



As part of our commitment to Jewish people throughout the world, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ has developed special relationships with overseas communities. Each partnership is unique, and all further our commitment to *Klal Yisrael* and *tikkun olam* – the unity of our worldwide Jewish family and repairing the world.

Ofakim/Merchavim

Ofakim is a development city of 28,000 in the northern Negev, midway between Be'ersheva and Gaza. The Merchavim Regional Council consists of 14 small communities (*moshavim*) in the surrounding area. Our relationship with these communities is part of the Partnership2Gether Peoplehood Platform, a Jewish Agency Israeli (JAFI) program. The partnership has evolved from a focus on economic development to a wide range of initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life, with an emphasis on youth activities, volunteer development, student leadership programs, an art center, music and sports activities, and enriched school day projects including a nutrition program, youth-at-risk programs, and much more.

Arad

Arad is located on the border of the Negev and Judean Deserts, near the Dead Sea. The city is home to a diverse population that includes Ashkenazim and Sephardim, secular and religious, Russians, Ethiopians, and Bedouins, as well as native-born Israelis. The New Jersey/Arad partnership fosters enduring relationships among Jewish communities by funding an array of programs, including economic development, arts and culture, strengthening youth, and programs that connect Arad and New Jersey.

Kibbutz Erez

Kibbutz Erez is located on the Gaza border in the northern Negev. Since the beginning of the Second Intifada, the region has become a target for terrorists and hundreds of kassam rocket attacks. Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's special relationship with Kibbutz Erez began in response to the difficult security situation in Israel and Federation's desire to assist communities on the front line. Projects funded in cooperation with the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council include: refurbishment of bomb shelters, construction and renovation of a safe room attached to one of the children's houses, renovation and reinforcement of the kibbutz's medical clinics, donation of an emergency generator, and much more.

Rishon LeZion

South of Tel Aviv, Rishon LeZion is the fourth largest city in Israel. Project Renewal, focusing on the disadvantaged neighborhood of Ramat Eliyahu (now called Neve Eliyahu), was the beginning of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's partnership with the city in 1978. Federation has maintained an active relationship with the neighborhood and has developed a close connection with the entire city.

Hurfeish

A Druze village in the northern Galilee, Hurfeish became connected to Greater MetroWest as a result of the Second Lebanon War in 2006. We recognized the significant contribution that the Druze population makes to the State of Israel through its loyal participation in civil affairs and the Israel Defense Forces. We are the only U.S. Federation with a partner relationship that connects a Diaspora Jewish community to an Israeli Arab village.

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MAP OF ISRAEL



MAP KEY



Greater MetroWest
Israel Partner Communities



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FLIGHTS, HOTELS, AND DATES

Centennial Mission participants are required to make their own flight arrangements.

Please see below for the designated flights for this mission (El Al and United Airlines) with departures to Israel from Newark Airport on Sunday July 2, 2023 and return flights from Israel to Newark Airport on Sunday, July 9 / Monday July 10, 2023 (landing on Monday morning July 10, 2023).

Individuals on a designated departure flight will be picked up at Ben Gurion Airport to start the mission. Individuals on a designated return flight will be driven to Ben Gurion Airport at the conclusion of the mission.*

There will also be designated return flights for those who opt to take the post mission extensions.

Designated OUTBOUND Departure Flight Options (2 flights that day)

| FLIGHT | FROM/TO | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| EL AL #28 | Newark — Tel Aviv | 2 July — 1:30 p.m. | 6:55 a.m. — 3 July |
| UA #84 | Newark — Tel Aviv | 2 July — 4:20 p.m. | 9:55 a.m. — 3 July |

Designated INBOUND Return Flight Options (3 flights that evening)

| FLIGHT | FROM/TO | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| UA #91 | Tel Aviv — Newark | 9 July — 11:25 p.m. | 4:15 a.m. — 10 July |
| EL AL #27 | Tel Aviv — Newark | 10 July — 12:30 a.m. | 5:15 a.m. — 10 July |
| EL AL #25 | Tel Aviv — Newark | 10 July — 1:00 a.m. | 5:45 a.m. — 10 July |

