

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

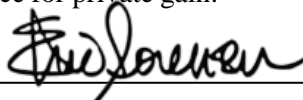
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): _____

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.

8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature:  _____

Date: _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: August 5, 2023 Date of Return: August 13, 2023

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Eric Sorensen

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$7,858.66	\$1,200.25	\$1,614.28	\$3,148.21
Accompanying Family Member	\$7,858.66	\$1,200.25	\$1,614.28	\$3,148.21

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  _____ Date: 8/24/2023 | 11:11 PDT

Name: Arne Christenson Title: Managing Director

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: 202.639.5266 Email: achristenson@aiefdn.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.**

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Rep. Eric Sorensen

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Eric Sorensen

Digitally signed by Eric Sorensen
Date: 2023.07.05 17:36:47 -05'00'

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 1205 Longworth, Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 225-5905

Email Address of Contact Person: joe.goldberg@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Eric Sorensen
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: August 5, 2023 Date of Return: August 11, 2023
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Shawn Starks
(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): Partner
(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.
Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
As a Member of Congress, I am responsible for voting on a wide range of security and diplomatic issue related to Israel. The meetings and events on the trip itinerary will provide information on topics I am responsible for understanding as part of my official duties.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member _____ Date _____

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Eric Sorensen
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your fiancé's proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for August 5 to 11, 2023, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the first few letters of the name.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "S" and "W" being particularly prominent.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

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Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

July 25, 2023

The Honorable Eric Sorensen
1205 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

This responds to your letter of July 12, 2023, seeking permission for your fiancé, Mr. Shawn Starks, to accompany you at private expense on an officially-connected trip to Israel from August 5 to 11, 2023. We note that you submitted a separate travel request to the Committee for approval to accept travel expenses for this trip. Subject to the guidance below, we grant your request for Mr. Starks to accompany you on this trip.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The trip to Israel is sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (sponsor). According to the sponsor, the purpose of the trip is to educate on the US-Israel relationship. You have separately requested that the Committee approve your request to participate in this trip at the sponsor's expense. The sponsor made an unsolicited offer to pay for a relative's expenses to accompany you. You would like to bring your fiancé, Mr. Starks.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

The House gift rule generally permits a Member to be accompanied by a relative at the private sponsor's expense when participating in privately-funded, officially-connected travel, but the provision does not permit the Member to be accompanied by anyone other than a relative.¹ This provision is enacted as § 403 of the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations, which were issued on April 1, 2021, to provide comprehensive guidance on the rules governing privately-funded, officially connected travel. Section 104(z) defines the term "relative" for purposes of the travel rules as being:

[a]n individual of at least 18 years of age who is related to the traveler as spouse, parent, child or step-child, grandchild, sibling or half-sibling, father-in-law, or mother-in-law. Fiancés/fiancées and

¹ See House Rule 25, cl. 5(b)(4)(D).

unmarried significant others are not “relatives” for purposes of these [travel] regulations.

However, § 403.1 of the Travel Regulations permits travelers to seek advance, written permission from the Committee to be accompanied by a non-relative on such a trip at the sponsor’s expense. In addition, a provision of the gift rule also permits the Committee to grant a waiver of the rule’s restrictions in “an unusual case,”² provided “there is no potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety.”³

Having considered your request, it is our determination that Mr. Starks may accompany you on this trip to Israel pursuant to Travel Regulation § 403.1. The Post-Travel Disclosure Forms that you are required to file with Clerk following the trip must include the expenses incurred by the sponsor for Mr. Starks’ accompaniment on the trip. You will also have to list the trip on Schedule H (Travel) on your annual Financial Disclosure Report. You should indicate that your fiancé was included on the trip by answering “yes” to the question of whether a family member was included on the trip.

LIMITATIONS

The response above constitutes an advisory opinion concerning the application of House Rule 25 and the Committee’s Travel Regulations. The following limitations apply to this opinion:

- This advisory opinion is issued only to Representative Eric Sorensen, the requestor of this opinion. This advisory opinion cannot be relied upon by any other individual or entity.
- This advisory opinion is limited to the current provisions and interpretation of the House Rule and Committee Guidelines specifically noted above. No opinion is expressed or implied herein regarding the application of any other federal, state, or local statute, rule, regulation, ordinance, or other law that may be applicable to the proposed conduct described in this letter.
- This advisory opinion will not bind or obligate any entity other than the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives.
- This advisory opinion is limited in scope to the specific proposed conduct described in this letter, the specific facts represented to the Committee, and the understanding of those facts to the extent indicated in this letter and does not apply to any other conduct or facts, including that which appears similar in nature or scope to that described in this letter. Should this letter misstate any facts in this matter, the opinion and advice may no longer apply, and you should inform the Committee as soon as

² House Rule 25, cl. 5(a)(3)(T).

³ See House Rule 25, cl. 5(a)(3)(T); Comm. on Ethics, *House Ethics Manual*, Gifts Chapter, III, https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual/gifts#_General_Waiver.

possible to determine if the advice and opinion in this letter apply to the accurate factual basis.

The Committee will take no adverse action against you in regard to any conduct that you undertake, or have undertaken, in good faith reliance upon this advisory opinion, so long as you have presented a complete and accurate statement of all material facts relied upon herein, and the proposed conduct in practice conforms with the information you provided, as addressed in this opinion.

