer campus.

There is only one international terminal (Terminal 3).

**The conference bus meeting point (for those arriving on Sunday, Nov. 16, see below)** will be at the Groups Meeting Point, at Exit 24, located on the Arrivals floor. A conference representative will wait in the area and hold a “DDD 2014” sign.



Some general tips for international arrivals:

- If you are flying *EL AL* to Israel, be prepared for a great deal of additional security from the airline employees, and occasionally to have to submit to a search of your belongings. Be sure to arrive at the airport with plenty of time to spare and a letter of invitation to the conference.
- Make sure you have all your paperwork lined up before you prepare to pass through customs. In contrast to its reputation, Israel is actually a safe country, but that’s because Israelis take national security very seriously; please answer all the officials’ questions honestly and concisely.
- Make sure that they are aware that you are traveling to meet a group and are participating in a conference at Ben-Gurion University. If you encounter any trouble from Israeli immigration or security forces, please have them call one of the meeting coordinators (see numbers at the end of this document).

### ***INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS – TRAVEL OPTIONS***

- **Those arriving on or before Nov. 15:** you can join one of the conference buses going to the conference venue on Sunday, Nov. 16 (see details below). Please advise the conference organizers of your plans, and we will help you coordinate them with us.

- **Those arriving by 9:30 am on Sunday, Nov. 16** – please note that check-in time to your conference lodging rooms is not until 2 pm. Therefore, you may want to consider one of the following options:

a) you may join the pre-conference tour to Jerusalem, leaving the airport at 10:00 am on Sunday, eventually arriving at the conference venue in the evening. A conference representative (having a “DDD 2014” sign) will meet you by Exit 24 (inside the terminal, see above) and direct you to the coach leaving at 10:00 am. If you are running late, or have any questions, the representative's name is Malak and her phone number is: +972-52-7896622. She will then join the coach to Jerusalem.

b) If you do not want to join the tour, and wish to make other plans, please contact the organizers and we will do our best to assist.



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- **Those arriving between 10 am and 4:30 pm on Sunday, Nov. 16 –**

Based on the current participant flight schedule, we have arranged for a conference bus at 5 pm. Additional rides are possible. We encourage participants to send us their flight schedule, [as well as fill our logistics form](#). We will do our best to assist.

The conference coaches will drop you off at the different conference venues (those staying at the Ramon Inn may need to change buses in Sede Boqer, and possibly wait a while). **Please reserve a seat in advance [HERE](#)** (it's the same "logistics form").

If these times are not suitable to you, or if you intend to arrive independently, please also inform the organizing team.

- **Those arriving after 5pm on Sunday, Nov. 16 –** If you have not already been in contact with the organizers, **please let us know if you want assistance in booking a taxi for you. See below regarding info on prices.** To those who want to travel independently- From the airport you can take a taxi directly to the Midreshet Ben-Gurion (2 hours, \$150-200) or a train to Tel Aviv central station (\$5, 10 minutes), from there a bus or train to Beer-Sheva (1.5-2 hours \$10) and then bus number 60 to Midreshet Ben-Gurion Campus (one hour, \$5)- please see more detailed information further below, under "transportation".

### ***LOCAL TRAVEL***

#### **CONFERENCES BUSES FROM TEL-AVIV**

Due to traffic and other considerations, the conference buses will NOT pick participants in Tel-Aviv. However, arriving to the airport independently is very simple by train (about 15-20 minute ride), and not that expensive by taxi, and you can take the conference buses there (see above). You may also catch the bus in Beer-Sheva (see below). Pre-Registration is essential [HERE](#) (it's the same "logistics form").

#### **CONFERENCES BUSES FROM/TO BEER-SHEVA (north/university station)**

The following conference buses will be available from/to Beer-Sheva at the following times:

##### **Sunday, Nov. 16**

The 5 pm bus from the airport will also stop in Beer-Sheva north railway station (near BG University). Approximate departure time will be 6:45 pm. Pre-Registration is essential [HERE](#) (it's the same "logistics form").

