

SPNI's Yarok Trips & Activities: March-May 2010

"Nature Online" – Finding us on the 'web'

SPNI's presence on several Internet online social networks enables nature enthusiasts to keep updated in real time on the society's activities, events and political struggles. You can find SPNI's official pages on "The Marker Café," Facebook and Tweeter. Ongoing updates of SPNI news can be found on each of these sites, as well as articles relating to nature and the environment, the opportunity to sign various petitions, photographs, videos, and more. In addition, you have the opportunity to upload relevant information, react to different issues under discussion and even volunteer and donate money to SPNI. These social networks enable us to keep closely in touch with all of you, our friends and supporters worldwide, in real time, to keep you current with all goings-on at SPNI and in Israel's environmental community in general, and to provide you with a means of bringing up issues and voicing your opinion on subjects of personal concern to you.

Find us on the following sites:

Facebook: www.teva.org.il/facebook

The Marker Café: www.café.themarker.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/SPNI

Beit Ussishkin: Nature Museum

Kibbutz Dan; appropriate for Sabbath observers

SPNI's nature museum in Beit Ussishkin in Kibbutz Dan houses impressive collections of animals, butterflies, birds and mammals, along with 3-dimensional exhibits of various habitats in the Galilee and Golan regions. The museum also offers a range of activities and games appropriate for various ages. A visit to this museum is a required stop for all nature lovers. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 16 NIS; Guests – 20 NIS

Special Art Exhibit

December 12, 2009 – April 10, 2010

The Song of the Lake

Photography exhibit of the Hula Lake: 1900-2009; appropriate for Sabbath observers

Uri & Rami Nehushtan Museum, Kibbutz Ashdot Yaakov Meuchad

Drying up the Hula Lake and the protests that were carried out to support its preservation were the activities that led to the creation of SPNI in 1953. In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of the book and exhibit, "The Song of the Dying Lake" that document the lake's drying and subsequent demise, this new exhibit will provide a photographic documentation of the Hula from the beginning of the 20th century until its revival in the 1990s. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 10 NIS; Guests – 15 NIS

Member discount will be given upon presentation of SPNI membership card at the entrance.

For additional information: 04-675-7737

Every Saturday

"Wings" - Birding Tours in the Ma'agan Micha'el Fish Ponds

CODE: 79011007

On every Saturday you can join SPNI's professional birding guides in the fish ponds adjacent to Kibbutz Ma'agan Micha'el's beachfront: Ibises, spoonbills, herons and ducks will greet us on this fascinating tour between the Carmel Mountains and the sea. We will get to know the world of fish-raising and take part in bird-ringing, after which we will set the birds free. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 36 NIS; Guests – 51 NIS

Saturday, March 6, 2010

A City in the Heart of the Desert

CODE: 51303104

Join us on this special hike to Nitzana where we will learn about the desert wildlife and their different uses. We will also visit a reconstructed orchard and the Nitzana cave and learn about the fascinating history of this ancient Nabataean city. The Ramat Hanadiv gardens at the tip of the Carmel are home to a wide variety of foliage and birds. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

The Color Purple

A family trip for little ones; CODE: 93001102

In a forest in the heart of the Sharon blooms the purple iris (SPNI's symbol) in all its glory. We will hike along the forest's trails, between giant eucalyptus trees and rare flowers, while enjoying breathtaking carpets of colorful blooms and searching for traces of local wildlife. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 42 NIS; Guests – 57 NIS

Flying over the Carmel

Birding trip; CODE: 76031074

The Ramat Hanadiv gardens at the tip of the Carmel are home to a wide variety of foliage and birds. We will walk along magical forested pathways among carefully maintained gardens and descend into the Ein Tzur spring, from where we will watch songbirds being caught and coded for research purposes. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 36 NIS; Guests – 51 NIS

On Antiquities and Butterflies

CODE: 36031003

A landscape of round hilltops and pits of water are some of the recognizable signs of Hirbat Burgin in the Judean Plains. We will crawl through hidden tunnels from the days of the Bar Kochba revolt and view impressive remains of ancient communities. We will participate in a creative workshop where we will make unique butterflies. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 45 NIS; Guests – 60 NIS