Changes or other developments in the law (including, but not limited to, the Code of Official Conduct, House rules, Committee guidance, advisory opinions, statutes, regulations, or case law) may affect the analysis or conclusions drawn in this advisory opinion. The Committee reserves the right to reconsider the questions and issues raised in this advisory opinion and to rescind, modify, or terminate this opinion if required by the interests of the House. However, the Committee will rescind an advisory opinion only if relevant and material facts were not completely and accurately disclosed to the Committee at the time the opinion was issued. In the event that this advisory opinion is modified or terminated, the Committee will not take any adverse action against you with respect to any action taken in good faith reliance upon this advisory opinion so long as such conduct or such action was promptly discontinued upon notification of the modification or termination of this advisory opinion.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
Please find attached
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: August 5, 2013 Date of return: August 13, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. or home district
b. Destination(s): Israel
c. City of return: Washington, D.C. or home district
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the fundamental purpose of educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: charter bus)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
n/a
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
\$166
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
The trip is in Israel to educate members of Congress about the U.S.-Israel relationship.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: King David City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$410
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
- Hotel Name: Magdala City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$273
Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$9,219.20	\$2,528.00	\$1,160
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$9,219.20	n/a	\$1,160

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2,271.21	please find breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$2,271.21	please find breakdown attached

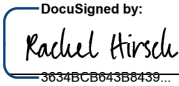
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check only one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 6/30/2023 | 10:09 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Members of Congress
August 5-13, 2023**

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As members of the House of Representatives, and congressional staff to leadership, these invitees are consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. These issues—along with issues more broadly related to the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel—will be explored during the AIEF Israel Seminar, which is focused on educating members of Congress on events throughout the region by providing on-the-ground context.

1. The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (New York)
2. The Honorable Steny Hoyer (Maryland)
3. The Honorable Pete Aguilar (California)
4. The Honorable Brad Schneider (Illinois)
5. The Honorable Haley Stevens (Michigan)
6. The Honorable Becca Balint (Vermont)
7. The Honorable Yadira Caraveo (Colorado)
8. The Honorable Jasmine Crockett (Texas)
9. The Honorable Don Davis (North Carolina)
10. The Honorable Chris DeLuzio (Pennsylvania)
11. The Honorable Robert Garcia (California)
12. The Honorable Dan Goldman (New York)
13. The Honorable Glenn Ivey (Maryland)
14. The Honorable Greg Landsman (Ohio)
15. The Honorable Seth Magaziner (Rhode Island)
16. The Honorable Rob Menendez (New Jersey)
17. The Honorable Jared Moskowitz (Florida)
18. The Honorable Wiley Nickel (North Carolina)
19. The Honorable Mary Peltola (Alaska)
20. The Honorable Brittney Petterson (Colorado)
21. The Honorable Pat Ryan (New York)
22. The Honorable Andrea Salinas (Oregon)
23. The Honorable Hillary Scholten (Michigan)
24. The Honorable Eric Sorensen (Illinois)
25. The Honorable Emilia Sykes (Ohio)
26. The Honorable Shri Thanedar (Michigan)
27. The Honorable Jill Tokuda (Hawaii)

- 28. The Honorable Gabe Vasquez (New Mexico)
- 29. Tasia Jackson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Democratic Leader
- 30. Gideon Bragin, Executive Director, Office of the Democratic Leader
- 31. Emily Berret, Senior Advisor, Office of the Democratic Leader
- 32. Christie Stephenson, Communications Director, Office of the Democratic Leader
- 33. Brian Romick, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of The Honorable Steny Hoyer
- 34. Many-Jean Gitter, National Security Advisor, Office of The Honorable Steny Hoyer

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per person
Room Rentals	\$681.82
Security	\$530.30
Hotels for contract staff	\$196.97
Tour Guide	\$181.82
Meals for contract staff and speakers	\$151.52
Miscellaneous	\$151.52
Speaker Fees	\$106.06
Airport Assistance	\$98.48
Security if going to West Bank	\$53.03
Transportation for contract staff & speakers	\$30.30
Entrance Fees	\$30.30
Photography	\$30.30
Tips	\$28.79
Total =	\$2,271.21

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
August 5-13, 2023**

4. Names of Travelers

1. The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (New York)
2. The Honorable Steny Hoyer (Maryland)
3. The Honorable Pete Aguilar (California)
4. The Honorable Brad Schneider (Illinois)
5. The Honorable Haley Stevens (Michigan)
6. The Honorable Becca Balint (Vermont)
7. The Honorable Yadira Caraveo (Colorado)
8. The Honorable Jasmine Crockett (Texas)
9. The Honorable Don Davis (North Carolina)
10. The Honorable Chris DeLuzio (Pennsylvania)
11. The Honorable Robert Garcia (California)
12. The Honorable Dan Goldman (New York)
13. The Honorable Greg Landsman (Ohio)
14. The Honorable Rob Menendez (New Jersey)
15. The Honorable Jared Moskowitz (Florida)
16. The Honorable Wiley Nickel (North Carolina)
17. The Honorable Brittney Petterson (Colorado)
18. The Honorable Pat Ryan (New York)
19. The Honorable Andrea Salinas (Oregon)
20. The Honorable Hillary Scholten (Michigan)
21. The Honorable Eric Sorensen (Illinois)
22. The Honorable Emilia Sykes (Ohio)
23. The Honorable Shri Thanedar (Michigan)
24. The Honorable Jill Tokuda (Hawaii)
25. Tasia Jackson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Democratic Leader
26. Gideon Bragin, Executive Director, Office of the Democratic Leader
27. Emily Berret, Senior Advisor, Office of the Democratic Leader
28. Christie Stephenson, Communications Director, Office of the Democratic Leader
29. Victoria Rivas, Policy Director, House Democratic Caucus
30. Brian Romick, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of The Honorable Steny Hoyer
31. Manya-Jean Gitter, National Security Advisor, Office of The Honorable Steny Hoyer

5. Breakdown of Other Expenses

Item	Cost per person
Room Rentals	\$1,005.90
Security	\$767.61
Miscellaneous	\$312.82
Hotels contract staff and guests	\$263.21
Speaker fees	\$206.62
Meals contract staff and guests	\$204.80
Tour Guide	\$179.83
Airport Assistance	\$154.65
Entrance fees	\$26.98
Photography	\$25.79
TOTAL =	\$3,148.21

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
August 5-13, 2023**

Itinerary

Saturday, August 5, 2023

All Day Flights depart from the United States

Sunday, August 6, 2023

9:55 AM – 8:00 PM Arrivals

- Flights arrive at Ben Gurion Airport
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

1:00 PM Lunch (for early arrivals)
-at the King David Hotel

2:00 PM Depart

2:30 – 4:30 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem** (for early arrivals)
Visit to the Old City
Tower of David

