



Camp Interlaken JCC

A JCC MACCABI ISRAEL EXPERIENCE | JULY 11 - AUGUST 1, 2018

PROPOSAL

PRESENTED TO

Toni Davison Levenberg

Camp Interlaken JCC

PRESENTED BY



JCC Association
of North America



PREPARED BY

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Welcome to JCC Maccabi Israel

JCC Maccabi is a project of the JCC Association's Israel Center. Our mission is to enable every young Jewish teen currently in 9-12th grades to visit Israel within the framework of an organized peer educational program, for the purpose of strengthening, developing, and enriching his or her Jewish identity and identification with the Jewish people..

Shared Values

Non-denominational and pluralistic, JCC Maccabi Israel exposes Jewish teens to all that is great about Israel -- its culture, its history, and its people. Our programs help teens to understand our past in order to build our future, create meaningful dialogue between Israeli and American teens, challenge teens to become a better and stronger person, and to truly understand the role of community in Jewish Life.

Top Notch Safety

All activities are monitored by our state-of-the-art communication room, from which we receive constant updates. The communication room was developed by the Ministry of Education and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel a means of updating groups about the situation in all areas of Israel. All sites are approved in advance. Read more about safety and security [here](#).

Awesome Staff

Our staff is friendly, knowledgeable, and passionate about our mission. In most cases, three Israeli professional staff are on every bus: a Ministry of Tourism licensed guide/educator, a security guard who is trained in first aid, and a counselor who acts as an informal educator and provides general support.

Simple Registration

We use Regpack for all of our registration needs. Regpack keeps all of the necessary paperwork in one place, and allows participants and parents to return to the site and save progress instead of having to start over every time.



Package Details

We'll provide the following program services.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 24/7 assistance, guidance and support from the JCC Israel Center and its field staff
- Continuous communication with Camp leadership during the program
- VIP greeting at Ben Gurion Airport for your camp's group flight arrival
- Experienced, licensed tour educator with the group daily (excluding July 27-28)
- Experienced Israeli counselor with the group daily (excluding July 27-28)
- Experienced armed escort trained in first aid ("ma'ar") with the group daily (excluding July 27-28)
- Gratuities for the guide, driver and counselor budgeted at \$125 per teen
- Three kosher meals daily in the form of packed, restaurant/hotels or allowance ("pizur") meals
NOTE: Pizur meals are budgeted at 40 NIS per person per meal
- Accommodations per the itinerary based on quad or triple rooms depending on the facility
- All programming costs per the itinerary
- Land costs for two camp staff based on double room hotel occupancy where possible
NOTE: Additional staff can be added and/or staff can be upgraded to guaranteed single rooms with a supplemental fee
- Tourist class bus equipped with AC, TV and DVD player daily (excluding July 14, 21, 27-28)
NOTE: Based on 12 hours of availability per day except
- Monitoring and guidance from the ("Chadar Matzav")
- One scheduled laundry service

- General liability and medical insurance -- does not cover pre-existing conditions
NOTE: Camps are strongly encouraged to ensure their campers have their own comprehensive medical insurance with coverage abroad and/or offer a travel insurance policy that includes medical insurance with coverage of pre-existing conditions
- One Mi-Fi device for shared camp staff use and two local cell phones with unlimited calling locally and internationally
- Sources booklet for all participants
- Bus box including sports gear, Shabbat items, and basic program supplies
- All applicable government taxes and gratuities at meals
NOTE: An additional 17% VAT (tax) applies for Israeli passport holders only at hotels
- Petty cash at the discretion of the guide
NOTE: Intended to cover taxis for medical services, other logistical consideration, etc.
- One water bottle for each participant at the start of the program
- JMI swag TBD for teens and camp staff
- Online program registration for the teens
- Training seminar for Israeli staff and training webinar for American staff
- Pre-trip preparation guide for teens and their families

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights -- to be quoted separately by camp for teens and staff
- Salary for camp staff
- Hotel incidentals
- Passport and/or visas fees (if necessary)
NOTE: All passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the entry date to Israel
- Camp staff petty cash and snacks/refreshments purchased during free time
- Excess luggage and weight penalties
- Travel insurance and prescribed medication not covered by the insurance company



Program Itinerary

The following is a suggested itinerary for your review; subject to reasonable change based on availability and local considerations

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

- Depart for Israel on a group flight (TBD)

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

- Arrive to Israel's Ben Gurion Airport in the afternoon TBD
- Meet our JCC Maccabi Israel staff team, and the journey begins
- Introduction to Israel at the **ancient port city of Jaffa**, and browse the colorful Jaffa flea market
- Check-in, dinner, and orientation at our accommodations in the Jerusalem Hills

