

The Tisch Family  
Zoological  
Gardens in  
Jerusalem



Photo: Wish Trip

# THE SHAI DORON CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION



## Honoring Shai Doron: A Legacy of Vision and Action



The late Shai Doron, visionary Director-General of the Jerusalem Zoo for 26 years, was a tireless advocate for nature conservation. Under his leadership, the zoo became a beacon of hope for endangered species and a model for environmental stewardship. Shai's most remarkable achievement was the establishment of the Gottesman Family Israel Aquarium, a milestone in both conservation and education. But his true legacy lies not just in the physical structures he helped create, but in the hearts he touched — the countless individuals who were inspired by his unwavering commitment to both the Zoo and the city of Jerusalem.

Shai's leadership transformed the Zoo into a champion for the conservation of Israel's unique wildlife. Thanks to his foresight and dedication, the zoo is now home to over 10 projects focused on protecting endangered Israeli species. The Jerusalem Zoo is the only zoo in Israel which reintroduces endangered species to their natural

habitats. In collaboration with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, these reintroduction programs also monitor and research species in the wild.

Shai also envisioned the Zoo and Aquarium as powerful educational platforms, where millions of visitors could experience firsthand the urgency of environmental conservation.

Following his example, we are developing the Noah's Ark Visitor Center to further this mission — to connect the hearts and minds of visitors, young and old, to the vital need to preserve Israeli wildlife.



## The Zoo – A Modern Noah’s Ark

Inspired by the Biblical story of Noah’s Ark, the Visitor Center will serve as a powerful symbol of preservation and hope. Just as Noah’s Ark saved animals from extinction during an ancient ecological crisis, modern zoos play a critical role in the fight to protect endangered species across the globe. The story of Noah’s Ark speaks to our shared responsibility to preserve the natural world — a message Shai deeply believed in and which we carry forward in this project.



## The Noah's Ark Visitor Center

Designed with purpose and passion, the Visitor Center will feature two floors of immersive experiences that bring Shai’s vision to life. On the upper floor, visitors can relax in a café with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. The lower floor will house an auditorium and interactive gallery, where conservation efforts come to life in ways that will inspire all generations. The gallery will offer engaging displays in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, making the message of wildlife conservation accessible to all. Visitors will learn about the zoo’s pioneering work with endangered species and the critical need for global cooperation in conservation efforts.

A new film, produced by renowned creators, will showcase the Zoo’s crucial role in local wildlife conservation, and will be screened in the Auditorium (a donor opportunity of ILS 50,000). Interactive installations will allow children to explore what happens behind the scenes at the zoo and discover how our team works to protect Israeli species such as vultures, deer, and more (a donor opportunity of ILS 250,000).



In true alignment with Shai's spirit, the area will be developed with several inspiring components:

- **The Red Forest:** A beautiful grove of 128 Israeli trees, each with red elements, will commemorate Shai's deep support for the Hapoel Jerusalem basketball team. This forest will be inaugurated on Tu Bishvat 5775 (in February 2025), a special tree planting event where Shai's family and friends will plant trees in his memory.
- **Shai's Milestones:** An outdoor sculpture trail made from unique rocks will symbolize Shai's contributions to the people of Jerusalem and his work for a harmonious balance between humanity and nature (a donor opportunity of ILS 20,000 per milestone).
- **The Rainbow Flowerbed of Hope:** A stunning, colorful flowerbed in the shape of a rainbow will offer a symbol of hope for the future of our planet (donor opportunity of ILS 50,000).
- **The Green Classroom:** An outdoor classroom overlooking the Bibleland Wildlife Preserve will host educational activities on wildlife conservation for school groups and visitors (donor opportunity of ILS 100,000).
- **Environmental Art Installation:** An art installation will celebrate the human connections Shai fostered through his conservation efforts, bringing people together from all walks of life (donor opportunity depends on the installation chosen).
- **The Doron Family Olive Tree:** A beautiful olive tree will be planted by Shai's family to commemorate his legacy of peace and coexistence, representing the olive branch from the Biblical story and Shai's unwavering commitment to coexistence (donor opportunity of ILS 10,000).



## Be Part of Shai's Vision

Shai Doron's legacy of leadership and conservation continues to inspire us all. The creation of the Noah's Ark Visitor Center and the development of this area are an ongoing tribute to his extraordinary work. We are dedicated to completing this important project, but we need your support to make it a reality. With your help, we can ensure that Shai's vision for environmental education and wildlife conservation lives on for generations to come.

The Visitor Center and its surroundings will be a vibrant, inspiring space that will welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, fostering a deeper connection to nature and the urgent need to protect it. By contributing to this project, you will help honor Shai's memory and further the mission of wildlife conservation in Jerusalem and beyond.

The entire complex is designed by architect Lenny Raviv, designer of the both the Biblical Zoo and the Israel Aquarium. Alongside Shai Doron, Lenny continued to develop new exhibits for the for over 25 years.

Join us in this meaningful endeavor — together, we can carry forward Shai's legacy and continue his mission of protecting the natural world. Your donation, no matter the size, will make a difference. Donations over ILS 1000 will be honored on the center's donor wall.



If you are interested in supporting this important project, you can donate in one of the following ways:

- [Donate online](#)

- Email us

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