4:00 PM Return to hotel

7:45 – 8:30 PM Dinner
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:30 PM Depart

8:45 – 9:30 PM **Shalom Jerusalem: A View from Outside the Old City Walls**
Begin Center/Cinematheque Observation Point
Yemin Moshe Windmill Observation Point

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, August 7, 2023

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

7:45 – 8:15 AM **Welcome and Orientation**
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:15 – 9:15 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
Conversation with Yaakov Katz
Author, Journalist, and Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

9:30 – 9:45 AM Depart
En route briefing: **Israeli Politics 101**

9:45 AM Arrive at the Office of the Prime Minister

10:30 AM–12:00 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu**
Prime Minister of the State of Israel
-at the Office of the Prime Minister

12:00 PM Depart

12:15 – 1:15 PM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus
Former International Spokesperson, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)
-at Nefesh B’Nefesh

1:30 PM Depart for Ramallah

Members only / alternative programming for family guests
Lunch at Modern, Israel Museum

2:45 – 4:15 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Mohammad Shtayyeh**
Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority
-at his office in Ramallah

4:30 PM Depart

6:30 PM Return to hotel, break

7:00-7:45 PM **The Fruits of Peace: Impact of People 2 People Programs**
Conversation with Adnan Jaber
Palestinian Peace Activist and Entrepreneur
-at Ambassador Hall, King David hotel

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Dinner with** The Honorable Isaac Herzog
President of Israel
-at President’s Hall, King David hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at The King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:30 – 8:15 AM Breakfast

8:15 – 9:30 AM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the King David Hotel

9:45 AM Depart for the South

10:00 – 11:00 AM En route briefing: **Gaza: A Situational Analysis**

11:30 AM **Congressman Robert Garcia arrives at Ben Gurion Airport**

11:30 AM–1:00 PM **Life in The Gaza Periphery**
▪ Meet with Kibbutz residents
▪ Walking survey of Kibbutz
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:00 – 2:00 PM **A Nation of Resilience**
Lunch with Ayelet Shmuel
Director, Sderot International Resilience Center
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

2:00 PM Depart

2:15 – 3:45 PM **U.S.-Israel Strategic Collaboration:
Missile Defense and Tunnel Detection**
▪ Visit to Iron Dome Battery
▪ Briefing on tunnel detection technology

3:45 PM Depart

5:45 PM Return to hotel, break

7:00 PM Depart

7:15 – 8:45 PM **The Israeli Mosaic**

- Ashager Araro, Ethiopian-Israeli Activist and Social Entrepreneur
- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
- Hila Peer, Chairwoman at Aguda,
The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel

-at Zappa

9:00 PM Depart

9:30 – 10:45 PM **The City of David**
Late-night visit

10:45 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

11:55 PM **Congressman Pete Aguilar arrives at Ben Gurion Airport**

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

8:15 – 9:15 AM Breakfast
-at the King David hotel

9:15 AM Depart

9:45 AM–12:15 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

11:30 AM **Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Emily Berret, Tasia Jackson and Christie Stephenson depart Ben Gurion Airport**
Leader Jeffries arrives Atlanta, Wednesday, August 9, 5:55 PM;
Emily Berret, Tasia Jackson and Christie Stephenson arrive Washington D.C. Wednesday, August 9, 9:42 PM

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:00 PM Lunch
-at HaAgam

1:00 – 2:00 PM **Meeting with Stephanie L. Hallett**
Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Israel
-at HaAgam

2:15 Pm Return to hotel, break

4:15 PM Depart

- 4:30 – 6:45 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem**
Part I: The Historic and Holy Basin
- Robinson’s Arch
 - Western Wall
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 6:45 PM Depart
- 7:00 – 8:30 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel’s Contributions to Global Challenges**
- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director of Volcani International Partnerships
 - Naama Gorodischer, Global CEO, IsraAID
 - Sivan Ya’ari, Founder & CEO, Innovation Africa
- at Modern
- 8:45 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, August 10, 2023

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Depart
- 9:30 – 10:30 AM **Meeting with** The Honorable Yair Lapid
 Leader of the Opposition and Chairman, Yesh Atid Party
 -at Hevel Modiin Cultural Hall, Airport City
- 10:45 AM Depart
- 11:15 AM–12:00 PM **Israel’s Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
 Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook
- 11:30 AM Gideon Bragin departs Ben Gurion Airport;
 arrives Washington D.C. Thursday, August 10 9:52 PM
- 12:00 PM Depart
- 1:15 – 2:45 PM **Ethics in the IDF**
 Lunch with soldiers
 -at Tanduka
- 2:45 PM Depart
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM En route briefing: **The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee**

4:30 – 6:15 PM	Israel's Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah in Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel ▪ Observation Point into Lebanon
6:15 PM	Depart
7:00 – 9:30 PM	Reflections on the Week -at Decks
9:30 PM	Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Tiberias
11:25 PM	Congressmen Robert Menendez departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives Newark, Friday, August 11, 4:20 AM
11:55 PM	Congressman Jared Moskowitz departs Ben Gurion Airport, arrives JFK Friday, August 11, 5:10 AM
Friday, August 11, 2023	
12:55 AM	Congresswoman Jill Tokuda departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives Honolulu, Friday, August 11, 11:30 AM
1:00 AM	Congressman Dan Goldman departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives JFK, Friday, August 11, 5:50 AM
7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at Hotel, Dining Room
8:15 AM	Depart
8:30 – 10:45 AM	Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mount of Beatitudes ▪ Primacy of Peter ▪ Capernaum
11:00 AM	Depart for the Golan Heights
12:00 – 1:45 PM	Northern Border Concerns II: Iran and Russia in Syria Strategic survey of the Border with Syria with Col. (ret.) Miri Eisin, Incoming Director, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Reichman University -at Mt. Bental
12:45 PM	Depart

2:00 – 3:00 PM	Lunch -at Habokrim, Merom Golan
3:00 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
4:00 – 5:00 PM	En route briefing: Jordanian-Israeli Relations
6:00 PM	Return to hotel, prepare for Sabbath Dinner
7:30 PM	Depart
7:45 – 9:30 PM	Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families
9:30 PM	Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 12, 2023

