

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. 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: Alice Johnson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: May 24, 2025 Return: June 1, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Atlanta Destination: Israel Return City: Atlanta
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Met with Members of the Knesset regarding relationship with US; met with Defense leaders to learn about the current state of war against Hamas, Hezbollah, and Syria; met with State leaders to discuss dynamics of Israeli Palestine relationship
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 employee; **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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 6/13/25

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Austin Scott Date: 6/13/25

Signature of Supervising Member: 

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: May 24, 2025 Date of Return: June 1, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Alice Johnson

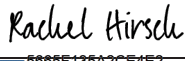
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

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	\$9,923.88	\$2,347.03	\$1,447.25	\$4,461.09
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:  Date: 6/11/2025 | 14:50 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundatoin, 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) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@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.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

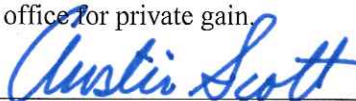
1. Name of Traveler: Alice Johnson
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc (AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: May 24, 2025 Date of Return: June 1, 2025
b. Yes No Will 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, invitation, 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 Chief of Staff for Rep Austin Scott, this educational seminar will allow me to have a more in depth understanding of our government's relationship with Israel and how we can best partner on issues where he currently serves in the House Armed Services and House Agriculture Committee.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: _____

4/24/25

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’s website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc.
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, services, or in-kind assistance 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: May 24, 2025 Date of Return: June 1, 2025
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.
 b. Destination(s): 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. _____

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among other things, 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 in Israel)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

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 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): \$176.00

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
The trip is in Israel to educate senior congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Hotel Name: King David Hotel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$369.00
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Sheraton Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$439.00
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Magdala Hotel City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$356.00
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

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.*

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	\$10,533.33	\$2,640.00	\$1,232.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

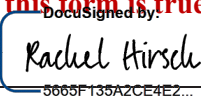
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$3,919.33	Breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

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: 4/21/2025 | 11:37 EDT
DocuSigned by: Rachel Hirsch 3663F135A2CE4E2...
 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

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

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 24-June 1, 2025

Addendum

4. Name of Travelers

1. Jeff Bishop, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Jefferson Shreve (R-IN)
2. Reid Dagul, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Ben Cline (R-VA)
3. Andrew David, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Clay Higgins (R-LA)
4. Laura Engquist, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Troy Balderson (R-OH)
5. Jason Fischer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Randy Fine (R-FL)
6. Alice Johnson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Austin Scott (R-GA)
7. Karen Kelly, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Harold Rogers (R-KY)
8. Lauren Muglia, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Scott Perry (R-PA)
9. Andrew Renteria, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Dave Valadao (R-CA)
10. Ella Sullins, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Dale Strong (R-AL)
11. Charlie Truxal, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Kat Cammack (R-FL)
12. Nikki Wallace, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Michael Simpson (R-ID)
13. Bryan Wheat, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Celeste Maloy (R-UT)

5. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	\$1,563.39
Speaker Fees	\$860.78
Room Rentals and Setup	\$526.21
Hotels for contract staff	\$468.83
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$364.33
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$326.24
Airport Assistance	\$148.06
Miscellaneous	\$93.09
Entrance Fees	\$39.05
Photography	\$36.96
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$34.15
Total per participant	\$4,461.09

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 24-June 1, 2025

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As senior congressional staff to member of Congress, 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 congressional on events throughout the region by providing on-the-ground context.

1. Jeff Bishop, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Jefferson Shreve (R-IN)
2. Reid Dagul, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Ben Cline (R-VA)
3. Andrew David, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Clay Higgins (R-LA)
4. Laura Engquist, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Troy Balderson (R-OH)
5. Jason Fischer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Randy Fine (R-FL)
6. Alice Johnson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Austin Scott (R-GA)
7. Karen Kelly, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Harold Rogers (R-KY)
8. Mike Martin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Mark Alford (R-MO)
9. Lauren Muglia, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Scott Perry (R-PA)
10. Andrew Renteria, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Dave Valadao (R-CA)
11. Ella Sullins, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Dale Strong (R-AL)
12. Charlie Truxal, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Kat Cammack (R-FL)
13. Nikki Wallace, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Michael Simpson (R-ID)
14. Bryan Wheat, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Celeste Maloy (R-UT)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	\$1,333.33
Speaker Fees	\$1,000.00
Hotels for contract staff	\$400.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$320.00
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$300.00
Room Rentals and Setup	\$266.67
Airport Assistance	\$133.33
Miscellaneous	\$66.67
Photography	\$33.33
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$26.67
Entrance Fees	\$26.00
Tips	\$13.33
Total per participant=	\$3,919.33

