



# INTERLAKEN TEEN ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

A JCC MACCABI ISRAEL EXPERIENCE | JULY 11–AUGUST 1, 2023

## PROGRAM AGREEMENT

PRESENTED TO



PRESENTED BY



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 in outlook, JCC Maccabi Israel (JMI) 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 better and stronger, and truly understand the role of community in Jewish Life.

## Top-Notch Safety

Our programs are designed with safety in mind, and we are monitored 24/7 by Israel's official "Situation Room" which provides us with real-time safety and security guidance. Moreover, we stand ready to adjust our policies and rules based on local conditions with safety as our guiding priority.

## Awesome Staff

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

## Our Full Support

JMI is a project of the JCC Association, and our year-round staff stands ready to support you all along the way. Before the summer, we are available to support you with your promotions, your pre-trip preparation communications, and your registration needs. During the summer, you can count on JMI to proactively check-in with your staff team and provide the support you need to be successful.



# Package Details

*We are pleased to provide you with this agreement between the JCC Association and Camp Interlaken ("Camp") for your planned summer 2023 Israel program.*

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- International flights on Air Canada from Chicago (budgeted at \$1420/ticket)
- 24/7 assistance, guidance, and support from the JCCA Israel Center and its field staff
- Continuous communication with Camp leadership during the program
- VIP greeting in baggage claim at Ben Gurion Airport for your group arrival flight
- Licensed tour educator with the group daily
- Licensed armed escort trained in first aid ("ma'ar") with the group daily
- Experienced Israeli counselor with the group daily
- Three meals daily in the form of packed, restaurant/hotels or allowance ("pizur") meals  
*NOTE: Pizur meals are budgeted at 50 NIS per person per meal*
- Accommodations per the itinerary with room configurations depending on the facility (quad rooms wherever possible)
- All programming costs per the itinerary
- Flights and land costs for 1 or 2 camp staff based on double room occupancy where possible  
*Additional single-occupancy staff rooms are available for an additional fee*
- Post-departure travel insurance for included camp staff (i.e. excludes cancellation and trip interruption benefits)
- Transportation on tourist class bus provided daily except Saturdays when no bus is provided unless required by the itinerary on Saturday nights.  
*NOTE: Based on 12 hours of availability per day.*
- Monitoring and guidance from the "Situation Room" (*Chadar Matzav*)

- Two scheduled laundry services
- 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. A group-discounted travel insurance policy for campers is available for individual family purchase at [www.teentravelinsurance.com/interlaken](http://www.teentravelinsurance.com/interlaken).*
- 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 considerations, etc.*
- One water bottle for each participant at the start of the program
- Pre-trip preparation guide for teens and their families
- Custom t-shirt design service
- All gratuities for Israeli staff
- Pre-summer training session for the Israeli staff team

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Costs associated with extra programming/arrangements in case of a flight delay or other delay
- Salary for camp staff and petty cash for camp staff who wish to purchase snacks/refreshments during free time
- Hotel incidentals
- Passport and/or visas fees (if necessary)  
*NOTE: All passports must be valid for at least six months from the arrival date in Israel*
- Excess airline luggage and weight penalties
- Travel insurance and prescribed medication not covered by the insurance company (available for individual family purchase at [www.teentravelinsurance.com/interlaken](http://www.teentravelinsurance.com/interlaken))
- Special testing and other accommodations related to Covid-19 (TBD)



# Program Itinerary

*The following is our projected itinerary; subject to reasonable change based on availability and local considerations*

## TUESDAY | JULY 11, 2023

### TAKING FLIGHT

- Depart from ORD to YYZ with AC 8906 at 12:10pm
- Arrive to YYZ at 2:49pm and connect to flight AC 080 to TLV at 4:35pm

## WEDNESDAY | JULY 12, 2023

### BRUCHIM HA-BA'IM – WELCOME TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport at 10:00am – meet our Israeli staff team and ascend to Jerusalem
- Opening lunch in Jerusalem
- Welcome to Israel! **Shehecheyanu ceremony** and introduction to the contours of Jerusalem at the **Haas Promenade overlook** (packed lunch provided)
- Check-in, orientation, icebreakers, and dinner at our accommodations

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## THURSDAY | JULY 13, 2023

### FOUNDATIONS OF JEWISH HISTORY

- Discover the foundations of Jerusalem from King David's time at the **City of David Excavations**
- **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 corridors of the **Jewish Quarter**



- Reflections at the Kotel - The **Western Wall** - followed by a tour of the **Southern Wall Excavations**
- Evening: Group night out and pizur dinner at **Ben Yehuda Street Pedestrian Mall**

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## FRIDAY | JULY 14, 2023

### LOSS AND RENEWAL IN MODERN ISRAEL

- **Yad VaShem** World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- Processing time and picnic-style lunch at **Jerusalem's Mifletzet Park**
- Afternoon hike in the Jerusalem hills along the **Masrek Trail**
- Return to our accommodations for time to prepare for Shabbat
- Re-enter the Old City to experience **Kabalat Shabbat at the Kotel** (bus drop-off at Dung Gate)
- Join up with teens from camps across North America for a **JMI Shabbat Dinner**