On the Flowering Savannah

Teva Date, ages 40-60; CODE: 76031040

Between Mt. Tabor and the Kinneret is Ein Sharona, a small, beautiful spring surrounded by blooming nature. We will walk around the colorful colony of Yavne'el, where we will hear fascinating stories of our early pioneers, alongside the basalt homes of the area's early settlers. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 135 NIS; Guests – 189 NIS

Saturday, March 13, 2010

"The Sand Hill" – In the Footsteps of Urban Legends in Neve Tzedek

Urban tour, CODE: 71303101

Fascinating stories are hidden among Neve Tzedek's alleyways. Many writers and thinkers have worked in this neighborhood and left their mark on modern literature and the Jewish people, from Nahum Gutman to Joseph Haim Brenner, to Shai Agnon's story, "The Sand Hill." We will stroll along Neve Tzedek's streets and hear about some of the city's many legends. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 54 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Saving the Hilltops

A nature preservation event - No charge. 10 AM-Noon, the western hilltops of Modi'in

The construction of Highway 4 in Modi'in threatens to cut through the hilltops of Modi'in and cut off the Ben-Shemen forest from the city of Modi'in. Join us for a day of tours and other activities on the hilltops of Regev and Haruva, pristine sites of nature and blooming flowers, orchards and archaeological remains. Information and activity booths will be set up along the trail.

Bike riders: This area is your 'home' and you're invited to join us.

Meeting point: The Ligad Business Center in Modi'in.

For additional information: www.teva.org.il/modiin

To the Flowering Ramah

For the little ones; CODE: 91303100

Colorful flowers and green gardens await us in the beautiful gardens of Ramat Hanadiv in the southern Carmel region. We will climb up to a breathtaking lookout to the Nadiv Valley and hike to the Ein Tsur spring. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 42 NIS; Guests – 57 NIS

When the Jordan River Meets the Sea

A hike along the Kinneret trail; CODE: 21303108

Join us on another in a new series of hikes for the whole family along the new Kinneret trail, initiated by SPNI.

The Kinneret's northern coast is unique. We will hike from Capernaum along the trail that crosses from the vacation village to the sea among eucalyptus and plum trees, progressing to Amnon Bay until we reach the Arik bridge, the point where the Jordan River meets the Kinneret. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Friday-Saturday, March 12-13, 2010

Journey to the "Crest"

The Israel Trail for ages 18+, good hikers; CODE: 71203106

A two-day outdoor desert adventure with long trails amidst the breathtaking desert landscapes of the central Negev. From Sde Boker and Nahal Zin we will hike into the Zin valley and along the slopes of the Great Crater. Towards evening we will sit around a campfire and prepare an outdoor Shabbat dinner together. Impressive water cisterns in Nahal Afran will accompany us on our hike to Mt. Karbolet ("crest" in Hebrew). A long and narrow ridge on this trail is considered one of the most challenging sections of the Israel Trail. Surrounded by intoxicating vistas, we will finish our journey at Oron. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 435 NIS; Guests – 609 NIS

Includes outdoor meals.

Friday, March 19, 2010

The "Green Village"

Urban tour, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 81903102

The colorful neighborhood of Ein Kerem in Jerusalem is surrounded by green hills and filled with rural calm. We will stroll along the alleyways with their local churches and orchards, and the artists living there, learning about the early years of Christianity that took place in the area. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 45 NIS; Guests – 60 NIS

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Ascending Malkishua

CODE: 22003105

Rare and rich concentrations of beautiful irises are found atop Mt. Malkishua in the Gilboa Mountains. The intoxicating fragrances accompany us along the mountains trails. We will hear the story of this special mountain as we stop to enjoy the breathtaking views of the region. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

The Evergreen Mountain

CODE: 92003106

Water cisterns, burial caves and wine presses are some of the things we see on our way to the Muhraka Monastery, a Carmelite retreat on the top of Mt. Carmel. We will visit Hurbat Krach, a historic site with ancient remains, and enjoy a beautiful overlook of the north. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 45 NIS; Guests – 60 NIS

