CONGREGATION SHIR HA-MA'ALOT
ISRAEL UP CLOSE

LED BY RABBI RICK STEINBERG

Dec 13, 2027 - Dec 21, 2027

DESTINATION
ISRAEL

WHO'S GOING
ADULTS ONLY

TRIP TYPE
CONGREGATIONAL

DURATION
9 DAYS

GROUP SIZE
20+

PRICE
FROM $4,995

REGISTRATION DATES

APR 27, 2026 - SEP 13, 2027

Program is tentative and subject to change. Connect with our Customer Care Team by calling: (888) 230-6008 Mon.-Thur. from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

YOUR JOURNEY

J² crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

Cooking Workshop Current Affairs Expert Scholar

Food & Wine Jeep Tour Food Tasting Tour

Social Justice Street Food Local Specialists

PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL: FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH A LIVING DEMOCRACY

Mon. Dec 13, 2027

- Welcome to Israel. Upon arrival, meet your J² Expert Educator, who will accompany you throughout this experience - helping frame conversations, provide context, and support reflection as you encounter the many voices that make up Israeli society.
- Transfer to Tel Aviv and check into your hotel.
- This evening, gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, offering your first taste of Israel's vibrant culinary culture and an opportunity to begin building community as a group while preparing for the days ahead.

Overnight: Tel Aviv Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

TEL AVIV: MEDIA, SOCIETY & FIRST ENCOUNTERS

Tue. Dec 14, 2027

- Begin the day with a briefing by Ariel Oseran, Senior Middle East Correspondent for i24NEWS, offering a clear-eyed, journalist's perspective on Israel's political landscape, regional dynamics, and the pressures shaping Israeli democracy today.
- Participate in a hands-on volunteer experience with MOLET, supporting families displaced from communities near the Gaza border. This

encounter offers a direct connection to stories of resilience and mutual responsibility.

- Enjoy a tasting experience at Levinsky Market, an accessible introduction to the cultural diversity of Israeli society, paced appropriately for your first full day.
- Visit the Magen David Adom HQ in Ramle - the most advanced blood bank in the Middle East - complete with cutting edge bio-medical technology to serve Israel at all times.
- Evening at leisure to explore Tel Aviv independently.

Overnight: Tel Aviv Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

SHARED SOCIETY, SECURITY & LIFE IN THE NORTH

Wed. Dec 15, 2027

- Check out and travel north along the Mediterranean coast.
- Begin at Givat Haviva with Mohammad Darawshe for a frank and open conversation on Jewish-Arab relations, encouraging candid dialogue about the challenges and possibilities of building a shared society in Israel.
- Continue north to the city of Ma'alot-Tarshiha for a focused, place-based program exploring memory, education, and life in a northern border community. Visit the site of the 1974 Ma'alot school massacre, where students and teachers were taken hostage, and engage in a guided conversation about how this event continues to shape Israeli collective memory, education, and security consciousness.
- Continue to the Alma Research and Education Center, where Sarit Zahavi will provide an in-depth security briefing on Israel's northern

border, offering critical insight into regional threats and daily life in frontline communities.

- End the day with a stop at a local brewery, where you will enjoy a beer tasting alongside a conversation with the owners or local residents about life in the north, entrepreneurship under pressure, and the ways communities sustain resilience in the face of ongoing uncertainty. This relaxed setting offers both perspective and a chance to unwind.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Upper Galilee Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4

THE NORTHERN FRONT: SECURITY, LANDSCAPE & EXPERIENCE

Thu. Dec 16, 2027

- Visit a northern kibbutz affected by recent conflict, where residents will share firsthand experiences of evacuation, uncertainty, and rebuilding life along Israel's border with Lebanon.
- Continue with a Jeep tour through the Golan Heights, traveling across dramatic terrain while exploring how geography, history, and security intersect.
- Ascend Mount Bental, overlooking Syria, for a geopolitical overview of the region and its strategic significance.
- Conclude the day at Odem Mountain Winery, enjoying a tasting of high-altitude wines and a moment of relaxation in a complex region.
- Return to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Upper Galilee Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5

FROM TRAUMA TO JERUSALEM: HUMAN EXPERIENCE & TRANSITION

Fri. Dec 17, 2027

- Begin the day with a conversation with an Israeli trauma expert or psychologist, exploring the emotional and psychological impact of ongoing conflict and the ways individuals and communities cope with sustained uncertainty.
- Travel south toward Jerusalem.
- As the city begins to slow and shift into sacred time, gather at the Jerusalem Tayelet overlooking the Old City for a live musical experience with Tam Tamim. Through rhythm, energy, and communal atmosphere, this moment offers a powerful emotional transition - creating space for reflection, connection, and joy at the threshold of Shabbat.
- Check into your hotel with time to prepare for Shabbat and transition into the rhythm of sacred time.
- This evening, join the Reform community of Kamatz in Mevasseret Zion for a joyful Kabbalat Shabbat service reflecting the vibrancy of contemporary Israeli Jewish life. Following services, enjoy a communal Shabbat dinner - an opportunity to experience Shabbat around the Israeli table through conversation, song, and shared tradition.