12:50 AM	Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives DEN Saturday, August 12, 8:51 AM
12:55 AM	Congresswoman Andrea Salinas departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives PDX Saturday, August 12, 10:17 AM
6:00 – 6:30 AM	Breakfast on own -at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel
6:30 AM	Depart
7:00 – 8:00 AM	En route briefing: Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor
8:00 – 10:30 AM	History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada
9:30 AM	Depart for the Dead Sea
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Exploration of the Dead Sea Region - at the Herbert Samuel hotel
11:30 AM	Depart
12:00 PM	Congressman Chris Deluzio departs Ben Gurion Airport; arrives PIT Saturday, August 12, 8:39 PM

1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch -at the King David Hotel
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30 – 4:00 PM	Church of the Nativity (optional) -Bethlehem
4:00 PM	Depart
5:00 PM	Return to hotel
5:30 – 7:30 PM	Reflections on the Week: Closing Dinner -at the King David Hotel
Evening	Flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, August 13, 2023

All Day	Flights arrive in the United States
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**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
August 5-13, 2023**

Itinerary

Saturday, August 5, 2023

All Day Flights depart from the United States

Sunday, August 6, 2023

9:55 AM – 8:00 PM Arrivals

- Flights arrive at Ben Gurion Airport
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

1:00 PM Lunch (for early arrivals)

2:00 PM Depart

2:30 – 4:30 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem** (for early arrivals)
Visit to the Old City

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

4:30 PM Return to hotel

7:45 – 8:30 PM Dinner
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:30 PM Depart

8:45 – 9:45 PM **A View from Above: Ramparts Walk around the Old City of Jerusalem**
Walking survey in the Old City

Our guides will lead participants on a walking survey on the south side of the Ramparts in the Old City of Jerusalem, to provide an overview of the history of the Old City, and its significance to the three monotheistic religions. Participants will walk from the Tower of David to the Jewish quarter, crossing Zion Gate and the Armenian quarter before ending at the Dung Gate. The group will see many of the Armenian churches and important historical buildings such as the Dormition Abbey and the Church of St. Peter. Additionally, participants will walk over the stables of the Israeli Police – the former stables of Jerusalem’s British and Jordanian rulers before 1967.

9:45 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, August 7, 2023

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:00 – 8:30 AM **Welcome and Orientation**
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
Conversation with Yaakov Katz
Author, Journalist, and Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

Ya’akov Katz is the former editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel's most-read English news website and best-selling English newspaper. He previously served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst. He is the author of “Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power” and co-author of two books: “Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower” and “Israel vs. Iran - The Shadow War.” Mr. Katz will provide the delegation with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of Israeli voters at this particular moment in time.

10:00 – 10:15 AM Depart
En route briefing: **Israeli Politics 101**

The guides will provide a brief overview of the parliamentary party system, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics.

10:15 AM Arrive at the Office of the Prime Minister

11:00 AM–12:15 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu**
Prime Minister of the State of Israel
-at the Office of the Prime Minister

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 PM **Strategic Regional Overview**

Briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus

Former International Spokesperson, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

-at Modern

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region. He is the former International Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In this role, he directed and oversaw the implementation of the IDF's international media efforts in traditional and social media. Conricus served in the IDF for 24 years as a combat commander in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, as a military diplomat, foreign relations expert, and international spokesperson.

2:15 PM Depart for Ramallah

Members only / alternative programming for family guests

3:30 – 4:45 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Mahmoud Abbas**

President of The Palestinian Authority

-at the Mukataa, President's Residence, Ramallah

During each member seminar, participants hear from the Palestinian Authority. President Mahmoud Abbas will present the current state of Palestinian Authority Affairs, including the Palestinian perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with Israel and prospects for peace.

4:45 PM Depart

6:15 – 7:00 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid**

Leader of the Opposition, Yesh Atid Party

-at the King David hotel

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th

prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

7:00 – 7:45 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Benny Gantz**
Leader of The National Unity Party
-at the King David hotel

The Honorable Lt. Gen. (Res.) Benny Gantz is an Israeli politician and founder and leader of the National Unity Party, and previously Chairman of the Blue & White Party. In previous governments, Gantz has also served as the Minister of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister, and Alternate Prime Minister. Before entering politics, Gantz served as the IDF Chief of General Staff between 2011-2015. He commanded the IDF when it fought against Palestinian factions in Gaza in Operation Pillar of Defense, and Operation Protective Edge. He began his service in uniform in 1977, and over the years served as commander of a number of elite IDF units and of regional commands, as military attaché in the U.S., and as the Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

7:45 PM Break

8:00 – 9:15 PM **Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords**
Dinner with

- Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah, Bahraini Ambassador to Israel
- Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE Ambassador to Israel
- Abderrahim Beyyoudh, Moroccan Charge d’Affaires to Israel

-at the King David Hotel

Since Israel’s founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive regional peace. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and several Arab states under the Abraham Accords. Participants will hear from the Ambassadors to the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, about the Abraham Accords, and opportunities for regional development and cooperation.

9:15 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:30 – 8:15 AM Breakfast

8:15 – 9:30 AM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the King David Hotel

Since Israel’s founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between

Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

9:45 AM Depart for the South

10:00 – 11:00 AM En route briefing: **Gaza: A Situational Analysis**

This en route briefing will provide an overview of the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The guides will cover Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005, and Israel's efforts to deal with the onslaught of rockets from the terrorist group Hamas, in control of the Gaza Strip since 2007. They will also discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it.

11:30 AM–1:00 PM **Life in The Gaza Periphery**

- Meet with Kibbutz residents
 - Walking survey of Kibbutz
- at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Participants will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire, Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

1:00 – 2:00 PM **A Nation of Resilience**

Lunch with Ayelet Shmuel
Director, Sderot International Resilience Center
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Residents of the Gaza Envelope are consistently exposed to significant trauma due to rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Israel has developed a variety of tools to help its citizens deal with PTSD, including resiliency centers. Ayelet Shmuel, Director of a resiliency center in Sderot will discuss creative solutions available for residents today. The resiliency tools developed in Israel have potential to help populations around the world.

