

Semester
(fall only)



Study Abroad in Sustainable Communities

Israel

Peace, Justice & the Environment at Kibbutz Lotan

Explore the connections between social justice, community, and new forms of ecological identity and stewardship in Israel. Work alongside new immigrant Israelis, Palestinian-Arab, and Bedouin who are striving for environmental justice and a lasting peace. Gain hands-on experience in ecological design, green building and sustainable agriculture and put permaculture into action in authentic cross-cultural settings.



Students constructing a straw bale and earth geodesic dome

Learn from expert practitioners about cutting-edge ecological building techniques such as adobe, straw bale, geodesic domes and permaculture design. Engage in peace dialogues with Muslims, Christians, and Jews (Orthodox and secular), visit their homes, join together in service, and discuss ideas for creating peace and justice in the region. Explore the notion of 'balance' within ourselves, among cultures, and with the Earth in order to delve deep into sensitive international, community and personal dynamics.

Program Highlights

- ☀ Gain hands-on experience with organic gardening, building with recycled materials and adobe bricks, straw bale construction, and more at the Center for Creative Ecology at Kibbutz Lotan
- ☀ Put your permaculture and greenbuilding skills into action with Earth's Promise, helping improve life for disenfranchised Israelis
- ☀ Engage in grassroots peacebuilding, and environmental education with *Chava V'Adam*, *Jerusalem Peacemakers*, and *Rabbis for Human Rights*
- ☀ Learn Hebrew, explore old and new Jerusalem, tour the Separation Barrier, and experience the unique ecology and environmental challenges of the Dead Sea



Permaculture gardening in action at Kibbutz Lotan

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 16 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts Amherst



Fall Mid Aug. - Mid Dec. (see Website for dates)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.

Israel



Kibbutz Lotan



Kibbutz Lotan is located in Israel's beautiful Arava Valley, close to Eliat and the Red Sea and ancient spiritual and archaeological sites. Life at Lotan is based on Reform Zionist Jewish values and is committed to renewing Judaism, equality, economic cooperation, ecology, peacebuilding and community. The community of 150 people is home to one of the world's foremost bird sanctuaries. The Living Routes/Kibbutz Lotan semester program is affiliated and supported by MASA Israel Journey, which offers additional scholarship support.



Permaculture is peaceful coexistence at *Chava V'Adam*.

Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

March 15

Cost

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance, and in-country travel . . .see Website
UMassAmherst credit included

Faculty

Leah Zigmond, M.S., Environmental Science and Management, Duquesne University; BA, Biology, Chatham University
Zigmond has been a Lotan resident for 8 years and works at Lotan's Center for Creative Ecology overseeing new developments in the 'Eco-Kef' ecology park as well as creating environmental education programs for visitors of all ages. She also manages the Kibbutz 1/2 acre vegetable garden and teaches classes on plant biology and sustainable desert gardening. Zigmond has also worked for the Southern Arava Research and Development Station, overseeing various field experiments. With a background in both market gardening and agricultural research Zigmond's particular passions include sustainable irrigation practices and community supported agriculture.

Mark Millstone Naveh, M.Sc., South Bank University in London; Honours (MA equiv.), James Cook University of North Queensland; B.Sc., University of Sydney
Born in England, Millstone Naveh grew up in Australia, and graduated with degrees in Ecology and Education for Sustainability. A resident of Kibbutz Lotan since 1989, he is the principal guide at the Center for Creative Ecology and is responsible for the Center's educational programming.

Michael Livni, MD., University of British Columbia
Born in Vienna, Livni grew up in Vancouver B.C. and graduated with a specialization in Social Psychiatry. Livni served as coordinator for the Israeli Reform Youth Movement and has worked in various agricultural and economic fields. Since 1986, he has lived on Kibbutz Lotan, where he has been instrumental in establishing a widely successful program of educational ecology and eco-tourism.

Daniel Burstyn, M.A., Jewish Studies, Hebrew College Boston
Since 1990, Burstyn has been a member of Kibbutz Lotan. He holds a M.A. in Jewish Studies with a focus on Judaism and the Environment, and is currently pursuing Rabbinical studies through Aleph, the alliance for Jewish Renewal. He also holds a certificate in Permaculture. Burstyn has spent much of the last decade as editor of the news magazine of the Eilat Regional Council.

Courses

Group Dynamics (Communications 352) 4 CR
Students learn service learning methodologies and skills for living in community. They create their own learning community while living in and contributing to social and development projects in kibbutzim, traditional villages, towns and bi-national intentional communities.

Permaculture Design (Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences 398B) 4 CR
Theoretical and practice-based course focusing on the context, skills and tools required for the design of sustainable human habitats in different environments. Using new ecological knowledge, students help lead a process of needs-assessment and design projects that will make a difference in village lives.

Sustainable Design and Construction (Environmental Design 592A) 4 CR
Foundation course emphasizing theory and practice-based learning. Students focus on the skills, methods and materials associated with ecological design and construction, appropriate technologies, and the building of sustainable communities.

Peace and Social Justice in Israel/Palestine (Judaic and Near Eastern Studies 390L) 4 CR
Students explore social and environmental justice issues in Israel/Palestine from a variety of Israeli and Palestinian and Bedouin perspectives and learn tools for building a just peace.

