



# FRIENDS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

## JULY 1 - JULY 7, 2022

● EXPERIENCE ISRAEL THROUGH A LENS THAT ONLY FIDF CAN OFFER ●



Itinerary is subject to change based on IDF activities and availability of locations



# BRUCHIM HABAIM - WELCOME TO ISRAEL

**FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022**

DAY 1

- Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport - recommended flights will be provided. PCR testing at airport
- Start our journey and drive to Jerusalem
- Check into our Jerusalem hotel - relax and unpack as we await PCR clearance (typically < 4 hour results)
- Walk to the Old City as Shabbat descends on Jerusalem. As the sun sets, experience a joyful Kabbalat Shabbat at by Robinsons Arch, which is the only Egalitarian service at the Western Wall
- Enjoy a welcome Shabbat dinner at the hotel
- If you're not too tired, go and have a drink at a pub near the hotel (**not included**)

**Accommodations: Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem**  
(or similar)

Breakfast: not included  
Lunch: not included  
Dinner: included

# JERUSALEM - THE WONDERS OF THE OLD CITY

**SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022**

DAY 2

- Get to know each other! Morning ice-breakers and orientation with our Israel staff
- Tour the Old City's Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian quarters and learn about the fascinating history that lies in each and every stone, nook and cranny. See up close how everyone lives side by side
- Afternoon speaker: learn about the "Morality of War" with Gadi Ezra, former combat soldier, human rights attorney, and special legal counsel at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Free evening and dinner on your own in downtown Jerusalem **(not included)**

**Accommodations: Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem**  
(or similar)

Breakfast: included  
Lunch: included  
Dinner: not included



# PATH TO PEACE + THE HOMEFRONT COMMAND

**SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2022**

DAY 3

- Before driving Southwest to the Negev, take a morning hike in the hills of Jerusalem, at Sataf Nature Reserve
- Visit Netiv Haasara, a moshav that borders Gaza and hear about life there. Meet with the residents and tour the moshav during a short walk. We will then drive along the security fence with Gaza. During the tour, we will listen to stories and experiences of the area
- Visit an IDF base on the Gaza border and meet IDF soldiers who are trained as observers, and learn from them about their important job protecting the border with Gaza at their special lookout posts using advanced technology and special skills
- Group dinner at the Jerusalem's First Station, or Tachana Rishona (Hebrew). This former train station dates back to the 1800s and nowadays has become a modern center of culture in recent years, with shopping, restaurants, shows, and more

**Accommodations: Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem** (or similar)

Breakfast: included

Lunch: included

Dinner: included



# START YOUR NORTHERN ADVENTURE

## MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022

DAY 4

- Before heading north, visit the IDF Memorial Hall, dedicated to Israel's fallen soldiers, located at the historic Mount Herzl in Jerusalem
- Visit Havat HaShomer IDF base. This base houses The IDF's Center for Promoting Special Populations (MAKAM) for soldiers who come from troubled backgrounds and helps them assimilate into the army
- We will stop at a Bedouin Village and meet with former IDF soldiers from the Bedouin community
- Celebrate American Independence day with a BBQ dinner in the home of a local family in Galilee. This is a unique opportunity to meet with Israelis in their home. We will be joined by active serving IDF Soldiers and Eyal Dror LTC reserve, the former commander of 'Operation Good Neighbor' in Syria

**Accommodations: Ramot Resort, Golan Heights**  
(or similar)

Breakfast: included  
Lunch: included  
Dinner: included





# EXPLORING THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

**TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022**

DAY 5

- Join FIDF IMPACT program participants for a leadership building activity. The IMPACT Program is our college scholarship for soldiers to attend university after their army service, if they do not have the means to provide for themselves. During the program, all recipients also volunteer 140 hours of community service a year – the program is a true circle of giving!
- Board your jeep for an off-road adventure along Israel's northern Border. Our local specialist will share perspectives about life in the Golan Heights and discuss the significance of the region
- Visit an IDF infantry unit on the Golan Heights and learn about the close borders
- Depart the Golan and travel to Tel Aviv to check-in to our hotel near the waterfront
- Private group dinner at in the heart of Tel Aviv. We will be joined by IMPACT students



**Accommodations: Tal by the Beach, Tel Aviv**  
(or similar)

Breakfast: included  
Lunch: included  
Dinner: included

# WELCOME TO THE NONSTOP CITY OF TEL AVIV

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022**

DAY 6

- Start the day with a morning Self Defense class, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea
- Visit the Israeli Air Force at Tel Nof Air Force Base
- Return to Tel Aviv for a private graffiti tour with a specialist. The walls of southern Tel Aviv have become the canvases to local graffiti artists and discover the culture and social issues expressed in the local urban art
- Get your legs moving during a port-to-port bicycle tour of Tel Aviv from the modern Tel Aviv Namal (Port) to the ancient Jaffa Seaport.
- Meet Amit Shimoni, founder of Hipstory Art, and former IDF special forces veteran. Get the behind-the-scenes tour of his Jaffa studio
- Enjoy a free night in the bustling city of Tel Aviv by heading to renowned restaurants and bar hopping! **(not included)**

**Accommodations: Tal by the Beach, Tel Aviv**  
(or similar)

Breakfast: included  
Lunch: included  
Dinner: not included





# TEL AVIV ON YOUR OWN BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE

**THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022**

DAY 7

- (Optional group activity) Visit the Peres Center for Peace & Innovation in Jaffa
- Spend the day exploring Tel Aviv on your own. Here are some suggestions: **(not included)**
  - Visit the renovated German Colony - Sarona Compound, for some shopping and an elaborate food market
  - Spend the day swimming in the Mediterranean and soaking up the sun at the beach. Do as the locals do and play a game of Israeli paddle ball "matkot" on the beach
  - For a lively atmosphere and local handmade souvenirs, head to the famous artists' bazaar on Nachlat Binyamin St
- Gather for a closing group session on the hotel rooftop
- Group farewell dinner in a private Tel Aviv restaurant
- Transport to Ben Gurion Airport for overnight flights home

Breakfast: included  
Lunch: not included  
Dinner: included

"This opportunity can only be described as a life-changing, incredible experience. It was eye-opening to see the work of the FIDF hands-on, meet with soldiers, IMPACT! scholars, and Holocaust survivors, to gain a richer understanding of the moral, physical, and emotional challenges our Israeli brethren experience on a day-to-day basis.

I was truly honored to have had this experience alongside such an esteemed group; I imagine that many of us will stay close for years to come. I feel reconnected to my Jewish and Israeli roots, and have renewed compassion for the IDF, and all the citizens of Israel, for the daily sacrifices they make for the broader worldwide Jewish community. This experience has given me a deeper appreciation of the important work they do."

- AVIVA, FIDF YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION PARTICIPANT

