



**TOURNEE DES REFUGES - SDE BOKER FIELD SCHOOL**  
**CROSS-DESERT MUSICAL EXPEDITION**  
**26.1.2019 - 5.2.2019**



At the end of January 2019, a collaboration between Tournee Des Refuges and Sde Boker Fiels School will take place in the Negev Desert of Israel. Our Journey will begin in a pre-tour concert that will take place in "The Zone" concert hall located in Tel Aviv. From there, shifting to Sde Boker, situated in the heart of the Negev Desert our musical walking tour will began. After an opening concert in the village, we will walk for 10 days along and besides the Israel National Trail, crossing some of the most spectacular sceneries and phenomenas the Negev Desert have to offer. Tracing back along ancient trails to visit some historical sites such as Ovdat city and the spice route which is part of the UNESCO world heritage sites. Farther more we will walk alongside and into the biggest natural erosional crater in the world- the Ramon Crater. Leaving the Negev highlands, we will continue east gradually deciding to reach the outstanding landscape of the Arava Valley. Every day along the route we will enjoy live concerts perfumed by talented hikers and skilled musicians of Tournee Des Refuges.

Friday 25.1.2019: Pre-Tour Concert, 15:00 "THE ZONE" - Tel Aviv

**\*not included - for tickets:**

<https://haezor.com/en/events/tournee-des-refuges-eng/>

Saturday 26.1.2019: Tel Aviv- Sde Boker

12:00 o'clock noon Transfer by bus from TLV "Savidor" central train station to Midreshet Ben Gurion (Sde Boker).

**bus meeting place:**

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/א+מרקוז+רכבת+ת%E2%80%AD/@32.0828219,34.794509,17z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xd5035d684af2ad43!8m2!3d32.0833012!4d34.7970808>

Accommodation in "Sde Boker Field School" (3 ppl/room) dinner + breakfast  
Evening concert.

### Day-1, Sunday 27.1.2019: Sde Boker-Ovdat

Soon after breakfast, the walking tour will begin. Packing all our heavy belongings upon the logistic jeep, taking only a small day bag with some food and water for the day. Heading down to the Tsin valley, a dramatic descent will lead us to the entrance of Ein Ovdat Canyon. Walking through vertical walls, spring' waterfalls and hidden pools, we shall soon reach the end of the canyon where the southernmost forest of Euphrates poplar is flourishing. Climbing the steps and ladders to the top of Ein Maarif waterfall for a great outlook of the canyon. Continue along the upper Tsin riverbed scattered with natural pools and petroglyphs soon reaching the ancient city of Ovdat. Afternoon concert at the open church of the city and an afternoon descent to a Bedouin tent of the Abda village.

Accommodation: Bedouin tent.

12 Km, easy

<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/EdP8v1t2BP>

### Day-2 Monday 28.1.2019: Ovdat- Ein Aqev Upper-Ein Ziq

Early morning hike from Abda Bedouin camp along the old Israel National Trail through the Divshon plateau, soon to reach the upper spring of Ein Aqev. From there, continue hiking along the Aqev wadi, ascending back to the plateau to a beautiful viewpoint of the Zin Valley, and descending toward the Oasis of Ein Ziq & Ein Shaviv.

Desert Camping

14 Km, moderate

<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/Ly5CFlowfi>

### Day-3 Tuesday 29.1.2019: Ein Ziq-thirsty snake caves-Sharav ruins

Start the morning with a climb from the Ein Shaviv Oasis back to the Ovdat Plateau reaching the top of the climb after about an hour. Continue along the trail until reaching the "Thirsty Snake" caves, artificial man-made caves with great acoustics for a late morning concert. From the caves' descending one last time to the Tsin Valley reaching the small spring of Ein Sharav. Continuing along the ancient camel trail declining the Naqeb to reach the Sharav ruins and our camp for the night.

Desert Camping

18 Km, difficult

<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/b6Db73cJl6>

### Day-4 Wednesday 30.1.2019: Hava Pools, Grafon Fortress, Wadi Hava

After folding up the camp and a small breakfast, hike down to the gorge of the wadi Hava where a natural amphitheater is situated between the cliffs and a large pool contains water year round, a perfect place for a concert. Climb back up to the head of the gorge and catch a trail that will lead us to the ancient fortress of Grafon, situated on the famous UNESCO world heritage spice & incense route. Continue along a newly discovered ancient trail scattered with 1800 years old Roman millstones and up a trail climbing to the southern edge of Grafon Mt. a few more kilometers in the upper wadi Hava will bring us to the next camping site.