##### **Monday, Nov. 17**

From Beer-Sheva north railway station (near BG University) at **7:45 am**  
To Beer-Sheva from conference venue at **7:00 pm**

##### **Tuesday, Nov. 18**

From Beer-Sheva north railway station (near BG University) at **7:45 am**



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To Beer-Sheva from conference venue at **7:00 pm**

### **Thursday, Nov. 20**

From Beer-Sheva north railway station (near BG University) at **7:30 am**

To Beer-Sheva from conference venue at **3:00 pm**

**In addition, there is very convenient and frequent public transportation from Beer-Sheva Central Bus Station** (see below).

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO THE CONFERENCE**

(from airport/Tel-Aviv/Beer-Sheva)

Please remember that there is no train or bus service during the weekend (buses and trains stop Friday at midday and start again on Saturday evening).

Also, please consider that Sunday mornings are extremely busy times and are not recommended as a convenient travel time in Israel.

The following PUBLIC transportation is available:

#### **By Bus to Beer-Sheva/ Sede Boqer:**

As there are no direct buses from the airport to Beer-Sheva or Tel-Aviv, we do not recommend changing 3 buses to reach the conference venue. The total journey airport to the Sede Boqer campus by public buses takes 3-3.5 hours.

#### **By Train to Beer-Sheva:**

Train transportation is available and convenient to Beer-Sheva (although Sunday mornings are extremely busy times).

At the main exit of Terminal 3 (where all international flights land) there is a train station. Take the train one stop to Tel Aviv ("Hagana station") and then change to Beer-Sheva. Get off at the last stop (Beer-Sheva Merkaz [=Central]), cross the road and take a taxi or bus to Sede Boqer Campus, or if joining a conference bus (see time table above)- get off at the first station in Beer-Sheva (Beer-Sheva Tsafon [North]/University station).

The Israel Railway English site is: <http://www.rail.co.il/EN>

Total price of train from airport to Beer-Sheva is around \$10.

#### **By bus from Beer-Sheva to the Sede Boqer campus:**

From Beer-Sheva central bus station, take "Metropoline" bus number 60 or 64 (platform 19), asking for Midreshet Sede Boqer (Sede Boqer Campus). The journey takes about 50 minutes.

Please make sure to get off at the "Midrasha" and not at the "Sede Boqer kibbutz" stop, which is 5 km. north of campus.

These buses operate at a rate of about 1-2 buses per hour. The last number 060 bus leaves Beer-Sheva for Sede Boqer at approximately 23:30 hours on Saturdays through Thursdays, at 16:30



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hours on Fridays. Again, please remember that Sundays are extremely busy times and are not recommended as a convenient travel time in Israel (even for Israelis).

### By Taxi to Sede Boqer Campus:

You can take a taxi directly from the airport to Sede Boqer for about \$150-200. **Please confirm price before departing the airport to avoid any misunderstandings.** Please let us know if you want us to book one for you, at fixed university rates, and we will gladly do that. Alternatively, you can take a train to Beer-Sheva and a taxi from Beer-Sheva for about \$50-80. Again, **please confirm price before departure to avoid any misunderstandings.**

### General Travel Tips:

- ❖ Please bear in mind that there is no public transportation from Friday afternoon to Saturday sunset (the local weekend).
- ❖ If you have an international student card you will usually receive a 10% reduction on the price of train tickets. A senior citizen card can save you 50% of train tickets.
- ❖ Those arriving on Sunday morning should bear in mind that it is the most crowded day of the week. Travel takes longer, and some buses may fill quickly and refuse to accept additional passengers beyond their quota.

### TRANSPORTATION/ SHUTTLES DURING THE CONFERENCE

The organizers are providing free transportation from the Mashabim Country Inn and Ramon Inn hotel to the conference venues, and back. The ride takes approx. 20 minutes from Mashabim and 30 minutes from Ramon Inn. There will also be buses from/to Beer-Sheva University (about 45 minutes). **Please note that the number of seats available is planned according to the lodging arrangements and therefore there is no need to register for these coaches if you are staying at one of the lodging facilities. For daily participants - if you would like to join these rides, it is essential to pre-register [HERE](#)**

Morning Shuttle times to Sede Boqer are as follows (departure times):

From	Monday, Nov. 17	Tuesday, Nov. 18	Thursday, Nov. 20
Beer-Sheva	7:45	7:45	7:30
Mashabim	8:20	8:20	7:40
Ramon Inn	8:15	8:15	7:45

Evening Shuttle times from Sede Boqer are as follows:

To	Monday, Nov. 17	Tuesday, Nov. 18	Thursday, Nov. 20
Beer-Sheva	19:00*	19:00*	15:00 also to Airport
Mashabim	19:00 * 22:00/23:00	20:30 22:00	--
Ramon Inn	22:00	20:30	--

\* No conference dinner if taking this bus. Actual times may differ. Please confirm at the information/registration desk.



