



MACCABIAH 2025 TRAVEL PACKAGES FAQ

Before reading any further, please keep in mind that this information pertains to families and supporters who want to visit Israel to watch their athletes compete at the July 2025 Maccabiah. The athletes, coaches, managers, medical team, and other volunteers already have accommodations, programming, etc. that will be taken care of by Maccabi USA. Please note, however, that Masters athletes do have more flexibility and they can join one of these travel packages if desired.

What are the benefits of joining a Maccabi USA travel package?

The Maccabiah is a logistically complex event with competitions taking place all across Israel. We have been running Maccabiah travel packages for many years to help our families have unforgettable experiences in Israel while also reducing trip planning stress.

We will provide you with: Hotel, transportation (to activities and to your athlete(s)' competitions), fun and meaningful Israel/Jewish experiences, and connection to other Maccabi USA families.

I have been to Israel many times (or never before): Is this a good option for me?

Yes. We incorporate a variety of activities into the experience for first-timers, veterans, and everyone in between, focusing on high-level access options that wouldn't otherwise be available to most Israel travelers (e.g. dinner with the Israeli president, helicopter rides across Israel, etc.).

Again, because of the logistics of the Maccabiah, we also help with transportation, which many families find helpful.

Can I bring my family/friends on the travel package, no matter what age?

Yes! The travel packages are designed to be family friendly and will have different activity options to help cater to a variety of age groups.

Can Masters athlete(s) opt into a travel package?

Yes. Masters athletes can choose to opt out of their delegation lodgings and make their own accommodation arrangements, including through one of these travel packages. However, please keep in mind that Masters athletes often have busy practice/competition schedules, so they may miss activities, and there is no reimbursement for that.

Can my U16, U18, or Open Maccabiah athlete(s) opt into a travel package?

No. Your U1/U18/Open athlete(s) will be staying with our USA delegation throughout the Maccabiah and cannot come on this with you. We have an entire program and system in place for the athletes so they will have a great time and be taken care of every step of the way.

Can I spend time with my U16, U18, or Open Maccabiah athlete(s) in Israel?

In addition to watching them play and seeing them after competitions, you have the option to be with your U16/U18/Open athletes from:

- Friday evening, July 11 - Saturday evening, July 12
- Friday evening, July 18 - Saturday evening, July 19

Please keep in mind though that your athletes cannot join the travel package Shabbat dinner on Friday, July 11 (they will have a delegation Shabbat dinner option), though they can join the daytime activity on Saturday, July 12 (for which there may be an additional charge).

Maccabi USA prioritizes the athlete experience and thus we encourage them to spend as much time as possible with their teammates and new friends. We will also have delegation activities for the athletes on Saturday, July 12, which they can choose to participate in.

If you have U16 or U18 athlete(s) that you want to take out on July 11/12 or July 18/19, you must follow a specific 'check-out' procedure so we know where they are at all times. You will be given more information about this as we get closer to the Maccabiah.

Can I pick and choose (a la carte) from the travel package activity/hotel/transportation options?

Unfortunately, no. Each package is only sold as a full bundle, as it is too complicated logistically and financially to be able to offer items a la carte. That means that if you do not opt in for one of our travel packages, we cannot help with hotels, transportation, or side activities.

Likewise, there is no reimbursement for any activities missed during your time in Israel.

What is the travel package pricing and is airfare included?

Pricing for the 3 travel packages has not yet been determined, but we will update you as soon as possible. Airfare will not be included in the base price, but can be added for an extra fee.

If you book your own flight, we recommend El Al at this time as the most reliable airline to Israel.

When does travel package registration open?

We anticipate opening registration in mid-January, so we encourage you to wait on making plans until you have seen our travel package options. We will make more information available as soon as we finalize the itineraries (likely in December).

We encourage everyone to [sign up for our Travel Package Interest List](#) to receive updates.

Do the travel packages include Opening Ceremony tickets?

Yes, all 3 packages include an Opening Ceremony ticket and transportation to/from the Opening Ceremony.

Can I attend the Opening Ceremony in Israel even if I don't join one of the travel packages?

Yes, but every spectator (including children) will need to purchase a ticket to be allowed into the stadium. Opening Ceremony tickets will become available for purchase as we get closer to the Maccabiah (pricing and date to be determined by Maccabi World Union). We will facilitate the Opening Ceremony ticket sale and provide more information to families as soon as we get it.

Can I watch Maccabiah competitions in Israel without opting into a Maccabi USA travel package?

Yes. The Organizers have never required credentials at previous Maccabiah Games in Israel, and as of now, that is still the case. Should they change their policy and require a credential to get into Maccabiah venues, you will be notified and also able to purchase credentials to watch competitions without opting into a travel package.

When do the competitions start and when is the Opening Ceremony?

The Maccabiah competition goes from July 8-22. Only a few sports will begin Tuesday, July 8, while the bulk will start on Wednesday, July 9, and some even later. The Opening Ceremony is the evening of Thursday, July 10.

Note that U16/U18/Open Athletes, but not Masters Athletes, will all be in Israel no later than July 1 to engage in our educational Israel Connect program, as well as to participate in training camp.

When will we get the athlete competition schedule in case we want to plan our own trip?

Please do NOT expect to get the Maccabiah competition schedule until just a few weeks before the Games start and remember that the schedule is always subject to change. As soon as we receive the schedule, we will send it on to all families.

You will know several months in advance where your athletes will be competing, and we will pass that information along as soon as we have it.

What are the dates of the different travel packages?

- Gold Mission: July 4th-14th
 - Silver Supporter's Package: July 7th – 14th
 - Bronze Friends and Family Package: July 7th-14th
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Where in Israel will we travel to?

- Gold Mission
 - July 4-7: Tel Aviv
 - July 7-11: Jerusalem
 - July 11-14: Whichever city your athlete is competing in (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa)
 - Silver Supporter's Package
 - July 7-11: Jerusalem
 - July 11-14: Whichever city your athlete is competing in (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa)
 - Bronze Friends and Family Package:
 - July 7-11: Jerusalem
 - July 11-14: Whichever city your athlete is competing in (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa)
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Will security be provided?

Yes, security will be provided for all travel package activities and buses, with the exception of transportation going to/from competition venues (Maccabi World Union will secure all venues).

As an FYI, the USA delegation (athletes, coaches, trainers, etc.) will have their own security as well.
