



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policymakers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli- Palestinian peace through diplomacy

July 30 - August 4, 2022

MISSION GOALS: *The aim of the mission is to explore the current state of affairs and facts on the ground in the region, while gaining increased understanding of the challenges and the opportunities in both Israeli and Palestinian politics today. The delegation will be particularly focused on the role of U.S. policy and the options for American assistance in moving toward peaceful resolution of long-running conflicts in the region.*

DISCLAIMER: *One of the objectives of this trip is to provide participants with a window into the broad spectrum of opinions related to the conflict and its resolution in order to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues at hand. Therefore, we will meet with individuals and groups engaged in various activities or political agendas. In some cases, the policies of the J Street Education Fund diverge from the beliefs of speakers; however, we recognize the importance of trying to understand one another's viewpoint.*

ITINERARY

SATURDAY, JULY 30: WELCOME

4:40 PM Flight UA 72 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport

5:30 – 7:00 PM Drive to hotel and check-in

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

7:10 PM Meet in the hotel lobby (2nd floor) to depart for dinner

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Welcome Dinner with Nimrod Novik**
Participants will have the opportunity to introduce themselves, and then Nimrod Novik will provide a background on Israel's security needs and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Speaker: Dr. Nimrod Novik, Israel Fellow, Israel Policy Forum

Location: Blue Rooster, Tel Aviv

Hotel: David Intercontinental Hotel | 12 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-795-1111

SUNDAY, JULY 31: ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

- 6:30 – 8:30 AM Buffet breakfast served at hotel
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM Seminar: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101 (Part 1)**
This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region.
- Speaker:** Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, J Street
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM IDF Strategic Briefing**
This IDF briefing will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces in the region and on its southern border with Gaza.
- Speaker:** Brig. Gen. Oren Setter
- 10:45 - 11:15 AM Drive to Ben Gurion House
- 11:15 - 1:00 PM Visit and Tour at the Ben Gurion House in Tel Aviv**
A docent will lead us through the Ben Gurion House, which presents two parallel stories: the history of Israel and Israeli society, and the biography of Ben Gurion. The Museum exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country's development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time.
- Discussion: Vision of Zionism**
The modern State of Israel was born in 1948, based on an idea of reclaiming Jewish history and the Jewish people's right to self-determination. In this discussion, we will explore the Israeli founding fathers' vision and reflect upon where we are today.
- Speaker:** Prof. Arie Saposnik, The Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism
- 1:00 - 1:30 PM Drive to Lunch
- 1:30 - 3:00 PM Lunch Session: Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101**
An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.
- Speaker:** Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst
- Location:** Goshen
- 3:00 – 3:30 PM Meeting with MK Gaby Lasky, Meretz Party**
- Location:** Goshen

3:30 – 4:00 PM Drive to hotel
4:00 - 6:00 PM Executive Time

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

6:00 - 6:45 PM Meeting with Head of the Joint List MK Ayman Odeh

Location: David Intercontinental Hotel

6:45 - 7:30 PM Drive to cocktail reception

7:30 - 8:30 PM Cocktail Reception with Israeli Politicians, Business, and Civil Society Leaders

At the reception, we will be joined by Israeli officials as well as leaders in the business community and civil society to hear their perspectives on peace and diplomacy.

Location: Ben-Tzvi Residence, Nof Yam, Herzilya

Hotel: David Intercontinental Hotel | 12 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv| +972-3-795-1111

MONDAY, AUGUST 1: GAZA & EAST JERUSALEM

****Logistical note: We will be checking out of the hotel today. Before we meet, please (1) bring your luggage to the 2nd floor to be loaded to the bus; (2) settle any additional items charged to your room at the front desk and (3) bring your passports with you.***

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS**

7:50 AM Load luggage on to the bus

8:00 – 9:45 AM Bus Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

In this briefing, we will learn about life in Gaza, and the variety of humanitarian issues Gazans face, such as restrictions on freedom of movement and access to healthcare.

Speaker:

Beth Oppenheim, Director of International Relations, Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

9:45 – 11:00 AM Kfar Aza Kibbutz Visit

We will be led on a tour by local residents in Kfar Aza to discuss Kibbutz life in the Gaza perimeter and the effects of continuous escalations and rocket fire from Gaza

Speaker: Chen Kotler

Location: Kfar Aza

- 11:00 – 12:45 PM Drive to Jerusalem + Arrival at PMO
- 12:45 – 1:15 PM **Meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid - for Members of Congress only**
Location: Prime Minister's Office, Jerusalem
- 1:45 – 3:00 PM **Group Lunch**
Location: Sea Dolphin
- 3:00 – 5:00 PM Check-in to hotel and executive time

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

- 5:00 - 7:00 PM **East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour**
The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will visit areas of contention in East Jerusalem and evaluate the developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Founder, Terrestrial Jerusalem

- 7:15 – 9:00 PM **Dinner with East Jerusalem Leaders**
We will be joined by several Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges in their daily lives as residents of East Jerusalem.

Speakers:

Qais As'ad, Carter Center
Enas al Muthaffar, Communications Consultant
Ahmad Muna, Educational Bookshop
Nivine Sandouka, ROPES – Regional Organisation for Peace, Economy, and Security
Suma Qawasmi, Kids4Peace

Location: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem

Hotel: *Inbal Jerusalem Hotel | Ze'ev Jabotinsky St 3, Jerusalem | +972-2-675-6666*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2: ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS**

- 8:00 – 9:30 AM **Breakfast Briefing: The Palestinian National Movement**

We will learn about the development of the Palestinian National Movement, including the institutions and political parties that exist today.

