Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

An Oasis of Learning

A Tour of the Marcus Family Campus
Welcome to the Marcus Family Campus

This is the main campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Ground-breaking research is taking place within its walls with studies for Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. degrees in natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, engineering sciences, management and health sciences. The Soroka University Medical Center and the Advanced Technologies Park, established in collaboration with the University, are nearby. You are invited to visit some of the sites unique to the campus and to soak in its special atmosphere. You can follow the proposed route, start at any point you choose, or visit just a few sites. A map of the campus is on the back.

The proposed circular route begins and ends in the Kreitman Plaza.

The Statue of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and the University's namesake, cast in bronze by the sculptor Don Winton, stands in front of the Zalman Aranne Central Library (7).

The mission of the generation: Aliyah and the settlement of the South and the Negev. We will succeed if we use the two qualities that we are blessed with: pioneering and science." - David Ben-Gurion
**By the Stream**

The Kreitman Plaza is situated at the heart of the Marcus Family Campus. Shaded from the sun by indigenous trees, the Plaza includes white limestone porticos featuring colored glass tiles that soften the rays of light on the stone below. A man-made stream flows through the center, reminiscent of a desert riverbed. It flows in a closed circuit and is treated regularly to protect the environment. The Plaza was planned by Shlomo Aronson, for which he was awarded the Avraham Caravan Prize for Landscape Architecture in 1997.

The Kreitman Plaza bustles with students for most of the day, but a quiet corner can always be found for study and conversation. Flanked by the Zalman Aranne Central Library (7), the Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center (8), the W. A. Minkoff Senate Hall (9), and the Zlotowski Student Center – the Plaza serves as a public square, providing a central meeting place for the campus community.

South of the Plaza, follow the path eastwards. The Gate of Aliyah will be on your right.

**The Gate of Peace** – Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin entered through this gate on June 27, 1979, the first day of the implementation of the peace agreement between the State of Israel and Egypt. The Gate was designed to commemorate their historic visit to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and recognize the potential of joint research projects to bridge borders.

Turn back and go past the Gate of Aliyah, continuing westwards down the stairs (the Zalman Aranne Central Library will be on your right). Follow the path between the Diane and Guilford Glazer Building for the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management and the Spitzer-Salant Building for the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work until you reach the Deichmann Plaza.
The Deichmann Plaza – The Plaza’s unique design is intended to allow gatherings and meetings between students and young participants of the many community outreach programs located in the adjacent Deichmann Building for Community Action. Its planners, Chyutin Architects, designed an outdoor “carpet” that alternates large concrete tiles with strips of perennial and seasonal grasses and flora. Lights are embedded in the concrete benches, transforming the Plaza into a spectacular sight as darkness falls.

The Deichmann Building for Community Action serves as a center for a wide range of the University’s outreach activities. The Community Action Department is housed here, along with the Perach Tutorial Project and programs offering the various populations in Beer-Sheva and the Negev assistance and accessibility to higher education.

The Rothschild Cube – Center for Social Innovation juts out from the façade, and serves as the home to an innovative center that provides guidance, training and support programs for social entrepreneurship using cutting-edge technologies, in collaboration with the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation.

The Helen Diller Family Center is situated north of the Deichmann Plaza.
The Helen Diller Family Center houses a number of the departments of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. On the second floor, the Hebrew Literature Archives of Heksherim – the Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture are comprised of the personal archives of Israeli first-generation writers and poets, including Prof. Aharon Appelfeld, Prof. Amos Oz, David Avidan, Nissim Aloni, Ruth Almog, Shulamith Hareven, David Schutz and Yocheved Bat-Miriam. A bookstore and café, where you might meet some of the University faculty and researchers whose books can be found on the shelves, are on the ground floor.

Return to the Deichmann Plaza and climb the wide stairs to the Kreitman Plaza or take the elevator up to the third floor. Exit the building and turn left. You will pass the foyer of the Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium on your right and return to the Kreitman Plaza. Turn right (south) to the Zalman Aranne Central Library.

The Zalman Aranne Central Library is housed in a unique building whose roof resembles a honeycomb and allows natural light to penetrate the upstairs reading rooms. The Library holds over one million titles and is open to the general public.

The Avraham Baron Art Gallery situated on the ground floor hosts temporary exhibitions and a café, making it a favorite place for taking a short break from the rigors of studying.

The Isaiah Berlin Room (7A) on the third floor contains 255 books from the personal library of the great philosopher himself, dedicated to Berlin by writers and public figures, as well as correspondence between him and David Ben-Gurion.

As you leave the library, turn left and walk until you reach the Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center. Enter the courtyard behind the cone housing the W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall.
The Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center is the administrative center of the University, consisting of a square building that surrounds the Minkoff Family Senate Court. Chyutin Architects designed the entrance to the courtyard as a passageway through a desert canyon, and a cone-shaped structure housing the W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall, symbolizes a rock detached from the walls of the wadi.

Enter the building and go down to floor -1 (elevators are on the right). Another entrance is situated on the car park level, from the west. It is also possible to descend the stairs on the western side of the building and go straight to floor -1.

On this floor, the George Shrut Visitors Center (8A) hosts rotating art exhibitions curated by faculty members and students from the Department of the Arts.

