



# Israel

## Peace, Justice and the Environment at Kibbutz Lotan

Fall Semester

Explore the connections between new forms of ecological identity and stewardship, social justice, and community in Israel. Work alongside Palestinian-Arab, Bedouin, and Jewish Israelis 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 unrecognized Bedouin villages.



Permaculture gardening in action at Kibbutz Lotan

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 marginalized groups around their experiences and discuss ideas for creating peace and justice in the region. Explore the inner work of peacebuilding, using dance and the arts to explore the notion of 'balance' within ourselves, among cultures, and with the Earth. This program emphasizes critical thinking, open-mindedness, consensus decision-making, community living, the arts for social change, and non-violent communication in order to best explore 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 skills into action, helping Bedouin youth improve life in their villages— which are unrecognized by the Israeli government.
- ☀ Explore grassroots peacebuilding and environmental education at *Chava V'Adam* and help build community between Jewish and Palestinian youth.
- ☀ Visit old and new Jerusalem and Arab villages in the north of Israel, tour the separation barrier, and float in the Dead Sea



Permaculture is personal at *Chava V'Adam*.

### Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 16 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts—Amherst



Fall . . . . . September 1 - December 7 (subject to change)

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

## 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. The community of 150 people is home to one of the world's foremost bird sanctuaries. Life at Lotan is based on Reform Zionist Jewish values and is committed to renewing Judaism, equality, economic cooperation, ecology, peacebuilding and community.



Students constructing a straw bale and earth geodesic dome

### Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

March 31

### Cost (subject to change)

Tuition, program costs, room and board, in-country travel. . . . . \$14,200  
~~Living Routes~~ credit . . . . . included

## Faculty

**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.

**Azriel Cohen, MFA**, School of Visual Arts, New York; B.A., Psychology, Yeshiva University

Cohen has been a creative force behind numerous projects that facilitate understanding between communities in conflict. He has deep connections with a broad spectrum of Israeli societies. Cohen's multi-media installation, *The Traveling Jerusalem Café* about everyday life in Palestinian and Israeli cafes, has traveled around the world. He is trained in Somatic Experiencing for healing conflict and has written extensively on topics including conflict resolution, intercultural healing, and peace in the Holy Land.

**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.

## Courses

Group Dynamics (Communication 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 and Soil 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 Technologies and Structures (Regional Planning 596A). . . . . 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.

Peacebuilding and Social Justice (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.