From the Mountain to the Valley

Single-parent family event; CODE: 72006105

Nahal Yatzpur in the Gilboa Nature Reserve presents us with wonderful blooming flowers and a unique challenge trail. We will descend rock-hewn steps to dry waterfalls, and smell the rare Gilboa iris up-close, while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Gilad Mountains and the Beit She'an Valley. Flashlights will help light our way as we go walk through the underground Ein Yizrael tunnel in shallow water. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 126 NIS; Guests – 174 NIS

Natural Herbs with a Pinch of “Cumin”

Teva Date, ages 25-45; for good hikers; CODE: 72003100

The fragrances of spring can definitely be felt from atop Mt. Kamun (“cumin” in Hebrew) in the lower Galilee. We will descend from the top of the mountain along Nahal Kamun rich in oak and terebinth trees. We will visit local Bedouin villages, taste locally-grown herbs and hike along Nahal Tzalmon with its flour mills and flowing waters. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 147 NIS; Guests – 204 NIS

Spring’s Wanderings

A Birding trip; CODE: 71303108

How do birds catch their prey? What do they eat? We will get answers to these questions as we watch a variety of birds on their rest stop on the fishponds of Ma’agan Micha’el, and as they ‘gas up’ for the next leg of their journey. We will also see how the water fowl dive into the water for food, and learn the magical secrets of these special birds. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 36 NIS; Guests – 51 NIS

The Untamed Spring

Family bicycle tour for riders aged 10+; CODE: 56031008

We will ride along the upper channel bed of the wide and wild Nahal Bsor, with its impressive views of loess soil, historic artifacts and rich foliage. Along the way we will see impressive large acacia trees and remains of the ancient “Perfume Trail.” **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 90 NIS; Guests – 129 NIS

In cooperation with the Rosen & Meents bicycle stores. Bikes and helmets can be rented at an additional cost of 75 NIS. Route is of medium-level riding difficulty, about 16 km long. A support vehicle, and a Rosen & Meents technician who will also offer tips and recommendations to riders, will accompany the group.

The Wanderers in Bloom

CODE: 72003104

The Negev’s Bedouins combine a rich and fascinating culture bridging between the old and new worlds. We will combine meetings with members of the Ramadin tribe with a visit to Rahat, the largest Bedouin city in the world, and a nature tour hike among the flowers of Hurbat Rimon. In the Bedouin village of Tel Sheva we will meet Miriam, the “daughter of the desert,” who prepares cosmetics from medicinal herbs, and who will discuss with us the place of the “new” woman in Bedouin society. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 195 NIS; Guests – 273 NIS

Friday, March 26, 2010

Women Larger than Life

Commemorating International Women’s Day

Urban tour, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 72603103

A unique tour following the lives of women who changed the face of Jerusalem. With central Jerusalem’s stone houses as background, we will learn about the lives of the poetess Rachel; artist Ira Yan, Bialik’s lover; and Anna Ticho, and try to understand the secret of female power. We will walk along Hanevi’im and Helene Hamalka Streets and learn about the connection between a Russian princess, an Ethiopian Empress and the rejuvenator of the Hebrew language. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 54 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Wednesday-Friday, March 24-26, 2010

An Outdoor Experience in the Eilat Mountains

Family outing for Pesach vacation; appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 62403100

An outdoor family adventure awaits us in the Eilat Mountains: We will hike in the Red Canyon and towards evening will set up tents in the Mt. Yehoram parking area where we will prepare dinner and enjoy a kumsitz. The next morning we will walk down to Ein Netafim, where we will snorkel in the Coral Nature Reserve, enjoying close-up views of colorful corals and fish. We will visit the Evrona salt flats, a unique natural phenomenon, and enjoy watching a special sunrise from Mt. Tzvahot overlooking the Gulf of Eilat.

Private vehicles.

