



U.S. House of Representatives

# 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](mailto: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: Juan Vargas
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Larry Cohen OR None   
 b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): Chief of Staff
3. a. Dates: Departure: February 17, 2023 Return: February 26, 2023  
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ OR None
4. Departure City: San Diego, CA Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: US Israel Education Association
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):  
See attached itinerary.

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: 03/22/2023



U.S. House of Representatives

# 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 on the trip *within ten 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 for the trip: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)
2. Travel Destination(s): Israel
3. Date of Departure: February 17, 2023 Date of Return: February 26, 2023
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Juan Vargas

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	\$13,946.70	\$3,762.00	\$1,410.00	\$1,250.25 (security, guide, entrance fees, private rooms)
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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: Heather Johnston Date: March 8, 2023

Name: Heather Johnston Title: Founder & CEO

Organization: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

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

Address: 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 215, Birmingham, AL 35223

Email: heather@usieducation.org Telephone: 205-907-2756

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

1. Name of Traveler: Juan Carlos Vargas
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
US Israel Education Association
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Tel Aviv, Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: 02/17/2023 Date of Return: 02/26/2023  
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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(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.**  
I sit on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and I am frequently involved in complex policy discussions and decisions related to the United States relationship with Israel. The upcoming trip will enhance my first-hand knowledge of the political, diplomatic, economic and cultural factors affecting the complex relationship between our two countries.

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 01/11/2023



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# 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](http://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:  
U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)
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 see attached "Reason for Invite" and "Invited Members" documents.
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: February 17, 2023 Date of return: February 26, 2023
7. a. City of departure: San Diego, CA  
b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel  
c. City of return: Washington D.C.
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:



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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:

**USIEA is leading an advanced educational trip for Members to provide a fact-finding mission relevant to the committee agendas that each are associated with concerning the U.S.-Israel relationship.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_)

c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

Business class is selected for the international flights due to the length of flights and the tour begins upon arrival into Israel. Helicopters will be chartered to transport from Jerusalem to the North to provide an aerial education briefing and in order to avoid holiday traffic.

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):

Approximate cost of meals per day is \$233.53

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

The fact-finding mission to Israel will evaluate purposed and applied peace initiatives and their affect on the lives of Israelis and Palestinians living in the region.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: David Citadel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$430

Reason(s) for Selecting: Selected for high level of security, availability, and central location

Hotel Name: The Setai Sea of Galilee City: Kinneret Cost Per Night: \$590

Reason(s) for Selecting: Selected for high level of security, availability, and central location

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.*



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**COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

**18. Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$13,224.70	\$3,330	\$1,868
For each Accompanying Family Member			
	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	\$987	Entrance fees, meeting rooms, portorage, etc.	
For each Accompanying Family Member			

**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: Heather Johnston Date: January 10, 2023  
 Name: Heather Johnston Title: Founder & Executive Director  
 Organization: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)  
 Address: 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 215, Birmingham, AL 35223  
 Email: heather@usieducation.org Telephone: 205-907-2756

**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](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)



# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Juan Vargas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for February 17 to 26, 2023, sponsored by U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA).

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 the reporting threshold from a single source on the “Travel” schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. That reporting threshold is currently \$415 but is set to adjust in 2023. 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 \$415] 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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,

Handwritten signature of Michael Guest in blue ink.

Michael Guest  
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Susan Wild in blue ink.

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc



U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## U.S. Congressional Tour Israel Itinerary

***Friday, February 17 – Sunday, February 26  
2023***

### **Departure - Friday, February 17, 2023: Travel**

Travel from Washington DC and home districts.

10:45 PM Depart for TLV – UA72 (Flight 1)

11:35 PM Depart for TLV – DL234 (Flight 2)

### **Arrival - Saturday, February 18, 2023: Tel Aviv, Israel / Jerusalem (1.5 hrs.)**

4:30 PM UA72 Arrive - Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (Flight 1)

5:20 PM DL234 Arrive - Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (Flight 2)

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Transfer to Jerusalem

7:00 PM-7:30 PM Check into Hotel

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Welcome Dinner and Orientation - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Description: Explanation of the background and importance of the trip, specifically as it relates to each member's committee assignments, and overview to prepare for the important upcoming meetings.