OVERNIGHT: Maccabim Guest House, Modi'in

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2018

- **Dig-for-a-Day Archaeological Seminar** at Beit Guvrin National Park + Explore the Bell Caves
- Crawl through the **caves of the Bar Kochba Rebellion** at Hirbet Midras
- Pizur lunch at BIG Beit Shemesh
- View the **Ella Valley** from Tel Azeka - The famous site of David's battle with Goliath
- Return to our kibbutz hotel accommodations and prepare for Shabbat
- Camp style Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat dinner and song session

OVERNIGHT: Maccabim Guest House, Modi'in

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018

- Staff-led Shabbat programming followed by Shabbat lunch
- Afternoon sports, swimming and free time
- Seminar: The political situation in Israel, with guest speaker, **Neil Lazarus**
- Dinner at accommodations followed by a Havdalla ceremony -- celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening activities in the Modi'in area (no bus factored)

OVERNIGHT: Maccabim Guest House, Modi'in

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018

- Wake up early and depart the Jerusalem region for the Negev Desert
- Hike to the hidden desert pools at **Ein Avdat Canyon**
- Swimming and lunch at the Neve Midbar desert pools
- **Sde Boker** - Discover the story of Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and Negev Desert visionary
- Explore the world's largest erosion crater at the **Ramon Crater Visitor Center**
- Continue south to the Arava Valley, and check-in to our accommodations in Eilat

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Eilat Guest House, Eilat

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018

- Morning hike to Mt. Zephachot - View Israel's border with Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia
- Discover the treasures of the Red Sea at the **Underwater Observatory Marine Park**
- Break for pizur lunch at Eilat Mall
- The rest of the afternoon is for beach time, **guided snorkeling** and **watersports** on the Red Sea
- Experience the thrill of scaling the Kassui sand dunes + poike pot dinner

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Eilat Guest House, Eilat

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

- **Desert ecological tour and seminar** at Kibbutz Keturah, home of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (including lunch)
- Stop for ice cream at Israel's famous Yotvata dairy farm store
- Travel north up the Arava Valley to the Judean Desert region
- Encounter with a **Bedouin women's weaving cooperative** in the desert village of Lakiya
- Camel riding and **desert tent feast** at Kfar Hanokdim encampment

OVERNIGHT: Kfar Hanokdim Encampment, Judean Desert

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

- Pre-sunrise hike up the Roman Ramp to the summit of Masada
- **Masada** - Tour of Herod's desert mountaintop fortress and the bastion of an ancient Jewish rebellion
- Descend Masada via the **Snake Path** and stop for breakfast at the base of Masada
- Experience effortless **floating at the Dead Sea** at Ein Bokek Beach, with lunch provided
- Nature walk to the desert waterfalls oasis at **Ein Gedi National Park**
- Ascend to Jerusalem - Stopping for a welcome ceremony at the **Mt. Scopus overlook**
- Check-in to our hotel in Jerusalem and rest
- Dinner at our accommodations and free night at staff's discretion

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, Jerusalem

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

- **City of David** Excavations - Discover the foundations of Jerusalem dating back to King David's time
- **Hezekiah's Tunnel** - Cool off in the spring-fed underground aqueduct running below Jerusalem
- Enter the Old City at **Zion Gate** and explore the ancient neighborhoods of the Jewish Quarter
- Free time to explore the Jewish Quarter, including pizur lunch

- Reflections at the **Kotel** - The Western Wall complex - and explore millennia of history deep under the Old City in the **Kotel Tunnels**
- Evening: Dinner at hotel and pre-Yad Vashem staff-led educational activity

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, Jerusalem

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018

- **Yad VaShem** World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- **Mahane Yehuda** - Experience this colorful open-air marketplace + pizur (allowance) lunch
- The **First Station** - Marketplace and cultural center on the site of Jerusalem's original train station
- **Beyond the Walls** - Montefiore's Windmill, Yemin Moshe and Mishkenot Sheananim
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
- Re-enter the Old City for **Kabbalat Shabbat experience at the Kotel**
- Walk (or drive) back to the hotel for Shabbat dinner and song session

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, Jerusalem

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018

- Staff-led Shabbat programming followed by Shabbat lunch
- Relaxation and pool time at the hotel
- **Explore the grounds of the Knesset** - Discover Israel's democratic system at its parliament building
- **The Israel Museum** - The Dead Sea Scrolls, Temple Model, and more
- Dinner at accommodations followed by a Havdalla ceremony -- celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening: Explore the **graffiti art at Mahane Yehuda** after market hours