2:00 PM Depart

2:15 – 3:45 PM

**U.S.-Israel Strategic Collaboration:
Missile Defense and Tunnel Detection**

- Visit to Iron Dome Battery
- Briefing on tunnel detection technology

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel’s missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Hamas used underground tunnels to terrorize Israel’s civilian population. On April 16, 2016, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered a new two-kilometers-long, concrete tunnel from the southern part of the Gaza Strip into Israel, near the border between Israel and Egypt. The discovery was made possible through the use of tunnel detection technology. Given the similar threats facing the United States, including on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S.-Mexico border and in various locations in the Middle East, this breakthrough technology holds significant potential for the United States. Participants will be briefed on the latest developments in tunnel detection technology.

3:45 PM Depart

5:45 PM Return to Hotel

7:15 PM Depart

7:30 – 9:15 PM

The Israeli Mosaic

- Ashager Araro, Ethiopian-Israeli Activist and Social Entrepreneur
- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
- Hila Peer, Chairwoman at Aguda,
The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel
-at Zappa

The Israeli Mosaic will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

9:15 PM Depart

9:30 – 10:30 PM **The City of David**
Late-night visit

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

8:15 – 9:15 AM Breakfast
-at the King David hotel

9:15 AM Depart

9:45 AM–12:15 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 2:00 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Isaac Herzog**
President of Israel
-at The President's Residence

Isaac Herzog was elected Israel's eleventh president in June 2021, with 87 votes of the Knesset's 120. He is the first Israeli president who is the son of a former president. His father Chaim Herzog was Israel's sixth president from 1983-1993. Herzog, previously head of the Jewish Agency, is also a former leader of the Labor party from 2013-2017.

2:15 PM Depart

2:45 PM Return to hotel

3:00 – 4:00 PM **Meeting with Stephanie L. Hallett**
Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Israel
-at the King David Hotel

During this lunch briefing, the Chargé d'Affaires will share the U.S. perspective on issues facing the region, including regional threats, and potential for Arab-Israeli cooperation.

4:00 PM Depart

4:15 – 6:15 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem**
Part I: The Historic and Holy Basin

- Robinson's Arch
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

6:15 PM Return to hotel, break

7:45 PM Depart

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel's Contributions to Global Challenges**

- Yotam Polizer, Global CEO, IsraAID
- Sivan Ya'ari, Founder & CEO, Innovation Africa

-at House of Quality

One of the major tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, to “repair the world”. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The delegation will be meeting with global leaders in international non-governmental humanitarian aid, and solar and water technology in Africa.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, August 10, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 AM Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45 AM

A Changing Middle East

Conversation with:

- Ksenia Svetlova
Regional Expert and Director,
Regional Organization for Peace, Economics & Security (ROPES)
- Brigadier General (Res.) Assaf Orion
Regional Expert, Senior Researcher at INSS and
Director of The Diane & Guilford Glazer Israel-China Policy Center
-at the King David Hotel

This session will look at Israel’s engagement in the region, as well as China. Former Member of Knesset Ksenia Svetlova will discuss her efforts to leverage the Abraham Accords to introduce trilateral partnerships (Israeli-Palestinian-regional) in areas such as education and the environment, and to rebuild long-term momentum toward a conflict-ending Middle East agreement. Brigadier General (Res.) Assaf Orion will discuss Israel’s relations with China, and the Jewish State’s efforts to strike the right balance between economy and national security.

9:45 AM Depart

11:15 AM–12:00 PM **Israel’s Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel’s narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel’s population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel’s “silicon valley”, as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel’s narrow waistline.

12:00 PM	Depart
1:15 – 2:45 PM	Lunch -at Tanduka
2:45 PM	Depart
3:00 – 4:00 PM	En route briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel’s center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country. For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In 1948, following Israel’s establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel’s “breadbasket” known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel’s complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel’s Arab citizens. A survey of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel’s Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel’s Supreme Court. The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel. At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs.

4:15 – 6:00 PM	Israel’s Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah in Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing with Miri Eisen ▪ Visit to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel
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Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin is an Israeli security expert, speaking on regional geo-politics and security related issues in the media worldwide. Col. Eisin served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active duty at the rank of full colonel in 2004. Over her twenty-year career in the military, she served as the deputy head of the combat intelligence corps, the personal assistant to the Director of Military intelligence and as the intelligence officer in combat units and research departments. During this briefing she will discuss the threats facing Israel by Hezbollah-controlled Lebanon, including terror tunnels.

Virtually all southern Lebanon is a maze of underground bunkers, rocket-launching sites, and interconnected tunnels built by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization. Hezbollah is the most powerful terrorist organization in the world, stronger than most national armies. They receive around \$700 million annually from Iran, along with advanced weapons, training, and political support. During this visit, the delegation will have the opportunity to go into a Hezbollah tunnel discovered by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), to see firsthand the threat this terrorist army poses to Israel and the region. Hezbollah has created a network of tunnels hundreds of kilometers long to enable terrorists to stage an infiltration attack on military and civilian targets in northern Israel. The IDF conducted Operation Northern Shield between December 2018 and January 2019, to locate and destroy the tunnels. In January 2020, the IDF began installing a series of underground sensors along the northern border to detect any new subterranean tunnels being dug into Israeli territory from Lebanon. Participants will hear from an IDF officer who will guide them through the opening of the tunnel, and share the anti-tunneling technology Israel is using to detect new tunnels.

6:00 PM Depart

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Reflections on the Week**
-at Decks/Pagoda

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

9:00 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

The ancient town of Magdala was established in the Hellenistic Period and grew to a thriving fishing village by the time the Romans invaded the Galilee in 67 AD. Situated on the shores of the Galilee along a major commercial trade route, the Via Maris, and on the way from Nazareth to Capernaum, Magdala was an active city filled with fishermen, shopkeepers and townspeople. Providentially uncovered in 2009, archaeological discoveries indicate the presence of an observant Jewish Community in Magdala, as is evidenced in its First Century Synagogue. This synagogue is one of seven in the world and the best preserved today. In the center of the synagogue archeologists found the Magdala Stone, a discovery they have quoted to be, "one of the most significant finds in the past 50 years." It is in Magdala where Jesus likely taught the multitudes and healed the afflicted including a woman who made her hometown famous, Mary Magdalene.

