

WEEKLY SEE INSIDE

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR EXPERIENCE AND VOLUNTEERING IN THE GALILEE

27 January, 2014

Volume 01, Issue 10

Experiencing the different cultures of the Galil

Wrapping up January, the SEE Galilee participants went on a tour of Haifa and the Carmel region with other soon-ending Masa programs. The trip started in the Carmel mountains, where Israel's biggest forest fire took place in 2010, and continued with hospitality from non-Israeli cultures living in the area.

The heart of the trip began with Druze hospitality, where the 100+ American interns and volunteers were told about this culture that lives side-by-side with Israelis. Although the SG participants living in Kfar Vradim, surrounded in large part by Druze villages, have interacted with this community often, it was apparent that other groups living in the center for five months still hadn't heard of them.

Continuing the exploration of other cultures living in Israel, the participants then went to an Ahmadiyya community - an offshoot of the Sunni Muslim religion living peacefully with Israelis, some even volunteering for IDF service (similar to the Druze). This was a truly surprising experience. Nobody on the tour had met people of this alternate Muslim belief before. Their very different meaning of "Jihad" with no reference or meaning to war or violence was extremely interesting. Their definition of Jihad seemed closer to Zionism than anything else; overall, a very educational experience.



Next week: Wine making and Tefen's entrepreneurship industry

SEE Galilee participants in Haifa's Bahai Gardens

SEE Galilee is a five-month volunteer program based out of Northern Israel, in Kfar Vradim. Started by Galila, a Northern Israel social program foundation, the program is sponsored by Masa and administered by Israel Way. To find out more, visit www.destinationisrael.com.