

Dear Friends Shalom,

This past quarter at Kenes Tours was a mix of hectic operational work and great preparation towards the last quarter of the year, which promises to be eventful.



In this edition, you will read about some of the interesting groups we hosted and tours we operated during the quarter, new sites to visit, and the latest news from the tourism and hospitality industry.

After great effort, we have launched our new website and proudly invite you to visit us: www.kenestours.com.

We have started preparing for next year as demand is impressive. We urge clients to plan and book in advance as space is already limited at some hotels. As September is the Jewish New Year, I would like to wish you on behalf of all of us at Kenes Tours, Shana Tova and a year filled with health and happiness. We look forward to welcoming you in Israel.

Warm regards,

Uri Avrouskine
General Manager
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View the Kenes Tours Profile on:   

HOUSE OF RIDDLES

On September 26 at 6pm, the famous historically preserved railway workers' house at the Jezreel Valley Railway in Kfar Yehoshua was turned into a "House of Riddles!"

To mark 100 years of Jewish settlement in the valley, the house was adorned with historical questions compiled by Israel's famous trivia writer, Dan Hamizer. The house was built in 1903 by the Turkish Pasha, and served as living quarters for the railway workers who built the Jezreel branch of the Hejaz railway, which continued to Medina, Saudi Arabia. The name and hometown of the first person to solve a riddle will be engraved on the wall of the house!

LAKIYA NEGEV WEAVING - A BEDOUIN EXPERIENCE

Tourists to Israel have an extraordinary opportunity to meet Bedouin weavers from the desert village of Lakiya, observe traditional weaving processes and enjoy Bedouin hospitality!



Visitors will be hosted by **Lakiya Negev Weaving** — an empowerment project for Bedouin women in the Negev. Established in 1991 in Lakiya, the project enables them to preserve their traditional weaving methods and to learn business skills to create an income-generating cooperative. Rugs created by Lakiya Negev Weaving are produced on traditional looms with wool from local desert sheep. Crafted in traditional and modern designs, the rugs offer timeless beauty and excellent durability. Guests can purchase products whilst enjoying Bedouin food and music!

KENES TOURS REPORTS SUCCESSFUL Q3

Kenes Tours has been a preferred agent for the **Jewish Federations of North America** (formerly the UJC and UJA) for over 40 years, and this year again operated the **JFNA Young Leadership Mission** with over 200 participants. The mission was directed to 25-45 year-old young professionals from across North America. The successful mission visited IDF outposts in the north, participated in community work in the south, enjoyed fireworks in the desert, and Shabbat in Jerusalem.

Two weeks later, 120 participants of the **JFNA Campaign Chairs and Directors Mission** arrived in Israel to follow-up on their projects here.

The Mission's exposure to the latest Jewish Agency for Israel, Ethiopian National Project and Joint Distribution Committee projects, is essential for the Federations' work in North America.

IGLTA's 27th Convention in Belgium was attended by hundreds of participants from various sectors of the tourism industry. Kenes Tours, a long-time IGLTA member, was represented by Russell Lord, who lectured on Israel and Jordan as part of a seminar on exotic destinations.

On August 26, Kenes Tours arranged a program for a few hundred people that docked at Ashdod port during their Athens to Barcelona cruise. Given their request to see as much as possible during their 18 hour stay in Israel, our program included visits to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea and Tel Aviv. After touring historical sites, testing their negotiating skills in the old marketplace, enjoying a "swim" in the Dead Sea and rejuvenating mud treatments, it was off to Tel Aviv for dinner and a short tour of the city's Bauhaus area. Their visit ended with an unforgettable party at one of Tel Aviv's best nightclubs.

RECONSTRUCTING A SACRED DESTINATION

The historic **Hurva Synagogue**, also known as the Ruin of Rabbi Judah the Pious, stands in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Founded in the early 18th century by followers of Judah he-Hasid, it was destroyed a few years later in 1721. The plot lay in ruins for over 140 years and became known as the Ruin (or *Hurva*). In 1864, the Perushim rebuilt it, calling it the Beis Yaakov Synagogue, but *the Hurva* name stuck. It became Jerusalem's main Ashkenazi synagogue, until its destruction during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.



In 2005, the Israeli government budgeted \$6.2 million to rebuild the synagogue, of which two-thirds were donated by Ukrainian Jewish magnates Vadim Rabinovitch and Igor Kolomoisky. The synagogue was completed in March, 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUITE DEALS FOR "SUITE DREAMS"

The **Inbal Jerusalem Hotel** is offering a stylish vacation at rock bottom prices from Sept.1-Feb. 28, 2011. With Executive Suites discounted from \$560 per room (instead of \$800), your client will enjoy exclusive amenities including complimentary access to the Executive Lounge with breathtaking views, snacks and drinks from morning until night, free Wi-Fi and business services.