Friday, August 11, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at Hotel, Dining Room

8:15 AM Depart

8:30 – 10:45 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**

- Mount of Beatitudes
- Primacy of Peter
- Capernaum

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Depart for the Golan Heights

12:00 – 1:30 PM **Northern Border Concerns II: Iran and Russia in Syria**

Strategic survey of the Border with Syria
Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert
-at Mt. Bental

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

1:30 – 3:00 PM **Ethics in the IDF**

Lunch with soldiers from the North
-at Habokrim, Merom Golan

In Israel, military service is mandatory for everyone over the age of 18, with several exceptions. Most Israelis join the army right after high school, and serve for three years. As such, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society. During this lunch, participants will have the chance to meet with several soldiers serving in the northern region, and hear about their experiences in the army. They will discuss the values of the Israel Defense Forces – known as *Ruach Tzahal* (The Spirit of the IDF). This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders.

3:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 – 5:00 PM En route briefing: **Jordanian-Israeli Relations**

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel’s eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Following our briefing on Israel’s border with Syria, our guide will address how threats in the region impact Jordan internally, as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, prepare for Sabbath Dinner

7:30 PM Depart

7:45 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple. The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 12, 2023

6:00 – 6:30 AM **Breakfast on own**
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

6:30 AM Depart

7:00 – 8:00 AM En route briefing: **Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

Our tour guide will spend approximately one hour on the drive from Jerusalem to Masada – including the Jericho road – to discuss the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city’s division that lasted until 1967. Since then, Israel has established the City of Ma’ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma’ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma’ale Adumim’s boundary, into an area known as “E-1”, the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

8:00 – 10:30 AM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world. Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. The delegation will visit the magnificent ancient excavations; learn the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; and discuss the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

10:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea

11:00 AM–12:45 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
Lunch
- at the Herbert Samuel hotel

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding this desert region, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians. For decades, Israel has been developing the agricultural potential of the desert. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist

infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

- 12:45 PM Depart for hotel
- 2:30 PM Return to hotel
- 2:45 PM Depart
- 3:15 – 4:30 PM **Church of the Nativity** (optional)
-Bethlehem

One of the main objectives of the seminar is to provide participants with a deep understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The city of Bethlehem is located just three miles from Jerusalem, and is under full control of the Palestinian Authority. It is separated from Jerusalem by a security barrier and those traveling between Jerusalem and Bethlehem need to pass through a border checkpoint. By visiting Bethlehem, participants witness first-hand Palestinian self-rule. They also observe how the border checkpoint operates – this is especially important because each day thousands of Palestinians enter through such checkpoints on their way to work in Israel. The New Testament identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus, making it one of the most significant religious sites in the world.

- 4:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem
- 5:00 PM Return to hotel
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM **Reflections on the Week: Closing Dinner**
-at the King David Hotel

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

- Evening Flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, August 13, 2023

- All Day Flights arrive in the United States

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Democratic Members of Congress
August 5-13, 2023**

Itinerary

Saturday, August 5, 2023

All Day Flights depart from the United States

Sunday, August 6, 2023

9:55 AM – 8:00 PM Arrivals

- Flights arrive at Ben Gurion Airport
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

1:00 PM Lunch (for early arrivals)

2:00 PM Depart

2:30 – 4:30 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem** (for early arrivals)
Visit to the Old City

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

4:30 PM Return to hotel

7:45 – 8:30 PM Dinner
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:30 PM Depart

8:45 – 9:45 PM **A View from Above: Ramparts Walk around the Old City of Jerusalem**
Walking survey in the Old City

Our guides will lead participants on a walking survey on the south side of the Ramparts in the Old City of Jerusalem, to provide an overview of the history of the Old City, and its significance to the three monotheistic religions. Participants will walk from the Tower of David to the Jewish quarter, crossing Zion Gate and the Armenian quarter before ending at the Dung Gate. The group will see many of the Armenian churches and important historical buildings such as the Dormition Abbey and the Church of St. Peter. Additionally, participants will walk over the stables of the Israeli Police – the former stables of Jerusalem’s British and Jordanian rulers before 1967.

9:45 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, August 7, 2023

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:00 – 8:30 AM **Welcome and Orientation**
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Pulse of The Nation**
Conversation with Yaakov Katz
Author, Journalist, and Former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

Ya’akov Katz is the former editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel's most-read English news website and best-selling English newspaper. He previously served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst. He is the author of “Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power” and co-author of two books: “Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower” and “Israel vs. Iran - The Shadow War.” Mr. Katz will provide the delegation with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of Israeli voters at this particular moment in time.

10:00 – 10:15 AM Depart
En route briefing: **Israeli Politics 101**

The guides will provide a brief overview of the parliamentary party system, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics.

10:15 AM Arrive at the Office of the Prime Minister

11:00 AM–12:15 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu**
Prime Minister of the State of Israel
-at the Office of the Prime Minister

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 PM **Strategic Regional Overview**

Briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus

Former International Spokesperson, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

-at Modern

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region. He is the former International Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In this role, he directed and oversaw the implementation of the IDF's international media efforts in traditional and social media. Conricus served in the IDF for 24 years as a combat commander in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, as a military diplomat, foreign relations expert, and international spokesperson.

2:15 PM Depart for Ramallah

Members only / alternative programming for family guests

3:30 – 4:45 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Mahmoud Abbas**

President of The Palestinian Authority

-at the Mukataa, President's Residence, Ramallah

During each member seminar, participants hear from the Palestinian Authority. President Mahmoud Abbas will present the current state of Palestinian Authority Affairs, including the Palestinian perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with Israel and prospects for peace.

