



Your Voice in Israel



In just a few short weeks, over 1200 athletes, coaches, managers, educators, and professional team members will embark on the experience of a lifetime! On July 6, we begin with Maccabi USA's signature program, Israel Connect (IC). What started as a 2-day training camp back in the eighties has become one of the jewels in the crown of Maccabi USA programming. Our six-day immersive cultural, educational, and athletic experience is unique to Maccabi USA and unlike any other programming offered in Israel. It has been my honor to be the Israel Connect Chair for the 21st Maccabiah and I am excited to share some of the highlights that you and your loved ones can expect in the coming weeks. We are also thrilled that for the first time in the history of IC we will be joined by a cohort of specially recruited and trained Maccabi Education Fellows to help the members of our delegation make meaning and deepen their connections to Judaism, Israel, and each other.

We are grateful to our many sponsors and partners for supporting and developing this amazing program including the JNF-USA Boruchin Center, the Seed the Dream Foundation, the Paul Singer Family Foundation, the Jewish Education Project/RootOne, the iCenter, Routes Travel, and Maccabi World Union/Kfar Maccabiah.

As we get closer to departure for Israel, all delegation members participating in Israel Connect will be instructed as to how to download our Maccabi USA IC app. This is different from the Maccabiah app being used for the Games. We highly recommend that you download the IC app prior to departure. The app only has log-in capabilities for delegation members who will be on the ground in Israel with us. Please be on the lookout for an email next week about downloading the IC app.

Please don't forget a reusable water bottle and a white outfit for the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony. We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Deb Lichtenfeld
Chair, Israel Connect

Israel Connect 2022

Wednesday July 6th -Tuesday July 12th, 2022

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022 - (7 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Welcome to Israel!

Meet the delegation and enjoy the Israeli music and snacks as you settle into your accommodation center. (Note: for teams arriving on the 4th for training camp these activities will take place on July 4)

Evening Welcome Session

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022 - (8 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Israel as our Ancestral Home: Our relationships with the landscapes and people of Israel

By tracing the paths of our ancient ancestors, we will deepen our relationship with the land and people of Israel. We will discuss what it means for Israel to be the 'Promised Land,' begin to understand the ancient conflicts in the early establishment of the Jewish homeland while meeting some of the diverse people who live here and our Israeli peers. Athletes will participate in one of the following 'mirrored' tracks based on accommodation center.

Morning Practice

Track 1:

**Caesarea National Park,
Lunch at Ramat Hashofet
Hike at Nahal Zippori Hiking Trail
Druze Dinner in Daliat El Carmel or Ussafiya**

Track 2:

**Zippori National Park
Lunch at Hasolelim Forest
Hike at Nahal Zippori Hiking Trail
Arab Dinner in the Galilee**

Track 3:

**Old Akko
Outdoor Picnic Lunch
Nature Trail at En Afek National Park
Druze Dinner in Daliat El Carmel or Ussafiya**

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022 – (9 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Israel as a Modern Land: Tel Aviv

Established in 1909 the modern city of Tel Aviv tells an important part of the story of growth and development of the State of Israel. From the roots of Zionism, the declaration of the State at Independence Hall, to the center of the “Start-up Nation, Tel Aviv defines modernity through a Jewish lens.

Morning Practice

The Independence Trail

Overview from Jaffa (Yafo): What these shores have seen

Neve Tzedek

Rothschild Boulevard

Pizur Lunch

Nachlat Binyamin and Shuk HaCarmel

Israel Connect Shabbat Experience: Kabbalat Shabbat & Shabbat Dinner

SHABBAT, JULY 9, 2022 – (10 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Shabbat in the Holy Land: Israel as a Land of Ritual

Exploration of the meaning of Shabbat and the notion of making Shabbat special. The role of ritual in Israel and at home. How do we make Shabbat part of our relationship with Judaism and our connection to Israel? There will be two tracks this day to accommodate the religious and spiritual needs of our delegation.

No Practice on Shabbat

Track 1:

Shabbat Services and Lunch

Shabbat Day of Rest and Learning in the Maccabi Community

Track 2:

Masada (מצדה)

The Dead Sea (ים המלח) at Neve Midbar & Kalia Beach

Tracks 1 & 2

Community Dinner

Havdalah

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022 - (11 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: The People of Israel: Lev L'Lev (Heart to Heart) - A Day of Service

Each bus will fan out across the country to have a meaningful hands-on volunteer experience where they will meet and interact with a variety of different peoples who are part of the modern state of Israel. They will listen to their stories and how they connect to the land.

Morning Practice

Lev L'Lev Experience (venues throughout the country)

Lunch with the Community

Late Afternoon Practice

After Dinner Session with a Survivor of the Holocaust: "When you listen to a witness, you become a witness."

At each venue, the delegation will listen to personal testimony from a Holocaust survivor and have the opportunity to ask questions. This will frame the delegation's visit to Yad V'Shem the following morning.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 - (12 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Israel as an ancient and modern Jewish Home: The Role and Place of Memory

On this last full day of the Israel Connect program, we will explore a tragic part of our story through our visit to Yad V'Shem and the Holocaust's impact on the psyche of the modern State of Israel. We will reflect on the role that memory plays in Judaism and how that translates to our lives back home. The day will conclude with a visit to the Old City and the Kotel where we look at how two thousand years of Jewish history impacts us in 2022.

No Practice this day

Yad V'Shem (יָד וּשְׁמָה) The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

The Old City (הרובע היהודי)

The Kotel

The Davidson Center - The Southern Excavation of the Temple Mount

The Phyllis Magerman B'nai Mitzvah Program at Har Ha'Tzofim

The Phyllis Magerman B'nai Mitzvah Program is a core component of Israel Connect. All members of the delegation will be able to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah for the first time, for

the first time in Israel, or to renew their covenant in a pluralistic ceremony led by the Maccabi USA Team Rabbi. This event will take place overlooking the Old City from atop Har Ha'Tzofim, a site of significance in both ancient and modern times.

Israel Connect Celebratory Dinner and Party at Maccabim

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022 - (13 TAMMUZ 5782)

Theme: Celebrate the Maccabi USA Delegation

All of our Maccabi USA Delegation to 21st Maccabiah will gather at K'far Maccabiah ("The Maccabi Village"). Our flag and banner bearers will take center stage as we celebrate our team before heading to our Maccabiah accommodation centers around the country.

Practice this day will vary by team. Some will have morning practice and others will practice after they check in to the Maccabiah accommodation centers.

Team Celebration and Lunch

Depart for the Maccabiah