

Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Federation of Northeastern NY Solidarity Mission to **ISRAEL**



Led by Rabbi Matt Cutler,
Rabbi Greg Weitzman & Rob Kovach
February 11 - 18, 2024



In Israel's time of need, we invite you on a unique mission. Travel to Israel to show support for the victims of terror, to console the families of the hostages and those displaced, to meet with leaders, first responders, social service agencies and more. But for those who choose to support Israel by being there in person, this trip offers the opportunity to bring comfort to those in need at this critical time.



Jewish Federation
of Northeastern New York

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DAY 1

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024
DEPARTURE

- We depart the USA on our overnight flight to Israel.

DAY 2

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- **Welcome to Israel!** Upon arrival at 1:30pm (EIAI flight 16) at Ben Gurion International Airport, we are met by an Ayelet Tours representative who assists us through customs and baggage claim.
- We visit **Hostage square**, where we meet with families of the hostages and hear about what is being done for their release (hopefully they will be back by then).
- Next, we visit the **Ahim Laneshek (Brothers in Arms) Volunteer Center** to learn about their massive effort to support soldiers in both the south and the north and **volunteer to assist**.
- We drive to **Tel Aviv** and check into our hotel to refresh.
- We meet for a **welcome dinner** at a restaurant while **Col. Res. Grisha Yaakubovitch**, who served in the IDF Civil Administration in the Gaza region briefs us on **"The Gaza Story"**.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 3

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
TOUCHING BASE IN ESHKOL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel south to **Eshkol**, our sister region.
- We take time to visit **Be'eri** and **Nir Oz**, two kibbutzim bordering Gaza that were devastated by the attack on October 7th.
- We stop for **lunch** at the **Salad Trail**, where they are still rebuilding after the destruction of October 7th.
- Next, we meet with the leadership at the **Hosen Center**.
- Afterwards, we convene with the head of security in Eshkol for a **security briefing**.
- This evening, we connect with **Eshkol region representatives** to discuss plans to rebuild in the future and learn about how we can help.
- We return to Tel Aviv for dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024
SUPPORT FOR THE DISPLACED

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we drive east to the **Dead Sea** area, where we meet with **Yaniv**, the head of the region's **steering committee**.
- Next, we meet with members of displaced communities in **Ein Gedi**, **Ein Bokek** and **Masada**.
- We see and visit the **education centers** that have been built for the displaced communities.
- We join for **lunch** with people we have encountered on previous visits to Israel to bear witness to their personal experiences from October 7th onward.
- We return to Tel Aviv for dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024
JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today we volunteer with **Leket** to support Israel's agricultural sector, deeply understaffed after foreign workers were either killed or fled Israel after October 7th.
- Next, we pay a visit to **Shiba Hospital** to meet wounded soldiers and bring cards of support from children from the Capital Region.
- We travel into **Jerusalem**, saying **Shehecheyanu** as we enter.
- Next, we visit **Yad B'Yad Hand in Hand** school in **Kfar Saba** for a discussion on the challenges they now face.
- As evening falls, we take a **twilight walking tour** of the **Jewish quarter** with our scholar for the weekend, **Rabbi Sam Shor**.
- Tonight we have **dinner** together at an area restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024
SHABBAT SHALOM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Mt. Herzl** for a moment of reflection and consider together the cost of war.
- Next, we **meet with a representative of Zaka**, the heroic first responders, known for the emotional and highly distressing work of Chesed Shel Emes for those who meet a sudden death.
- In preparation for Shabbat, we visit **Machane Yehuda** and take time to explore the market.
- As day turns tonight, we come together to welcome **Shabbat** at a local synagogue, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.
- After dinner, we join Rabbi Sam Shor for **Limmud**.

Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 7

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024
REFLECTION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we attend **Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- We join for **Limmud** and get together, followed by **Shabbat lunch**.
- This afternoon, we experience a **Jerusalem walking tour** with Rabbi Shor.
- We end our time in Israel with **Havdalah** and reflect on our experience together over coffee and cake.
- Late check out of from our hotel.
- We transfer to **Ben Gurion International Airport** for our overnight flight to the United States.

DAY 8

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024
WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive in NYC this morning.
- We transfer to Albany via bus.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

Note: speakers and programs are subject to change and confirmation.

***Security points for travel to Israel at this time:**

- All itinerary planning and implementation will be carried out in conjunction with the guidelines set out by the IDF Homefront Command and Israeli police.
- During all programming and travel, special attention will be given to making sure that safe and protected spaces are in close proximity at all times.
- All itineraries will be subject to change at a minute's notice, based on security authorities' recommendations.
- There will be limited free time, depending on the group's location. All free time opportunities will be in locations with safe and protected spaces in close proximity.
- Although Israel is at war at the moment, free and open travel is still possible in most areas of the country. When traveling near the southern or northern borders or in the West Bank, additional security precautions will be taken.
- All participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability pertaining to the state of war and the limits of our ability to keep them safe.
- All participants should secure travel insurance. An option will be provided.

