

Fun Facts About...

The Negev

הנגב



Desert in Israel's south; largest city and the capital is Be'er Sheva in its north.



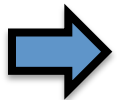
The word "Negev" comes from the Hebrew root that means "dry." In the Bible, "neveg" means "south."



The Negev includes Sde Boker, David Ben-Gurion's home upon retirement from politics.



The Negev covers 55% of all of Israel's land, but only contains 14% of Israel's population (about 379,000 people).



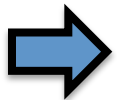
According to the Bible, Abraham lived in the Negev near Kadesh after being banished from Egypt.



The Negev is the home to some of the most cutting edge energy technology in Israel. Since it is the sunniest part of Israel, it has become the home of Israel's solar energy. The world's largest solar power station is being planned in the Negev by Ben-Gurion University.



Kibbutz Lotan, founded by Americans and Israelis from the Reform movement in 1983, is one of the leaders in trying to "greenly" make the desert green. It has an experiential ecological education center that focuses on recycling, organic gardening and alternative building. The community features green buildings made most of mud and straw, with abundant use of trash (bottles, cans and tires) building materials.



Israel, through the Negev, is internationally renowned for combating the desert and preventing desertification of fertile lands. The Negev's water and soil conservation programs have become models in sustainable land management worldwide.