For those taking a Centennial Mission extension to Petra or Beresheet Hotel

| FLIGHT | FROM/TO | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| UA #91 | Tel Aviv — Newark | 12 July — 11:25 p.m. | 4:15 a.m. — 13 July |
| EL AL #27 | Tel Aviv — Newark | 13 July — 12:30 a.m. | 5:15 a.m. — 13 July |

* Our Missions Department will gladly assist in coordinating transfers and/or additional hotel rooms (additional cost) for those not traveling on designated flights.

Hotel Information

The Centennial Mission will be staying at the following hotels:

North, July 3-4, 2023: Ramot Resort, The Lake House, or Kibbutz Lavie Hotel

Tel Aviv, July 4-6, 2023: David Intercontinental Hotel or Royal Beach Hotel

Jerusalem, July 6-9, 2023: Inbal Hotel or Orient Hotel

SAVE THE DATES:

Centennial Mission Pep Rally

Thursday, June 1, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Israel & Greater MetroWest Zoom Briefing (optional)

Monday, May 1, 2023 | 9:15 a.m.

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IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

JFEDGMW Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ convenes and leads our community to ensure the continuity and strength of the Jewish People, to support a secure Jewish and democratic State of Israel, and to care for Jews in need locally and around the world. Serving as the backbone of the Jewish community, we are uniquely positioned to connect the work of our 27 local and overseas partner agencies. What we accomplish together, with the help of people like you, is far greater than what one organization or person can achieve alone.

Centennial Our Jewish Federation is turning 100! It was in 1923 that Greater MetroWest's earliest roots were planted. Jewish community leaders here realized that numerous agencies were competing for the same philanthropic dollars. They joined together to establish one organization with one annual campaign to raise funds for social services. This type of support for our Jewish community has been our Federation's guiding principle from the very beginning, and the Centennial Campaign – our largest fundraising effort ever – is focused on enhancing our community today and building endowments to create a strong and vibrant Greater MetroWest for our next century and beyond.

Mission A mission is a trip with a purpose. You won't just see Israel's sites, you'll get to know Israel on a deeper level. You'll see firsthand the impact of our Federation's work abroad and meet the people whose lives have been touched by your dollars. The Centennial Mission provides an authentic and immersive Israel experience in celebration of Israel's 75th birthday.

Jewish Community Foundation Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ (JCF) is the planned giving and endowment arm of our Jewish Federation. The JCF has approximately \$600 million in assets under administration among close to 800 funds. These include funds for our Federation, partner agencies, synagogues and Jewish organizations worldwide, as well as Donor Advised Funds and Supporting Foundations. In 2022, the JCF disbursed \$57 million in grants, with more than 70 percent going to Jewish organizations. The JCF works with individuals and families to develop gifts that will carry on a donor's legacy for generations.

UJA Annual Campaign A gift to the UJA Annual Campaign of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ enables Federation and its partner agencies to meet urgent and ongoing humanitarian and social service needs and to build vibrant Jewish communities. More than 60 percent of the funds raised stay in Greater MetroWest, helping Jews in need and building Jewish community. Nearly 40 percent goes to meet overseas needs to build living bridges between Greater MetroWest and our partner communities in Israel and strengthen Jewish communities in 70+ countries around the world. The Annual Campaign raises more than \$21.1 million in unrestricted funds and over \$31.4 million including targeted giving through the Campaign. Last year we provided support of more than \$60 million to the Jewish community, including those UJA and targeted dollars raised as well as grants to partner agencies, synagogues, national Jewish organizations, and overseas partners from fundholders of our Jewish Community Foundation.

Women's Philanthropy Through UJA donations and hands-on volunteering, GMW women are leaders, change-makers, and community shapers. The women of GMW contribute more than one third, or \$7 million+, of the total dollars raised for the UJA Annual Campaign.

