



The Lone Soldier Leadership Experience: Inspiring the Israel Connection





The Lone Soldier Project



Lone Soldiers are young men and women from all over the world who selflessly dedicate their lives to serve and protect our one and only Jewish State in the Israel Defense Forces. Being far away from their family and friends, they don't always have the support system that most native-born Israelis enjoy. When others get a weekend off-base or can eat a home cooked meal surrounded by loved ones, get their laundry done or enjoy quality time with their families and friends, Lone Soldiers lack the experiences that can strengthen their ability to integrate into the Israeli lifestyle. As a result, many are not inclined to stay in Israel after their service.

To learn more about Lone Soldiers, visit:
<http://israelforever.org/programs/thelonesoldierproject/>

To help Diaspora Jews understand the unique nature of a Lone Soldier's life, The Israel Forever Foundation promotes awareness activities through The Lone Soldier Project. Now, in partnership with Puzzle Israel, we are proud to present a new initiative through which Lone Soldiers can gain valuable knowledge, experience and inspiration that will celebrate and strengthen their connection to the land, state and people to whom they have dedicated themselves as soldiers.



Israel Integration Seminar for Former Lone Soldiers

Puzzle Israel has structured a 4-day seminar designed to help Lone Soldiers start their immersion into Israeli society after their discharge. The program will offer former soldiers the unique opportunity to expand their social and professional networks while gaining insight into how their contribution to Israel can continue well beyond their service in the IDF. As they become acquainted with the lifestyle and demands of Israel outside of their army experience, they will learn how to cope with the potential challenges that lay ahead and become successful members of Israel's dynamic society and culture.

To expand upon the value of these interactive and insightful seminars, The Israel Forever Foundation will work together with professional educators and passionate volunteers to shape the content of these seminars into experiential learning programs that will reflect upon the Israel connection, the significance of the IDF, and the unique contribution of Lone Soldiers in defending our homeland.



Mission Statement

- To give the Lone Soldiers a unifying experience, a feeling of appreciation, and to build and develop their social and professional networks
- To provide Diaspora communities the opportunity to learn from the lone soldiers' devoted contribution to Israel
- To present the IDF and the Lone Soldier experience to young members of Jewish communities around the world as the Nation's Army; its fundamental values and the mandatory service requirement. In addition, to raise awareness of the IDF's importance and necessity as the main body responsible for ensuring the security of Israel's citizens
- To create appropriate video content through which we can showcase Israel, with its unique multiculturalism and geographical diversity, as a meaningful connection to the Diaspora Jewish experience and as a safe and attractive destination
- To enlighten young teens with educational activities – creating a ripple effect that will influence the Israeli discourse in their families and in the entire community



Seminar Description and Itinerary

This seminar will bring together Lone Soldiers of various backgrounds, units, and experiences and built upon the realities faced by Lone Soldiers following their discharge from the IDF. We aim to help them understand that staying in Israel is feasible, and that, given the necessary tools, they can succeed in Israel.

The seminar consists of four days and three nights broken up accordingly: the first two days focusing on group bonding activities, hiking trips, outdoor training, and other attractions, and the remaining two focusing on the specific tools the Lone Soldiers need in order to live and succeed in Israel.

The trip will emphasize the Israel experience through its nature, culture, and history, while learning about its economy, social structure, and professional market.

Documentation

- A military/private professional film crew will accompany the soldiers' trip, documenting their experiences and interviewing them along the way
- The documentary will not only show the beautiful scenery and fun the soldiers experience on the trip, but will also share each soldier's personal story
- Each partner organization/body will receive a copy of this special film



Day 1: Group Building

- Meet up in Tel Aviv
- Travel south to the Judean Desert, stopping at a beautiful observation point on the way
- Wadi Qelt – hike through a stream leading to an ancient oasis, the water source for the oldest settlement in the world
- Outdoor lunch by one of the streams on the way
- Arrive at Metzoke Dragot Inn, a beautiful and rustic desert accommodation site dating back to the spice trade era
- Mediterranean style cooking workshop
- Musical evening around the campfire + day summary



Day 2: Diving In

- Off-road activities - treasure hunting with ATVs/Rangers around the Amiaz Plateau and the Pratzim Riverbed
- Stop at an observation point at sea level overlooking the Dead Sea
- Introduction and explanations about the seminar
- Afternoon relaxation time at a kibbutz pool
- Group activity - the cultural differences between Israel and the “home” countries
- Group discussion - how to better understand Israeli culture



