



"I have been in Israel for nine months, but I already feel like this is home. The Kedma program has been helping me move ahead. I am learning Hebrew, studying and preparing to take my university entrance exams and learning about Israel and what it means to live here."

Roza Abraham,
Kedma participant at Nitzana

www.jewishagency.org



Nitzana
Rural Educational
Community

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Nitzana is an educational community that provides activities that impart Zionist values and teaches science and technology subjects as tools for personal and regional development. Nitzana's innovative activities include science seminars focusing on desert ecology and solar energy, environmental study tours for high school students from throughout Israel and rejuvenating the desert's ancient agricultural installations. As an ecological village, Nitzana strives for self sufficiency in energy by using solar energy, and recycles waste water and other materials. Nitzana's educational approach emphasizes tolerance and aims to bridge critical educational and social gaps among new immigrant and Israeli-born youth at risk, Bedouins and children living in the region.

Over 10,000 Israeli youngsters pass through Nitzana annually. At any one time, 500 youth participate in short- and long-term Jewish Agency programs that include:

Ulpan – a five-month Hebrew course for young immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Selah – a pre-academic ten-month program for young students from the FSU who came to Israel without their parents.

Kedma – a year-long, holistic program for the integration of new Ethiopian immigrants ages 20-25.

Follow the Sun and Negev Seminars – week-long programs to acquaint high school students with life in the Negev.

Recently, a program was inaugurated at Nitzana that brings all of the youth aliyah students from the Jewish Agency's four other youth aliyah villages throughout Israel to participate in two desert weekends every year.

Nitzana is also in the process of building an innovative Solar Park which will attract thousands of visitors to the Negev. It includes the recently completed 15-meter solar tower containing a desert cooler and a water desalination installation powered by the sun.

Cost: \$9,000 funds one student's participation in the Selah program.

Cost: \$10,800 funds one Ethiopian immigrant in the Kedma program.

A Pearl in the Negev

Nitzana is a unique Youth Aliyah village located in the Negev Desert, on the peace border between Israel and Egypt. Its diverse educational programs for Israeli-born youth at risk, new immigrant youth from the FSU and Ethiopia, Jewish youth worldwide and Bedouin children living in the environs, are significantly strengthening the priority region of the Negev.