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## SATURDAY | JULY 15, 2023

### CELEBRATING OUR FIRST SHABBAT IN ISRAEL

- Late wake-up, staff-led Shabbat programming, followed by Shabbat lunch
- Preparation for our visit to Yad VaShem the following day
- Spend the rest of the afternoon playing sports and relaxing together at **Jerusalem's Saker Park**
- **The Israel Museum** - The Dead Sea Scrolls, Temple Model, and more
- Dinner at our accommodations followed by a havdala ceremony
- Evening: Group night out at **Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall**

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## SUNDAY | JULY 16, 2023

### VALUES OF MODERN ISRAEL

- Meet with a representative of **Women of the Wall** to learn about the long struggle for Jewish equality in Israeli society and law
- **Guided tour of the Knesset** – Discover Israel's democratic system at its parliament building
- **Mahane Yehuda** – Experience this colorful open-air marketplace + pizur lunch
- **Meet with students at Maale** – a film school devoted to exploring the intersection of Judaism and modern life
- **RootOne Big Tent Event** - Celebrate your presence in Israel with thousands of teens from across North America

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## MONDAY | JULY 17, 2023

### CONFLICT & CO-EXISTENCE

- **Mt. Herzl National Cemetery** - Honor Israel's national leaders and fallen soldiers
- **Break for pizur lunch in Efrat, one of the largest settlement cities in the West Bank**
- Explore the history and terrain of Biblical Israel on an **off-road jeep tour adventure**
- **Roots Tent** – Take part in an Arab/Israeli dialogue in the Gush Etzion region of the West Bank
- Return to Jerusalem for dinner and a political briefing with guest speaker, **Neil Lazarus** (or similar)

OVERNIGHT: Caesar Hotel, Jerusalem

## TUESDAY | JULY 18, 2023

### JEWELS OF THE DESERT

- Depart Jerusalem and travel south
- **Dig-for-a-Day Archaeological Seminar** at Beit Guvrin National Park and explore the Bell Caves
- Packed lunch along the way
- **Sde Boker** - Visit David and Paula Ben Gurion's modest home and learn about the remarkable story of Israel's first Prime Minister and his unique vision for Israel's future in the desert

- Continue traveling south towards the Arava Valley, stopping to explore the world's largest erosion crater at the **Ramon Crater Visitor Center**
- Check-in to our desert kibbutz accommodations with dinner included + **night pool time**

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Keturah Guest House, Arava Valley

## WEDNESDAY | JULY 19, 2023

### EILAT AND ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN BORDERS

- Hike through beautiful natural stone formations in the **Red Canyon Trail**
- View Israel's Red Sea neighbors – **Egypt, Jordan & Saudi Arabia** – en route to Eilat
- Discover underwater treasures on a **guided snorkeling tour** at Coral Beach (delivered lunch)
- Free time to enjoy **swimming + adventure watersports** along the Red Sea
- Breaking for **ice cream at Yotvata**, Israel's famous desert dairy farm
- Return to our accommodations for dinner and a relaxed evening

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Keturah Guest House, Arava Valley

## THURSDAY | JULY 20, 2023

### THRIVING IN THE DESERT

- Morning: **Desert ecological tour** and seminar at Kibbutz Keturah followed by lunch and pool time
- Depart the Arava Desert and head north to the Dead Sea
- Experience effortless **floating at the Dead Sea** at Ein Bokek Beach
- Cultural encounter with the **Bedouin community** of Wadi Attir the Negev Desert
- **Camel riding** and **desert tent feast** at Kfar Hanokdim encampment

OVERNIGHT: Kfar Hanokdim Encampment, Judean Desert

## FRIDAY | JULY 21, 2023

### MASADA: JEWISH HEROISM, DILEMMAS & LEADERSHIP



- Pre-sunrise hike up the Roman Ramp to the summit of Masada
- **Masada** – Tour of Herod's desert mountain fortress and the bastion of an ancient Jewish rebellion
- Descend Masada via the **Snake Path** and stop for breakfast at the base of Masada
- Nature walk to the desert waterfalls oasis at **Ein Gedi National Park**
- Say goodbye to the desert and travel north
- Check in and prepare for Shabbat at our accommodations
- Staff-led Kabbalat Shabbat at our accommodations

OVERNIGHT: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee

## SATURDAY | JULY 22, 2023

### SHABBAT IN THE NORTH

- Late wake-up, staff-led Shabbat programming, followed by Shabbat lunch
- Free time, swimming, and sports at our accommodation
- Dinner at our accommodations followed by a havdala ceremony
- **Cruise on the Sea of Galilee** followed by a group night out in Tiberias

OVERNIGHT: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee

## SUNDAY | JULY 23, 2023

### PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Nature walk to the **Banias waterfalls** in the lush Upper Galilee
- 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**
- Cool off **rafting down the upper Jordan River** followed by a **fresh-cooked pizza dinner** in the field on the banks of the Jordan River