COST: SPNI members – 777 NIS; Child – 636 NIS

Includes full board and outdoor camping, one night in the Eilat Field School, entrance to the Coral Beach and use of snorkeling equipment.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Ancient Landscapes in the Galilee

CODE: 22703105

Landscapes, blooming flowers and historic artifacts will accompany us along a trail in Tel Yodfat in the Lower Galilee. We will visit the remains of the ancient village from the days of the great revolt, as well as an underground olive press, and ascend to a breathtaking overlook from the top of Mt. Atzmon. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

A Bell on the Plain

CODE: 32703106

Hidden on the hilltops of the Judean plain are caves and remains of ancient settlements. Join us for an exciting trip as we visit huge bell caves, mysterious burial caves, and crawl through secret tunnels from the days of the Bar-Kochba revolt. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Birds and Fowl in the Park

A special birding event – Lachish Park, Ashdod; no charge

Spring return brings the return to our skies of thousands of birds from their winter stay in Africa. We will help ring some of these wandering birds, learn more about the ringing system used in the Lachish Park, and about the different species of birds found in the area.

Meeting point: The eastern side of Lachish Park, along Sderot Herzl in Ashdod, behind the horse farm and the challenge park, 7:30 AM.

For more information: www.teva.org.il/birdsa

Birds of Song and Nature

A birding event; CODE: 72703109

The Jerusalem Bird Observatory (JBO), a magical nature spot in the heart of the city, attracts a wide variety of songbirds to its environs. We will watch the birds from our hidden lookout, watch the birds' ringing, and enjoy a film about urban nature. We will visit the JBO's new visitors' center, the first of its kind in Israel, with its living walls, green roof, nesting boxes and gallery. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 36 NIS; Guests – 51 NIS

Flowers through the Lens - Nature at a Click

Photography trip; CODE: 92703104

On the hilltops near Kibbutz Alonim are fields of blooming anemones, spurge, anemones and giant oak trees. We will stroll in this colorful nature reserve and identify the area's different flowers. We will learn how to use the camera and photograph nature at its peak. **Self-arrival.**

COST: SPNI members – 87 NIS; Guests – 123 NIS

Leopards in Wadi Ara

For good hikers; CODE: 72703109

A special hike to unfamiliar sites in the Wadi Ara region. Carpets of flowers and nature sites above Leopards Canyon in Wadi Nirbata will lead us to the unique archaeological site of El Ahwat. We will stroll through the village of Arara and meet some fascinating personalities. We will also visit the "Courtyard Fortress" and hear about the first Arab 'kibbutz.' **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 144 NIS; Guests – 201 NIS

Rainbows and Waterfalls

For good hikers; CODE: 22703151

The southern Golan Heights are filled with flowing creeks and breathtaking views. We will hike from the community of Elei-Ad to the white waterfall and impressive pool at its foot in the nature reserve of the El-Al stream. We will visit the remains of a crusader fortress, an ancient synagogue in Um-el-Kantir, and charming nature spots in Nahal Smach. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 150 NIS; Guests – 210 NIS

Special Passover Events

Tuesday, March 30

To the Blooming Negev

Family Pesach outing; **CODE:** 53003108

This spring trip is only about flowers in bloom and desert peace amidst the Negev Mountain's open landscapes. We will walk alongside the impressive Lutz pits, among remains of ancient water pits, colorful flowers and terebinth trees. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Wednesday, March 31, Chol Hamoed Pesach

To God's Mountain

Special Pesach event! Appropriate for Sabbath observers

Jeep trip to Mt. Karkum; **CODE:** 53103103

NEW! Those without their own jeeps can rent a jeep with a driver.

As dawn breaks we will drive to Mt. Karkum on the Egyptian border, closed to visitors during the rest of the year. On this mountain which, according to some researchers, is the Biblical Mt. Sinai, can be found thousands of rock drawings, remains of ancient temples and a one-of-a-kind view.

