



Camp JCA Shalom Malibu and Camp Interlaken

A JCC MACCABI ISRAEL EXPERIENCE | JULY 1–JULY 22, 2026

DRAFT

PROGRAM AGREEMENT

PRESENTED TO



**CAMP JCA
SHALOM**
Shalom Institute

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 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 Interlaken and JCA Shalom Camp ("Camp") for your planned summer Israel program.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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/leader per bus with the group 24x7
- Licensed armed escort trained in first aid ("ma'ar") per bus with the group 24x7
- Experienced Israeli counselor per bus with the group 24x7
- Three meals daily in the form of packed, restaurant/hotels, or allowance ("pizur") meals
NOTE: Pizur meals are budgeted at 60 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
- Land costs for four camp staff accommodated in double rooms
Additional single-occupancy staff room rooms may be available for an additional fee
- a Transportation on a tourist-class bus daily, except Saturdays when a bus is provided post-Shabbat
NOTE: Based on 12 hours of availability per day, with extra bus hours budgeted based on the itinerary
- Monitoring and guidance from the "Situation Room" (Chadar Matzav)
- Two scheduled laundry services

- Limited local [medical insurance](#) -- does not cover pre-existing conditions
NOTE: Camps are strongly encouraged to ensure their campers and staff 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 direct purchase by families at XXXX (link to be added)
- Bus box including sports gear, Shabbat items, and basic program supplies
- All applicable government taxes and gratuities at meals
NOTE: An additional 18% VAT (tax) applies for Israeli passport holders only at hotels (~\$275)
- Petty cash at the discretion of the guide (budgeted at \$1,500 per bus)
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 and the bus driver
- Pre-summer training session for the Israeli staff team

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights from LAX (JCA Shalom) and NYC (Interlaken) - TBD
- 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 to buy 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 our local medical insurance company
An optional group-discounted travel insurance policy is available for individual purchase at XXXX
(link will be added later)



Program Itinerary

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

WEDNESDAY | JULY 1, 2026

TAKING FLIGHT

Interlaken

- Depart from EWR at 01:30pm on ELAL flight

JCA Shalom

- Depart from LAX at 8:00pm on ELAL flight

THURSDAY | JULY 2, 2026

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

Interlaken

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel at 6:55am
- Meet our Israeli staff team and drive to Tel Aviv
- Introduction to Israel at the **ancient port city of Jaffa**
- Free Time to enjoy Tel Aviv's Beach scene
- Pizur lunch in Tel Aviv
- Ascend to Jerusalem and check in at the hotel

JCA Shalom

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel at 7:55pm

- Meet our Israeli staff team and ascend to Jerusalem
- Check in at the hotel and meet with Interlaken teens

OVERNIGHT: Caesar, Jerusalem

FRIDAY | JULY 3, 2026

THE BIBLICAL LAND OF ISRAEL

With Israelis

- Welcome to Israel! **Shehecheyanu ceremony** and introduction to the contours of Jerusalem at the **Haas Promenade overlook (With Israelis)**
- Get to know your fellow travelers over an **outdoor leadership group bonding workshop (led by staff)**
- Travel to **Neot Kedumim Biblical Park** for a tree-planting ceremony, group-bonding workshop
- **View the Ella Valley** from Tel Azeka - The famous site of David's battle with Goliath
- Learn the skills of an archeologist at the **Dig-for-a-Day Archaeological Seminar**
- Enter the Old City to experience **Kabalat Shabbat at the Kotel** (bus drop-off at Dung Gate)
- Walk back and have a Shabbat dinner at the hotel
- Dinner at the hotel

OVERNIGHT: Caesar, Jerusalem

SATURDAY | JULY 4, 2026

FIRST SHABBAT IN ISRAEL

With Israelis

- Late wake-up, staff-led Shabbat programming, followed by Shabbat lunch
- **The Israel Museum** – The Dead Sea Scrolls, Temple Model, and more
- Spend the rest of the afternoon playing sports and relaxing together at **Jerusalem's Saker Park**
- Dinner at the hotel and Havdalla – Celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening: **Tower of David Night Spectacular** sound and light show in the Old City

OVERNIGHT: Caesar, Jerusalem

SUNDAY | JULY 5, 2026

FOUNDATIONS OF JEWISH HISTORY

With Israelis

- Enter the Old City at **Zion Gate** and explore the ancient corridors of the **Jewish Quarter**
- Free time for shopping and pizur lunch in the historic **Cardo**
- Reflections at the Kotel - The **Western Wall**
- 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
- Encounter with **Women of the Wall** – learn about the long struggle for Jewish equality in Israeli society
- Preparation visiting the south
- Evening: Group night out at **Ben Yehuda Street** pedestrian mall + pizur dinner