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 24 – June 1, 2025**

Saturday, May 24, 2025

8:10 AM	United Airlines #5386 departs Boise for Wallace
11:52 AM	American Airlines #5800 departs Harrisburg for Muglia
12:47 PM	American Airlines #5800 arrives Philadelphia for Muglia
12:50 PM	United Airlines #5386 arrives Chicago for Wallace
2:25 PM	United Airlines #580 departs Chicago for Wallace
3:20 PM	Amtrak #168 departs Washington, D.C. for Truxal
3:30 PM	Delta Airlines #2595 departs Atlanta for Johnson
3:50 PM	American Airlines #1421 departs DCA for David, Engquist, Kelly, Renteria, Sullins, Wheat
4:05 PM	American Airlines #2255 departs Philadelphia for Muglia
5:00 PM	Delta Airlines #5713 departs DCA for Dagul
5:25 PM	American Airlines #1421 arrives Boston for David, Engquist, Kelly, Renteria, Sullins, Wheat
5:30 PM	Delta Airlines #1035 departs Jacksonville for Fischer
5:32 PM	American Airlines #2255 arrives Boston for Muglia
6:00 PM	American Airlines #4389 departs Philadelphia for Bishop
6:03 PM	United Airlines #1421 arrives Boston for Wallace
6:14 PM	Delta Airlines #2595 arrives Boston for Johnson
6:21 PM	Amtrak #168 arrives Newark for Truxal
6:39 PM	Delta Airlines #5713 arrives JFK for Dagul

7:24 PM American Airlines #4389 arrives Boston for Bishop

8:04 PM Delta Airlines #1035 arrives JFK for Fischer

11:50 PM El Al Airlines #116 departs Boston for Bishop, David, Engquist, Johnson, Kelly, Muglia, Renteria, Sullins, Wallace, Wheat

11:50 PM El Al Airlines #8 departs JFK for Dagul, Fischer

11:50 PM El Al Airlines #26 departs Newark for Truxal

Sunday, May 25, 2025

4:50 PM El Al Airlines #116 arrives Tel Aviv for Bishop, David, Engquist, Johnson, Kelly, Muglia, Renteria, Sullins, Wallace, Wheat

5:10 PM El Al Airlines #8 arrives Tel Aviv for Dagul, Fischer

5:15 PM El Al Airlines #26 arrives Tel Aviv for Truxal

5:30 PM Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 8:30 PM **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**
-at Kedma Bakikar

8:45 PM Depart

9:00 – 10:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The City of David**
Visit to archeological excavation site
-at the City of David, Jerusalem

10:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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

Monday, May 26

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
with Efrat Shapira Rosenberg
Media Figure, Content Director, Beit Avi Chai Foundation
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 9:45 AM Depart
- 10:15 AM –12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: The Holy Basin**
Guided visit through the Old City of Jerusalem
- 12:45 –1:45 PM Lunch
-at Luciana
- 1:45 PM Depart for Yad Vashem
- 2:30 – 4:30 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part I: The Significance of the Holocaust**
Guided visit at Yad Vashem,
The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- 4:45 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 5:30-6:45 PM **Navigating the Middle East: Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 7:15 PM Depart for Dinner
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM **The Israeli Mosaic**
-at Te'amim, Shuk Mahane Yehuda
- 9:45 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, May 27

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM **Israel's Quest for Peace**
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

10:00 –11:00 AM	Israeli Politics 101 With Prof. Netta Barak Corren Legal Scholar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
11:00 AM	Depart for the Knesset
11:30 –12:30 PM	Israeli Democracy in Action, Part I: The Coalition Meeting with The Honorable Amir Ohana Speaker of the Knesset, Likud Party -at the Knesset
12:30 –1:15 PM	Israeli Democracy in Action, Part II: The Opposition Meeting with The Honorable Yorai Lahav-Hertzanu Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party -at the Knesset
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Lunch at the Knesset
2:30 PM	Visit the Plenary
3:00 PM	Depart for Mount Herzl Military Cemetery
3:15 – 4:30 PM	The Israeli Psyche, Part II: The Price of War Learn about the role of fallen soldiers in Israeli society -at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery
5:00 PM	Depart for hotel
5:30 – 6:30 PM	The Significance of the US-Israel Relationship With the Honorable Stephanie Hallett Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Israel -at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem
7:00 PM	Depart for dinner