***Overnight- David Citadel Hotel***

## **Day 1 - Sunday, February 19, 2023: Jerusalem (8 hrs.)**

8:30 AM-9:30 AM Breakfast - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *Overview and Timeline of Israel's History*  
Description: Presentation on history of Israel to set the foundation of the trip and give an understanding of the past cultures, religions, and history, as well as the role the U.S. plays today inside the nation.

9:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for the City of David

10:00 AM-12:00 PM City of David Walking Tour, Jerusalem's Newest Archaeological Site (2 hrs.)

Speaker: Ze'ev Orenstein, Director of International Affairs, City of David Foundation  
Topic: *The Founding of Ancient Jerusalem & The Restoration of Modern Jerusalem*  
Description: A description of the neighborhoods and boundaries today and the strategic locations of landmarks inside each neighborhood. Discussion of military strategy including the many tunnels still located under the modern city and understanding who controls each section.

12:00 PM-1:15 PM Lunch - City of David (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *Jerusalem, also known as the City of David*  
Description: Presentation of history from the original location of the city of Jerusalem and understanding the layout of the modern city today. Discussion of urban development issues and understanding economic consequences of the modern layout inside today's communities.

1:15 PM-1:30 PM Depart for the Davidson Center

1:30 PM-2:45 PM Davidson Center (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *Discovering Ancient Jerusalem and Its Significance Today*  
Description: Educational tour of recent developments in the archaeological center and how each period has affected the nation's disputes still going on today. Also provides a strategic view of the Dome of the Rock with an overview of the violence and conflict erupting there today.

2:45 PM-3:45 PM Walk to the Western Wall, History and Overview on the Walk Over (1 hr.)

Speaker: Chief Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, Chief Rabbi of the Western Wall  
Topic: *Historical Perspectives and Modern Controversies*  
Description: An understanding of the connection to Temple Mount, entry restrictions from the western side, and what lies behind the Wall today. Discuss the impact of

these restrictions, land disputes, and strategic consequences behind each military defending their locations.

3:45 PM-4:00 PM Depart for Hotel

4:00 PM-6:00 PM Rest Time at Hotel / Optional Exploring Old City

6:00 PM-8:00 PM Dinner Briefing at Hotel (2 hrs.)

Speaker: (BG) Assaf Orion, INSS

Topic: *Expert Briefing on Israel - U.S. - China Relations*

Description: Informative and interactive briefing on the current status of Israeli-Chinese relations and how that directly impacts the U.S. Discuss the geopolitical implications of Israel's reliance on China for manufacturing and production capabilities.

*Overnight- David Citadel Hotel*

## **Day 2 - Monday, February 20, 2023: Ariel / Shiloh / Benjamin Region (9.5 hrs.)**

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast on Own at Hotel

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for Ariel, Regional Hub, *Samaria* (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Survey of Demographic Realities, Samaria (Inside the Green Line)*

Description: An understanding of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), the divided land, and co-existence inside the green line.

10:00 AM-11:15 AM Barkan Industrial Park (1 hr.)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce and President of the Integrated Business Roundtable

Topic: *Mutual Investment: Israelis & Palestinians in Joint Business*

Description: An opportunity to see first-hand Palestinians and Israelis working side by side in local factories and to hear from these employees.

11:15 AM-11:30 AM Depart for the National Leadership Center

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Meeting with Minister Smotrich – National Leadership Center (1 hr.)

Speaker: Deputy Minister of Defense Smotrich

Topic: *COGAT & The Vision for Israeli Settlements in the West Bank*

Description: A briefing from the new Israeli Minister appointed over the West Bank discussing the role of COGAT in governing the territories and what needs to be done to

make life easier for the co-existing populations. Also discussing this Israeli governments vision for the Jewish settlements inside the West Bank.

12:30 PM-1:30 PM Lunch - Ron Nachman Pioneer Museum at the National Leadership Center (1 hr.)