A model of the Marcus Family Campus is situated in the Visitors Center. Here you can see the central axis of the campus that runs from west to east (from the Deichmann Plaza to the Mexico Bridge), and another that runs from south to north – from the Health Sciences complex to the Engineering Sciences complex. The guiding principles include division into areas according to topics of study; construction around internal courtyards; exposed concrete facades or white stone; priority to pedestrians; and adaptation of the architecture and vegetation to the climatic conditions of the Negev.

Opposite the Shrut Visitors Center is the W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall, in which important University events are held. The circular structure reflects democratic principles on which the University Senate is based. The Hall is open only during events.

You can now take the elevator up to the 2nd floor and go out onto the balcony at the top of the cone, overlooking the Kreitman Plaza. Return to Floor 0 and leave through the courtyard. Turn left, passing between the Kreitman Plaza and the Zlotowski Student Center and turn diagonally right into a square courtyard. The Sam Gorovoy Building for Natural Sciences sits between the two grassy courtyards: the Niusia and Aron Chilewich Square and the Adelis Garden.
"All the better to eat you with!"

The fossilized skull of a Mosasaur and a giant ammonite fossil are displayed in the lobby of the Sam Gorovoy Building for Natural Sciences. The Mosasaur was a giant, meat-eating marine reptile that lived around 70 million years ago in the seas that covered the Negev region. The skull was discovered in the Zin phosphate mines of Rotem-Amfert by BGU Geology alumnus Uri Yassur. Under the direction of Prof. Chaim Benjamini of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences, and with the kind assistance of Prof. Hans-Jorgen Hansen, it was prepared and exhibited at the University of Copenhagen, and then returned to Israel and BGU.

You can also visit the popular boutique run by the “Twice as Good for the Community and Environment” non-profit organization that sells second-hand clothing, fashion accessories and toys. This is a social enterprise that aims to integrate people with cognitive difficulties into the workforce with the support of student volunteers.

Exit the building and head east. You will pass another courtyard and a classroom building, and then turn right (south). Proceed to the bridge that crosses the life sciences complex. Continue south and go out through the gate. Carefully cross the street to the Faculty of Health Sciences. *Exiting involves going down stairs.*

Get Well Soon

In the Faculty of Health Sciences, in addition to doctors-in-training and researchers, professionals in all fields of medicine, nursing and para-medical care study and work in collaboration with the nearby Soroka University Medical Center. The buildings surround a hidden inner courtyard with a stream trickling through it. An exhibition on the history of medicine: “The Physician as Artisan, Scientist and Ethicist,” is on permanent display in the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School. The tools and medical practices have changed beyond recognition from bloodletting to catheterization and computerized imaging. The exhibition begins in the Regina and Charles Fisher Gallery on the 1st floor and continues on the upper floors of the building, presenting the evolution of medicine from ancient times to modern times, and covers medical education, medical ethics and medicine in Israel.

Retrace your steps and cross the street again (a pedestrian bridge will soon span the road). Enter the campus through the Life Sciences Gate and proceed northwards to the Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics.
The Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics has two wings. In the west wing (left) is the Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center, which welcomes young people from across the Negev for a variety of educational programs. The dome of the educational observatory crowns the roof.

A Foucault pendulum hangs from the ceiling of the five-story-high east wing of the building. This simple device was conceived to demonstrate the rotation of the Earth on its axis, which causes the plane of oscillation of the pendulum to turn slowly: the polar plane of oscillation completes a full rotation in 24 hours, while at the equator the effect will not be noticed at all. In Israel the pendulum completes a full circle every 45 hours.

From here, one can walk north, between the buildings of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, to the road leading to the Gate of the Future. Across the road you will see the Guzik Family Antiquities Pathway (12A), which includes archaeological remains from excavations in the Negev. Return to the Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics and turn left and continue east to the Mexico Bridge.

The Mexico Bridge leads from the Marcus Family Campus to the Beer-Sheva North/University train station, established with the help of the Lillian and Larry Goodman Family Foundations. The length of the bridge runs through the Sharon Houminer Garden, a park that highlights rare desert cacti representing the University’s environmental and desert research. In the near future, the bridge will be connected to the Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) built in collaboration with the University. The first building is already fully occupied, with more on the way, serving as an engine of economic growth and an important source of employment for the entire Negev.

Walk back and continue to the main thoroughfare of the campus until you reach the Kreitman Plaza.
Map of the Marcus Family Campus

1. Statue of David Ben-Gurion
2. Kreitman Plaza
3. Gate of Peace
4. Deichmann Plaza
5. Deichmann Building for Community Action
6. Helen Diller Family Center
7. Zalman Aranne Central Library
8. Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center
9. W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall
10. Sam Gorovoy Natural Sciences Building
11. Faculty of Health Sciences
12. Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics
13. Mexico Bridge

North
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established in 1969 // A university with an international reputation and one of the leading research institutions in the world in many fields // 20,000 students and over 110,000 alumni // Campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boqer and Eilat // Trains over 30% of Israel’s engineers // More than 800 senior faculty // National research institutions, interdisciplinary research centers and state-of-the-art laboratories // 6,000 students involved in a wide variety of projects in the community

Come learn more about Ben-Gurion University of the Negev!

www.bgu.ac.il