- 7:30 – 9:00 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**
Dinner with Political advisors
- Maayan Samun
Advisor, The Honorable Yuli Edelstein, Member of the Knesset,
Likud Party
 - Ariel Segal
Advisor, The Honorable Yair Lapid, Head of the opposition and
Chair, Yesh Atid Party
 - Sharon Weinstein
Advisor, The Honorable Sharren Haskel, Member of the Knesset,
New Hope Party
- at 1868 restaurant
- 9:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, May 28

- 7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:00 – 8:45 AM **October 7: How It Happened**
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
- 9:00 AM Depart for Gaza Envelope
- 9:30 –10:00 AM **Enroute Briefing: The History of Gaza, 1948-October 6**
- 11:00 AM –12:45 PM **October 7, Part I: The Kibbutzim**
Visit and briefing at Kibbutz Nir Oz
With Nir Metzger, Kibbutz Nir Oz resident
-at Kibbutz Nir Oz
- 12:45 PM Depart
- 1:00 –1:30 PM **October 7, Part II: The Nova Party**
Visit the site of the music festival massacre
-at Reim Forest
- 1:30 PM Depart
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM Lunch
-at Haimos
- 3:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:30 – 6:00 PM **Bring Them Home**
Visit to Hostage Square

6:00 PM Depart for hotel

6:30 PM Check in to the Sheraton hotel, Tel Aviv

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Citizen-Soldiers: The IDF's Impact on Israeli Society**
Dinner with IDF Reservists
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, May 29

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

8:30 – 9:30 AM **The West Bank: A Situational Assessment**
Briefing by Dr. Michael Milshtein
Head of the Palestinian Studies Forum, Tel Aviv University
-at Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

9:45 – 10:45 AM **Shared Society in Times of Crisis**
Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmed
Arab Israeli Activist and Writer
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

11:00 AM **Depart**

11:00 – 11:30 PM **Enroute Briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee**

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing
-at Alfei Menashe overlook

12:30 PM Depart for Lunch

12:45-1:30 PM Lunch
-at Yulek Café

1:45 PM Depart for Kibbutz Malkia

1:45 – 2:45 PM **Enroute briefing: History of Hezbollah**

4:30 – 5:30 PM **Israel’s Northern Front: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Citizens in the line of Fire, The Northern displaced communities
Briefing with Lt. Col (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
-at Kibbutz Malkia

5:30 – 6:30 PM **The Civilian Impact of Hezbollah’s War on Israel**
Briefing and overlook with Boaz Perri, Kibbutz Malkia resident
-at Kibbutz Malkia

6:30 PM Depart

7:30 PM Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

8:00 PM Depart for Dinner

8:15 – 9:45 PM Dinner
-at Decks restaurant

9:45 PM Overnight at Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

8:15 AM Depart

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

- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Capernaum

10:30 AM Depart for Merom Golan

11:15 – 12:15 PM **Israel’s Northern Front: The New Syria**
Strategic briefing with Maj. Ilan Shulman
Northern border expert and resident
-at the Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights

12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch -at the Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights
1:15 PM	Depart
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Overlook of Syria With Maj. Ilan Shulman -Quneitra overlook
2:15 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
5:30 – 6:30 PM	A Palestinian Voice Post-October 7 Meeting with Bashar Azzeh Member of the Palestinian National Council -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
6:30 PM	Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Reflections on the Sabbath Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner hosted by Ambassador Daniel Taub and his family -at his home in Jerusalem
10:00 PM	Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
<u>Saturday, May 31</u>	
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
8:00 AM	Depart for Qumran and Dead Sea
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Enroute Briefing: The Strategic Importance of Jordan-Israel Relations
9:00 – 10:15 AM	The Dead Sea Scrolls -at Qumran
10:15 AM	Depart
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Exploration of the Dead Sea Region -at Kalia Beach

12:00 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Lunch -at City View
1:45 – 2:30 PM	The View from Mt. Scopus -Jerusalem
4:15 PM	Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem
4:45 – 6:45 PM	Prepare for departure, check out
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Closing Dinner and Reflections -at the King David hotel, Jerusalem
8:45 PM	Depart for airport
9:45 PM	Meet VIP

