

PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

DEPARTURE

Sat. Nov 1, 2025

- Depart for Israel.

 Overnight: Flight

DAY 2

WELCOME TO ISRAEL (NO BUS)

Sun. Nov 2, 2025

- Check into the hotel.
- 6:30 p.m. Meet your J² Expert Educator and trip leaders in lobby of the hotel.
- Welcome dinner at Goshen Restaurant and dialogue with Haviv Rettig Gur, senior analyst at The Times of Israel. Since 2005, he has covered Israeli politics, foreign and regional policies, and the complex relationship with the Jewish Diaspora.

 Overnight: Tel Aviv  Meals: Dinner

DAY 3

FROM THE STREETS TO THE SOUL: ENGAGING WITH MODERN ISRAEL

Mon. Nov 3, 2025

- A Conversation of Courage and Healing: Meet an IDF veteran who was wounded in service and learn about Belev Echad's mission to support veterans readjusting to civilian life.
- Hands-on Volunteer Work with Molet: Support communities rebuilding in southern Israel by participating in hands-on woodworking and upcycling projects with Molet, an organization that transforms reclaimed materials into functional furniture and community spaces. Contribute to meaningful rebuilding efforts while engaging with local residents and learning about their resilience.
- Tel Aviv is an international graffiti and street art hub. Explore the back alleys and streets of Southern Tel Aviv with your expert educator. How does art reflect the issues Israel is facing today?
- Visit the Hostage Forum to meet the families and the activists worried and working to bring all of Israel's hostages home. Hear their stories and ask what can I do to help.
- Bring your support to Hostages Square and express your solidarity with all of Israel and ask what I can do to help. Take part in a Tefilla.

 Overnight: Tel Aviv  Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4

REMEMBERING AND REBUILDING: A DAY IN THE GAZA ENVELOPE

Tue. Nov 4, 2025

- Check out and drive to the Gaza Envelope.
- Visit Sderot, a city on Israel's border with Gaza, to understand its community's perseverance and strength in the aftermath of October 7.
- Take a guided walk through a southern community devastated by recent attacks. Meet residents who share stories of their lives before,

during, and after the tragic events. Gain insight into their journey of recovery and the rebuilding efforts shaping their future.

- Stop at the massacre site and memorial that was the Nova Music Festival site near Re'im. The site has since been turned into a monument to those who were murdered at the festival.
- Reflect at the "Burnt Vehicles Compound", where 1,560 vehicles evacuated from the Gaza Envelope stand as silent witnesses to October 7.
- Devote time to sharing and reflection with your expert educator and tour leader following your experiences and discussions along the Israel-Gaza border.
- Help cook and serve a heartfelt BBQ dinner for IDF soldiers stationed near Gaza, offering nourishment, gratitude, and meaningful conversation with those defending Israel on the front lines.
- Drive to Jerusalem and check into the hotel.

 Overnight: Jerusalem  Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5

ROOTED IN THE LAND, GROUNDED IN VALUES

Wed. Nov 5, 2025

- Meet elderly immigrants at Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Elderly), see their beautiful crafts, and prepare boxes of essentials for them to take home.
- Explore the bustling Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, where you'll find an array of fresh produce, spices, and artisanal crafts. Experience the vibrant atmosphere as you interact with local vendors and immerse yourself in the rich cultural tapestry of the city.

- Engage in a dynamic text study with Rabbi Leon Morris, President of Pardes, exploring Jewish sources that illuminate the ethical challenges and moral questions shaping Israeli society today.
- Where Do We Go From Here? Gather in the Old City at Ezrat Yisrael, the egalitarian section of the Kotel, to reflect on our shared journey and consider the path forward - for ourselves, our communities, and Israel.

 Overnight: Jerusalem  Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6

LOOKING AHEAD: HONORING THE FALLEN, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Thu. Nov 6, 2025

- Check out.
- Mount Herzl is Israel's central military cemetery and hosts the graves of the leaders of the nation. Over the last several months, the recently fallen have joined this sacred place. Visit Mount Herzl and contend with the human price paid by Israeli families and the country in the Israel-Hamas War. Join the daily morning kaddish dedicated to the memories of our fallen soldiers.
- Dialogue with a Bereaved Family Member: Engage in a deeply moving conversation with Effie Shoham, the bereaved father of Yuval, who was lost during Israel's recent war. Hear firsthand about their family's journey through grief and loss, and learn how they have found the strength to move forward despite unimaginable pain.
- Spend about an hour baking challah or babka with Nissimi, a chef, ordained rabbi, educator, and speaker. A reservist who notifies families of lost loved ones, Nissimi shares his personal story and Israel's

broader narrative, connecting baking with healing. He demonstrates how sharing food and love can bring comfort in times of loss. The freshly baked goods will be given to IDF soldiers spending Shabbat on base, making this experience both meaningful and impactful.

- Private farewell dinner at Piccolino Restaurant, followed by a group transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.

 Overnight: Flight  Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7

RETURN – CARRYING THE STORIES FORWARD

Fri. Nov 7, 2025

- Arrive back in the U.S., carrying the memories and lessons of resilience, hope, and unity.