Overnight: Jerusalem Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

JERUSALEM: SACRED SPACE & SHARED REALITY

Sat. Dec 18, 2027

- Enjoy a relaxed Shabbat morning with time to rest or attend services.
- Later, walk through the Old City of Jerusalem, encountering the sacred spaces of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam while exploring the layered realities of this shared and contested city.
- Meet with an educator from the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue to explore how interreligious engagement is being practiced in Jerusalem today. Through guided conversation, consider how listening across difference can deepen understanding and strengthen shared civic responsibility.
- Conclude Shabbat with a meaningful Havdalah overlooking the Old City as you mark the transition from sacred time back into the rhythm of the week together.
- Dialogue with Professor Reuven Hazan of Hebrew University for an overview of Israel's political system and current dynamics.
- Evening at leisure in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7

THE GAZA ENVELOPE: MEMORY, COURAGE & RESILIENCE

Sun. Dec 19, 2027

- Travel south to the Gaza Envelope region for a powerful day of encounter shaped by the events of October 7.
- Visit a kibbutz near the Gaza border, meeting with a resident who will share personal experiences from the attack and the ongoing process of rebuilding.
- Continue to the Observers Hill Lookout, learning about the role of

women in Israel's defense.

- Spend time in Sderot, exploring daily life in a community shaped by both vulnerability and resilience.
- Visit the Nova Music Festival memorial site near Kibbutz Re'im, a deeply moving space of remembrance created in response to profound loss.
- Return to Jerusalem and gather to reflect and process the day's experiences.

Overnight: Jerusalem Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8

POLITICS, POWER & COMPETING NARRATIVES

Mon. Dec 20, 2027

- Engage with two political voices - one from the left and one from the right - for a comparative conversation on Israel's future, governance, and societal divisions.
- Travel to Bethlehem with Palestinian journalist Rami Nazzal, gaining insight into daily life and political realities from within Palestinian society.
- Continue to Gush Etzion, hearing from a local resident about life beyond the Green Line.
- Visit the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) for a conversation with Orly Erez-Likhovski on religion and state, judicial reform, and the role of civil society.

Overnight: Jerusalem Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9

MEMORY, PERSONAL STORY & CLOSURE

Tue. Dec 21, 2027

- Check out of the hotel.
- Begin the day at Mount Herzl, Israel's national cemetery and a central site of collective memory.
- Meet with David and Hazel Brief, parents of Yona Brief, for a deeply personal conversation reflecting on their family's experience and the broader realities facing Israeli society today. Set within Mount Herzl, this encounter connects an intimate story to the national narrative of sacrifice, memory, and resilience.
- Walk through Mahane Yehuda Market, experiencing the energy and diversity of everyday Jerusalem life.
- Visit the National Library of Israel, home to one of the world's most significant collections of Jewish cultural and intellectual history.
- Continue with a hands-on baking experience with Rabbi Nissimi, a reservist supporting families during times of loss. Through food, conversation, and shared experience, explore how care and community sustain Israeli society.
- Gather for a farewell dinner and closing conversation, reflecting on the experiences, relationships, and questions that will continue traveling home with you.
- Transfer to Ben-Gurion Airport for departure.

Overnight: Flight Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DOWNLOAD

THE EXPERT

YISHAY SHAVIT

Yishay was born on a kibbutz in Northern Israel. In 2000, he moved to Jerusalem, fell in love with the city, and hasn't looked back. Yishay, a history and hiking lover, was first introduced to the world of guiding at the age of 15, in his youth movement. After serving in the IDF, he started guiding in various museums, the Knesset (Israel's parliament), and the Supreme Court. In 2007 he received a formal guiding education. The areas of his expertise are history, politics, and theology connected to Jerusalem. Yishay holds a bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Jewish History from Hebrew University, focusing on Indian Jewry and contemporary Jewry. Yishay speaks fluent Hebrew and English and a little bit of Hindi. When not guiding, he enjoys spending time with his wife Noa and their two sons – Yotam and Assaf.

RATES & LODGING

PARTICIPANTS	COST P/P IN DOUBLE ROOM	COST P/P IN SINGLE ROOM
20+	$4,995	$6,015

TEL AVIV: TAL BY THE BEACH

- Nights: 2
- Room Category: Standard

UPPER GALILEE: PASTORAL KFAR BLUM HOTEL

- Nights: 2
- Room Category: Classic

JERUSALEM: JACOB HARMONY HOTEL

- Nights: 4
- Room Category: Executive

CHOOSE YOUR WAY

VOYAGER

- Carefully selected accommodations, offering comfort and quality.
- A seamless, fully curated experience, as outlined below.
- J² Customer Care available by phone and email.

$50 travel credit per person for your next J² journey.

T&C's

$ 4,995 PER PERSON
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

JOIN NOW

VOYAGER PLUS POPULAR

Guaranteed room category upgrade.