Speaker: Eli Shaviro, Mayor of Ariel  
Topic: *Briefing on Ariel as the Capital and Regional Hub of Samaria*  
Description: A history of the modern city of Ariel and its role as the capital of Samaria.

1:30 PM-2:00 PM Tour the National Leadership Center (.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Eran Glazer, Executive Director, Israel's National Leadership Center  
Topic: *A New Generation of Leaders for Israel: Arabs & Jews Training Together*  
Description: The role of the National Leadership Center and the key relationship with the Ministry of Education, the IDF, and the Arabs. A hands-on look at a unique program developing Israel's future leaders. IDF soldiers will be on-site going through Leadership Training skills during the visit.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Shiloh (.5 hr)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *The New BIRD Foundation*  
Description: Discuss the collaborative research success occurring at Ariel University and briefing on ways the U.S. government can work with Israelis under another BIRD-like foundation specifically geared toward life sciences.

2:30 PM-4:00 PM Ancient Shiloh Tour of Archaeological Site (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *Guided walking tour through ancient ruins of Shiloh*  
Description: A look at the city of Shiloh and its recent historical findings through excavation. A look back over history in this region and why the years of hostility still remains today. Can lessons be learned and changes be implemented with the involvement of U.S. leaders?

4:00 PM-4:30 PM Drive to Binyamin Regional Council Municipality

4:30 PM-5:00 PM Binyamin Regional Council Meetings (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce and President of the Integrated Business Roundtable, and Israeli Integrated Business Startup Leaders  
Topic: *Ecological Projects & Joint Business*  
Description: A briefing on new startup technology developed inside the West Bank that treats wastewater to benefit both Israeli and Palestinian populations in the region and how this is furthering peace between the two.

5:00 PM-5:30 PM Depart for Dinner

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner at Psagot Winery, Debrief Integrated Business Opportunities (1 hr.)

7:00 PM-8:00 PM Depart for Hotel

*Overnight- David Citadel Hotel*

### **Day 3 - Tuesday, February 21, 2023: Jerusalem (7 hrs.)**

8:00 AM-9:15 AM Breakfast - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1 hr.)

Speaker: UAE Ambassador to Israel Mohamed Mahmoud Al Khaja  
Topic: *The Abraham Accords as a Staging Ground for U.S. Life Sciences*  
Description: Presentation on the Abraham Accords nations as a viable alternative to China for major U.S. pharmaceutical and life sciences production. The Ambassador will discuss the unique role the UAE could play in conjunction with Israel to secure American interests.

9:15 AM-9:45 AM Depart for the Temple Mount

9:45 AM-10:45 AM Temple Mount (1 hr.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *The Peace Process: Cultural and Religious Impacts*  
Description: A look at the Temple Mount, Jordan's involvement, the entrances, and security issues erupting today. A discussion around how this affects US citizens traveling to Israel now and in the future.

10:45 AM-12:00 PM Guided Overview through the Old City of Jerusalem (1 hr.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *Understanding Jerusalem's Complexities*  
Description: Briefing and discussion throughout the four quarters and understanding the history dating back 3000 years and why it is still the most fought over city culturally, religiously, and historically. Discussion on how the local government plans to resolve current issues and the impact it has on the US.

12:00 PM-12:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel

12:15 PM-1:45 PM Lunch Briefing with Israeli Health Tech Industry Leaders - King David Hotel (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Jon Medved, CEO of OurCrowd, and CEOs of Health Tech Startups  
Topic: *Israel as a Staging Ground for U.S. Nearshoring*

Description: An interactive briefing on the desire coming out of the Israeli health industry to have access to an FDA bureau in Israel. This would in turn benefit the U.S. by expediting Israeli items to the U.S. market and therefore diversifying and fortifying American supply chains.

1:45 PM-2:00 PM Depart for Mt. of Olives

2:00 PM-3:30 PM Mt. of Olives, Overlook of Jerusalem (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Peace between West and East Jerusalem*

Description: A detailed understanding of the neighborhoods located inside of East Jerusalem, understanding the division between East and West Jerusalem, and the road to peace.