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Lion of Judah 430 GMW women are Lions of Judah, a nationally-recognized program for women making an annual donation of \$5,000 or more to the UJA Annual Campaign. Lions of Judah play a vital role in promoting social justice, aiding the vulnerable, preserving human dignity, and building Jewish identity. Today, more than 18,000 women around the world are proud to call themselves Lions. The international symbol of the Lion of Judah is a gold Lion pin that can also be worn as a pendant. More than 235 GMW women have also established a Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) — a permanent fund guaranteeing a Lion of Judah gift in perpetuity. In honor of Centennial, some of these women are fulfilling these commitments during their lifetime, called a Living LOJE.

Pomegranate Society Modeled after the Lion of Judah program, the Pomegranate Society recognizes women who donate \$1,800 or more to the UJA Annual Campaign. The silver Pomegranate pin, which can also be worn as a necklace, is a symbol of a woman's commitment to, and compassion for, the Jewish people.

JDC The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC or The Joint), founded after World War I, was the first Jewish organization in the United States to give large-scale funding for international relief. Today JDC works in 70 countries to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief for victims of natural and man-made disasters.

JAFI Since 1929, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) has been working to secure a vibrant Jewish future, serving as the main link between the Jewish state and Jewish communities everywhere. JAFI connects the global Jewish family, bringing Jews to Israel, and Israel to Jews, by providing meaningful Israel engagement and facilitating Aliyah.

P2G The Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether Peoplehood Platform connects 450 Jewish and Israeli communities in 46 city-to-city and region-to-region partnerships, engaging more than 350,000 participants each year in meaningful connections. GMW has a strong partnership with the cities of Ofakim, Arad, and Kibbutz Erez, which are located in the Merchavim region of the Negev.

JFNA The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) represents 146 Jewish Federations and more than 300 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually and through planned giving and endowment programs to support social welfare, social services, and educational needs. Greater MetroWest is a member of the Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, which protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice), and Torah (Jewish learning).

Mega Event An experience/celebration that brings our Centennial Mission — 500 strong — all together.

WhatsApp Download WhatsApp, a free, private, and easy way for you to chat with and call everyone in Israel and also back home. WhatsApp will be the primary way that your bus communicates while in Israel. We will also use our own Centennial Mission app, launching at the Pep Rally.

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TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you buy travel/medical insurance that covers all unforeseen costs such as cancellation prior to departure, cancellation of flights, cancellation of land package, and expenses for possible quarantine in Israel.

Below is a list of possible providers:

Allianz Travel Insurance: www.allianztravelinsurance.com, 1-866-672-9580

Insure My Trip: www.insuremytrip.com, 1-800-487-4722

Travelex Insurance: www.travelexinsurance.com, 1-800-228-9792

Travel Guard: www.travelguard.com 1-800-826-4919

Travel Insurance Services: www.travelinsure.com, 1-800-937-1387

Inclusion on this list should not be construed as an endorsement by Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

All participants must comply with the testing regulations and vaccine policies required to enter Israel at the time of departure.

Closer to the mission date of departure, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ will provide you with the up-to-date regulations and procedure for both entry and departure. If required, you will be asked to provide all mandatory documents and signed statements (e.g., proof of vaccination, declaration of health), as well as taking the required tests at your own expense.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

At this moment, there are no special health regulations required for U.S. citizens traveling to Israel. Of course, we recommend that you take every precaution to safeguard your health while you are abroad and that you see your physician prior to your departure if you have any medical problems.

Medicines and other medical supplies should be carefully labeled and stored in your carry-on luggage. We suggest that you bring a second pair of prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses. You may also wish to bring your prescriptions with you in case you need a refill.

Throughout your time in Israel, a team of people will be committed to ensuring you have a positive experience:

Bus Captain A dedicated volunteer of our Federation community who leads and supports the experience of everyone on their bus.

