

United Hebrew Congregation
Innovation In Israel Trip
April 30-May 11, 2023

Trip Overview

When is the trip?

The trip will depart St. Louis on Sunday, April 30. We will depart Israel very late on May 10, arriving in St. Louis, the morning of May 11.

For whom is the trip appropriate?

All UH members are invited to join us on this congregational trip to Israel. This trip is for both individuals and couples.

We welcome you to bring your non-member family and friends.

Is there a minimum and a maximum number of participants?

Yes, the minimum would be 15 and the maximum between 35-40 people.

What is the last day to register for the trip?

December 30, 2022

What if I have some mobility issues?

Most of our trip is accessible. If a wheelchair is needed in some places, this is easy to get. The most difficult place for walking will be in the Old City of Jerusalem, but it is doable. We will work with everyone to make this trip accessible and exciting for all.

At what hotels are we staying?

Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv (3 nights)

Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem (4 nights)

Kibbutz Lotan, Eilat (1 night)

Irus Hamidbar (Desert Iris) Yeruham (2 nights)

Logistics

Who is our travel partner?

UH is partnering with Ayelet. If you have questions about registration, you can contact Ayelet at ayelet.com or call 800-237-1517 ext 335.

What flights does UH recommend? Can I use my airline miles or do I have to purchase the flights through Ayelet?

There will be a group flight available. The group flight must be booked through Ayelet. We need at least 10 people to have the benefit of a group flight.

Alternatively, you may purchase seats on these flights or on other flights by booking on the internet or with a travel agent, using miles if you have them.

If you fly on your own and arrive at a different time than the group flight, you will need to make your own hotel transfer arrangements. We can recommend a company to use.

What do I need to know about passports?

Now is the time to make sure your passports are up to date. Remember to make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the final day of the trip.

May I arrive early?

You are welcome to fly to Israel at any time, as long as you arrange to either meet the group at the airport or at the hotel. More details to follow.

What is the weather like in Israel in early May?

Average May temperature: 77 F daytime 60 F nighttime

Will UH provide a "suggested" packing list?

Yes, a recommended packing list will be provided closer to departure. We recommend wearing layers. So maybe a skirt, t-shirt, shorts for during the day and jeans and a warm jacket for some days and evenings, as well as comfortable shoes for walking. It is also warm enough to swim, so bring a bathing suit.

What happens if I get sick during our trip?

Our guide and the full local Ayelet team will assist with finding you medical care in Israel.

Will there be any free time for shopping and seeing family or friends?

Our itinerary is chock-full of important sites and experiences, and there is also some free time. There are opportunities to shop, go for coffee, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Israel, so if you have family and friends there, these are great times to visit with them.

When will the itineraries be available?

Draft itineraries are available. It is important to note that these are drafts and that they are subject to change at any time. Updated drafts will be posted online and shared with participants at pre-trip gatherings before our departure in April 2023.

Will I be able meet other people who are going on the trip before we leave?

Absolutely! UH will host a few pre-trip gatherings, including educational sessions, as well as opportunities for community building and going over the itinerary and details before we depart.

Are all meals included in the trip?

Breakfast is included daily. Four lunches and eight dinners are included as part of the tour. On the days and evenings where lunch and dinner are not included, Ayelet staff will help you find places to enjoy.

Additional Experiences

While in Jerusalem we'll have the opportunity to participate in two additional experiences, an evening at the Jerusalem Beer Bazaar, and a midnight bike ride in Jerusalem. No decision has to be made when you register. We'll discuss these logistics and find out who is interested in these options as we get closer to the trip.

What if I'm interested in extending the trip and visiting Petra, Jordan?

Ayelet will work with anyone who is interested in extending their trip to visit Petra. Please be in touch with Doron doron@ayelet.com or call 800-237-1517 ext 335.

Registration Information

How do I register?

You register by calling Ayelet, 800-237-1517 ext 335 or visiting their website. You can find their website by visiting the homepage of our UH website www.unitedhebrew.org or directly at <https://secure.ayelet.com/UHCIsrael2023.aspx>

Is a deposit required upon registration?

Yes, \$500 per person is due upon registration.

How much does the trip cost?

Pricing is for land cost only. It does not include the cost of flights or tips.

If you pay by check: Land Tour: \$4645 Single Occupancy: additional \$1,445

If you pay by credit card: Land Tour: \$4,785 Single Occupancy: additional \$1,488

What is the payment and cancellation policy?

A \$500 per person deposit is due at the time of reservation.

Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payments made within 21 days of departure must be in the form of a certified check or credit card.

No land penalty if canceled 121 or more days before departure for payments by check (for credit card payment, minus \$25 per person non-recoverable cost), plus any applicable airline penalties. \$250 per person charged if canceled 120 to 91 days prior to departure, plus any applicable airline penalties. \$500 per person charged if canceled 90 to 31 days prior to departure, plus any applicable airline penalties. 100% per person charged if canceled 30 days or less before departure. If purchased, group travel insurance policy becomes non-refundable 90 days before departure. When offered, space on group air allotments can be reserved by checking the box that indicates "Land & Air" on your paper registration form, selecting Land & Air when making an online booking, or by emailing a request to our office to hold group air space for you. If you confirm a seat on our group air allotment, and then cancel that space within 90 days of departure (even if still traveling on the land portion of the tour), airline penalties will apply.

COVID-19 EXCEPTION: If the tour is canceled by Ayelet Tours due to the Covid-19 pandemic more than 90 days before departure, same policy as above. If tour is canceled due to Covid-19 within 90 days of departure, registrants can choose to either transfer funds in full to another Ayelet tour within 2 years of original travel date or choose to receive a refund minus up to \$250 per person in non-recoverable costs.

How much/what are the tips?

When you register for the trip, Ayelet will bill \$20 per person, per day for tips. These tips are for guides, drivers, and dining room waiters – anyone who will help our group.

Should I get travel insurance?

Yes, Ayelet strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance. You can purchase travel insurance through Ayelet. They are using Travelex Insurance Services. Full information can be found https://secure.ayelet.com/assets/documents/Travelex_360_Group_Choice_Flyer.pdf

Trip Leadership

Which members of the clergy and staff are going?

Rabbi Brigitte Rosenberg and Lee Rosenberg will be leading this trip. Additional staff will be added as registration requires.

More Information

Whom do I contact with questions about the trip?

Please contact Ayelet: doron@ayelet.com or call 800-237-1517 ext 335. At UH, please contact Esther Olson at eolson@unitedhebrew.org or 314-469-0700.

How will security be managed on the trip?

Security is Ayelet's primary concern no matter the destination. They err on the side of caution. Ayelet checks in with their ground staff hour by hour regarding cities and sites during the trip. If they feel that any site or itinerary puts a group in danger, they will take steps to alter the itinerary to protect the group.

NOTICE REGARDING AIRLINE TAX AND FUEL SURCHARGE Ayelet Tours has NO CONTROL over the airline tax and fuel surcharge. They are set directly by the airlines and government regulations. These costs are subject to change with no notice, and are finalized only at time of ticketing, not at time of booking. For groups, ticketing is done only after all travelers in a group have paid in full. In recent months, the airlines have been raising the tax and fuel surcharges regularly as fuel pricing has continued to fluctuate. While we try our best to estimate the tax and fuel surcharge as closely as possible, we have no control over this final amount. Ayelet Tours will send an updated invoice shortly before final payment is due with the correct fuel surcharge and tax amount. IT WILL IN MANY CASES INCREASE FROM YOUR INITIAL INVOICE. We thank you for your understanding of what has become a challenging part of group tour coordination.