OVERNIGHT: Caesar, Jerusalem

MONDAY | JULY 6, 2026

REMEMBERING OCTOBER 7

With Israelis

- Travel to **Sderot**, one of the most targeted communities, to view Israel's border with Gaza and visit the police station ransacked on October 7th
- Break for pizur lunch in Sderot
- Travel to **Kibbutz Re'im** to visit the grounds of the doomed **Nova Music Festival**
- **Salad Trail** – Experience the wonders of Israeli resilience and desert agriculture revolution
- Prepare for a night under the desert stars

Overnight: OUTDOORS

TUESDAY | JULY 7, 2026

JEWELS OF THE DESERT

With Israelis

- Hike to the hidden desert pools at **Ein Avdat**
- **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
- Pizur lunch at Mitspe Ramon
- Explore the world's largest erosion crater at the **Ramon Crater Visitor Center**
- **Desert mocktail workshop** at Mitzpe Ramon
- Continue to the Arava Valley and Check in to our desert kibbutz accommodations
- Pool and BBQ Dinner at the kibbutz

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ketura Guest House, Arava Valley

WEDNESDAY | JULY 8, 2026

EILAT AND ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN BORDERS

With Israelis

- View beautiful natural stone formations hiking the **Red Canyon** trail in the Arava Valley
- View Israel's Red Sea neighbors – **Egypt, Jordan & Saudi Arabia** – en route to Eilat
- Continue to the Red Sea – Discover underwater treasures **snorkeling at Coral Beach** (pizur lunch)
- Beach time and **Red Sea banana boating adventures**
- Return to our accommodations, **stopping for ice cream at Yotvata**, Israel's famous desert dairy farm
- Dinner at our accommodations
- Evening: Night out at Ice mall Eilat

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Ketura Guest House, Arava Valley

THURSDAY | JULY 9, 2026

THE DESERT BLOOM

With Israelis

- Morning: **Desert ecological tour** and seminar at Kibbutz Keturah
- Pool time and lunch at Kibbutz Keturah
- Experience effortless **floating at the Dead Sea** at Ein Bokek Beach
- Evening: **Camel riding** and **desert tent feast** at Kfar Hanokdim encampment

OVERNIGHT: KFAR HANOKDIM ENCAMPMENT, JUDEAN DESERT

All meals included

FRIDAY | JULY 10, 2026

MASADA: JEWISH HEROISM, DILEMMAS & LEADERSHIP

With Israelis

- Hike up the **Roman Ramp** to the summit of Masada
- **Masada** – Tour 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
- Nature walk to the desert waterfall oasis at **Ein Gedi National Park**
- Lunch at ANA Ein Gedi
- Drive to Tel Aviv - Israel's cultural and commercial capital
- Check in and time to prepare for Shabbat at the accommodation
- Camp style Kabbalat Shabbat at the beach
- Shabbat dinner at the hotel
- Evening: staff led activity

OVERNIGHT: TEL AVIV

SATURDAY | JULY 11, 2026

SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Lunch at the hotel
- Spend the afternoon enjoying **Tel Aviv's beach scene!**
- Dinner at the hotel and Havdalla – Celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening: Night out at Sarona Market

OVERNIGHT: TEL AVIV

SUNDAY | JULY 12, 2026

THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Trace the founding of modern Israel in the historic **Tel Aviv neighborhood of Neve Tzedek**, and walk by Israel's **Independence Hall** (under renovation)
- **Volunteer at the Jaffa Institute** – An innovative charity dedicated to combating poverty
- Lunch on own at the **ancient port city of Jaffa**
- Visit the **Peres Center for Peace & Innovation** in Jaffa
- **RootOne's Big Tent Event** – Celebrate your presence in Israel with thousands of teens from across North America

OVERNIGHT: TEL AVIV

MONDAY | JULY 13, 2026

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF TEL AVIV

- **Save a Child's Heart** - Meet children seeking life saving treatment in Israel from around the world
- Learn about Tel Aviv's LGBTQ culture on the **Rainbow TLV Tour**
- Celebrate the spirit of Tel Aviv at the **Carmel Market** + pizur (allowance) lunch
- **Museum of the Jewish People** (ANU Museum) on the campus of Tel Aviv University
- Drive to the Western Galilee
- Check in and dinner at the accommodation
- Evening: Staff led activity