Day 3: The Israeli Economy at a Glance

- Government and governance in Israel
 - Highlighted topics: The government's structure, the different political parties, the differences between the political systems, a constitution - yes or no? Guest speaker - Member of Knesset (MK), Director General of a Government Ministry
- Different sectors of Israeli society; socio-economic division, Druze, Bedouin, Sephardi/Ashkenazi, illegal workers, etc. Guest speaker - Social activist
- The Israeli economy
 - How is it built? What is its history and foundations? What role does the Bank of Israel play? Guest speaker - Prof. Stanley Fischer, former Governor of the Bank of Israel
- Israel's fiscal needs in the coming decade
 - Entering the workforce, it is important to understand the future needs of Israel and what is the best way to integrate. Guest speaker - Dr. David Pasig, Anticipatory Anthropology
- Up-close meeting with Mr. Ben Froumine
 - Ben Froumine, an ex-Lone Soldier from Melbourne, Australia is co-founder of Roomer, a startup that established a secondary market for hotel rooms. Ben will share his inspiring story about making Aliyah, serving in the Special Forces of the Paratroopers Brigade, and building up his company from scratch
- Networking dinner
 - Top CEOs and others from different fields will join the seminar participants for dinner. The event will include introductions, mingling, and exchanging of contact information



Day 4: Me, Myself and I

- What do I want to do when I grow up?
 - Group discussion - How does one set goals and achieve them? How do you plan ahead? How do you combine your dreams and aspirations with reality?
- Israel and its neighbors
 - Journalist Asaf Segal (Channel 2 News) will give a brief insight into Israel's place in the geopolitical map of the Middle East and the world
- How to start a business in Israel
 - Guest lecture by Mr. Ohad Dabush, CEO of Mati, a nonprofit organization that helps small businesses and entrepreneurs acquire tools to succeed in the business world
- Professional panel
 - Guests from various organizations and government offices will describe the different opportunities available to the participants. Attending guest organizations - The Ministry of the Development of the Negev and Galilee, Ayalim Organization, Misgav Regional Council, Tefen and more
- Seminar summary
 - Open group discussion - each participant will be given the stage to express his/her thoughts on the different seminar components; content, organization, relevance etc.
 - Future plans - each participant will write down his/her insights and personal goals following the seminar, with the option of sharing them with the rest of the group



Experiential Israel Engagement Programming

- The Israel Forever Foundation's professional team, in coordination with Puzzle Israel and other potential partners, will formulate the experiential education program into both formal and informal activities that can be used in a variety of settings and with a wide range of audiences
- Interactive programming will provide dynamic content that brings to life the events, personalities, and experiences of Israel's history
- Participants will be invited to adopt a group of Lone Soldiers (around 10) to help foster a personal connection
- Learning and recognizing the names of sites in Israel
- Learning about the different ethnic groups living in coexistence
- Understanding the differences between service in the IDF and in other armies
- Internalizing the uniqueness of the State of Israel and its importance to its citizens and the entire Jewish people
- Falling in love with the country which will hopefully encourage them to visit Israel themselves in the future



Photo by Sapir Bluzer

Core Subjects in the Experiential Programming Kit

Each subject will be translated into a learning activity, using different tools to engage the students and involve them in the information being taught.

The Geography of Israel and the Region

- The country's borders and the complexity of its location in the Middle East
- Division of the country into several areas and acquaintance with the significant sites in each area covering nature, heritage, Judaism, and the economy

Multiculturalism in Israel

- The different ethnic groups and communities that live side by side (in towns, cities, kibbutzim and Arab/Druze/Bedouin villages)
- The foods, customs, and languages of each ethnic group

The IDF

- How the "Israel Defence Forces" was established
- The history of the pre-state years, the mandatory service, reserve duty and the differences between serving in the IDF and serving in the US military (as an example)
- The Israel-Jordan and Israel-Egypt peace treaties and the strive for additional peace agreements with neighboring countries
- The Lone Soldiers' personal stories

The Relevance of the IDF to Diaspora Jewish Life and Identity

- How is Diaspora Jewish life affected by the IDF?
- Why would young Diaspora Jews dedicate themselves to serving in the IDF?
- How can Diaspora youth understand the need for a national army in Israel?



Seminar Cost and Budget

- The cost of each Lone Soldier seminar including materials, transportation, room and board, lecturers, etc. is \$15,000
- Sponsorship of an individual soldier: \$1200
- Fundraising efforts will be initiated by both Puzzle Israel and The Israel Forever Foundation who will seek out collaborative partners among synagogues, schools, private donors, corporate sponsors, former lone soldiers and Jewish communal organizations
- Donations are tax deductible through The Israel Forever Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization

**Join us in making a difference for Israel's Lone Soldiers
as we work to inspire a continued Israel connection!**

How can you get involved?

- Encourage your educators to implement a Lone Soldier Project initiative in your school or organization
- Promote a fundraising initiative in your community to sponsor a unit of Lone Soldiers
- Create a program to raise awareness and invite others to join in this important effort

For more information, please contact:

nir@puzzleisrael.com

or

lonesoldierproject@israel forever.org

Donate online at

www.israel forever.org/programs/thelonesoldierproject



About Puzzle Israel

Puzzle Israel is an innovative travel company that provides highly professional “content and travel” services in Israel. The company focuses its activities on personalized hikes and off-the-beaten track tours and aims to expose its travelers to the contemporary human, cultural, and scenic mosaic that can be found in every region of the country. The Puzzle team embraces an approach of building strong and long lasting relationships with their visitors. Puzzle offers its travelers a large variety of activities; hiking (level matched to ability), off-road jeep rides, horseback riding, outdoor training (ODT) workshops, ethnic and Israeli cooking, visits to heritage sites, and unique encounters with local residents from different cultures and ethnic groups.