Sunday, June 1, 2025

12:05 AM	El Al Airlines #3 departs Tel Aviv for Muglia, David
12:15 AM	El Al Airlines #17 departs Tel Aviv for Johnson
12:30 AM	El Al Airlines #27 departs Tel Aviv for Engquist, Renteria, Truxal, Wheat, Sullins
1:00 AM	El Al Airlines #1 departs Tel Aviv for Bishop, Dagul, Fischer, Kelly, Wallace
4:55 AM	El Al Airlines #3 arrives JFK for Muglia, David
5:15 AM	El Al Airlines #27 arrives Newark for Engquist, Renteria, Truxal, Wheat, Sullins
5:50 AM	El Al Airlines #1 arrives JFK for Bishop, Dagul, Fischer, Kelly, Wallace
6:30 AM	El Al Airlines #17 arrives Miami for Johnson
7:52 AM	American Airlines #4538 departs JFK for Dagul, David, Kelly
7:59 AM	American Airlines #1444 departs JFK for Muglia

8:00 AM Delta Airlines #5014 departs JFK for Fischer

8:31 AM American Airlines #1046 departs Miami for Johnson

8:40 AM Delta Airlines #5750 departs JFK for Bishop

9:00 AM United Airlines #3500 departs Newark for Engquist, Renteria, Sullins, Truxal, Wheat

9:29 AM American Airlines #4538 arrives DCA for Dagul, David, Kelly

10:00 AM Delta Airlines #917 departs JFK for Wallace

10:04 AM American Airlines #1444 arrives Charlotte for Muglia

10:15 AM Delta Airlines #5750 arrives DCA for Bishop

10:27 AM United Airlines #3500 arrives DCA for Engquist, Renteria, Sullins, Truxal, Wheat

10:39 AM American Airlines #1046 arrives Atlanta for Johnson

10:46 AM Delta Airlines #5014 arrives Jacksonville for Fischer

11:03 AM American Airlines #1409 departs Charlotte for Muglia

12:35 PM American Airlines #1409 arrives Harrisburg for Muglia

1:10 PM Delta Airlines #917 arrives Salt Lake City for Wallace

3:30 PM Delta Airlines #2005 departs Salt Lake City for Wallace

4:42 PM Delta Airlines #2005 arrives Boise for Wallace

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 24 – June 1, 2025**

Saturday, May 24

2:50 PM United #4268 departs Harrisburg for Muglia

3:20 PM Amtrak #168 departs Union Station for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, David, Bishop, Dagul

3:23 PM United #555 departs Atlanta for Johnson

3:46 PM United #4268 arrives Dulles for Muglia

4:18 PM United #3658 departs Jacksonville for Fischer

5:20 PM United #3499 departs Dulles for Muglia

5:45 PM United #555 arrives Newark for Johnson

6:15 PM United #3658 arrives Newark for Fischer

6:21 PM Amtrak #168 arrives Newark for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, David, Bishop, Dagul, Johnson

6:50 PM United #3499 arrives Newark for Muglia

10:50 PM United #90 departs Newark for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, David, Bishop, Dagul, Johnson, Muglia, Fischer

Sunday, May 25

4:20 PM United #90 arrives Tel Aviv for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, David, Bishop, Dagul, Johnson, Muglia, Fischer
-Transfer to Jerusalem

5:30 PM Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:00 – 8:30 PM **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**
-at Angelica Restaurant

During the welcome and orientation, staff will lead a discussion about the objectives for the week ahead.

8:45 PM Depart

9:00 – 10:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The City of David**
Visit to archeological excavation site
-at the City of David, Jerusalem

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.

10:15 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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

Monday, May 26

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel dining hall

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Pulse of the Nation**
with Efrat Shapira Rosenberg
Media Figure, Content Director, Beit Avi Chai Foundation
- at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Efrat Shapira Rosenberg is the current content director at Beit Avi Chai, where she creates and hosts popular podcasts about Israeli politics, current affairs and Jewish thought. Previously, Efrat was a program officer at the Avi Chai foundation, a major player in the field of Jewish renewal and education in Israel. Over the last decade she has been writing newspaper columns and hosts Radio programs on Reshet Bet and Galei Tzahal; television programs on Reshet (Channel 2) and Kan (Channel 1); and a popular podcast about Israeli

politics. She is a member of the board of directors of The Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem, and Chair of the "Kolech" Movement for Religious Feminism in Israel. As Israel continues to fight the war against Hamas in Gaza, as well as deal with escalating Iranian threats, Ms. Rosenberg will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of Israeli voters.