COSTS: Private jeeps: SPNI members – 111 NIS; Guests – 153 NIS

For those using jeep/driver: SPNI members – 354 NIS; Guests – 495 NIS

NOTE: Overnight stays can be reserved at the Har Hanegev Field School (separate payment)

The Kinneret in a Different Light

A nighttime family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; **CODE:** 13103109

Dusk atop Mt. Nahum on the northern Kinneret: We will look out over the Kinneret vistas whose colors are constantly changing, and stroll along the trail descending to a waterfall gushing out of thick foliage. By moonlight we will discover a hidden stream. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 45 NIS; Guests – 60 NIS

The Legend of the Red Tree

A family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; **CODE:** 83103109

Nature's greenery and refreshing mountain air await us on this hike along Nahal Katlav in the Jerusalem Hills, with its red trunked arbutus (strawberry) trees, thick shrubbery and cool springs. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Thursday, April 1, 2010

All the Colors of the Rainbow

A family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; **CODE:** 11041067

The spring flowers blooming in Nahal Meitzar in the southern Golan Heights is a sight that should not be missed. We will hike among the flowering nature, the basalt and chalk rocks and a beautiful waterfall, a particularly enjoyable experience. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Bats in the Stream

A family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; **CODE:** 81041009

The Ma'ara stream, Nahal Ma'ara, is one of the most special spots in the Judean Hills. We will visit the Cave of the Twins Cave in the upper section of the stream, and watch the bats living there. We will learn about the area's flora and fauna and slide down a unique rock "slide." **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Birds and Fowl in the Park

A special birding event – Lachish Park, Ashdod; no charge. Appropriate for Sabbath observers

Spring return brings the return to our skies of thousands of birds from their winter stay in Africa. We will help ring some of these wandering birds, learn more about the ringing system used in the Lachish Park, and about the different species of birds found in the area.

Meeting point: The eastern side of Lachish Park, along Sderot Herzl in Ashdod, behind the horse farm and the challenge park, 7:30 AM.

For more information: www.teva.org.il/birdsa

The Colorful Negev

Family bicycle tour for riders aged 10+; appropriate for Sabbath observers. CODE: 51041080

The winter just ending has served the Negev well, and the flowers blooming there are more breathtaking than ever. We will head into the high sections of the Negev Mountains among Atlantic terebinths and ancient agricultural remains in Nahal Lutz. We will take a break for a short hike by foot to see the water cisterns and the breathtaking flowers nearby. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 90 NIS; Guests – 129 NIS

In cooperation with the Rosen & Meents bicycle stores. Bikes and helmets can be rented at an additional cost of 75 NIS. A support vehicle, and a Rosen & Meents technician who will also offer tips and recommendations to riders, will accompany the group.

Desert Moon

A nighttime family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 43103108

Join us on this unique nighttime walk among rock formations and vistas of wide canyons by the light of the moon. We will walk among marlstone walls and salt rocks along Nahal Pratzim in the Judean Desert, and climb up to Mishor Amiaz. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Friday, April 2, 2010

A Legendary Forest

Family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 22041078

Nature, ancient legends and hiking trails in the thick forest are all found in the Bar'am Forest, a legendary forest in the upper Galilee. We will visit the Pa'ar Cave, an especially large and unique cave. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Orchards in the Stream

Family trip, especially for little ones, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 82041009

Park Canada offers beautiful mountain vistas with natural forests and green slopes. We will become familiar with some of the many plants and flowers in the valley and hike alongside wine presses, streams and orchards. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Thursday-Friday, April 1-2, 2010

Voices are Calling Us to Wander

Family journey to learn about the Negev's Bedouin culture, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 54041087

We will experience two fascinating days in the desert where we will connect to the Bedouin culture: We will meet Salman, a Bedouin shepherd, who will take us on a tour in a small and unfamiliar village. We will hike in the upper section of Nahal Zin, in Nahal Aricha, and among the Lutz Cisterns, impacted by water cisterns. We will have dinner in a Bedouin tent, and hear stories about the lives of the Bedouin. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 258 NIS; Guests – 321 NIS

Includes overnight stay, dinner and breakfast in a Bedouin tent.

Saturday, April 3, 2010, Shabbat Chol Hamoed

Birds and Fowl in the Park

A special birding event – Lachish Park, Ashdod; no charge

Spring return brings the return to our skies of thousands of birds from their winter stay in Africa. We will help ring some of these wandering birds, learn more about the ringing system used in the Lachish Park, and about the different species of birds found in the area.

Meeting point: The eastern side of Lachish Park, along Sderot Herzl in Ashdod, behind the horse farm and the challenge park, 7:30 AM.