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In addition to the free buses, Metropoline buses stop in Midreshet Ben-Gurion (where the Sede Boqer Campus is located) and travel both to Beer-Sheva (northbound, stopping at Mashabim on the way) and to Mitspe Ramon (southbound). It costs roughly 15 shekels (less than \$4). For more details, please approach the registration desk. Taxis are not available on site but can be booked for you (at least a few hours in advance by the conference staff).

Furthermore, there are some conference drivers that can assist if needed. Please approach the registration/information desk for more details.

### **FIELD TRIPS DAY (Nov. 19) INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

There are several interesting options to choose from for the tour day. Please make your selection early as some of the tours may not take place if there are not enough participants (at least 15) while others fill quickly and are limited in the number of seats.

#### **Please see below for further details and registration.**

Please note that most tours will leave at 8 am from Midreshet Ben-Gurion, but some tours leave earlier (7-7:30 am). For the early morning tours, pre-packed breakfast will be provided. All others need to have an early breakfast and be ready by 8 am.

Tour length varies: while some tours return at about 4 pm, some will arrive directly to the dining facilities.

**All the conference participants meet at the end of the day, at 6 pm, for a festive Bedouin dinner and special music performance.** For those who have not joined the tours, or who have returned early, there will be a special bus taking participants from the various Midreshet Ben-Gurion lodging facilities at 5:45 pm. Please advise the organizers in advance if you are planning to use this bus.

Return buses will leave the dinner area at two times: at 8 pm, after dinner and at 9:30 pm, after the music performance.

Tour Descriptions follow. At the end of each description is a link to the tour's pre-registration page.

### **Tour I: Ecosystem Restoration at Project Wadi Attir and Desert Architecture**

This day consists of two independent parts, one on "Project Wadi Attir" and the other on desert architecture. Participants may join either half of the program or the full day program.

Part I: Desert Architecture, led by Arch. Matti Kones, recipient of the 2010 Cook Award for Desert Architecture: The tour will include the Old City of Beer-Sheva, focusing on the concepts of "garden city" introduced in the desert by the Ottomans, or rather their German and Swiss army engineers, as well as issues of siting (water availability, but also previous occupation of the site in the Roman and Byzantine periods), orientation of streets for ventilation, urban grid and plot size, introvert design for the residential buildings as opposed to extrovert for the public ones, open spaces and gardens (incl. urban agriculture). Then by bus to the Technical School of the





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IAF to talk about green architecture concepts for educational facilities, energy, water, materials, daylight etc.

Part II: Project Wadi Attir, led by Dr. Stefan Leu who directed the project's soil restoration program. The central topic for the visit would be the soil enhancement and water retention program, an important component of the project. The visit will be hosted by members of the project team including Dr. Mohammed Alnabari, Mayor of Hura.

For a detailed description read [PDF](#).

### Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 8 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm

There will be a bus at 5:45 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT1/signup/en>

### **Tour II: Afforestation in Drylands (This tour is limited to 40 participants)**

The tour will focus on the challenges and various techniques of afforestation and forest management in the semi-arid and arid areas of the Negev. It will be led by experts of the JNF (KKL), the Israeli Forestry Service. Aspects of water harvesting, soil conservation and rehabilitation, long term research and monitoring, drought, urban forestry and seedlings production, will be demonstrated through the tour.

### Tentative program:

\* Liman – Water harvesting and monitoring.

\* Gilat Nursery – Seedlings production for afforestation and urban forestry.

\* Karkor wadi: water harvesting and afforestation, gully control.

