

Beta Israel Village



Experiential Ethiopian Village
For the preservation and endowment of the
legacy of Ethiopian Jewry

Background

Beta Israel Village is a unique social-educational center which combines agriculture and educational activities in order to preserve Jewish-Ethiopian heritage and establish it as a sustainable national asset. The Project is the brainchild of the Hineni organization, which has been initiating and supporting Jewish-Ethiopian mission driven communities for more than a decade.

In 2009, on the outskirts of Kiryat Gat, the Hineni organization launched a communal-social agriculture project for Ethiopian elders. The farm, which was founded with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, provided Jewish-Ethiopian elders with employment in agriculture, a field in which they possess traditional knowledge and to which they have a natural connection. This vocation has filled their days with meaningful substance and has allowed them to regain the ability of providing for their families. All of the above, together with various activities, events and self-help and community-building workshops, have significantly and notably restored the self-dignity of plan participants, and has resulted in improving their personal standing within their families and their communities.

It took only a few years for the Project to grow and expand even further, together with the agricultural farm project, and, since 2011, the site has been used for a social-business project known as **Beta Israel Village** (Beta Israel is a term used to identify Ethiopian Jewry). The village is attracting visits from Ethiopian descendants who rediscover their ancestral heritage and learn to view it as a source of pride and empowerment in their lives. It also attracts thousands of non-Ethiopian visitors who are exposed, often for the first time, to the wealth of Ethiopian culture and thus change many of their former stereotypes about this community.

List of workshops

All workshops are hosted by Ethiopian descendant guides. Both Hebrew speaking and English speaking are available

Amharic writing

An artistic workshop that acquaints the participants with the Amharic alphabet through the personal creation of a door sign.



Personal life story

A meeting with one of the elders on the farm that retells the tale of the journey from Ethiopia to Israel



The Ethiopian kitchen

Acquaintance with traditional family cookery, the special ingredients, the preparation and the tastes. Injera, Dabu, the Chou spice and more.



Fire building and pita making

Outdoors workshop that demonstrates the ancient pre-match technique of fire making together with the making of tasty pita bread on a wood oven.



Clay pottery

Activity that teaches the history of Ethiopian Jewish life through the traditional method of housewares making



List of workshops (continued)

Mud building

An activity that acquaints the participants with the most common construction method in Ethiopia "hands-on".



Experiential agriculture

Working together with the elders in the farm on their plots, enjoying what is both an experience and volunteer work.



Contact us for updated prices
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