4:45 PM Depart

6:15 – 7:00 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid**

Leader of the Opposition, Yesh Atid Party

-at the King David hotel

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th

prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

7:00 – 7:45 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Benny Gantz**
Leader of The National Unity Party
-at the King David hotel

The Honorable Lt. Gen. (Res.) Benny Gantz is an Israeli politician and founder and leader of the National Unity Party, and previously Chairman of the Blue & White Party. In previous governments, Gantz has also served as the Minister of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister, and Alternate Prime Minister. Before entering politics, Gantz served as the IDF Chief of General Staff between 2011-2015. He commanded the IDF when it fought against Palestinian factions in Gaza in Operation Pillar of Defense, and Operation Protective Edge. He began his service in uniform in 1977, and over the years served as commander of a number of elite IDF units and of regional commands, as military attaché in the U.S., and as the Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

7:45 PM Break

8:00 – 9:15 PM **Fruits of Peace: The Abraham Accords**
Dinner with

- Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah, Bahraini Ambassador to Israel
- Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE Ambassador to Israel
- Abderrahim Beyyoudh, Moroccan Charge d’Affaires to Israel

-at the King David Hotel

Since Israel’s founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive regional peace. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and several Arab states under the Abraham Accords. Participants will hear from the Ambassadors to the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, about the Abraham Accords, and opportunities for regional development and cooperation.

9:15 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:30 – 8:15 AM Breakfast

8:15 – 9:30 AM **Overcoming Obstacles to Peace**
Conversation with Dr. Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the King David Hotel

Since Israel’s founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between

Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

9:45 AM Depart for the South

10:00 – 11:00 AM En route briefing: **Gaza: A Situational Analysis**

This en route briefing will provide an overview of the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The guides will cover Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005, and Israel's efforts to deal with the onslaught of rockets from the terrorist group Hamas, in control of the Gaza Strip since 2007. They will also discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it.

11:30 AM–1:00 PM **Life in The Gaza Periphery**

- Meet with Kibbutz residents
 - Walking survey of Kibbutz
- at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Participants will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire, Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

1:00 – 2:00 PM **A Nation of Resilience**

Lunch with Ayelet Shmuel
Director, Sderot International Resilience Center
-at Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Residents of the Gaza Envelope are consistently exposed to significant trauma due to rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Israel has developed a variety of tools to help its citizens deal with PTSD, including resiliency centers. Ayelet Shmuel, Director of a resiliency center in Sderot will discuss creative solutions available for residents today. The resiliency tools developed in Israel have potential to help populations around the world.

2:00 PM Depart

2:15 – 3:45 PM

**U.S.-Israel Strategic Collaboration:
Missile Defense and Tunnel Detection**

- Visit to Iron Dome Battery
- Briefing on tunnel detection technology

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel’s missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Hamas used underground tunnels to terrorize Israel’s civilian population. On April 16, 2016, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered a new two-kilometers-long, concrete tunnel from the southern part of the Gaza Strip into Israel, near the border between Israel and Egypt. The discovery was made possible through the use of tunnel detection technology. Given the similar threats facing the United States, including on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S.-Mexico border and in various locations in the Middle East, this breakthrough technology holds significant potential for the United States. Participants will be briefed on the latest developments in tunnel detection technology.

3:45 PM Depart

5:45 PM Return to Hotel

7:15 PM Depart

7:30 – 9:15 PM

The Israeli Mosaic

- Ashager Araro, Ethiopian-Israeli Activist and Social Entrepreneur
- Ibrahim Abu Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
- Hila Peer, Chairwoman at Aguda,
The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel
-at Zappa

The Israeli Mosaic will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

9:15 PM Depart

9:30 – 10:30 PM **The City of David**
Late-night visit

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

8:15 – 9:15 AM Breakfast
-at the King David hotel

9:15 AM Depart

9:45 AM–12:15 PM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:15 PM Depart

12:30 – 2:00 PM **Meeting with The Honorable Isaac Herzog**
President of Israel
-at The President's Residence

Isaac Herzog was elected Israel's eleventh president in June 2021, with 87 votes of the Knesset's 120. He is the first Israeli president who is the son of a former president. His father Chaim Herzog was Israel's sixth president from 1983-1993. Herzog, previously head of the Jewish Agency, is also a former leader of the Labor party from 2013-2017.

2:15 PM Depart

2:45 PM Return to hotel

3:00 – 4:00 PM **Meeting with Stephanie L. Hallett**
Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Israel
-at the King David Hotel

During this lunch briefing, the Chargé d'Affaires will share the U.S. perspective on issues facing the region, including regional threats, and potential for Arab-Israeli cooperation.

4:00 PM Depart

4:15 – 6:15 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem**
Part I: The Historic and Holy Basin

- Robinson's Arch
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

6:15 PM Return to hotel, break

7:45 PM Depart

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Innovation Nation: Israel's Contributions to Global Challenges**

- Yotam Polizer, Global CEO, IsraAID
- Sivan Ya'ari, Founder & CEO, Innovation Africa

-at House of Quality

One of the major tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, to “repair the world”. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The delegation will be meeting with global leaders in international non-governmental humanitarian aid, and solar and water technology in Africa.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, August 10, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 AM Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45 AM

A Changing Middle East

Conversation with:

- Ksenia Svetlova
Regional Expert and Director,
Regional Organization for Peace, Economics & Security (ROPES)
- Brigadier General (Res.) Assaf Orion
Regional Expert, Senior Researcher at INSS and
Director of The Diane & Guilford Glazer Israel-China Policy Center
-at the King David Hotel

This session will look at Israel’s engagement in the region, as well as China. Former Member of Knesset Ksenia Svetlova will discuss her efforts to leverage the Abraham Accords to introduce trilateral partnerships (Israeli-Palestinian-regional) in areas such as education and the environment, and to rebuild long-term momentum toward a conflict-ending Middle East agreement. Brigadier General (Res.) Assaf Orion will discuss Israel’s relations with China, and the Jewish State’s efforts to strike the right balance between economy and national security.

