

Updated August 9th, 2026

NIF Switzerland Study Tour October 19th–22nd, 2026

Programme subject to change

Staff Contacts:

Benzi Sanders, NIF Israel, Donor Visits and Affiliate Relations Coordinator

Gabriel Sod, NIF Israel, Director of Resource Development

Monday, October 19th

7:00 – 9:30 PM

Opening Dinner with an introductory briefing from Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin on the state of Israeli society at the current moment and welcoming remarks from NIF President Rachel Liel

Tuesday, October 20th – West Bank and Jerusalem

7:00 AM

Depart Hotel

9:00 – 1:00 PM

Tour of Bedouin communities in Area C

east of Jerusalem with Friends of the Jahalin including traditional Bedouin Lunch with Dr. Dan Turner with framing from Sarit Michaeli over lunch

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Educational Bookshop with Mahmoud Muna

3:00 – 6:00 PM

Walking Tour of East Jerusalem From Damascus Gate to Sheikh Jarrah with Ir Amim

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Dinner in Jerusalem and time for group exchange and daily wrap-up

8:30 PM

Depart to Tel Aviv

Wednesday, October 21st – Palestinian Citizens of Israel
A day tour in Lod

7:00 AM

Depart Hotel

8:00 – 12:30 PM

Lod as a Case Study of the Crisis of Crime and Violence in Arab Society. Tour led by Fida Shehada, Founder of Effect-Taa'ther, and Ruth Lewin-Chen, Deputy Director, Abraham Initiatives and Dr. Antigona Ashkar

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Lunch provided by Lod Community

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Bolstering Palestinian Civil Society: Conversation with Mohannad Beredekar, Nasij Program Director, New Israel Fund

3:30 – 5:00 PM

The Next Generation of Palestinians in Israel: Challenges in Education. Discussion with Amin al-Jamal, Board Member, Mowatinon - Citizens Building a Community and Waseem Hosry - IDEA

5:00 PM

Return to Tel Aviv

6:00 PM

Free Dinner and time for group exchange and daily wrap-up

Thursday, October 22nd – NIF's Vision for the Future
A day in Tel Aviv

8:00 AM

Meet at Standing Together's Purple House Tel Aviv Mikve Yisrael 8 (20 minutes' walk from Hotel Dan Panorama)

8:30 – 9:15 AM

Israeli Democracy in the Age of Populism and Polarization with Dr. Eran Halperin, aChord Center

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Safeguarding Civil Rights and Democracy: Discussion with Hovav Yannai, Program Director, New Israel Fund, Rabbi Noa Sattath, Executive Director ACRI, and Hadas Ziv, Director, Civil Society Protection Hub

11:30 – 1:00 PM

Building Israel's Democratic Infrastructure Panel Discussion with Ella Yadaya, Democratic Infrastructure Program Manager, NIF, Lev Littman, Executive Director Tzedek Centers, Dr. Ilan Amit co-CEO, AJEEC-NISPED (the Arab-Jewish Center for Empowerment, Equality, and Cooperation - Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Economic Development), Rula Daood, Co-Director, Standing Together

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Catered Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Elections: NIF's Mobilization against Voter Suppression

Panel Discussion with Shir Notzaski, Co-founder & Director, Have you seen the Horizon Lately, Jana Boulous, Director of Resource Development Qadaya and Reut Mor, Co-founder and CEO of Citizens' HQ

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Israeli Democracy under threat through a cultural lens

Panel Discussion moderated by Uri Zer Aviv with Yossi Marshuk, Noam Shuster Eliasi and Fania Oz-Salzberger

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Closing Dinner with NIF Executive Director Shira Ben-Sasson

8:30 PM – open end

Time for group exchange and tour wrap-up