9:45 AM Depart

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: The Holy Basin**
Guided visit through the Old City of Jerusalem

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.

12:45 – 1:45 PM **Lunch**
-Luciana Restaurant

1:45 PM Depart for Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

2:30 – 4:30 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part I: The Significance of the Holocaust**
Guided visit to the Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

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.

4:45 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

5:30 – 6:45 PM **Navigating the Middle East: Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

This session will provide an update on the current state of the war against Hamas in Gaza, and the tensions on the northern border where Israelis face rocket fire from Hezbollah. Brig.-Gen (Res.) is the past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the “Golani” Infantry Corp; he held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya.

7:15 PM Depart for Dinner

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Israeli Culinary Experience: Group Cooking Workshop**
-at Te’amim, Shuk Mahane Yehuda

9:45 PM Depart for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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

Tuesday, May 27

6:00 AM **Optional: Run JLM**

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel dining hall

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Israel’s Quest for Peace**
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

This session will discuss the ways 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 current political climate for Israel on the international stage.

9:45 –10:45 AM **Israeli Politics 101**
Prof. Netta Barak Corren
Legal Scholar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Netta Barak Corren will explain how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

11:00 AM Depart for the Knesset

11:45 AM –12:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part I: The Coalition**
Meeting with The Honorable Yuli Edelstein
Member of Knesset, Chair, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
-at the Knesset

During this session, participants will hear from the Honorable Yuli Edelstein, a current Knesset member and former Speaker of the Knesset. Israel has a multi-party system, where the highest ranking member of the winning party is usually designated Prime Minister. Yet in order for this to happen, they must be successful in forming a coalition. A potential Prime Minister must be able to bring together enough parties to pass the 61 seat threshold required for a simple majority. The process of determining the power-sharing coalition begins after the election results are announced, and lasts about two months.

12:30 –1:30 PM Lunch at the Knesset

1:30 – 2:45 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part II: The Opposition**
Meeting with The Honorable Moshe Tur-Paz
Member of Knesset
-at the Knesset

This session is a meeting with the Honorable Moshe Tur-Paz, Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party. It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the coalition and opposition parties. The Honorable Moshe Tur-Paz entered the Knesset in July 2021. He was previously appointed Director of Education of Jerusalem municipality in 2012 and held the role until 2017.

3:00 PM Visit the Plenary

3:30 PM Depart for Mount Herzl Military Cemetery

3:45 – 4:45 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part II: The Price of War**
Learn about the role of fallen soldiers in Israeli society
-at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery

A critical piece of understanding Israeli society and culture is the role of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), mandatory army service, and veterans. Mount Herzl is the site of Israel's national cemetery, named after Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. Israel's leaders and fallen soldiers are buried there. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed in war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. This visit will highlight the way Israel remembers its fallen and relates to the role of the military in as part of the fabric of the Jewish State.

5:00 PM Depart for hotel

5:30 – 6:45 PM **The Significance of the US-Israel Relationship**
With the Honorable Stephanie Hallett
Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Israel
-at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem

During this discussion, Chargé d'Affaires Stephanie Hallett will share the U.S. perspective on the evolving situation in Gaza, regional threats from Iranian proxies, and the potential for Arab-Israeli cooperation.

7:20 PM Depart for dinner

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**
Dinner with Political advisors

- Sharon Weinstein
Advisor to Member of Knesset Sharren Haskel
- Ariel Segal
Advisor to head of the Opposition Yair Lapid

-at Kedma BaKikar Restaurant

During this dinner the participants will have the opportunity to hear from their counterparts in Israel –staffers serving different members of the Israeli Knesset. The discussion will explore the difference between the American and Israeli political systems; the role of political staffers; and the views of the various Knesset members they serve on current issues affecting the region.

9:15 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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

Wednesday, May 28

7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:00 – 8:45 AM **October 7: How It Happened**
Yossi Garr
-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Yossi Garr will give participants a broad overview of the devastating events of October 7, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. This introduction will provide the necessary context for the more in-depth topics participants will explore throughout the day.