Speaker: Prof. Bashir Bashir, Senior Research Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Associate Professor, Open University of Israel

- 9:30 – 10:00 AM Drive to the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM Discussion with Palestinian Leaders in Civil Society and Politics**
In this discussion, we will hear about the recent political turmoil in Palestine; the conflict between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the Palestinian public's attitudes towards their leadership, and how this impacts the political and diplomatic agenda.
- Location:** Norwegian Representative's residence, Jerusalem
- 11:00 - 12:00 PM Drive to Ramallah
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh**
We will discuss the current state of affairs in Palestine and the Palestinian Authority and PLO's political interests and priorities with regard to the US-Palestine relationship, as well as the diplomatic resolution of the conflict.
- 1:00 - 1:45 PM Drive to Psagot
- 1:45 – 2:45 PM Lunch Session: Meeting with Mateh Binyamin Regional Council**
An opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have and what their hopes are for the future.
- Speakers:**
Israel Ganz, Head of the Binyamin Regional Council
Eliana Passentin, Head of International Relations, Binyamin Regional Council
- 2:45 - 3:45 PM Drive to hotel
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM Executive time
- 5:30 PM Group debrief and departure for President's Residence**
- 6:15 – 6:45 PM Arrival at President's Residence and security
- 6:45 – 7:30 PM Meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog**
- 7:30 – 7:45 PM Drive to dinner
- 7:45 – 9:30 PM Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights Leaders**

At dinner, we will be joined by Israeli and Palestinian Peace and Human Rights leaders who will provide us with insights into the work they are doing to advance people-to-people cooperation and the protection of human rights for those affected by the ongoing Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

Speakers:

Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, Arava Institute
Huda Abuarquob, ALLMEP – Alliance for Middle East Peace
Meron Rapoport, A Land for All
Noa Sattath, ACRI – Association for Civil Rights in Israel
Dalit Wolf Golan, EcoPeace
Robi Damelin, Parents Circle Families Forum
Rana Salman, Combatants for Peace

Location: Kedma

Hotel: *Inbal Jerusalem Hotel | Ze'ev Jabotinsky St 3, Jerusalem | +972-2-675-6666*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3: WEST BANK – FACTS ON THE GROUND

*****DRESS CODE: CASUAL – MODEST DRESS**

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|-------------------------|---|
| 6:30 – 8:30 AM | Buffet breakfast served at hotel |
| 8:30 – 9:15 AM | Introduction to Settlements <i>Understanding the settlement blocs, illegal outposts, and ideological settlements, the legal and international ramifications of settlement expansion, as well as potential territorial and security solutions.</i> |
| | <u>Guide:</u> Yehuda Shaul |
| 9:15 – 10:30 AM | Drive to Hebron |
| 10:30 – 12:00 PM | Walking Tour of Hebron <i>On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area, see checkpoints in the city and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.</i> |
| | <u>Guide:</u> Avner Gvaryahu |
| 12:00 – 12:45 PM | Arrival at Hebron Boys' School and Boxed Lunch |
| 12:45 – 1:45 PM | UNRWA Site Visit: Hebron Boys' School in H2 <i>We will have the chance to speak with the UNRWA representatives and staff and learn about the challenges of running a school next to the settlements in Hebron.</i> |
| 1:45 - 2:45 PM | Drive to the South Hebron Hills |

2:45 - 4:15 PM **Visit Palestinian Village Susya and Overlook of South Hebron Hills Region**

Learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders. We will be joined by Palestinian and Israeli activists to hear firsthand about life and activism in the region.

Speaker: Nasser Nawaja, Palestinian human rights activist

Guide: Yehuda Shaul

4:15 - 5:45 PM Drive to Jerusalem

5:45 - 7:00 PM Executive time

7:00 - 8:00 PM **Dinner Meeting with the United States Ambassador to Israel, Thomas Nides**

Hear from Ambassador Nides about US policy in the region - the current approach and priorities of the Biden Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance a resolution to the conflict.

Location: Inbal Hotel

Hotel: ***Inbal Jerusalem Hotel | Ze'ev Jabotinsky St 3, Jerusalem | +972-2-675-6666***

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4: US ROLE MOVING FORWARD

****Logistical note: Some of us will be checking out of the hotel today. Before we meet, please (1) bring your luggage to the lobby and leave it in the luggage room; (2) settle any additional items charged to your room at the front desk and (3) bring your passports.***

*****DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**

6:30 – 9:30 AM Buffet breakfast served at hotel

7:00 AM **Meet in the lobby to depart for the Old City**

7:30 – 9:30 AM **Optional: Tour of the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem**

We will visit the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, two holy sites in Jerusalem. We will also see the Temple Mount / Al Aqsa from a viewpoint and learn about its religious, historic, and political significance.

Guide: Hava Schwartz

9:30 - 10:15 AM Drive to Yad Vashem

10:15 - 12:00 PM **Tour and Ceremony at Yad Vashem**

On this tour, we will visit the museum commemorating the Holocaust and the loss of six million Jews. We will pay our respects and lay a wreath in their memory.

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Drive to Jordan Valley - Lunch at the first stop
- 1:00 - 2:30 PM** **Jordan Valley Tour**
Experts will lead a tour focusing on the southern Jordan River and regional water management. This includes an overview of the religious, economic and agricultural significance of the river. We will hear about regional environmental cooperation.
- Guides:**
Nada Majdalani, Palestine Director, EcoPeace
Roy Kimhi, Climate Diplomacy Program and Community Manager, EcoPeace
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM Drive to the hotel
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM Executive time
- 5:30 PM** **Load Luggage onto the bus and depart for dinner**
- 6:00 – 8:00 PM** **Farewell Dinner**
Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States. We will review potential opportunities for action that support a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- 9:00 PM** **Depart for Ben Gurion Airport**