\* Yatir Forest – Lunch, afforestation in the frontier of the Mediterranean, agriculture, tourism, urban forestry.

### Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 7:30 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm, but tour may end later, directly at the dinner. If ending early, there will be a bus at 6 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT2/signup/en>

### **Tour III: Hydrology and Advanced Water Technologies**

This tour discloses some advanced technologies to produce and conserve water, as well as advanced agricultural developments in arid areas. It is led by a researcher from the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research of BIDR.

### Tentative Program:



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The day will begin with a tour of the desalination research department at the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research of BIDR. Then, we will visit a local farm implementing grey water recycling systems. Additional interest points include the Agricultural R&D center, tour of the Ktziot Desalination plant, lunch at the Nitzana educational village and, if time permits, a guided tour of the ancient Nitzana site.

### Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 8 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm

There will be a bus at 6 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT3/signup/en>

### Tour IV: Arid agriculture – drip irrigation

This tour combines a field trip and a round table discussion, exploring commercial and experimental agricultural sites in the central, western and northern Negev.

It will include visits to two regional Agricultural R&D stations, to commercial irrigated farming operations including olives, citrus, jojoba, field and greenhouse vegetable crops, and to the Netafim-Hazerim drip irrigation systems factory. A forum of irrigation and commercial professionals will join the trip's participants for a round table discussion of drip irrigation and its role in solving the world's water and food crises.

### Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 8 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm

There will be a bus at 6 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT4/signup/en>

### Tour V: The Route towards Mine & Mining Rehabilitation

The aim of this tour is to explore concepts and work methods that have been used over the last 15 years in mine-rehabilitation projects at the Ramon Crater in the Negev desert and to compare the outcome of two different approaches to mine rehabilitation - one used by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) and that of ICL company, which is the world's sixth largest potash producer, as well as the leading provider of pure phosphoric acid. The tour will pass through different rehabilitated sites and will demonstrate different implementation techniques. It will also include other beautiful sites and geological phenomena.

### Tour Logistics:

Packed breakfast will be provided on the bus.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (field school parking): 7 am

Tour will not arrive to Midreshet Ben-Gurion before dinner!



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Expected arrival time to Bedouin dinner: 6 pm.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT5/signup/en>

### **Tour VI: Public Health Tour**

Israel's unique demographic and social composition introduces challenges of health disparities and social justice. These characteristics present a "living laboratory" opportunity for the study of health challenges in globalized societies. In order to grasp a feeling of how health is a contextual concept, we will visit three different clinics: in a Bedouin village, in a kibbutz and in a development town. We will meet with general practitioners operating these clinics and hear from them on the specific health problems they encounter. During the tour we will have the opportunity to discuss a variety of public health challenges from different perspectives, ranging from epidemiology to social justice and eco-health.

Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 8 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm

There will be a bus at 6 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT6/signup/en>

### **Tour VII: Agro-Ecology – Study Tour**

This tour will investigate some practical aspects of sustainable intensive agriculture in arid conditions. It will be guided by Mr. Avraham Zilberman (Soil and Water Extension specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

The tour will visit Kibbutz Zeelim to learn about their organic vegetable production (potatoes, carrots, radishes) using recycled wastewater irrigation, compost, soil conservation. Then the group will visit the Besor Citrus Orchards to explore drip irrigation with recycled treated wastewater, soil conservation and use of compost. After lunch, the group will explore the Besor rainwater catchment reservoirs and hear about rainwater harvesting.

Tour Logistics:

Early breakfast at dining hall required.

Departure time from Midreshet Ben-Gurion (dining room): 8 am

Expected arrival time to Midreshet Ben-Gurion (conference venue): 4 pm

There will be a bus at 6 pm, for joining the other groups for the Bedouin dinner.

**To Register for this tour:** <https://www.fee.co.il/dddT7/signup/en>

### **MINI-EXCURSION (Nov. 17) INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

There are short, 2 hour trips during the lunch break on the first conference day, Monday, Nov. 17. All tours leave from the entrance to the Evens Auditorium at 12:45, after the morning sessions and return by 14:45 in time for the afternoon sessions. Pre-packed sandwiches will be provided on the bus.



