



# ISRAEL: RESILIENCE & RENEWAL

## JCC Movement Leadership Experience

### ITINERARY

The JCC Movement Leadership Experience in Israel will begin on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 12 p.m., at Ben Gurion Airport. We will arrange to meet up with those arriving before June 24, so the whole group can travel to Haifa together.

#### DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

### Welcome to Israel

#### MORNING

With deep gratitude to Lisa and Ron Brill, we're delighted to invite those arriving early to join us for a special pre-program experience on Wednesday morning—a visit to the remarkable, state-of-the-art Marcus National Blood Services Center.

#### AFTERNOON

12 P.M.

Meet at Ben Gurion Airport or Tel Aviv  
(depending on participant arrival times)

Depart for Haifa

Group lunch and introductions  
Check into Dan Carmel Haifa Hotel

#### EVENING

5:30 P.M.

Depart for tour and dinner at Sammy Ofer Stadium

"Israel Post-October 7: Telling the Story"

Meet with Amir Tibon, journalist for Haaretz, author of "The Gates of Gaza: A Story of Betrayal, Survival, and Hope in Israel's Borderlands", and depicted in "The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue," (People's Choice Award for Best Documentary at the [2025 Toronto International Film Festival](#)) which tells of his rescue and that of his family by his father, Noam Tibon.

#### OVERNIGHT

Dan Carmel Haifa Hotel

*Program is subject to change.*

## **The North: Rebuilding and Resilience**

### **MORNING**

**9 A.M.** Depart for an overview of northern border through a geopolitical and security lens at Tefen, with Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, founder of the Alma Research and Education Center, with stops at overviews along the way.

Lunch and wine tasting at a boutique winery in Upper Galilee

### **AFTERNOON**

**4 P.M.** “Growing Mental Health Concerns”  
Meet in Kiryat Shmona with Mooli Lahad, senior medical and education psychologist and founder and president of the Community Stress Prevention Center (CSPC), for an understanding of the changing and growing need for mental health support to both the civilian and military population.

### **EVENING**

**6 P.M.** “Zionism and Resilience in 2026”  
Meet with Mayor of Kiryat Shmona, Avichai Stern, followed by conversations with volunteers on the Anu Banu program, supported by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). This is a volunteer program in which retired Israelis spend a year in development towns, lending their experience and expertise in education, psychology, social work, business, and other disciplines. Dinner to follow.

Return to Haifa

### **OVERNIGHT**

Dan Carmel Haifa Hotel

## **Resilience and Community**

### **MORNING**

**8 A.M.** Optional morning walk

**9:30 A.M.** Depart for Rambam Health Care Campus. Visit the fortified underground emergency hospital which ensures uninterrupted, lifesaving care amid continued regional threats. Meet with professional staff who worked 24/7 during the Iron Swords War, as well as Niv Shteif, Israel's Premier League soccer referee, who was severely injured in combat while serving in reserve duty.

Lunch on own

### **AFTERNOON**

Depart for Tel Aviv

Check-in and free time at Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel. Enjoy the hotel, beach, and pool.

### **EVENING**

Optional group Kabbalat Shabbat followed by optional Friday night services at a local synagogue.

Shabbat dinner at hotel

### **OVERNIGHT**

Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

## **Shabbat**

### **MORNING**

Relax, go to synagogue, meet up with friends or relatives

Optional walk with tour educator  
(advance signup required)

Shabbat lunch available at hotel  
(advance signup and additional cost)

### **AFTERNOON**

**3 P.M.**

Depart for parallel tracks (advance signup required)

“Creating the Cultural Zionist: The Vision for Tel Aviv—Beyond Beaches and Bauhaus”: Guided walk to discuss the notion of Jewish peoplehood through the story of the building of Tel Aviv, beginning in the city’s earliest neighborhoods, including Neve Tzedek and Bialik Street, along with a visit to one of the museums on the street: Bialik House, home of the national poet, Haim Nachman Bialik, or the Rubín Museum, an artist-house-museum of painter Reuven Rubín.

“Poetry of October 7 and After”: Workshop and discussion at hotel with Rachel Korazim, Jewish education consultant at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

**6 P.M.**

“A Case of Mistaken Identity:  
The Jewish People vs. the People of Israel”

Discussion at hotel with Rabbi Leor Sinai.

### **EVENING**

Group discussion followed by Havdalah

Dinner on own and free evening

### **OVERNIGHT**

Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

## Creating a Better Tomorrow

### MORNING

**9 A.M.** "Israel Now and the Day After"  
Meet with an Israeli journalist or Ambassador Mark Regev, former senior adviser to Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Israeli Ambassador to the UK, at Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel.

**10:30 A.M.** "From Grief to Growth"  
Meet with the senior team at Hackaveret, Israel's Center for Social Innovation, an initiative supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), who work with established social entrepreneurs and members of disadvantaged populations developing solutions for the challenges they face in their own communities. [Hackaveret](#) offers visionaries the tools they need to create lasting change.