Mission Bus Professional A Federation professional who supports the bus captain and provides assistance to everyone on the bus. Federation professionals are available to assist you throughout the mission.

Tour Guide A licensed tour guide assigned to each bus to ensure that every moment is educational and enlightening.

Bus Driver The driver, a vital part of the experience, helps ensure that everyone gets to each location safely.

Security Escort Israeli security escorts will join every bus, representing one element of the Centennial Mission's extensive security preparations and protocols.

Mission Hostess Most often found in the hotel lobby, the hostess provides concierge services for Centennial Mission participants, such as assisting with changes to travel plans, booking dinner reservations for free nights, providing more information on the local culture, and more.

You Might Also Meet...

Rishonim/Shlichim Each year, Federation brings a delegation of young Israeli emissaries to our community to educate children, teenagers, and adults about Israel, Israeli people, and Israeli culture. *Rishonim* are generally 18-to-19-year-olds who are doing a year of community service before entering the Israeli army. They work mainly with children in day schools and congregational schools, while living with host families in the community. *Shlichim* are Israeli young adults who have completed their Israeli military service and university.

Diller Teen Fellows This yearlong fellowship is a premier leadership development program for Jewish 10th and 11th graders in Greater MetroWest NJ. A select group of 20 teens is invited to explore their Jewish identity and develop leadership skills towards social action and community involvement. We are hoping to spend a little time with the current Diller cohort while we are in Israel during the Centennial Mission.



MISSION LEADERSHIP AND SPONSORS

Centennial Mission Chair Ira Steinberg

Centennial Chair Jane Wilf

Vice-Chairs

Terri Friedman

Emily & Jon Gantman

Marit & Jason Halper

Tracey & Jason Hoberman

Maxine Schwartz

Bus Captains

Karen & Cliff Aaron

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Todd Eisenberg

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Fried-Saginaw Mission Endowment Fund

Terri & Michael Goldberg

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JULY 3-9, 2023

Monday, July 3

Welcome to Israel

- › Pick up from Ben Gurion Airport for designated flights; meet and greet at luggage carousel
- › Early arrivers meet at Tel Aviv hotels
- › Board buses for our Welcome Meet Up with lunch overlooking Tel Mond
- › Tour Caesarea as we go North
- › Centennial Mission Opening with the Israel Defense Forces in the North
- › Check-in and festive dinner at your respective hotel
- › OVERNIGHT NORTH: Ramot Resort, The Lake House Hotel, Kibbutz Lavi Hotel

Tuesday, July 4

Bus Travel Day

- › Breakfast at your hotel
- › Customized track by bus group touring the North of Israel
- › Evening Mega Event at Beit Gavriel Cultural Center: 4th of July Celebration followed by departure to Tel Aviv hotels
- › OVERNIGHT TEL AVIV: David Intercontinental Hotel, Royal Beach Hotel

Wednesday, July 5

Partnership Day

- › Breakfast at your hotel
- › Partnership visit to either Ofakim, Merchavim, Arad, or Kibbutz Erez: meet with Israelis who have been touched by the generosity of our community, do hands-on projects, and more!
- › Celebrate 100 years of Greater MetroWest at the Agam Museum in Rishon LeZion
- › OVERNIGHT TEL AVIV: David Intercontinental Hotel, Royal Beach Hotel

Thursday, July 6

Personal Track of Interest Day

- › Breakfast at your hotel
- › Leave your original bus and join your pre-selected Personal Track of Interest
- › Visit ANU Museum – the Museum of the Jewish People (formerly the Diaspora Museum)
- › Check-in at your Jerusalem hotel
- › Free evening in Jerusalem
- › OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM: Inbal Hotel, Orient Hotel

Friday, July 7

Jerusalem

- › Breakfast at your hotel
- › Visit Har Herzl and the new Hall of Remembrance for a memorial ceremony for fallen Israeli soldiers
- › Visit Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center with tour options available for first-timers and returning visitors
- › Free time in Machane Yehuda (the Market of Jerusalem or *shuk*) or the city center

