



BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL: STUDY ABROAD SAMPLE ITINERARY



SHORASHIM



PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SAMPLE ITINERARY AND ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DAY #1

AND SO THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

Upon your arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, receive a warm welcome from the Israeli participants, who will explore Israel with you for your entire journey.

Start your adventure to the one-of-a-kind city of outside of Jerusalem.

After checking in, enjoy a tasty dinner buffet with your group.

Spend time with your group getting to know each other & learning more about what's to come on your Birthright Israel Study Abroad experience.

Overnight: Neve Ilan



#WelcomeToIsrael

DISCOVER ISRAEL & ISRAELI SOCIETY

DAY #2

Enjoy your authentic Israeli breakfast at your hotel.

Kick-off your immersive experience with an introduction to your program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Get acclimated with how multiculturalism is prevalent in Israel with an eye-opening introduction to Israeli society through Dr. Goodman's captivating discussion of "Identities, Ideas, & Disputes"

Head North & grab your first falafel, shawarma, & other delicious foods while stopping for lunch in Tzemach.

Hike the beautiful Gamla nature reserve in the heart of the Golan Heights. Explore the breathtaking scenery and nature, while discovering picturesque waterfalls and fascinating archaeological sites.

Gaze out over the borders to neighboring countries from an old IDF bunker on top of Mount Bental in the Golan Heights. Head to your hotel to check in, dine & enjoy the night together.

Overnight: Akko



#HebrewUniversity



#MountBental

Enjoy breakfast before visiting Deir al-Asad, an Arab town in the Galilee region of Israel. Learn more about this community & get acclimated with features & stories about Arab Israeli society in the country before exploring Islam as a religion of thought & civilization.

Meet with the youth of the village & participate in the traditional Arab dance, Debka, before connecting with a group of local high schools students for a fun, social get together.

Take in the diverse flavors of this community through a cooking workshop from locals in the community while learning about their role & women's roles in Arab society before indulging in a traditional lunch.

Go on a tour of the village before visiting the mosque & discussing Islam & Islamic heritage.

Take in the view from Har Halutz, as you learn more about Arab-Israeli relations through the lens of this community.

Spend time in small groups with host families before enjoying dinner & reflecting on today's experience, together.

Overnight: North



#DeirAlAsad



#CommunityFlavors

MYSTICAL VIEWS & HUES

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Explore the historic port city of Akko. Filled with incredible culture, food, people, & views, Akko is the holiest city of the Bahai faith.

Hike on the mystical mountain of Mount Meron that overlooks the city of Tzfat, as you hear all of the beautiful folk stories of the Ultra Orthodox, Chassidic Jews in this area of Israel & get an introduction to community, values, & perspectives of this holy city. Taste the local flavors from a variety of community cultures found in Tzfat.

Wind through the blue-painted alleys of Tzfat, a mystical city where you will learn about the origins of the Kabbalah, the famous rabbis that lived there, & the fascinating artist community that remains. Get a taste of Chassidic Judaism through an interactive Chassidic yoga session.

Meet more members of the Chassidic Jewish community & learn about this ideological & religious movement through a series of meaningful encounters & conversations.

Return to your hotel for dinner before taking an important opportunity to prepare for Israel's Holocaust Memorial, as you delve deeper into your own group's personal connection to the Holocaust.

Overnight: Akko



#LeftMyHeartInAkko



#Tzfat



#YogaEveryDay

Enjoy breakfast before heading to Jerusalem.

Tour Israel's Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem, through a meaningful, interactive visit where you'll hear how the Holocaust has impacted the lives of your Israeli & American friends.

Grab lunch before preparing for Shabbat.

Immerse yourself in the Ultra-Orthodox community of Jerusalem through an eye-opening tour of synagogues in the community before coming together for Shabbat prayer & song.

Experience the magic of Shabbat in one of the holiest cities by sharing new traditions & enjoying a festive meal, as your group closes out a meaningful first week together.

In the spirit of Shabbat, enjoy sweets, snacks, & treats for an intimate & fun gathering called an *Oneg*.

Overnight: Jerusalem



#YadVashem



#WesternWall

SHABBAT SHALOM - RELAX & REFLECT

Sleep in! Enjoy coffee & cake before reflecting, & connecting to Shabbat through a number of different interactive activities, discussions, & more.

After a moving & packed few days, unwind by enjoying a festive & relaxing Shabbat meal together with members of the Chassidic community..

Participate in the Chassidic custom of *Tisch* as you gather around the table, following the shabbat meal to sing together & celebrate.

Spend time with your friends & bond as a group through fun, yet meaningful activities within the community.

Learn about the traditions for ending Shabbat & welcome in the new week together through a memorable Havdalah ceremony, as you gear up for the next leg of your transformative journey!

Explore & try new foods & see the local community through an independent dinner.

Overnight: Jerusalem



#ShabbatShalom



#ShabbatLunch



#Havdallah



#Jerusalem

DAY #7

PAST & PRESENT PERSPECTIVES

Eat breakfast & head to the Jewish Quarter, to explore the vast history within the walls of the ancient city. Share in the legacy of Jewish life spanning generations the cultural relevance of the Old City to so many diverse groups.

Visit the Western Wall & learn about its spiritual significance while exploring the various liberal movements in Israel & their connections & perspectives to this place. Take some time to think about & search for your personal connection to Israel before taking the opportunity to leave a note, prayer, or message in the cracks of the wall as you reflect on your profound journey thus far.