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Garden of Gethsemane Walk Through

4:00 PM-4:30 PM Depart for Hotel

4:30 PM-5:15 PM Hotel – Change and Prepare for Prime Minister Meeting

5:15 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Private Meeting with Israel's Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office (1 hr.)

Speaker: Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Topic: *Briefing on the U.S.-Israel Relationship*

Description: A time for the members to ask pertinent questions of the Prime Minister on Israel's internal affairs, status in the region, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and major points of interest in the U.S.-Israel relationship.

7:00 PM-7:30 PM Depart for Dinner

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Dinner at Mamilla Hotel, Meeting Debrief (1 hr.)

Description: Major outcomes and takeaways from briefing with the Prime Minister and how this will shape the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship moving forward.

9:00 PM Depart for Hotel

*Overnight- David Citadel Hotel*

#### **Day 4 - Wednesday, February 22, 2023: Jerusalem / Hebron (7.5 hrs.)**

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for Hebron (1.5 hr.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *History of Judea & Modern Geopolitical Dynamics*  
Description: Understanding the difference in the security threat to the southern region of the West Bank inside the green line.

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *Israeli-Palestinian Integrated Business & The Role of the U.S. Government*  
Description: Presentation on the formation of legitimized integrated business inside of the West Bank and how the U.S. government is already involved in this peace process.

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Hebron Regional Center (1 hr.)

Speaker: Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum, Hebron Director of Tourism  
Topic: *Hebron as the Home of the Patriarchs & its Role in the U.S.-Israel Relationship*  
Description: An up-close look at the changes this city is undergoing due to the current disputes, violence, and claims to control over Hebron and the location of the nation's patriarchs.

11:00 AM-11:30 AM Drive through Hebron (.5 hr)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Description: Continued discussion on Hebron and the growing threat in this region.

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Private Meeting with Ashraf Jabari and Palestinian Business Leaders (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman and Ashraf Jabari, Co-Founders of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce, and other Palestinian Business Leaders  
Topic: *Integrated Business Inside the West Bank*  
Description: Providing first-hand accounts of integrated business inside the West Bank and its future, specifically as it relates to the Palestinian population and their government.

1:00 PM-1:30 PM Depart for Lunch

1:30 PM-3:00 PM Lunch at Gush Etzion Winery

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 PM-5:30 PM Guided Tour through the Different Religious Sectors in Jerusalem (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *Understanding the Many Religious Sides of Jerusalem*  
Description: Presentation on the intersection of three major world religions in Jerusalem and how this not only affects the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is also a special point

of interest for the rest of the world. Understanding the different arguments for land rights in Jerusalem based on religion.

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Hotel

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1.5 hrs.)

Speaker: Tom Nides, U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Topic: *The U.S.-Israel Relationship*

Description: A discussion led by the U.S. Administration official on the United States' role and relationship with Israel. A look at how Executive and Congressional support can overlap.

*Overnight- David Citadel Hotel*

### **Day 5 - Thursday, February 23, 2023: Jerusalem / Galilee (6 hrs.)**

7:00 AM-8:00 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own at Hotel

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Press Time, David Citadel Hotel

8:30 AM-9:30 AM Briefing with Israel's Minister of Defense - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1 hr.)

Speaker: Yoav Gallant, Minister of Defense

Topic: *Understanding the Current Dynamics of Middle East Security*

Description: A briefing on recent developments inside Israel's defense on all military fronts.

9:45 AM-11:00 AM Continued Defense Briefing - David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1 hr.)

Speaker: Moshe Patel, Head of IMDO at Israel's Ministry of Defense

Topic: *U.S.-Israel Military Technology Cooperation*

Description: Presentation on Israel's new military technology, how it pertains to the United States, and the unique roles of the two governments and defense moving forward.

11:00 AM-11:30 AM Depart for lunch

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Lunch at Karma in Ein Karem

12:30 PM-12:45 PM Depart for Helicopter Pad in Ein Karem

1:00 PM-5:00 PM Helicopter Rides to the North (4 hrs.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide (2 hrs.)