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- › Kabbalat Shabbat in the Old City
- › Festive Shabbat Dinner at Beit Shmuel overlooking Jerusalem
- › OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM: Inbal Hotel, Orient Hotel

Saturday, July 8 **Shabbat**

- › Breakfast at leisure
- › Optional Shabbat services around Jerusalem
- › Optional full-day activity: Visit to the Dead Sea and Masada with lunch (pre-registration required with additional cost)
- › Optional half-day activity: Biking in Jerusalem (pre-registration required with additional cost)
- › Optional full-day activity: Beach at Tel Aviv (pre-registration required with additional cost)
- › Havdalah and special private showing of the sound and light show at the Tower of David in the Old City
- › OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM: Inbal Hotel, Orient Hotel

Sunday, July 9 **Final Day in Israel**

- › Breakfast and hotel check-outs
- › Tour Jerusalem
- › Encounters with Federation partner program participants
- › Reflection sessions
- › Farewell dinner in the hills of Jerusalem
- › Transfer to airport



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PACKING AND CLOTHING

Dress is generally casual. We suggest that you bring comfortable, easily laundered clothing. You will need comfortable walking shoes every day and a light sweater or sweatshirt for air-conditioned spaces.

On some days we will leave the hotel in the morning and not return until late in the evening so there will not be a chance to change clothes before dinner. Should you choose, you can bring a change of clothes in your small bus bag and change at the venue.

On Friday night, to help us get into the spirit of Shabbat, we ask that everyone dress in a white shirt or top. Women generally wear a skirt, dress, or slacks and men wear a dress shirt and khakis (tie and jacket are not required). Any shade of white or off-white works!

Expensive jewelry, electronics, and other valuables should be kept to a minimum.

Once in Israel, we suggest that you place your valuables and passport in the hotel safe (do not forget it when you check-out!) and carry your phone and cash/credit cards with you at all times.

TO BE CARRIED WITH YOU DURING TRAVEL *(in carry-on or purse)*

Passport
Boarding pass
Credit card/bank card
Cash
Driver's license
Prescription medication
Change of clothing
Eyeglasses/contacts

Note: Photocopy the inside photo/signature page of your passport, which includes your passport number. Keep it in your suitcase.

Medicines and other medical supplies should be carefully labeled and stored with your carry-on luggage. We suggest you bring a second pair of prescription eyeglasses/contact lenses. Bring all prescriptions with you in case you need a refill for any reason.

BASIC TRAVEL WARDROBE

Shorts/skirts
Jeans/khakis
T-shirts/tank tops/blouses/short-sleeved button downs
Sweater, light jacket, or shawl (evenings in Jerusalem are cooler)
Sleepwear
Undergarments
Walking shoes or sneakers
Sandals
Hat for the sun
Sunglasses
Bathing suit
A white or off-white shirt/top or dress for our community Shabbat event
Head covering (for religious sites: scarf for women, kippah for men)

Reminder: For those who have a Lion of Judah pin and/or a Centennial lapel pin, remember to pack and wear them proudly during the Centennial Mission.

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MEDICAL

Anticipate your needs. Some items are much more costly abroad.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Adhesive bandages | Laxatives |
| Aspirin/Headache and pain-relievers | Eye drops |
| Prescriptions | Motion sickness medication |
| Sanitary needs | Cold capsules |
| Sunscreen | First-aid cream |
| Diarrhea medication and antacids | Extra pair eyeglasses/Contact lenses |

Note: All medications should be kept in a carry-on bag. Do not check through with other luggage.