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, Jerusalem

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

- **Theodore Herzl Museum** - The story of the Zionist idea and Israel's founding history

- **Mt. Herzl National Cemetery** - Honoring Israel's national leaders and fallen soldiers
- Depart from Jerusalem and travel north to the Galilee along the Jordan Valley
- View of the region from **Mount Gilboa** and hike along **Nahal HaKibbutzim**
- **Sachne** - Swim in the natural spring-fed pools at the base of Mount Gilboa
- Check-in and dinner at our kibbutz accommodations in the Galilee

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Gadot Guest House, Upper Galilee

MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018

- Get wet hiking down **Nahal Jilaboun** Canyon on the Golan Heights
- Encounter with the **Druze culture** and share a traditional meal in the Golan village of Ein Kinya
- View Israel's neighbors and navigate former IDF bunkers at the summit of **Mt. Ben-Tal**
- Return to our accommodation to freshen up and for dinner
- **Cruise on the Sea of Galilee** with dancing followed by free time along the waterfront in Tiberias

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Gadot Guest House, Upper Galilee

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018

- **Rappelling down Keshet Arch**- The soaring natural geological wonder in the Western Galilee
A packed lunch is provided en route
- **Rosh Hanikrah** - Descend into the ocean-swept caves on Israel's far northern border
- Explore the ancient **Acco Seaport**, including the **Knights Hall** and **Templar Tunnels**
- Evening: Dinner at our accommodations and free night at staff's discretion

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Gadot Guest House, Upper Galilee

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018

- The view from Kibbutz Misgav Am - Perspectives along **Israel's border with Lebanon**
- Nature walk along the **Snir River**, a tributary of the Jordan River

- Enjoy a lunch of fresh-cooked pizza in the field on the banks of the Jordan River
- Enjoy a lunch of fresh-cooked pizza in the field on the banks of the Jordan River
- Cool off **rafting down the upper Jordan River** followed by an **adventure ropes challenge**
- Shopping stop at the Naot sandal factory store
- Evening: Dinner at our accommodations and prepare for our home hospitality weekend

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Gadot Guest House, Upper Galilee

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

- **Ancient Tsfat** - Explore the historic center of Jewish mysticism in the Galilee highlands
- Free time for exploration and pizur (allowance) lunch in the **Tsfat artists' quarter**
- Meet with **Kabbalistic artist, Avraham Lowenthal**, in the Tsfat artists' colony
- Visit an **Ethiopian absorption center** in Tsfat to discover how Israel welcomes its immigrants
- Travel to the Kinneret region for the start of the P2G Home Hospitality Weekend

OVERNIGHT: Home Hospitality Weekend

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

Cross-cultural P2G weekend - organized separately

OVERNIGHT: Home Hospitality Weekend

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018

Cross-cultural P2G weekend - organized separately

OVERNIGHT: Home Hospitality Weekend

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

- Discover Haifa, Israel's most diverse city, including stops at the **Bahai Gardens & Temple**, the **Ahmediyya Mosque** and the **Stella Maris Monastery** (pizur lunch)
- **Caesarea** - Herod's Roman amphitheater and grand palace on the beach
- Arrive to Tel Aviv - Israel's cultural and commercial capital
- Explore the **ancient port city of Jaffa**, and browse the Jaffa flea market
- Check-in and dinner at our Tel Aviv accommodations
- **StandWithUs Seminar** - Exploring how to talk about Israel back at home

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Bnai Dan, Tel Aviv

MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018

- **Leket** - Volunteering project harvesting for the hungry of Israel
- **Machon Ayalon** - Honor the bravery of those who helped establish the State of Israel at this secret underground munitions facility
- **Save a Child's Heart** - Meet children seeking life saving treatment in Israel from around the world
- The rest of the afternoon is reserved for **free time at the beach**
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel followed by a group night out at Tel Aviv's stylish port (on foot)

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Bnai Dan, Tel Aviv

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018

- **Independence Hall** - Explore modern Israel's creation and its founding values
- Tap into the spirit of modern Israel at the **Tel Aviv Innovation Center** and meet a local entrepreneur
- Celebrate Tel Aviv at the **Nahalat Binyamin street festival** and Carmel Market (pizur lunch)
- **Tree planting** project and final educational activity and wrap-up at Neot Kedumim's JNF Forest
- Closing dinner and goodbye session :-(at Neot Kedumim

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Bnai Dan, Tel Aviv (if necessary -- according to flight times)

- Connect to your morning return flight departing from Ben Gurion Airport
accompanied by guard and guide
- Arrive back to the USA (TBD)