The Puzzle team, as of today, is made up of Nir, Guy, Elana, Tamar, and Heather. With each located in a different region in Israel, and one even on the other side of the ocean, the team works in complete harmony. Every member adds their personal experience and expertise, creating a rich pool of ideas and charisma. They all share a love for the land of Israel, and wish to provide their travelers with an innovative and once-in-a-lifetime tourism experience.

Puzzle Israel is a registered partnership (no. 558060919) and owns a comprehensive insurance policy provided by the Rozenman & Rozenman Insurance Agency.



About The Israel Forever Foundation

The Israel Forever Foundation, a United States 501c3, is an innovative programming philanthropy which develops, supports and promotes experiential learning opportunities to celebrate and strengthen the personal connection to Israel. The global home for Israel engagement, Israel Forever encourages dynamic dialogue through educational and apolitical activism, focusing on the value of Israel and her contributions throughout the world.

The Lone Soldier Project of The Israel Forever Foundation is an initiative that spreads awareness of the thousands of young men and women from around the world who leave the comfort of their homes and families to serve as Lone Soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces each year. In order to show our appreciation, We offer them various means of support as they continue to inspire others through their selfless contribution to the Jewish State.

Israel Forever's innovative programming helps people channel the initial spark of inspiration they find through their Israel experience into a lifelong connection with Israel.

- Celebrate and strengthen your connection to Israel in countless ways, whether through a daily dose of the IFF website, or by signing up as a Virtual Citizen of Israel™.
- Participate in real or virtual events that will highlight Israel's incredible contributions to civilization and its integral role in the Jewish world.
- Perhaps you've already visited Israel, or you've read so much that it feels like you've already been. Whether you're a frequent visitor or an admirer from thousands of miles away, let The Israel Forever Foundation place Israel at your fingertips!

Important Resources

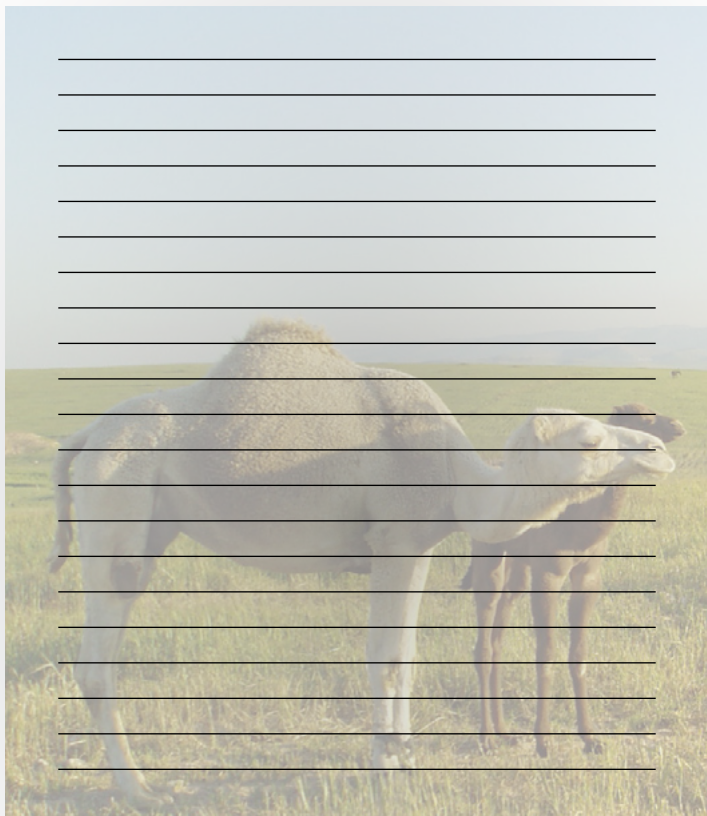
- To make a contribution, please visit:
israelforever.org/contribute/thelonesoldierproject/
- For additional questions, please contact Nir Margalith at:
 - Email: nir@puzzleisrael.com
 - Direct phone number: +972-(52)-226-1323
 - American phone number: 215-764-6412
- Puzzle Israel website for sample itineraries, ideas, testimonials and pictures: **www.puzzleisrael.com**
 - We will do our utmost to ensure that the information on our website is as accurate as possible. However, pictures and descriptions are representations and not a guarantee that everything will be exactly as described or operational year round
- The Israel Forever Foundation, your home for Israel engagement. Celebrate and strengthen your connection Israel:
www.israelforever.org

Notes:

- * All the pictures in the brochure were taken by the Lone Soldiers and their friends
- * The editing work on this brochure was provided on a volunteer basis

*We look forward to sharing this
adventure with you!*

The Puzzle Israel and
The Israel Forever Foundation Teams



Contact Us:

USA No. (215) 764-6412

Nir Margalith 972(52) 226-1323

www.puzzleisrael.com

puzzleisrael@gmail.com

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www.israelforever.org