9:45 AM Depart

11:15 AM–12:00 PM **Israel’s Narrow Waistline: The Quest for Defensible Borders**
Strategic briefing at Alfei Menashe Overlook

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel’s narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel’s population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel’s “silicon valley”, as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel’s narrow waistline.

12:00 PM	Depart
1:15 – 2:45 PM	Lunch -at Tanduka
2:45 PM	Depart
3:00 – 4:00 PM	En route briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel’s center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country. For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In 1948, following Israel’s establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel’s “breadbasket” known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel’s complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel’s Arab citizens. A survey of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel’s Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel’s Supreme Court. The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel. At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs.

4:15 – 6:00 PM	Israel’s Northern Border Concerns I: Hezbollah in Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing with Miri Eisen ▪ Visit to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel
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Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin is an Israeli security expert, speaking on regional geo-politics and security related issues in the media worldwide. Col. Eisin served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active duty at the rank of full colonel in 2004. Over her twenty-year career in the military, she served as the deputy head of the combat intelligence corps, the personal assistant to the Director of Military intelligence and as the intelligence officer in combat units and research departments. During this briefing she will discuss the threats facing Israel by Hezbollah-controlled Lebanon, including terror tunnels.

Virtually all southern Lebanon is a maze of underground bunkers, rocket-launching sites, and interconnected tunnels built by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization. Hezbollah is the most powerful terrorist organization in the world, stronger than most national armies. They receive around \$700 million annually from Iran, along with advanced weapons, training, and political support. During this visit, the delegation will have the opportunity to go into a Hezbollah tunnel discovered by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), to see firsthand the threat this terrorist army poses to Israel and the region. Hezbollah has created a network of tunnels hundreds of kilometers long to enable terrorists to stage an infiltration attack on military and civilian targets in northern Israel. The IDF conducted Operation Northern Shield between December 2018 and January 2019, to locate and destroy the tunnels. In January 2020, the IDF began installing a series of underground sensors along the northern border to detect any new subterranean tunnels being dug into Israeli territory from Lebanon. Participants will hear from an IDF officer who will guide them through the opening of the tunnel, and share the anti-tunneling technology Israel is using to detect new tunnels.

6:00 PM Depart

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Reflections on the Week**
-at Decks/Pagoda

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

9:00 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Tiberias

The ancient town of Magdala was established in the Hellenistic Period and grew to a thriving fishing village by the time the Romans invaded the Galilee in 67 AD. Situated on the shores of the Galilee along a major commercial trade route, the Via Maris, and on the way from Nazareth to Capernaum, Magdala was an active city filled with fishermen, shopkeepers and townspeople. Providentially uncovered in 2009, archaeological discoveries indicate the presence of an observant Jewish Community in Magdala, as is evidenced in its First Century Synagogue. This synagogue is one of seven in the world and the best preserved today. In the center of the synagogue archeologists found the Magdala Stone, a discovery they have quoted to be, "one of the most significant finds in the past 50 years." It is in Magdala where Jesus likely taught the multitudes and healed the afflicted including a woman who made her hometown famous, Mary Magdalene.

Friday, August 11, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at Hotel, Dining Room

8:15 AM Depart

8:30 – 10:45 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**

- Mount of Beatitudes
- Primacy of Peter
- Capernaum

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Depart for the Golan Heights

12:00 – 1:30 PM **Northern Border Concerns II: Iran and Russia in Syria**

Strategic survey of the Border with Syria
Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman, Northern Border Expert
-at Mt. Bental

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

1:30 – 3:00 PM **Ethics in the IDF**

Lunch with soldiers from the North
-at Habokrim, Merom Golan

In Israel, military service is mandatory for everyone over the age of 18, with several exceptions. Most Israelis join the army right after high school, and serve for three years. As such, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society. During this lunch, participants will have the chance to meet with several soldiers serving in the northern region, and hear about their experiences in the army. They will discuss the values of the Israel Defense Forces – known as *Ruach Tzahal* (The Spirit of the IDF). This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders.

3:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 – 5:00 PM En route briefing: **Jordanian-Israeli Relations**

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel’s eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Following our briefing on Israel’s border with Syria, our guide will address how threats in the region impact Jordan internally, as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, prepare for Sabbath Dinner

7:30 PM Depart

7:45 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Jerusalem families

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple. The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, August 12, 2023

6:00 – 6:30 AM **Breakfast on own**
-at Ambassador Hall, King David Hotel

6:30 AM Depart

7:00 – 8:00 AM En route briefing: **Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor**

Our tour guide will spend approximately one hour on the drive from Jerusalem to Masada – including the Jericho road – to discuss the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city’s division that lasted until 1967. Since then, Israel has established the City of Ma’ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma’ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma’ale Adumim’s boundary, into an area known as “E-1”, the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

8:00 – 10:30 AM **History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire**
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world. Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. The delegation will visit the magnificent ancient excavations; learn the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; and discuss the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

10:30 AM Depart for the Dead Sea

11:00 AM–12:45 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
Lunch
- at the Herbert Samuel hotel

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding this desert region, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians. For decades, Israel has been developing the agricultural potential of the desert. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist

infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

- 12:45 PM Depart for hotel
- 2:30 PM Return to hotel
- 2:45 PM Depart
- 3:15 – 4:30 PM **Church of the Nativity** (optional)
-Bethlehem

One of the main objectives of the seminar is to provide participants with a deep understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The city of Bethlehem is located just three miles from Jerusalem, and is under full control of the Palestinian Authority. It is separated from Jerusalem by a security barrier and those traveling between Jerusalem and Bethlehem need to pass through a border checkpoint. By visiting Bethlehem, participants witness first-hand Palestinian self-rule. They also observe how the border checkpoint operates – this is especially important because each day thousands of Palestinians enter through such checkpoints on their way to work in Israel. The New Testament identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus, making it one of the most significant religious sites in the world.

- 4:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem
- 5:00 PM Return to hotel
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM **Reflections on the Week: Closing Dinner**
-at the King David Hotel

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

- Evening Flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, August 13, 2023

- All Day Flights arrive in the United States