Topic: *Ariel Briefing on Israel's Borders*

Description: A briefing from the air to effectively view and assess all of Israel's strategic borders and the challenges faced on each front. This will include a briefing over

the Golan, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian borders as well as a sea vantage point from the Mediterranean.

**Speaker:** Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association at Rafael Industries (1 hr.)

**Topic:** *Emerging Missile Defense and Military Technology*

**Description:** Presentation from one of Israel's top defense industry leaders on emerging military technology that could benefit the U.S. military.

**Speaker:** Ilan Shulman, IDF Intelligence Officer, at Mt. Bental (1 hr.)

**Topic:** *Israel's Syrian Border*

**Description:** Presentation on the security situation at Israel's Syrian border, including the implications of a Russian presence and how that affects current geopolitical dynamics.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM Drive to Hotel

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Check into Hotel

7:00 PM-8:30 PM Dinner on Own at the Setai Hotel

*Overnight- The Setai Hotel*

## **Day 6 - Friday, February 24, 2023: Galilee Region (6 hrs.)**

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast on Own

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Presentation on the Galilee Region - Setai Hotel, Private Room (1.5 hrs.)

**Speaker:** Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

**Topic:** *The History of the Galilee*

**Description:** Teaching on the historical, political, and spiritual background of the unique Galilee region and its importance in modern context.

10:00 AM-10:30 AM Depart for Kinneret Innovation Center and Explore Galilee Region (.5 hr.)

**Speaker:** Roni Stern, Professional Guide

**Topic:** *Briefing on Agriculture in the North*

**Description:** A precursor to the briefing at KIC on Israel's agricultural challenges and how the nation has created a "startup" culture around agriculture technology.

10:30 AM-12:00 PM Briefing at the Kinneret Innovation Center (1.5 hrs.)

**Speaker:** Elad Shamir, CEO KIC

**Topic:** *Technology Development in the Galilee*

Description: Presentation on several thriving tech companies in the Galilee region that are forging the future in agriculture research and development.

12:00 PM-12:30 PM Depart for Lunch – Continued Discussion on Agriculture Technology as Seen in the Galilee (.5 hr.)

12:30 PM-1:30 PM Lunch at Magdalena

1:30 PM-3:00 PM Magdala Archeological Site (1 hrs.)

Speaker: Magdala Professional Guide

Topic: *Israel's Recent Archeological Discoveries & Ancient Ruins of Magdala*

Description: Presentation on archaeological findings dating back several thousand years and what these findings disclose about Israel's history and its role in the ancient world.

3:00 PM-3:30 PM Depart for Boat Ride

3:30 PM -5:00 PM Boat Ride

5:00 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Hotel (1 hr.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide

Topic: *Continued Briefing on Agriculture in the North*

Description: A follow up to the lunch briefing on Israel's agricultural challenges and how the nation has created a "startup" culture around agriculture technology.

6:00 PM Dinner on Own, The Setai Hotel

*Overnight- The Setai Hotel*

### **Day 7 – Saturday, February 25, 2023: Galilee Region / Tel Aviv (7 hrs.)**

9:00 AM-10:00 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check out / Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Morning Meeting (1.5 hrs)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Chief of Staff, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Debrief of the Congressional Tour with a Look to the Future*

Description: Discussion on major points of education on the tour, how these points specifically pertain to the members' role in the U.S. government, and how this information will impact the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Tour around Galilee Region (1.5 hrs)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *The Galilee Region in Contrast to the West Bank*  
Discussion: Discussion on the difference between traveling and life in Israel proper from the situation inside of the West Bank. A look at how Israeli life differs significantly depending on geographic location.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Mt. Carmel – Picnic Lunch on Bus (1 hr)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *Overview of Israel's Northern Region*  
Description: Presentation weaving together previous day's education to display the unique situation of Israel's northern region with agriculture and security.

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Mt. Carmel (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association  
Topic: *Strategic Vantage Point and Overlook of the Northern Region*  
Discussion: Presentation on the historical viewpoints on this location and how it serves as another strategic security point for Israel in its northern regional dynamics.