OVERNIGHT: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee

## MONDAY | JULY 24, 2023

### MYSTICS OF THE GALILEE

- **Aqua Kef** – Experience the thrill of Israel's floating water park on the Sea of Galilee
- Ancient **Tsfat** - Explore the historic center of Jewish mysticism in the Galilee highlands
- Free time for shopping in the Tsfat artists' colony and meet with **Kabbalistic artist, Avraham Lowenthal**, in the Tsfat artists' colony
- **Prepare your own challah** at the 500-year old Beit Hakahal stone oven bakery with Livnot U'Lhibanotin Tsfat
- Dinner at the hotel followed by a staff-led activity

OVERNIGHT: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee

## TUESDAY | JULY 25, 2023

### DIVERSITY IN THE GALILEE

- Visit **Sindyanna of Galilee** and learn about the female-led non-profit that actively promotes the concepts of “business for peace” and Fair Trade in Israel through a Za'atar making workshop
- Explore Haifa, Israel's most diverse city, including a tour of the **Bahai Temple and Gardens**, meet with the **Imam of the Ahmediyya Mosque** (pizur lunch)
- **Surfing class & BBQ dinner** at Israel's rustic Haifa Beach
- Check-in to our accommodations in Haifa

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Haifa Guest House, Haifa

## WEDNESDAY | JULY 26, 2023

### NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WESTERN GALILEE

- **Rappelling down the Keshet Arch** natural geological wonder (packed lunch)
- **Rosh Hanikrah** - Descend into the ocean-swept caves on Israel's far northern border
- Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring Israel's Crusader-era history at **Acco Seaport**, including the **Templar Tunnels**

- Dinner is included at our accommodations

OVERNIGHT: IYHA Haifa Guest House

## THURSDAY | JULY 27, 2023

### ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF ISRAEL

- **Caesarea** – Tour Herod's Roman amphitheater and grand palace on the beach
- **Leket** – Volunteering project at this leading Israeli foodbank for the hungry (lunch en route)
- Drive to Tel Aviv - Israel's cultural and commercial capital
- **Port-to-port bicycle tour** of Tel Aviv from the ancient Jaffa Seaport to the modern Tel Aviv Port
- Check-in and dinner at the hotel
- Evening: **Israeli dance** activity

OVERNIGHT: Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

## FRIDAY | JULY 28, 2023

### CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF TEL AVIV

- Visit the **Peres Center for Peace & Innovation** in Jaffa
- Learn about Tel Aviv's thriving LGBTQ culture on the **Rainbow TLV Tour**
- Browse the **Nahalat Binyamin street festival** and grab lunch at the **Carmel Market** (pizur)
- Walk by Israel's **Independence** Hall (closed for renovations) and soak up the Tel Aviv culture along **Rothschild Boulevard**
- Evening: Take part in an outdoors **Kabbalat Shabbat experience at the Tel Aviv Port** followed by Shabbat dinner at our accommodations

OVERNIGHT: Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

## SATURDAY | JULY 29, 2023

### SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Morning: **Israeli martial arts workshop** + beach time
- Shabbat lunch is provided at our accommodations
- Afternoon: staff-led Shabbat programming and Tel Aviv walking tour
- Havdallah ceremony and dinner at our accommodations
- Evening: Group night out at **Sarona Market**

OVERNIGHT: Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

## SUNDAY | JULY 30, 2023

### CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH OF ISRAEL

- **Machon Ayalon** - Honor the bravery of the pioneers who helped establish modern Israel at this secret underground munitions facility
- Visit **Netiv HaAsara on the frontier with Gaza**, and take part in a peace project on the border wall (including lunch)
- **Salad Trail** - Experience the wonders of Israel's desert agriculture revolution
- Drive back to Tel Aviv
- Evening: Discover the richness of Jewish Ethiopian culture and take part in a culinary workshop and meal at the **Battae Center in Tel Aviv**

OVERNIGHT: Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

## MONDAY | JULY 31, 2023

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Late wake-up and packing for our return flight
- "Bringing Israel home" with guest speaker **Lipaz Ela**
- Discover the complexity and beauty of **Hebrew graffiti art in Florentine** + graffiti-making workshop
- Tour the **ancient port city of Jaffa** and browse the colorful **Jaffa flea market** (pizur lunch)
- **Museum of the Jewish People** (ANU Museum) on the campus of Tel Aviv University
- **Tree planting ceremony**, final wrap-up session, and celebration dinner at **Neot Kedumim Park**



- **Tree planting ceremony**, final wrap-up session, and celebration dinner at **Neot Kedumim Park**

OVERNIGHT: Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

## TUESDAY | AUGUST 1, 2023

### SHALOM U'LHITRAOT

- Morning: Return to Ben Gurion Airport for your flight back to America at 12:50pm with AC083
- Arrive to YUL at 4:50pm and connect to your AC 8967 flight to ORD at 8:00pm
- Arrive back to the ORD at 9:26pm