A seamless, fully curated experience, as outlined below.

Private airport arrival transfer.

A signature J² gift awaiting you in your room.

Priority dedicated Customer Care.

A personal travel advisor for every detail, pre- and post-trip.

$200 credit per person for a future journey, separate from this experience.

T&C's FAQ's

$ 6,640 PER PERSON
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

JOIN NOW

VOYAGER PREMIERE

Guaranteed double category upgrade.

A seamless, fully curated experience, as outlined below.

Private round-trip airport transfers.

A signature J² gift awaiting you in your room.

Priority dedicated Customer Care.

A personal travel advisor for every detail, pre- and post-trip.

Exclusive access to sought-after dining, ticketed events, and premier performances.

10% preferred savings on additional hotel nights, excursions and transportation.

$400 credit per person for a future journey, separate from this experience.

T&C's FAQ's

$ 7,740 PER PERSON
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

JOIN NOW

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Included
- Excluded
- The small print
- Terms

- 8 nights' accommodations.
- 9 days of touring with a J² Expert Educator (guide), traveling in a luxury, climate-controlled bus.
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, and 5 dinners.
- The J² adventures App available on the App Store & on Google Play (active 30 days before your departure and throughout your trip).
- Bottled water on the bus.
- Porterage at all hotels.
- All site entrance and program fees as outlined in your final itinerary.
- This journey includes walking tours, cultural site visits, and hotel stays that may involve uneven terrain, stairs, and longer distances on foot. While we do our best to accommodate a range of mobility levels, a moderate level of physical fitness is recommended to fully enjoy the experience. For more information, please see the "Travelers with Physical Limitations" section in our full Terms & Conditions.

- Credit card fees.
- Flights to & from Israel.
- COVID related expenses, including tests.
- Late check out on the day of departure is included.
- Evening transportation when dinner is not included.

- Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc. are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- Gratuities: Recommend guidelines for tipping are provided in the terms section.
- US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- Peace of Mind Travel Protection Program (POM).

- This journey includes walking tours, cultural site visits, and hotel stays that may involve uneven terrain, stairs, and longer distances on foot. While we do our best to accommodate a range of mobility levels, a moderate level of physical fitness is recommended to fully enjoy the experience. For more information, please see the "Travelers with Physical Limitations" section in our full Terms & Conditions.
- Please review our terms & conditions (T&C's) or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:
    - Validity | All prices quoted are based on exchange rates as of the proposal date and are subject to change without notice. Rates are per person and are based on shared twin room occupancy.
    - How to Make a Reservation | The quickest way to make a reservation is to register online or contact us by email. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards. A non-refundable deposit of $675 is required in order to complete the registration process.
- For any assistance with this registration process or other trip-related queries, please email Customer Care: customercare@j2adventures.com.
- Payments | The balance of your payment is due 90 days before your trip begins, or as specified in your invoice. You will receive an email reminder 2 weeks before this date. Various payment options are available as follows:

- Credit card | We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Please check with your credit card provider regarding international processing fees. We are unable to process payments of over $1,000 over the phone. Please submit payment online via a credit card or by wiring funds via your bank.
- Domestic bank wire transfer | Payment should be wired in the same currency that is listed on your invoice. Please add the name of your group or invoice number as a reference and forward a copy of the transfer receipt by email. The bank transfer should clearly state the beneficiary's name on the wire transfer.

- J² Adventures reserves the right to automatically cancel your reservation on that date and it may be subject to reconfirmation should the final payment not be received.
- Cancelation Policy | All cancelations need to be made in writing. The cancelation fee depends on the date when we receive written notification of your request to cancel your booking. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable.
  - Cancelation fees | Cancelations made 90 or more days prior to departure incur the loss of the deposit. Cancelations made 89 to 46 days prior to departure incur the loss of 50% of the full trip cost. Cancelations made 45 days or less prior to the departure incur the loss of 100% of the full trip cost.
  - Cancelation fees may also include: Hotel or supplier cancelation fees. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancelation policies and initial deposits.

- Protect yourself from fraud by being cautious and vigilant when it comes to online theft. It is crucial to note that J² adventures will never send an email requesting you to transfer funds to a new account or to redirect a payment. We will never alter our account number or issue additional payment requests without first personally speaking to you and properly identifying ourselves. If you feel uncertain about any communication (scammers often impersonate legitimate companies via e-mail or by calling), halt and contact us directly through our toll-free number listed on our website to discuss any necessary payments. Refrain from responding to suspicious emails or clicking on links or attachments unless you are completely certain of their legitimacy. By following these guidelines and staying vigilant, you can significantly reduce your risk of becoming a victim of fraud.

- Protect your investment for $495 p/p: Should you cancel your trip up to 5 days before your departure for any reason, our POM program offers you a trip refund. Call 888-230-6008 or e-mail: customercare@j2adventures.com.
- Please click here to view our full terms (T&C's). These T&C's apply to all reservations created within J2 Adventures.