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Depart for Caesarea

4:30 PM-5:30 PM Ancient Archeological Park Caesarea, Walking Tour (1 hr.)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide  
Topic: *Ancient Caesarea & Israel's Sea Border*  
Description: Presentation on the history of ancient Caesarea and the importance of Israel's ports and waterfront for trade and security.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM Walk around Caesarea

6:00 PM-8:00 PM Farewell Dinner - Helena Restaurant, Private Room (1 hr.)

Topic: *Members Debrief*  
Description: Final discussion and overview of trip. Members highlight major focus points for U.S. government interests and actionable outcomes moving forward.

8:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport

9:00 PM Ben Gurion Airport, Departure Check-In

11:55 PM Depart for USA – DL235 (Flight 1)

### **Arrive Home- Sunday, May 8, 2022: Travel**

12:20 AM Depart for USA – UA73 (Flight 2)

All Flights Land in USA



U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# ISRAEL 2023

FEBRUARY 17 - 26

INFORMATION PACKET



# ITINERARY OVERVIEW

**ISRAEL 2023 | FEBRUARY 18 - 26**

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\*In depth itinerary with briefings and meetings will be submitted with Ethics documents\*

## DAY 1: JERUSALEM

City of David | Southern Steps | Western Wall | Dinner with U.S. Ambassador Nides

## DAY 2: SAMARIA

Briefing with Civil Administration Leaders | City of Ariel | Integrated Business Visit  
National Leadership Center | Shiloh

## DAY 3: JERUSALEM

Briefing on American-Israeli-Chinese Relations | Briefing with Israeli Health Industry  
Leaders Pools of Bethesda | Garden of Gethsemane  
Private Briefing with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

## DAY 4: JERUSALEM & JUDEA

Hebron | Tombs of the Patriarchs | Gush Etzion Winery | Garden Tomb  
Palestinian Integrated Business Meetings | Private Briefing with Minister of Defense

## DAY 5: JERUSALEM & GOLAN HEIGHTS

Classified Defense Briefing with IMDO | Helicopter from Jerusalem to Golan Heights  
Rafael Industries Military Technology Briefing | Mt. Bental Syrian Briefing

## DAY 6: GALILEE REGION

Capernaum | Magdala | Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee  
Kinneret Innovation Center Agriculture Technology Briefing

## DAY 7: GALILEE REGION, CAESAREA, & TEL AVIV

Mt. Carmel | Caesarea | Farewell Dinner | Tel Aviv

# DAILY ATTIRE

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\*Note: Shoulders and knees must be covered when attending holy sites and official meetings

## **DEPART USA: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Comfortable travel attire

## **ARRIVE ISRAEL - TEL AVIV: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

Comfortable travel attire (70°F / 46°F)

## **DAY 1 - JERUSALEM: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Casual attire with comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat (61°F / 43°F)

## **DAY 2 - SAMARIA: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Business casual attire - bring comfortable walking shoes (62°F / 39°F)

## **DAY 3 - JERUSALEM: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Business casual attire with comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat (57°F / 40°F)

Prime Minister meeting - business professional attire

## **DAY 4 - JERUSALEM & JUDEA: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

Casual attire with comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat (60°F / 42°F) (48°F / 38°F)

Dinner - business casual attire

## **DAY 5 - JERUSALEM & GALILEE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Business casual attire - bring comfortable walking shoes (59°F / 41°F) (63°F / 41°F)

## **DAY 6 - GALILEE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

Casual attire with comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat (60°F / 43°F)

## **DAY 7 - GALILEE & TEL AVIV : SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Casual attire with comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat (60°F / 41°F)

Depart Israel - Tel Aviv (64°F / 42°F)

## **ARRIVE USA: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS DO I NEED?

You must have a valid passport with an expiration date less than 6 months prior to your return date. It is recommended you travel with a COVID vaccine card, although it is not currently required to enter Israel. No visas are necessary for individuals with U.S. or Canadian passports. Keep your passport with you at all times.

## PASSPORTS

**Do not pack your passport and airline ticket in your luggage.** Photocopies and a couple of passport-type photos can help you get replacements more quickly if the originals are lost or stolen. Carry photocopies separately in your luggage and keep the originals with you. Also, leave a copy of your passport at home.

