

Perspectives

UC Berkeley Hillel | June 4-14, 2017



GETTING READY FOR ISRAEL

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The following is the projected itinerary, subject to change based on site and speaker availability.

Sunday, June 4, 2017

- Depart at 6:25pm from LAX on Turkish Airlines #010, and spend the night in the sky

Monday, June 5, 2017

- Arrive to Istanbul at 5:35pm and connect to Turkish Airways #864 departing at 7:45pm
- Land at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport at 9:15pm, meet our staff, and travel to Tel Aviv
- Check-in to our hotel and get to know the staff – Late night snacks provided
NOTE: For those arriving early, check-in is available at the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel Aviv (11 Trumpeldor St), and you need only present your passport at check-in
- Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

5185 MacArthur Blvd NW, Suite 640
Washington, DC 20016
800-600-5194 **PHONE** | 202.315.3269 **FAX**

ISRAEL OFFICE

טללים כנסים אירועים ותיירות
רחוב אריאל שרון 3, אור יהודה
011-972-3-630-6300 **PHONE** |

3 Ariel Sharon Street
Or Yehuda 60200, Israel
011-972-3-730-6722 **FAX**

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info@authenticisrael.com
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Tuesday, June 6, 2017

- Introductions at in the ancient Jaffa Seaport overlooking Tel Aviv
- **Explore models for co-existence in Jaffa** on a guided tour with an educator from Beit Daniel
- Break for lunch and celebrate the spirit of Tel Aviv at **Nahalat Binyamin Street Festival**
- Briefing on the USA-Israel strategic alliance with a representative from the **US Embassy**
- Learn about Tel Aviv's thriving LGBTQ culture on the **Rainbow TLV Tour**
- Evening: Experience dinner with new senses at **Blackout in Nalagaat**, Israel's renowned center for deaf and blind culture
- Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

- Travel to **Israel's frontier with Gaza** to explore how local Israeli communities have adapted – guided by peace activist, Joe Perlov – including lunch
- Travel to the West Bank to hear the perspectives of a local Palestinian and an Israeli settler under the Roots peace tent
- Explore the Palestinian city of **Bethlehem** on a guided tour, including the Church of the Nativity
- Travel to Jerusalem via Gilo, stopping for a panoramic introduction at the Haas Promenade
- Check-in to our hotel in Jerusalem – share dinner with a group of **Israeli soldiers**
- Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Thursday, June 8, 2017

- Tour **Israel's Supreme Court** – Understanding Israel's democratic system and safeguards
- Meet Arab Jerusalemites at **Kids4Peace** in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood
- Continue on to Ramallah, a contemporary Palestinian city in the West Bank and visit the **Palestinian Authority Headquarters**
- Afternoon visit to the Israel Museum – site of the Dead Sea Scrolls (*if time permits*)
- Return to our hotel to meet with **Tal Becker**, one of the Israeli negotiators who took part in the peace talks with the Palestinian Authority
- Dinner on own in Jerusalem
- Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Friday, June 9, 2017

- Visit **Yad VaShem** World Holocaust Remembrance Center and **Mt. Herzl National Cemetery**

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- Experience the frenzy of pre-Shabbat shopping at **Mahane Yehuda marketplace** and explore the colorful neighborhood of Nachlaot (lunch on own)
- Kabbalat Shabbat experience at the First Jerusalem Train Station
- Evening: Dinner with host families through **“Shabbat of a Lifetime”**
- Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Saturday, June 10, 2017

- Visit to **Jerusalem’s YMCA** an important cultural institution serving all who call Jerusalem home (including a view from the tower) – meet with Arab-Israeli journalist, **Khaled Abu Toameh**
- Enter the **Old City** and explore all four quarters of this ancient city (lunch is provided)
- Meet with Gabi Barkai, an archeologist specializing in what is known to Jewish people as the Temple Mount and to Muslim people as the Haram Al-Sharif
- Evening: Free night out to enjoy Jerusalem’s nightlife
- Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Sunday, June 11, 2017

- Wake up early and travel to the Judean Desert
- **Masada** via snake path up and down cable car
- **Dead Sea** floating at Ein Bokek and hike to the desert waterfalls at **Ein Gedi**
- Continue north up the **Jordan Valley** and check-in to kibbutz accommodations in the Galilee with dinner included at the hotel
- Overnight: Kibbutz Amiad, Galilee
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Monday, June 12, 2017

- Ascend the **Golan Heights** and survey Israel’s Syrian border from the summit of **Mt. Ben Tal**
- Explore the region on an off-road jeep tour and break for lunch at **Kibbutz Merom Golan**
- Experience the holy sites of the Sea of Galilee, including the **Mt. of Beatitudes** and Capernaum
- Evening: Group **cruise on the Sea of Galilee** and dinner on own in Tiberias
- Overnight: Kibbutz Amiad,
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

