

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 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 and Dr. Michael Ben-Eli, founder of the Sustainability Laboratory. [For more details, click here.](#)

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.