## ARE ANY SHOTS OR VACCINATIONS REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL TO ISRAEL?

No vaccines are required at this time to enter Israel.

## WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE IN ISRAEL?

Israel provides a great selection of meat, fish, vegetables, fruits and desserts. The food is great!

## CAN WE DRINK THE WATER?

Yes, the water in Israel is safe — especially at our hotels. For the most part, you don't have to worry about water or food. If you are unsure or want to play it safe, you can buy bottled water.

## WILL MY ELECTRIC APPLIANCES WORK IN ISRAEL?

The electric current in Israel is 220-volt A.C., single phase, 50 cycles, which requires special adapter plugs with round prongs. If you take appliances (hair dryer, electric razor, etc.) that are suitable for both 110 and 220 volts, you will need a set of adapter plugs. If your appliance is for 110 volts only, you will also need a converter. Please check your appliance before going to verify its voltage. Don't assume that it will work unless it clearly indicates that it will run on 220 volts.

## PREPARATION

In preparation for the trip, we recommend that you walk, get some sun, and drink extra water. Dehydration is a big concern, so start drinking extra water early. We recommend drinking at least 2-3 bottles a day while you are there. Dehydration begins on the plane. In addition, we recommend that you stop drinking caffeine 24 hours before you leave and stick to water and juices on the plane — this will also help with jet lag.

## CUSTOMS

U.S. residents returning from countries other than the Caribbean countries or U.S. insular possession are entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption. The next \$1,000 worth of the goods purchased is subject to a flat rate of 3%. If the value exceeds \$1,800, the remaining duty will be determined based on duty rates in the harmonized tariff schedule, which are generally between 0-10% (except for clothing and textiles, which can be much higher, up to 25%).

## PHONE/INTERNET

To call Israel from the U.S. dial 011 + 972 (Israel's country code) + local area code number (single digit number; delete 0 if it appears before a number such as 02 for Jerusalem would be just 2) + local number.

Rates to Israel from the U.S. vary greatly. To avoid unpleasant surprises, have your family and friends check with their long-distance carriers before calling and ask the rate they will charge you for a call to an Israeli cell phone. Many carriers have international options that will give lower rates.

**To call the U.S. from Israel**, dial 00 + 1 (U.S. country code) + area code + local number.

**Wi-Fi is available at each hotel. You can use FaceTime for free if connected to Wi-Fi. We also recommend What's App for calls and texts through Wi-Fi.**

## MONEY

While all of your trip expenses are covered, if you would like to shop, it's important to have an alternative cash source in case one money method doesn't work. We recommend bringing at least two of the following money options:

- Debit/ATM card
- Credit card
- Cash

We strongly recommend that you bring at least one **ATM debit card**. To use your card overseas, it must have a Cirrus or Plus symbol on the back. You also need to know your four-digit PIN code. Many Israeli machines do not accept longer codes and may not have alphabetical equivalents marked. Check with your bank for overseas transaction fees and daily withdrawal limits before you leave. It is important to alert your bank or credit card company that you will be traveling overseas so that they do not put a hold on your card!

A Visa or MasterCard credit card also offers excellent exchange rates as well as important fraud protection. Use your credit card for hotels, meals, souvenirs, and other major expenses. While many credit cards can also be used for "cash advances" at ATMs, steep interest rates and fees make this an option for emergencies only. (Before you leave, get a 4-digit PIN code for your card just in case, and find out about fees and interest charges.) As at home, save all receipts until you can verify your statement.

**Although credit cards and ATMs are widely used throughout Israel, we recommend that you bring an emergency stash of cash (in U.S. dollars) as a backup for those rare times when your card is eaten, the computers are down, or you simply can't find the right type of ATM.**

**Getting foreign currency before you go:** It is unnecessary for you to convert dollars to shekels before you go. Most merchants accept the dollar and will give you change back in shekels. Shekels can also be obtained through ATM's and exchange booths.