For more information: www.teva.org.il/birdsa

To the Blooming Negev

Family Pesach outing; CODE: 53003109

This spring trip is only about flowers in bloom and desert peace amidst the Negev Mountain's open landscapes. We will walk alongside the impressive Lutz pits, among remains of ancient water pits, colorful flowers and terebinth trees. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 141 NIS; Guests – 195 NIS

What Peace this Is!

For families who love to hike; CODE: 23041079

Green vistas and the tranquility found only in the Galilee are the crowning glory of this challenging hike in Nahal Meron, along the slopes of the mountain alongside raspberry bushes, streams and rich foliage. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Friday-Saturday, April 2-3, 2010

Hold that Rope!

A family rappelling workshop in the Judean desert; CODE: 72041065

Two adventure-filled days, fascinating trails and rappelling off the cliffs in the canyons of the Judean Desert. Along the cliffs of the beautiful Wadi Mash'ash we will learn the basic steps of rappelling. The next day we will climb up to the wild vistas of the canyon along Nahal Rahaf, and rappel down three impressive waterfalls as we cross three natural water cisterns. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 585 NIS; Guests – 819 NIS

Includes full board, sleeping outdoors, all rappelling equipment and training by professional guides.

Sunday, April 4, 2010

Desert Moon

A nighttime family trip, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 43103108

Join us on this unique nighttime walk among rock formations and vistas of wide canyons by the light of the moon. We will walk among marlstone walls and salt rocks along Nahal Pratzim in the Judean Desert, and climb up to Mishor Amiaz. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

A Land of Streams and Bicycle Paths

Bicycle tour for riders aged 18+ with experience riding on open terrain; appropriate for Sabbath observers. CODE: 94041008

Throughout Park Canada in the foothills of the Judean Hills, bicycle paths cross sites of streams, ancient artifacts and beautiful scenery. We will enjoy the rich nature and foliage in the Park and move on to the wild vistas of Nahal Kafira and Nahal Yitla, where can be found delightful hidden nature spots. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 90 NIS; Guests – 129 NIS

In cooperation with the Rosen & Meents bicycle stores. Bikes and helmets can be rented at an additional cost of 75 NIS. A support vehicle, and a Rosen & Meents technician who will also offer tips and recommendations to riders, will accompany the group.

Once Upon a Port

A tour of discovery in the Tel Aviv Port, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 74041014

Many fascinating sites are hidden throughout the Tel Aviv Port, like the dock, an amazing power station, a giant crane, colorful stands, and more. We will stroll through the port's renovated compound and enjoy some games and family-appropriate activities. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Wednesday-Sunday, March 31-April 4, 2010

A Sandy "Haggadah"

Pesach activities in the Nitzanim Park, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 33103108

Enjoy this special family Pesach event that includes morning tours around the Nitzanim dunes, the home of many beachfront plants and unique animals. We will roll on the sands among dunes and sycamore trees, learn about the connection between Egypt and the dunes, and what freedom, Spring and blooming flowers have in common. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 45 NIS; Guests – 70 NIS

Monday, April 5, 2010

Golden Cisterns

Family Pesach trip for good walkers, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 45041055

It has cisterns, small waterfalls and challenging trails. Meet Nahal Abuv that passes through straight-backed cliffs and is rich in unique desert vegetation. We will hike along the stream's channel bed and descend into small waterfalls with the help of metal spikes. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 75 NIS; Guests – 105 NIS

Includes someone to guard the cars.

Sunday-Monday, April 4-5, 2010

Into the Wild and "Purple" Mountains

For good hikers, appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 64041001

Along the edge of the Arava are hidden unfamiliar parts of the country that offer challenging trails among ancient landscapes. We will hike above the scenery of the Uvda Valley, from the unique dune in Nahal Kasui, along several ancient trails to the settlement of Shaharut overlooking the Arava, descending Ma'ale Zugan with its fossilized Ammonites, We spend the night in the Nahal Zugan parking area and prepare our dinner outside. The next day we climb up along Nahal Yotvata with its many boulders to the peak of Mt. Argaman ("purple" in Hebrew), to a fabulous overlook of the Timna Valley and Yotvata. A landscape of acacia trees accompanies us on our hike along Nahal Argaman. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 420 NIS; Guests – 588 NIS

Includes outdoor sleeping area, full board and guard at night.