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The options for these field trips include:

- A visit to Kibbutz Sede-Boqer: learning about kibbutz life and visiting the desert home of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.
- A Spanish and Russian guided tour to the ancient Nabatean city of Avdat, a World Heritage UNESCO site, highlighting aspects of ancient agriculture and settlement.
- A visit to the local Bedouin, to learn about their culture and traditions.
- A visit to a local site exhibiting signs of ancient rock art.
- A hiking trip to Wadi Karkash, a taste of the natural desert habitat (hiking/sports shoes needed).

To select and register for any of these mini field trip days, click here:

<https://www.fee.co.il/dddme/signup/en>

### **MORE INFORMATION**

#### ***INTERNET ACCESS & COMPUTER FACILITIES***

Wireless connection is available at the main conference hall area, using a code that will be provided by the organizers upon arrival.

Currently, wireless connection is available in limited areas around the lodging facilities.

#### ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS - POSTER SESSION***

Poster size should be 90 X 110 cm. There are no printing facilities on campus.

The poster session, for submitted posters, will take place on Monday, Nov. 17, from 8:30 pm, along with a welcome reception, at the lobby of the French Associates Institute for Agriculture and Biotechnology of Drylands building. Posters need to be arranged by 1 pm on Monday (Nov. 17) and shall remain on display throughout the conference. A conference representative will be available to assist poster presenters. Please inquire at the registration/information desk for further details.

#### ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS - LECTURES***

We wish to bring to your attention that this year all presentations will be uploaded in advance. Furthermore, it will not be possible to use your own computer during presentations.

You are therefore asked to send your prepared presentation no later than Nov. 15, 2014 (preferably sooner!) to [dddabstracts@gmail.com](mailto:dddabstracts@gmail.com). Alternately, you may upload your presentation using Dropbox and sharing it with this email address.

Unless you have been advised otherwise by your session convener(s), regular presentations are 15 minutes long plus 5 minutes for Q&A.



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Important Requests: You may save your presentation either as PDF, PPT or PPS presentation, but the organizers recommend to save your presentation in a PDF OR “Power Point Show” (PPS) format, thus avoiding any unexpected problems during the presentation. We strongly recommend that your presentation will not depend on internet connection/links etc.

Please use your last name, session name and beginning of title in the file name. For example, the file name can be:

*Chen\_RemoteSensing.ppt OR Smith\_EnvEducation.pps OR Tal\_economic.pdf*

### ***PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION***

**Conference Pre-Registration will take place on Sunday (Nov. 16) evening** both at the Mashabim Country Inn and at the Hamburg Field School facility at 7pm-9pm along with some light refreshments.

Regular Registration will take place on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (Nov. 17, 18 and 20) at the main conference area (Evens Auditorium). It is not possible to register for the excursion day (Nov. 19) separately. **It is highly recommended to use the pre-registration option.**

### ***CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS***

The Israeli currency is the New Israel Shekel (NIS, or shekel for short). Foreign currency of all kinds may be exchanged at the airport, banks, post offices, most hotels or licensed exchange agencies in large cities. The rates vary from place to place, and banks charge a commission.

Holders of international credit cards can withdraw local or foreign currency at banks which accept their credit cards. There are Automatic Teller Machines outside most banks.

Major credit cards – American Express, Diners, Visa, Mastercard/Access/Eurocard – are widely accepted in Israeli restaurants, stores, hotels, museums, etc.

### ***SUPPLIES, BANKING AND SHOPPING***

The “commercial center” of Midreshet Ben-Gurion (where the Sede Boqer Campus is located) has a supermarket (with an indoor cash withdrawal option), post office (with some limited banking options) and some shops. Please check at the registration desk for more details.

