

The Harvard College Israel Trek - Questions and Answers

What's the goal of the Trek?

The Trek aims to engage a diverse cohort of undergraduate student leaders of all faiths and backgrounds with Israeli history, culture, and politics.

When?

Spring Break (March 13th-23rd): We leave Boston Thursday the 13th and return on Sunday the 23rd.

How many students will be participating in the Trek?

Approximately 50 students, including the trip organizers, will participate in the trip.

Who are the organizers?

The trip is being organized by a group of Israeli students with the support of Harvard Hillel. A local [travel agency](#) will be taking care of all the logistics before and during the trip.

How is the Trek being funded?

The Trek is being jointly funded by a number of philanthropic individuals and Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies with the support of Harvard Hillel.

What are participants expected to contribute towards covering costs?

All participants are expected to pay a \$300 participation fee, which is less than 10% of the actual cost per participant. We will contact you with additional information regarding payment methods soon. If for whatever reason you are unable to contribute this amount please contact Zaki as soon as possible.

What does the subsidy cover?

The subsidy covers round trip airfare from Boston, hotel accommodations, transportation, at least two meals per day and other associated land costs (such as admission to sites) for the entire duration of the trip.

What isn't covered?

Gratuities, personal purchases, and travel/medical insurance are not included.

Wait, so I need to purchase my own travel insurance?

Seriously?! Yes!

Do I need to apply for a visa to enter Israel?

If you are a Canadian/US citizen you do not need a visa to travel to Israel. However, a passport valid for at least six months is required.

When entering Israel you will receive an AL-17 form. Save this form until your departure. We will be taking care of all other visa arrangements in collaboration with the Israeli Consulate in Boston—so don't worry about it!

How do we get there?

We will be traveling to Israel, as a group, via NYC on one of the big and well-known carriers - US Airways, Delta, United etc. More details on flights coming soon!

Where will we be staying in Israel?

We will be staying in clean and comfortable hotels and guesthouses. We are currently holding tentative bookings in the following hotels (*still subject to change):

- [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#), Jerusalem
- [Ein Gedi Guest House](#), Dead Sea Area
- [Ohalo Guest House](#), Sea of Galilee
- [Sea Net Hotel](#), Tel Aviv

Who will guide the trip?

A certified tour guide will accompany the trip in addition to the student trip leaders.

Will we be getting physical?

Yes! Participants are expected to take part in extensive tours of the country, which will include walking distances, hiking, swimming and other strenuous activities. The program will be demanding—an average of 15 hours of programming a day—basically a vacation for any Harvard student!

What if I get sick while on the Trek?

A doctor will be available and on call at all times, as will the local hospitals. In extreme cases, participants will be transferred to another city for specialized medical treatment.

Will there be any pre-trek activities?

In the weeks leading up to the Trek participants will attend a series of introductory meetings where they will meet one another and learn about the region from some of Harvard's leading faculty members. These meetings will supplement the Trek's robust educational curriculum. More information coming soon!