Saturday-Monday, April 3-5, 2010

Green, Mountainous and in Bloom

Family Pesach vacation in the Sdeh Mt. Meron Field School; CODE: 73041013

The greenest area in the country invites us to a festival of hikes and nature activities. Beautiful vistas and a variety of overlooks to the Galilee landscapes await us in the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve. We will climb to the top of Mt. Meron and stroll amidst breathtaking nature spots of the Bar'am Forest. We will also visit the Pa'ar Cave and stroll among the alleyways of the village of Peqi'in. We will spend the evenings around a kumsitz and enjoying a film. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 885 NIS; Child – 525 NIS

Includes full room & board at the Sde Mt. Meron Field School.

Mountains of Beauty

Family Pesach outing; CODE: 55041012

Hidden in the Negev Mountain landscapes and the Ramon Crater are trails of blooming desert flowers, colorful landscapes and unique natural phenomena. We will visit a variety of charming nature spots on the high Negev Mountain and along the local ridges, as we become familiar with the desert iris. A variety of family activities will take place, as well as a magical kumsitz. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 915 NIS; Child – 606 NIS

Includes full room board at the Har HaNegev Field School.

Sunday-Tuesday, April 4-6, 2010

Land of Brooks and Rivulets

Family Pesach outing, especially for Sabbath observers; CODE: 14041089

Join us for three fun-filled and busy days of magical trails and a variety of nature activities in the landscapes of the Golan Heights. From Emek Habacha to the Odem Forest, from Nahal Snir to Nahal Hazori, we will hike among the untamed nature with its impressive vistas throughout. We will enjoy evening activities, a lecture on local nature, an evening in the Druze village of Ein Kanya, and more. On the first day of chag we will gather for prayer services, enjoy a short hike around the Field School and take a rest on the relaxing lawns opposite the Hermon. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 963 NIS; Child – 633 NIS

Includes full room board at the Sde Hermon Field School.

Friday, April 9, 2010

A Palace on a Hill

Urban tours; appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 79041010

An ornate palace, a royal city and a fortress from the Second Temple Period are part of one of the most impressive and unique construction projects left behind by King Herod – The Herodian. We will also go deep into the earth where we will find an impressive water operation, and visit a unique farm facing the vistas of Wadi Hariton. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 138 NIS; Guests – 192 NIS

Saturday, April 10, 2010

The Finger on the Mount

CODE: 91004108

On top of the Carmel ridge is a special cave that overlooks both mountains and sea. We will climb up to it through thick pine forests and see the three rooms inside. We will learn about early man and understand the source of this cave's name, the Finger Cave. **Private Vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 42 NIS; Guests – 57 NIS

Nature of Red and Green

Teva Date, ages 40-60; CODE: 71004103

Near Mr. Hillel in the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve one can find the peony, one of the most beautiful of the country's flowers. We will hike on the green mountain top with the beautiful Galilee vistas, and see up close the beauty of these red blossoms. We will also visit Beit J'an, a Druze village in the upper Galilee. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 144 NIS; Guests – 201 NIS

The Tabor in Jesus' Eyes - Along the "Gospel Trail"

A series of hikes along the new "Jesus Trail," for good hikers; CODE: 71004105

Mt. Tabor has a special magic and is surrounded by fabulous scenery with historic significance. We will look towards the mountain, understand its religious significance to Christianity, and hike at its feet to the Beit Keshet Forest and Mt. Devorah. We will end at the village of Ein Mahel and the Nature Reserve of Mt. Jonah. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 147 NIS; Guests – 204 NIS

Friday, April 16, 2010

Tastes and Smells – A Tour of the Markets of Jaffa

Urban tours; appropriate for Sabbath observers; CODE: 71604109

A festival of tastes and smells awaits us in the old city of Jaffa. From the clock tower to Jerusalem Boulevard we will discover Jaffa by way of stories acted out along the way. We will visit some local galleries and take in the colors and flavors of the Flea Market. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 54 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Includes tastings in the Flea Market.