**Current exchange rate:** 1 U.S. Dollar = 3.25 Israeli Shekel

## **PICKPOCKET WARNING**

Be careful in crowds. Watch for distraction tactics such as dropped coins, “accidental” spills, and cute little kids who seem too friendly! Thieves thrive on fresh-off-the-plane tourists. Keep your hands on your bags and sling your daypack across the front of your person.

## **TIME CHANGE**

The time change from Eastern Standard Time to Israel is +7 hours.

## **PACKING**

- Pack versatile, comfortable clothing that you can layer. Pack a light jacket or sweater. While daytime temperatures should be fairly pleasant for winter, evenings can be cold and dry, especially at higher elevations such as Jerusalem.
- Most churches and orthodox holy sites require respectful dress. This generally means shoulders and knees must be covered for both men and women. On days that we visit these sites, we will warn you to dress accordingly. Women can use a scarf to cover the head and/or shoulders.
- If you like to use a washcloth—bring your own! Israeli hotels often do not provide them. Hint: purchase a 15-pack of inexpensive ones at Walmart or Target. These can be thrown away as you go.
- **Do NOT pack your passport or airline ticket in your luggage.**
- Pack a tote bag or backpack for personal items to carry around during the day.
- Pack comfortable walking shoes/sandals, as well as wicking socks.
- Be sure to pack a Bible and journal for our time at the Holy Sites. Bring extra pens too.
- Pack a swim suit.

## **LAUNDRY**

We will be keeping you busy every day, and you will not have time to do your own laundry except in your hotel room. Laundry can be sent out, but you must make sure there is enough time to get it back before we pack up and leave. Bring clothing that can be washed in your hotel room and will dry quickly.

## **PRESCRIPTIONS**

If you have medical prescriptions, you must pack them in the original containers and carry them on the plane with you. Request your local pharmacy to complete their standard travel form that states that these medicines are prescribed by your doctor. Bring this form with you in case you are questioned.

# HOTEL INFORMATION

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## **JERUSALEM**

### **DAVID CITADEL HOTEL**

King David 7 St.

Jerusalem 9410119, Israel

Tel: 02-621-2121 (dialing from Israel)

Tel: 011-972-2-621-2121 (dialing from U.S.)

## **SEA OF GALILEE**

### **THE SETAI**

Tzeelon Beach

1290005 Sea of Galilee, Israel

Tel: 04-843-2222 (dialing from Israel)

Tel: 011-972-4-843-2222 (dialing from U.S.)

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Julie Escue, USIEA Director of Tours**

**US Cell: +1-256-225-3245**

**[julie@usieducation.org](mailto:julie@usieducation.org)**



## U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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### **Rep. Juan Vargas California Congressional District 52**

Congressman Vargas was invited to attend the USIEA Congressional Delegation to Israel because of his relevant committee assignments and leadership in the House. He is currently serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### Committee Assignments:

##### Foreign Affairs Committee

- Middle East North Africa Subcommittee
- Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration, and International Economic Policy

##### Financial Services Committee

- Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Global Markets Subcommittee

#### Relevant Caucus Assignments:

New Democrat Coalition

Congressional Progressive Caucus



## U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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September 25, 2022

Dear Congressman Vargas,

I would like to extend an invitation to you and a guest to join us for an innovative tour to Israel **February 17-26, 2023**. U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA) leads Congressional Delegations on advanced fact-finding missions for Senior Members. These tours travel through Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and investigate the prominent demographic issues related to security and economy. You will meet the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who are forging an integrated economic development plan as well as engage directly with Israel's top leaders in government, business, defense, and technology.

This privately sponsored trip will provide all meals, accommodations, and travel expenses. A private security staff will escort the tour for the length of your time in Israel. The number of tour participants is intentionally limited to maintain an atmosphere that strengthens relationships and encourages participation in dialogue related to your committee assignments and areas of expertise.

To accept our invitation, your office is required to submit travel documents to Congressional Ethics for approval. If you wish to accept our invitation, we kindly ask that you begin the submission process now with our office in order to make reservations and organize necessary travel arrangements.

We would be honored to have you join us on this unforgettable trip.

Every Blessing,

Heather Johnston  
Founder & Executive Director  
U.S. Israel Education Association