OVERNIGHT: WESTERN GALILEE

TUESDAY | JULY 14, 2026

EXPLORING THE CITY OF HAIFA

- Hike at the Carmel Mountains
- Tasting Tour at **Talpiot Market** in Haifa
- Explore Haifa, Israel's most diverse city, including a view of the **Bahai Temple Gardens** and a meeting with the local Imam at the **Ahmeddiya Mosque**
- Afternoon: **Surfing class** at Haifa Dado Beach
- Evening: Night out at Haifa Mall

OVERNIGHT: WESTERN GALILEE

WEDNESDAY | JULY 15, 2026

NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WESTERN GALILEE

- **Rappelling down Keshet Arch** - The soaring natural geological wonder in the Western Galilee
- **Rosh Hanikran** - Descend into the ocean-swept caves on Israel's far northern border
- Explore the **ancient seaport of Acco**, including the **Knights Hall** and **Templar Tunnels**
- Drive to the Upper Galilee and check in at the hotel
- Evening: Cruise at the Sea of Galilee

OVERNIGHT: UPPER GALILEE

THURSDAY | JULY 16, 2026

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Experience **rafting down the upper Jordan River** + lunch
- Ascend Golan Heights, and view Israel's neighbors at the summit of **Mt. Ben-Tal**
- Chocolate-making activity at **De Karina** on the Golan

- Encounter with the **Druze culture** and share a traditional meal in the Golan village of Ein Kinya
- Return to our hotel

OVERNIGHT: UPPER GALILEE

FRIDAY | JULY 17, 2026

MYSTICS OF THE GALILEE

- Visit the **ancient city of Tsfat** – Explore the historic center of Jewish mysticism
- **Jewish musical meditation activity** at Livnot U'Lhibanot in Tsfat
- Free time for shopping in the **Tsfat artists' colony**
- Return to Jerusalem and prepare for Shabbat
- Experience Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel, followed by a special private camp Shabbat dinner in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City
- Walk back to the hotel and experience the quiet of Jerusalem on Friday night

Overnight: Royal Wing Hotel, Jerusaelm

SATURDAY | JULY 18, 2026

TRANSITIONING TO JERUSALEM

- Staff-led Shabbat programming, including the option to attend services at local shuls
- Shabbat lunch is served at the hotel
- Morning: Meet with **Neil Lazarus** for a geopolitical introduction to Israel and its place in the region
- Dinner at the hotel and Havdalla – Celebrate the start of a new week
- Evening: **You should be DANCING** - turn the volume on for an exceptional urban experience in the heart of Tel Aviv with **Guru ZuZu** followed by Pizur dinner

Overnight: Royal Wing Hotel, Jerusaelm

SUNDAY | JULY 19, 2026

LOSS & RENEWAL

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- **Yad VaShem** World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- Processing time and picnic-style lunch
- **Mt. Herzl National Cemetery** – Honoring Israel's national leaders and fallen soldiers
- Workshop about fighting antisemitism with **Stand With Us**
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Royal Wing Hotel, Jerusalem

MONDAY | JULY 20, 2026

MODERN POLITICS IN ISRAEL

- **Geopolitical tour of Jerusalem** – The seam, the wall, and the future
- **Roots Tent** – Engage in a constructive dialogue of perspectives with a Jewish Settler and a Palestinian Arab who both call the land home (or a similar coexistence activity in Jerusalem)
- **Mahane Yehuda** – Experience this colorful open-air marketplace
- Visit the **Menachem Begin Heritage Center** and participate in a **Junior Knesset program**, an interactive, role-playing simulation of how Israel's democratic system operates
- Dinner at the hotel
- Evening: Staff led activity

Overnight: Royal Wing Hotel, Jerusalem

TUESDAY | JULY 21, 2026

LOOKING FOR THE FUTURE

- Workshop: **How to tell your Israel story** – Led by "The Israelis"
- Kol Haot – Understanding your experience in Israel through art
- Final **"shoppportunity"** at **Mahane Yehuda market** and pizur lunch
- Final wrap-up session, pool time, and lunch at **Mesilat Zion pool**

- **Interlaken**
 - Depart to EWR at 01:00am on ELAL flight
- **JCA SHALOM**
 - Return to the hotel

Overnight: Royal Wing Hotel, Jerusaelm

WEDNESDAY | JULY 22, 2026

SHALOM U'LIHITRAOT

- **Interlaken**
 - Arrive to EWR at 05:45am
- **JCA Shalom**
 - Depart to LAX at 10:00am on ELAL flight
 - Arrive to LAX at 02:55pm

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