SMALL CARRY-ON BAG FOR EACH PERSON

Please note: Everyone will need to pre-pack a small overnight bag for our first night and next day in the North. Those arriving on designated flights will not have time to take anything out of your larger suitcase after arriving at the airport. And, if you want to change into weather appropriate clothes after your flight, please include that change of clothes in your carry-on bag as well. There will be an opportunity to change your clothes at our Welcome Meet Up. All large luggage will be brought to Tel Aviv and will be waiting at your Tel Aviv hotel the following evening.

No tweezers or sharp instruments.

Medications
Nosh/gum/hard candy
Tissues
One change of clothing
Reading material
Small water bottle (must be empty until after security)

Please check with airline regulations regarding carry-ons prior to flight.

TOILETRIES

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tissues | Pre-moistened towelettes |
| Sunscreen | Make-up/moisturizer |
| Deodorant | Talcum powder |
| Comb/brush | Toothbrush/toothpaste/dental floss |
| Shampoo/conditioner | Cotton swabs |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Clothes-washing liquid | 220 Electrical converter (as needed) |
| Sewing kit | Camera/memory card/batteries |
| Scissors | Folding bag or nylon duffel bag (for overnight stay or to use for additional gifts and purchases) |
| Safety pins | |
| Pen/pencil | |

Note: Batteries abroad are usually expensive. Bring plenty!



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DAY BY DAY: What to Wear Suggestions

MONDAY, JULY 3: Going North

Touring day with walking and time outdoors, so be casual and cool. Wear shorts/T-shirts and comfortable shoes. If you are coming straight from the airport, please pack a weather-appropriate change of clothes in your carry-on bag. There will be an opportunity to change your clothes at our Welcome Meet Up. Upon evening arrival at your hotel, you can either go straight to dinner or take a few minutes to refresh in your room before dinner.

TUESDAY, JULY 4: Bus Travel Day

A day on the go without a chance to return to the hotel before dinner. Wear shorts/T-shirts and comfortable shoes. Bring a change of clothes including a light sweater for evening in your bus bag. If your bus travel plans require a particular kind of clothing (water shoes, for example), you will be notified in advance of the mission.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5: Partnership Day/Tel Aviv

Same as Tuesday. You'll get a Federation T-shirt in your size to wear on Partnership Day. Please wear it with pride!

THURSDAY, JULY 6: Personal Track of Interest Day

Depending on your track of interest, you may be mostly indoors or outdoors. But clothing should continue to be casual and comfortable. If your track requires a particular kind of clothing, you'll be notified in advance before the mission. You have a free evening in Jerusalem so you may want to be more stylish than casual if you plan to go out for dinner or meet family or friends.

FRIDAY, JULY 7: Jerusalem

During the day, touring and walking — both indoors and out. You'll have the option to return to the hotel to change before Friday evening.

On Friday evening, please wear a white or off-white shirt, such as a polo shirt or white blouse/dress. No sleeveless shirts at the Western Wall; long sleeves or a shawl/scarf are required.

SATURDAY, JULY 8: Shabbat

Dress according to your chosen Shabbat itinerary. Walk to synagogues and city walking tours. Optional day trips (additional cost/reserve in advance) to Masada and the Dead Sea (bring a bathing suit), an off-road biking trip, or the beach in Tel Aviv. Our evening activities include Havdalah and an exclusive sound and light show at the Tower of David. Stay casual or if you prefer, a sundress/sandals and shorts/polo shirts work here.

SUNDAY, JULY 9: Touring/Shopping and Farewell

Dress comfortably, as always. Some time outdoors, some indoors. If you're leaving on a designated flight home and have checked out of the hotel in the morning, you may want to pack a change of clothes for the flight in your carry-on luggage.

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WEATHER

In July, the weather in Israel is warm, similar to New Jersey. You can expect the following temperature ranges in Fahrenheit:

Tel Aviv: 73-88 degrees

Jerusalem: 72-87 degrees

Northern Israel: 74-95 degrees

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The electrical current in Israel is 220 volts AC, single phase, 50 cycles. Most hotels provide hair dryers and irons. If you are bringing electric shavers or other electrical appliances, we advise that you bring a small converter kit (most local hardware stores carry them). Hotels sometimes have a number of adapters available, but availability of adapters cannot be guaranteed.