Additional and larger commercial facilities can be found at the nearby towns of Mitspe-Ramon and, of course, metropolitan Beer-Sheva. Buses No. 60, 64 and 69 to Beer-Sheva stop within walking distance from a shopping mall. Please check at the registration desk for more details.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Position	Phone number
Prof. Isaac Meir	Conference Chair	+972-52-5506730
Prof. Alon Tal	In the absence of Prof. Meir: Conference Chair	+972-52-8795754
Prof. Arnon Karnieli	Conference Chair and Poster session & contest chair	+972-52-8795925
Mrs. Dorit Korine	Event Coordinator	+972-52-3541375
Mr. Nir Ortal	Pre-Conf. Tour guide (Yad Ben-Zvi)	+972-54-6324452
Ms. Samara Bel	Guest Coordinator	Onsite or at <a href="mailto:desertification@bgu.ac.il">desertification@bgu.ac.il</a>
Mr. Eyal Alexander	Mashabim contact person + Mashav course contact person	+972-50-6393303
TBA	Ramon Inn contact person	TBA
Ms. Dana Meir	Field School, University Guesthouse B&B accommodation assistance	+972-52-4438086

## CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE VARIOUS LODGINGS

Name	Address	Phone number	Fax number
Mashabim Country Inn	Kibbutz Mashabei-Sade	972-8-6565134	+972-8-6565145
Sede Boqer Field School	Midreshet Ben-Gurion	972-8-6532016	+972-8-6532721
Ramon Inn hotel	Mitspe Ramon	972-8- 6588822	+972-8-6588151

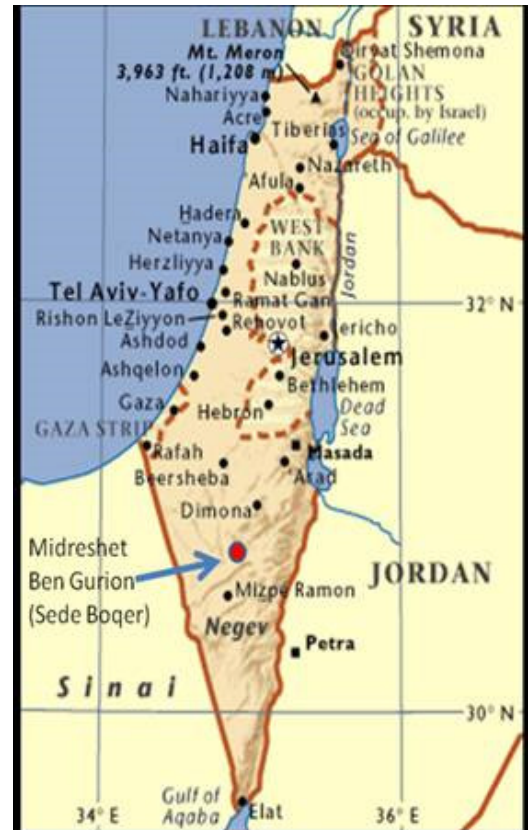
## INFO ON ISRAEL

(and a note on personal safety and security issues)

You may find below some general information on Israel. For further information, please check the following sites:  
<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA> and  
[http://www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism\\_Eng](http://www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism_Eng)

*Is it safe to travel to Israel? You probably asked yourself this question or heard it from friends and family members. No place in the world is 100% safe, but Israel is a relatively safe country to visit. In the past few years the security situation in Israel has been increasingly calm since the end of the Intifada. The chance of getting caught up in an act of terror in Israel is extremely low.*

*It should be stressed that the Gaza Strip, which is occasionally on the news, is at the south-western tip of Israel, far from the tour and vacation sites (including Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem etc.) and thus there is no reason for anxiety in this respect. In particular, Sede-Boker campus is located in the Negev Desert far from any conflict area, and is a tranquil and beautiful academic and educational campus.*



## FINALLY, SOME GENERAL ADVICE:

The Sede Boquer campus is located in beautiful scenery. If you are lucky, you will notice herds of wild ibex wandering in the area. However, we recommend that you do not wander off very far in the desert alone. Distances in the desert are difficult to judge, and flash floods on rainy days in this area are extremely dangerous and unpredictable. We certainly do not want to have to conduct a search for anyone in the Negev.

**Sede Boquer** is a small and isolated campus. Dress code is extremely informal. Entertainment is limited. You may well find it useful to bring with you a supply of reading matter, although we intend to keep you busy during the conference!

**Have fun!** We hope you enjoy the conference and have the opportunity to meet and talk to all of the wonderful students, faculty and staff here at The Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies. We are looking forward to meeting you and hope that you have a memorable time in Israel.