9:00 AM **Depart for the Gaza Envelope**

11:00 AM –12:45 PM **October 7, Part I: The Kibbutzim**
Visit and briefing at Kibbutz Nir Oz
With Nir Metzger, Kibbutz Nir Oz resident
-at Kibbutz Nir Oz

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, thousands were killed, and hundreds kidnapped. During the visit to the Kibbutz, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. They will hear what happened to the community on October 7, and how the IDF regained control. They will meet with Nir Metzger who will walk them through the events that started the war.

12:45 PM Depart

1:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Falafel Baribua Restaurant

1:30 PM Depart

1:45 – 2:15 PM **October 7, Part II: The Nova Party**
Visit the site of the music festival massacre
-at Reim Forest

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, family members created a moving memorial to their loved ones that will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

2:30 PM Depart

3:00 – 3:30 PM **U.S. - Israel Missile Defense Cooperation**

Visit an Iron Dome Battery

-at Ibim

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.

3:45 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:30 – 6:00 PM **Visit Hostage Square**

During this session, participants will tour the main site that activists are using to promote awareness of the hostages still being held captive in Gaza. They will learn about the different communities that have been impacted, and who have built a dynamic, diverse civil society project through art, religion, and activism. Participants will also meet with family members of those who were taken hostage, including American citizens.

6:00 PM Depart for the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Citizen-Soldiers: The IDF’s Impact on Israeli Society**

Dinner with IDF Reservists

-at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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 dinner, participants will have the chance to meet with several reservists 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.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, May 29

7:00 – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:30 – 9:30 AM **The West Bank: A Situational Assessment**
Briefing by Dr. Michael Milshtein
Head of the Palestinian Studies Forum, Tel Aviv University
-at Sheraton Hotel, Studio 5

During this session Noa Shusterman will outline a number of issues related to the West Bank, in order to for participants to understand the prospects for a path forward between Israelis and Palestinians. She will focus on the makeup of Palestinian society, internal issues and security challenges inherent in the West Bank, the role of the Palestinian Authority (P.A.), and P.A. coordination with Israeli bodies.

9:45 –10:45 AM **A Palestinian Voice Post-October 7**
Meeting with Ibrahim Dalalsha
Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies & Media
Outreach
-at the Sheraton Hotel, Studio 5

This session will focus on Palestinian voices in a post-October 7th Israel. Ibrahim Dalalsha is the director of Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach, a private Palestinian think tank and consultancy firm in Ramallah. The center compiles political, legal, security and economic studies and other topics related to the Israeli -Palestinian conflict. Dalalsha has played an integral role in peace negotiations across the Middle East. His former career as a senior Palestinian political advisor at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem stretched across two decades. During this session he will provide an insider's view of the Palestinian political landscape.

11:00 AM Depart

11:00 – 11:30 PM En route briefing:
Israel's Diverse Population

This briefing will provide information on the current makeup of Israel's population and how each group is an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. It will provide 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 fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

11:45 AM –12:30 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**

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 the Alfei Menashe overlook 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.

12:30 PM Depart for Lunch

12:45 –1:30 PM **Lunch**
-at Yulek Restaurant

1:45 PM Depart for Kibbutz Malkia

1:45 – 2:30 PM En route briefing:
The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee

Our tour guide will spend the drive providing 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; as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and; more frequently, armies. 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 – over 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.

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Israel's Northern Front: Lebanon and Hezbollah

Citizens in the line of Fire, The Northern displaced communities

Briefing with Lt. Col (Res.) Sarit Zehavi

-at Kibbutz Malkia

This briefing at the IDF's Northern Command Base will give participants an insider's understanding of the threat Israel currently faces from Hezbollah in Lebanon and the work the IDF is doing to secure Israel's northern border. Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi served 15 years in the IDF in Military Intelligence –first in the Research and Analysis Branch, and later in the Northern Command. During her military service she briefed hundreds of delegations, ranging from U.S. Senators, Congressmen and politicians to global military commanders, senior journalists and visiting VIP delegations. She is the founder/director of Alma, an educational research center focusing on the security issues of Israel's northern border. Zehavi has authored many position papers focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel's national security challenges, and continues to brief delegations on these topics. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. Lt. Col. Zehavi will brief the delegation on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel. As a lifelong resident of the North, she will also share her experiences living on the border with Lebanon.