- Encounter with the Arab-Israeli community of Shfar’am in the Galilee

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- Travel to Haifa – Israel’s most diverse city – and tour the **Bahai Temple Gardens** on Mt. Carmel and the **Rambam Hospital** – a facility at the front lines of providing medical care to wounded Syrians (stopping for lunch on own in Haifa along the way)
- Check-in tour our accommodations in Zichron Yaakov
- Evening: Encounter with Israel’s **Druze community** and enjoy a traditional meal in the village of Ussafiya in the Carmel Mountains
- Overnight: Eden Inn, Zichron Yaakov
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

- Travel to Ben Gurion Airport in the early AM to depart on Turkish Airlines #865 at 8:40am
- Arrive to Istanbul at 10:55am and depart on Turkish Airlines 009 at 1:00pm
- Arrive back to Los Angeles at 4:45pm

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Please check to make sure that you know where your passport is and that it is not expired or about to expire. Your passport must be valid for at least six months from the date you arrive in Israel. If your passport expires within this period, please start the renewal process today. Many airlines will deny you boarding if your passport is not valid according to this policy. Information about ordering a passport is available at <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.

If you are traveling to Israel on a USA, Canadian, or European Union member country passport, a visa is not needed to enter Israel. If you are traveling on a passport from another country, you may need a visa to enter Israel. Our office is able to provide you with an official ticket confirmation if needed.

MONEY MATTERS

What’s Included

The program covers accommodations, most meals, all touring, gratuities, and basic medical insurance (does not cover pre-existing conditions. You are responsible for snacks and hotel incidentals.

Money in Israel

The Israeli currency is the shekel (NIS). The US Dollar is equal to roughly 3.60 Israeli shekels at the time of publishing. We recommend going to www.xe.com for an updated exchange rate closer to departure. Shekels come in various denominations, and it’s worth noting that shekel coins come in higher values than is common in North America. Watch your coins carefully!

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You can exchange for shekels prior to departure, on arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, or you can use an ATM to withdraw shekels all over Israel. Traveler's checks are generally not a practical solution. If you plan to use an ATM card in Israel, make sure it has a Visa or Mastercard logo to ensure it will be accepted abroad. If your ATM card is not in the Visa or Mastercard network, check with your local bank to determine whether it will work in Israel. Finally, we recommend notifying your debit/credit card company of your travel plans to avoid their placing a security hold on your account.

PACKING TIPS & WEATHER

Here are some basic tips to guide your packing. If you have more specific questions, contact us.

- Weather during the summer is hot during the day (high 80's to 90's) and gets cooler in the evenings (60's or 70's). The good news is that humidity is minimal in most parts of Israel.
- We recommend bringing a small traveling bag on the bus each day to store extra clothing, personal belongings and a light jacket/sweater for the evenings if we are not returning to the hotel earlier.
- We are doing a lot of walking, so again be sure to bring comfortable and sturdy walking shoes. We also recommend bringing athletic sandals or water shoes for the Dead Sea.
- Pack plenty of bathing suits. There are ample opportunities to swim/get wet as part of the program itinerary (Dead Sea, Mediterranean Sea, hotel pools, etc.).
- Because of its position well below sea level, the sun at the Dead Sea is especially strong. It is critical that you carry a hat and sunscreen for extra protection from the sun in the desert.
- Laundry is available for a supplemental fee at most hotels. Laundromats are not common in Israel outside of Tel Aviv. Plan accordingly.
- We recommend packing a change of clothes, toiletries and any prescription medication in your carry-on luggage in case your checked luggage is delayed in transit.

Bringing Valuables to Israel

We encourage you to leave valuables at home wherever possible. While theft is not common in Israel, it does happen – even from hotel rooms (safes are available in each room). As a matter of policy, participants are responsible for their possessions and valuables at all times.

GENERAL PRE-TRIP PREP

Group Meals

Breakfast is provided daily at the hotel and will consist of a wide variety of salads, dairy products, fruits, breads and more traditional breakfast items. Since lunch is typically a quick stop in the day, we encourage you to eat a full breakfast. If you have any special dietary needs, please contact your program staff to make prior arrangements with us.

Electrical Current

If you plan to bring small electrical appliances to Israel, keep in mind that Israel uses a 220 volt electrical current and the outlet types are different as well (two circular prongs). In order to avoid "frying" any electrical items, bring a voltage converter. A converter is already built into most laptops, smart phones and tablet devices. You will also need a simple adapter to plug your items into the wall.

Medicine & Vaccinations

If you are taking medication, we recommend bringing enough to last for the entire time that you expect to be in Israel. We also recommend packing your medication as part of your carry-on luggage in case your main luggage is delayed. If you have a notable medical condition, please inform us in advance so that we can prepare our staff accordingly.

No vaccinations are required for Israel. We recommend coming with an up to date Tetanus shot.

Tap & Bottled Water

Israeli tap water is perfectly safe to drink. If you prefer bottled water, it is widely available. Typically, our bus drivers will sell bottled water from a refrigerator on the bus.

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