PHONES

Most cell plans have an international add-on option that allows you to use your phone in Israel for an affordable daily fee. Please consult your cellular provider for details and pricing.



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SECURITY

We are dedicated to making your Israel experience both comfortable and secure.

All missions are registered with the Touring Authority, which provides real-time information on security matters and has a 24/7 situation room. Our land provider has a security officer who constantly reviews updates. Israeli security escorts will be on every bus and we will also be joined by the chief of security from the Jewish Federations of North America.

U.S. CUSTOMS

For specific information concerning items purchased abroad and what you may bring back duty-free, please contact your local U.S. Customs Office.

PASSPORT AND VISA

For travel to Israel, you will need a signed U.S. passport that is valid for at least 6 months after the return date to the U.S. Please carry it with you. Do not pack it in your luggage. Consult your local U.S. passport office if you have any questions about the validity of your passport or if you must renew your current one. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the Israeli Consulate for the most up-to-date entry requirements.

U.S. citizens need not apply for a visa before leaving for Israel; they will be given this visa upon their arrival in Israel free of charge. Anyone traveling to other countries requiring visas should check directly with the appropriate consulates for application forms and information on how to process the application.

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MONEY, TIPS, AND TAXES

MONEY

The shekel (NIS - New Israeli Shekel) is Israel's legal tender. You can change money at the airport, but because credit cards are widely accepted you may not need to change a lot of money into shekels. You may want to check if your credit card charges foreign transaction fees. Your bank ATM card is also accepted at many Israeli bank ATMs.

GRATUITIES

\$200 will be added to each person's final bill to cover gratuities for the tour guide, bus driver, and hostess.

TAXES AND VAT REFUNDS

The VAT (Value Added Tax) in Israel is 17%. It is already included in most prices in Israel. VAT is waived for tourists at hotels, tour companies, and car rental agencies. Tourists can receive a refund of the VAT they paid on purchases when departing the country. A single transaction amount must exceed 400 shekels, including the VAT. When making a purchase, ask the store owner for a special tax-refund invoice. You will need the invoice, receipt, and item with you when applying for the refund.

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In Israel, all group meals will be Kosher Rabbanut. Dietary laws are observed. Any other special meal requests should have been indicated on the Mission application. If any of your needs have changed, please be in touch with Heidi Kuperman, Missions Director, at hkuperman@jfedgmw.org or (973) 929-3046.

MEALS

Most meals are included in the cost of the mission program. An Israeli breakfast will be served every day, consisting of a smorgasbord-style assortment of fish, cheeses, salads, juices, and hot beverages. At mega events, when alcoholic beverages or sodas are served, they are included in the basic mission cost. At all other times, alcoholic beverages and soft drinks are not included.

SNACK BAG

Each mission bus will have a snack bag full of goodies and other pick-me-ups. Water will also be provided on the bus. All items will be Kosher.

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YOUR IMPACT STARTS HERE

Thanks to the generosity of so many like you, our Federation's UJA Annual Campaign enables Federation and our partner agencies to meet urgent and ongoing humanitarian and social service needs and to build vibrant Jewish communities.

Through the UJA Annual Campaign, you help build a better community right now. And the Centennial Campaign, our largest fundraising effort ever, is focused on enhancing our community today and building endowments to create a strong and vibrant Greater MetroWest for our next century and beyond.

Throughout the Centennial Mission, you will see firsthand the ways that Federation, through our UJA Annual Campaign, identifies and meets the needs of our ever-evolving Jewish community. As you engage in these experiences with an open mind and open heart, lay leaders and Federation professionals on every bus will explore meaningful opportunities for your support of this ongoing work through the UJA Campaign and Centennial Campaign.

When you invest in Federation, you're investing in a brighter future and continuing Federation's legacy of trust, action, and impact.

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