### AFTERNOON

Lunch on own

**3 P.M.** Depart for parallel tracks (advance signup required)

**Track 1:**  
"HaGal Sheli (my wave)": Depart for visit with Yaron Waksman, founder and CEO of HaGal Sheli, along with staff and participants at this unique organization which provides educational and therapeutic programs through surfing, tailored for at-risk youth, trauma survivors, and individuals with disabilities from all corners of Israeli society.

**Track 2:**  
"Etgarim (challenge)": Depart for meeting with the Director of Etgarim which was founded in 1995 by disabled IDF veterans and rehabilitation professionals with the mission to empower, promote, and socially integrate people with disabilities through outdoor sports.

**TRACK 3:**  
Guided visit to select exhibitions at ANU - Museum of the Jewish People, a museum of Jewish culture and art, which tells the story of the Jewish people.

### EVENING

**8 P.M.** Group dinner

### OVERNIGHT

Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

## **Creating a Better Tomorrow: Visiting the South Post-October 7**

### **MORNING**

- 9 A.M.** “Resilience and Leadership”  
Meet with Danielle Abraham, executive director of Volcani International Partnerships, an NGO dedicated to promoting agricultural innovation and expertise to benefit Israel, and executive director of ReGrow Israel.
- 11 A.M.** Depart for the south  
Visit to the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, a leading multidisciplinary research institution in the natural and exact sciences. The institute was badly damaged during the June 2025 war with Iran, losing years of research, and has begun rebuilding efforts.

### **AFTERNOON**

Stop in Rehovot or Ness Ziona for lunch on own

“Remembering and Rebuilding”  
Visit to Sderot and tour the memorial to those who fell at the local police station and throughout the town on October 7.

Visit Kibbutz Be’eri, a case study in resilience  
Meet with Haim Yelin who became the unofficial spokesman for the kibbutz on the days following October 7. Also, visit the winery and dairy farm, established by Dror Or who was taken hostage and later killed. The dairy farm continues to operate to honor his memory.

### **EVENING**

Group dinner en route

Return to Tel Aviv

### **OVERNIGHT**

Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

## Israeli Society: New Steps New Challenges

### MORNING

Check out of hotel

9 A.M.

Depart for Beitar Illit

10:30 A.M.

Meet with educator and innovator, Menachem Bombach, for insights into the Hareidi (ultra-orthodox) world, recruitment to the IDF, and maintaining a sustainable economy.

Drive to Jerusalem

Lunch at a local *matnas* (community center) with leadership of the Israel Association of Community Centers to understand how their work has been shaped over the last three years and how they vision the future.

### AFTERNOON

3 P.M.

Check into Inbal Hotel Jerusalem

4:30 P.M.

“The State of the Jewish People in 2026”  
A presentation at the hotel by U.S.-born and Jerusalem-based author and scholar, Daniel Gordis, where we will consider: Is Israel more or less cohesive since October 7? What communities have been strengthened? Weakened? What are the major issues that society is facing in 2026?

### EVENING

6:30 P.M.

Maccabi World Union VIP event at the Jerusalem Theatre

### OVERNIGHT

Inbal Hotel Jerusalem

## Jewish People, Peoplehood, and Israel

### MORNING

9 A.M. Meeting with President Isaac Herzog at the presidential residence.  
or  
“The Jewish People, Peoplehood, and Israel”  
A conversation with Micah Goodman or Yossi Klein Halevi at hotel.

10:30 A.M. Depart for parallel tracks (advance signup required)

**Track 1:**

Private guided visit to the National Library of Israel. In 2023, the National Library of Israel moved into an impressive new building, though its opening was delayed because of the war. It is situated between the Knesset and the Israel Museum in the very heart of Jerusalem. The National Library of Israel’s new home is both an architectural icon and a vibrant, pulsating center of culture.

**Track 2:**

Guided visit to select sites in the Old City of Jerusalem with tour educator.

**Track 3:**

Guided visit to exhibitions at the Museum of Tolerance.

**Track 4:**

Guided visit to the newly opened Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel. Delve into the stories behind breathtaking mosaic floors, uncover a dramatic find recently unearthed from the sea, and learn surprising insights about their state-of-the-art artifact conservation labs.

1:30 P.M. All tracks meet up for lunch

### AFTERNOON

3 P.M. Free time

### EVENING

Maccabiah Games 2026 Opening Ceremony at Teddy Stadium.  
The Games are founded on principles of Jewish continuity, Zionism, and solidarity. (additional cost)

### OVERNIGHT

Inbal Hotel Jerusalem

## **Program Ends**

### **MORNING**

Breakfast at hotel and check-out

Optional add-on half day volunteer experience  
(advance signup required)

Attend Maccabiah Games events, enjoy free time,  
or make your way to the airport for the journey home.



**JCC Association**  
of North America

**JCC Association**  
Center for Israel Engagement

520 Eighth Avenue, #1204 | New York, NY 10018  
[jcca.org](http://jcca.org)