Desert Camping

18 Km, difficult

<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/VMJNWZ3915>

Day-5 Thursday 31.1.2019: Wadi Hava, Mitspe Ramon

A short and easy day ahead of us. Continue walking along the Hava riverbed soon to reach a magnificent viewpoint of the Ramon Crater. A natural geological phenomena caused by tectonics and erosion. Walking along the rim of the crater for a few kilometers finally reaching the desert town of Mitspe Ramon and the Desert Shade Eco Lodge where we will spend the night and as every day, enjoy a concert fully open for the town's dwellers.

Accommodation: Desert Shade Eco Lodge  
10 Km; easy

Day-6 Friday 1.2.2019: Mitspe Ramon, Crater, Be'erot camp

After a good night rest on a mattress/bed our desert excursion continues. Hiking down the bottom of the Ramon Crater via Israel National Trail (Ma'ale Brosh) and crossing the harsh landscape to a single locates acacia tree near the Ramon riverbed. Continue east through along the Ramon riverbed to reach the Be'erot camp, where we will spent the night

Desert Camping  
12 Km, easy  
<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/AaJI41KqZF>

Day-7 Saturday 2.2.2019: Ardon, Haririm, Maok, Holit

A long day is in front of us. Early morning short but transfer to wadi Ardon, from where we will start our long hike up to Haririm Mountain and away from the crater, taking the last superb vies from the mountaintop. Continue east crossing wadi Maok, ascending slightly to reach the little spring of wadi Geled and down for tonight's destination camping at Gev Holit.

Camping  
15 Km, moderate  
<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/qASVnSxqd0>

Day-8 Sunday 3.2.2019: Wadi Nekarot, Mt. Yahav, Wadi Tsvira

Another easy day ahead of us. A Lazy morning in the camp to enjoy the winter sun-ray and quiet. Late morning start hike and ascent to Mt. Yahav for great views of Wadi Nekarot tremendous canyon and the Ramon fault-line. Another short and easy walk will bring us to Wadi Tsvira for another night under the stars.

Desert Camping  
10 Km, easy  
<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/b0vCbGKkNt>

Day- 9 Monday 4.2.2019: Wadi Tsvira, the "Caldera", Arava valley, Antelope Ranch

Last day of the tour. Today we will finally reach the Arava Valley, a savanna like desert created by the great Syrian-African Rift valley. Along the way we will cross the Eshboren "Caldera" and up to a great viewpoint of the Arava Valley. Continue some 5 kilometers south to reach the Antelope ranch where we will have our closing and final concert of the tour.

Accommodation: Antelope Ranch  
15 Km, moderate

<https://israelhiking.osm.org.il/share/5nCRyygEGL>

Day-10 Tuesday 5.2.2019: Arava valley, Sde Boker, Tel Aviv

After breakfast, transfer to Sde Boker and Tel Aviv.

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Price:

10-day tour - 26.1.19 to 5.2.19 - 680 Euro

Price includes:

- Transfer from Tel Aviv to Sde Boker (26.1.19)
- Accommodation in Sde Boker Field School (3 ppl/room) dinner + breakfast (26.1.19)
- Entrance fee to Ovdar National Park
- Accommodation in Bedouin camp (Bedouin dinner+breakfast) (27.1)
- Accommodation in Desert Eco lodge (dinner+breakfast) (31.1.19)
- Accommodation in Desert camp Ramon Crater (1.2.19)
- Accommodation in Antelope Ranch (dinner+breakfast) (4.1.19)
- Transfer from Arava Valley to Tel Aviv (5.1.19)
- All Food along the tour (starting dinner of the 25.1.19 until breakfast 4.2.19)
- Logistic along the tour (water, fire wood, cooking material, light, baggage carry)
- Rescue vehicle
- All Concerts along the Desert Tour (25.1.19 to 4.2.19)
- Special Authorization from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Price does not include:

- Entrance fee to TLV concert

**Important:**

**\*January is a very cold period in the Negev desert. Please bring warm clothing, warm sleeping bag, good raincoat and a good weather-resistant tent.**

**\* rout may be subject to changes according to INPA authorization and wether conditions**

**For more information and registration:**

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### ***Required Equipment list for desert tour:***

- 3 season tent (suitable for strong wind and rain)
- Sleeping bag (for cold weather)
- Inflatable sleeping mattress/Foam Camping Sleeping Pad
- Dawn jacket
- Rain jacket
- Hiking shoes
- Tennis shoes
- Gloves
- Winter hat
- Expedition bag
- Day bag (35 Liter)
- Hat
- Cutlery (eating equipment)
- Trekking Poles (optional)

- \* during the day we will walk with a small day bag (30L-35L) carrying our water, food, and warm clothing for the day. **A good hiking bag is required !**
- \* the expedition bag with all equipment for the night (tent, sleeping-bag, cloth, etc' ) will be carry by the logistic vehicle to meet us in the desert camping site.

**26.1.2018 Bus pickup meeting place. 12:00 O'clock noon.**  
**at the parking lot of the TLV "Savior" Train station.**