4:30 – 5:30 PM

The Civilian Impact of Hezbollah's War on Israel

Briefing and overlook with Boaz Perri, Kibbutz Malkia resident

- Kibbutz Malkia

When Hezbollah started to fire on Israel on October 7, just hours after Hamas terrorists fired thousands of rockets and infiltrated the country, northern Israeli communities were immediately at risk. The visit to Kibbutz Malkia, with an IDF spokesperson and a local resident, will demonstrate the impact on one such community and highlight for participants the displacement of tens of thousands of Israelis who were forced to evacuate while their homes are under fire from Hezbollah.

5:30 PM

Depart

6:30 PM

Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

7:30 PM

Depart for Dinner

7:45 – 9:30 PM

Dinner

-at Decks Restaurant

9:30 PM

Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel dining hall

8:15 AM Depart

8:30 – 10:15 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Guided Survey of:
▪ Mt. of Beatitudes
▪ 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.

10:30 AM Depart to Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM **Israel's Northern Front: The New Syria**
Strategic briefing with Maj. Ilan Schulman
Northern Resident
-at the Merom Golan Hotel, Lobby Hall

During this session Maj. Ilan Schulman will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war. 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.

12:15 – 1:15 PM Lunch
-at the Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights

1:15 PM Depart

1:30 – 2:15 PM **Overlook of Syria**
With Maj. Ilan Schulman
- Quneitra overlook

With the fall of the Assad regime, Syria is one of the most important stories in the Middle East. Additionally, it raises questions about Israel's security while uncertainly reigns there. This outlook will give participants an opportunity to see the proximity to Syria and understand better the IDF's deployment. It complements the briefing by Ilan Shulman and will help them connect the story with the physical terrain.

2:15 – 3:45 PM Depart

3:45 – 4:45PM **Shared Society in Times of Crisis**
Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmed
Arab Israeli Activist and Writer
-OpenValley, Ramat Yishai

In this session we will hear from Arab Israeli Activist and writer Ibrahim Abu Ahmed. Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens.

5:00 – 6:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

6:30 PM Check-in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

7:02 PM Shabbat Begins

7:45 PM Depart for dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner
-at a home in Jerusalem

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. During this dinner the Friedmans will lead a discussion on their hometown of Tel Aviv, the center of the largest metropolitan area in Israel, home to most of Israel's hi-tech industry, and the country's international airport. They will describe life in Tel Aviv since October 7, including the impact on civilian life in Tel Aviv, where the population lives just hours from a war zone.

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

Saturday, May 31

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
 -hotel dining hall

8:00 AM Depart for the Dead Sea

9:30 –10:30 AM **The Dead Sea Scrolls**
 -at Qumran

During our trip to the Negev, we will visit Qumran, where most of the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found; and the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

11:00 AM –12:30 PM **Exploration of the Dead Sea Region**
 -at Kalia Beach

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.

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Return to Jerusalem

2:30 PM **Optional: Shopping in Jerusalem’s Old City**

4:15 PM Return to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

4:45 – 6:30 PM Prepare for departure, check out

6:15 – 7:45 PM **Closing Dinner and Reflections**

-at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

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; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. 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.

8:00 PM	Depart for airport
9:00 PM	Meet VIP
11:25 PM	United #91 departs Tel Aviv for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, Fischer, David, Bishop, Dagul, Johnson, Muglia
4:10 AM	United #91 arrives Newark for Kelly, Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Sullins, Martin, Engquist, Truxal, Fischer, David, Bishop, Dagul, Johnson, Muglia
6:00 AM	United #1366 departs Newark for Sullins, Engquist, Chevez-Fernandez, Truxal, David, Dagul, Muglia, Bishop
6:24 AM	United #3521 departs Newark for Kelly
6:30 AM	United #1068 departs Newark for Johnson
7:19 AM	United #1366 arrives Dulles for Sullins, Engquist, Truxal, David, Dagul, Muglia, Bishop
7:30 AM	United #3611 departs Newark for Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Martin
8:05 AM	United #1938 departs Newark for Fischer
8:29 AM	United #3521 arrives Cincinnati for Kelly
8:35 AM	United #4986 departs Dulles for Muglia
8:51 AM	United #1068 arrives Atlanta for Johnson
8:52 AM	United #3611 arrives DCA for Wallace, Renteria, Wheat, Martin

9:35 AM United #4986 arrives Harrisburg for Muglia

10:30 AM United #1938 arrives Jacksonville for Fischer

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

May 20, 2025

Ms. Alice Johnson
Office of the Honorable Austin Scott
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for May 24 to June 1, 2025, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, 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 employees 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,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:rp