Grab lunch at Shuk Machane Yehuda, a world-famous, open air market that offers some of the best selections of food & flavors in Israel that demonstrate it as a cultural melting pot, of not only people, but cuisines.

Drive to Tel Aviv & bring to life the historic moment of the declaration of the Independence of the State of Israel by connecting with the stories of those who made it happen in the very spot where independence was declared.

Adventure through the Tel Aviv neighborhood where it all began, Neve Tzedek. Wander through the quaint, narrow streets as you explore the fascinating architecture & culture of this old school oasis amidst this modern city!

Eat dinner before getting the chance to explore Tel Aviv at night!

Overnight: Tel Aviv - Yaffo



TEL AVIV: INNOVATION, LGBTQ+, & MORE

DAY #8

After breakfast, get a glimpse into how Israel became known as the "Start-Up Nation" through a series of interactive exhibits & an extraordinary conversation with a leading Israeli entrepreneur from one of Israel's minority groups at the Birthright Entrepreneurship Center.

Have a meaningful, *mifgash*, or encounter with the locals of Tel Aviv at a selection of the city's cafes. After an independent lunch, come back together to visit the gay community center in Meir Park. Meet with activists & learn about this thriving community in Tel Aviv & Israel as a whole.

Enjoy dinner & more time together as a group.

Overnight: Tel Aviv - Yaffo



DAY #9

ETHIOPIAN JEWS & BORDER COMMUNITIES

After breakfast, head to Rehovot, where you will learn how Israel functions as a melting pot through the lens of the unique, yet thriving, Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel.

Explore the culture & traditions through an interactive visit to an Ethiopian synagogue where you'll be introduced to your case study. Continue your day of immersion with a conversation with local activists before experiencing an Ethiopian Buna ceremony & dance.

Enjoy independent lunch before heading to an area near Israel's border to hear from a renown speaker about the geopolitics of Israel through the lens of border communities.

Drive to Masada for dinner, relaxation, reflection, & more.





Make sure you have your camera ready as you ascend to the top of the ancient desert fortress of Masada in time to see electrifying colors fill the sky for an epic sunrise before exploring & hiking down the mountain!

Soak in the soothing minerals, cover yourself in mud & float in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth.

Drive to Arad for lunch before continuing to Sde Boker. Discuss David Ben Gurion's passion for making the desert bloom as you take in this incredible view of the Negev from his former home.

Head to the Bedouin tents to check in & try out traditional Bedouin transportation on a fun & unique camel ride through the desert.

Experience the hospitality & unique culture of the Bedouin community before feasting on a traditional Bedouin meal of a fresh salad, creamy tahini, flavorful cabbage, homemade pickles, warm pita bread topped with local spices, & roasted kabobs.

Hear from Bedouin women about their community, culture, & daily life.

Bond with your group through an activity led by your Israeli friends.

Overnight: Bedouin Tents



#MasadaSunrise



#BedouinFeast

CULTURE, CONTROVERSY, & CO-EXISTENCE

After breakfast, learn more about settlements & gain vital background knowledge on these communities.

Travel to Be'er Sheva, one of Israel's major college towns, for lunch before heading to Gush Etzion to meet with the next community.

Take an educational tour through Derech Avot as you feel & see Israel through the lens of biblical stories & sites.

Learn about the controversies, qualms, questions, & thriving aspects of life in this region.

Visit a therapeutic farm in Elazar & learn about the relevance of this site to the people who live nearby.

Meet with an organization that runs summer camps & creates long-lasting connections between Palestinians & Jews,

Head to Kibbutz Almog for dinner & time to reflect & work on your enticing case studies.

Overnight: Kibbutz Almog



BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL STUDY ABROAD

#NewPerspectives



#Coexistence



#KibbutzLife



DAY #12

THE 'ISRAEL WITH ISRAELIS' DIFFERENCE

Take an emotional journey, guided by your Israeli friends, through Har Herzl, Israel's military cemetery. Hear about the impact the army has on their lives as they share personal stories of their family/friends.

Wrap up your visit to Har Herzl by learning more about & paying respects to the Zionist pioneers that shaped Israel.

Enjoy a delicious Israeli lunch & experience how Jerusalem's main shopping road, Ben Yehuda Street, prepares for Shabbat. Come together for an academic focused wrap up concentrating on final projects.

Spend another unforgettable Shabbat together filled with tradition, celebration, & reflection.

Overnight: Kibbutz Almog



#Honor



#ShabbatShalom

A FINAL SHABBAT & REFLECTION

DAY #13

Sleep in & enjoy coffee & cake before reflecting with your group.

Unwind by enjoying a festive & relaxing Shabbat meal together before taking advantage of the nice weather & spending time outside relaxing.

Take part in your final lecture & processing session of the transformative & immersive journey you have taken through Israel's communities.

Come together as a group for a memorable, final Havdalah ceremony.

Share what you gained from this journey & reflect on the unforgettable memories of your experience with the amazing people who have been with you for this entire adventure of a lifetime!

Overnight: Kibbutz Almog



#IsraelWithIsraelis

DAY #14

IT'S NOT 'GOODBYE', IT'S 'SEE YOU SOON'



#People&Perspectives

Grab your final breakfast before heading to the airport.

Departure from Ben Gurion International Airport!

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL STUDY ABROAD 



SHORASHIM



SHORASHIMISRAEL