Saturday, April 17, 2010

The Exotic Yarkon

CODE: 71704108

The Yarkon Park serves as a green lung for wandering birds who stop to rest in the heart of the big city. We will walk through the park and meet a variety of exotic birds that have escaped from their captivity and have made the park their home. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 36 NIS; Guests – 51 NIS

In the Footsteps of Fighters in Nitzanim - Special Event for Israeli Independence Day

CODE: 31704101

The lakes and sand dunes surrounding the “Ad Halom” Bridge in Ashdod are important sites from the days of Israel’s War of Independence. To commemorate Memorial Day we will walk in the footsteps of stories of the legacy of the early days of Nitzanim where we will visit an old palace that has been recreated and see a sound-and-light show. We will stroll among Nitzanim’s sands and roll down its. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

From Latrun to Burma – A Special Hike for Israeli Independence Day

The Israel Trail for ages 18+; CODE: 71704107

Beautiful overlooks and pine forests surround the Burma Road on the outskirts of Jerusalem. We will hike from the Masrek Nature Reserve to the historic military posts along the convoy trail and we will look down from above onto Bab-el-wad. We will walk down to Neve Shalom and the Latrun Fortress, learning about the legacy of the Palmach fighters who tried via this road to pass food through to the residents of Jerusalem under siege. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 114 NIS; Guests – 159 NIS

Red and Rare in the Galilee

CODE: 21704100

One of the rarest and most impressive of flowers in the country is the forest peony that blooms for only 2 weeks a year. We will hike on Mt. Hallel in the Galilee, one of the isolated places where this flower grows, and enjoy the green vistas and a visit to the “Ein Hazaken” stream. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Adventure Valley

For the little ones; CODE: 92404105

Trees, flowers and birds create an especially pastoral setting in Park Canada above the Ayalon Valley. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 42 NIS; Guests – 57 NIS

A Beautiful Maiden in the Galilee

CODE: 62404101

A green, mountainous trail in the upper Galilee, from Mt. Evyatar to the impressive “Maiden’s Cave.” We will pass by Hurbat Marot and ancient remains, until we reach Nahal Katzion filled with Mediterranean foliage. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 135 NIS; Guests – 189 NIS

Bread, Fish, Overlooks and Waterfalls

A hike along the Kinneret trail; CODE: 22404109

The Tabcha Valley will unveil to us all its mysteries: Beautiful churches alongside ancient remains and cool streams. **Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 57 NIS; Guests – 78 NIS

The Bride’s Mountain

Teva Date, ages 25-45; CODE: 72404104

An exciting Shabbat amidst the Galilean nature of the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve. We will become familiar with the picturesque alleyways of the Druze village of Beit Je’an and the vistas of the upper Galilee that we see from the top of Mt. Hillel – or Mt. Kallah (“Bride” in Hebrew) in Arabic. We will visit the unique community of “Hemdat Yamim” and hike on the trails of Nahal Farud. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 144 NIS; Guests – 201 NIS

The Shimshit Single – A New Trail in the Lower Galilee

NEW! Bicycle tour for riders aged 18+ with experience riding on open terrain; CODE: 92404109

The Shimshit Single is a new and unique bicycle trail in the lower Galilee. We will ride into the depths of the Zippori Forests filled with pine, rich foliage and green vistas. We will cross Nahal Zippori and pass through a beautiful pine forest. **Don't miss this one! Private vehicles.**

COST: SPNI members – 90 NIS; Guests – 129 NIS

In cooperation with the Rosen & Meents bicycle stores. Bikes and helmets can be rented at an additional cost of 75 NIS. A support vehicle, and a Rosen & Meents technician who will also offer tips and recommendations to riders, will accompany the group.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

At the Foot of the Hermon

CODE: 21051008

This trip provides a unique experience along the Hermon ridge, amidst beautiful mountain views and alongside rich foliage. We will descend to Nahal Arar and the settlement of Neve Ativ with its many lookouts over the northern Golan, and continue to the green Nahal Gubta and to Nahal Hermon and its flowing waters. **Buses.**

COST: SPNI members – 156 NIS; Guests – 216 NIS