

Frequently Asked Questions and Itinerary

Experience Israel on a transformative Federation mission before the General Assembly kicks off. Join the General Assembly Israel at 75 National Mission, April 19 - April 26! Register [here!](#)

What is the aim of the National Mission?

The National Mission will offer an inspiring, fun-filled, educational, and immersive experience in Israel, connecting you to the land and people of Israel and deepening your understanding of the different populations and cultures that contribute to Israel's diverse society.

What makes the National Mission different from a regular tourist experience?

The experience will take you off the beaten track, introducing you to individuals and communities that you'd never get to know otherwise. Hear firsthand about their history and customs, achievements, and struggles, and how their personal story interfaces with the national story still being written.

Will there be some opportunities to just have some fun Israeli-style?

As a Mission participant, you'll do it all. Treat your tastebuds to a wide range of Israeli cuisine, get your feet tapping to Israeli music, interact with Israeli locals, and even pick up some Israeli phrases and the latest slang.

Do I need to be part of a specific group to come on the mission?

Nope. You can travel with a cohort of friends and leaders from your community, solo, with family members, or as a pair – whatever suits you best. (Tip of the Day: The National Mission is also a great opportunity to meet with other Federation leaders, build meaningful connections, make new friends, and strengthen your bond with the North American Jewish community.)

Will there be opportunities to see some of the actual work Federation is doing in Israel?

Absolutely. On the National Mission, you'll spend time with Federation partners and experience firsthand the impact of projects by other Federation-supported organizations. You'll gain an on-the-ground understanding of the vital work we do in Israel and the importance of your support.

What about opportunities to explore Judaism more deeply?

The mission will include meaningful encounters with the multiple faces and expressions of Judaism – plus a very special Shabbat experience together in Tel Aviv!

I want to participate in the National Mission and the General Assembly; how will that work?

Great –that’s exactly the plan! The National Mission will flow into the General Assembly experience (North America’s premier Jewish leadership conference), where you’ll join with hundreds of Federation peers and leaders to set our communal agenda for the year ahead.

Day 1: Wednesday, April 19

Theme: Bruchim Habaim! Welcome to Israel, with Federation!

Welcome to Israel! The General Assembly National Mission is a great opportunity to travel with other Federation leaders, build meaningful connections, and strengthen your bond with the North American Jewish community. The mission will kick off with a welcome dinner in true Israeli style. You’ll have the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and start to build new friendships from across the Federations system and enjoy the world-renowned Tel Aviv night life.

The mission will begin on Wednesday evening. Participants should plan to arrive in Tel Aviv at 3:00PM on Wednesday to check in to their hotels and settle in. JFNA will provide transportation from the airport to your hotel.

Participants arriving prior to Wednesday can book extra nights at the mission hotels. We’d be happy to assist!

4:00 PM **Depart Hotel for Otzerin in Old Jaffa**

5:00 PM **Opening Program and Dinner with Comedian and Live Music to Celebrate being in Israel and Get to Know your Fellow Mission Participants**

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 2: Thursday, April 20

Theme: Building Flourishing Jewish Communities

A hallmark of the Jewish Federations is our commitment to strengthening global Jewish communities and building flourishing Jewish life. In Israel, we have been there since the very beginning – even before the State was born – dedicated to ensuring that all of Israel’s citizens have equal access to opportunities that will improve their lives and strengthen the State of Israel.

Today, we will explore how this dedication is manifested throughout Israel and the mosaic of her diverse populations, ending the day with Israel’s Arab community, celebrating the last night of Ramadan.

Morning **Breakfast in the Hotel**

Opening Speaker



Visit Absorption Center for Ethiopian Olim

Absorption Centers offer a “soft landing” and transitional housing for new immigrant families at the beginning of their acculturation process in Israel. We will see firsthand Hebrew Ulpan classes and how Ethiopian Olim prepare for employment and to navigate new lives in Israel.

Lunch

Afternoon **Visit the JDC ESHEL Program Guidance Center**

In response to a growing number of older citizens, JDC’s ESHEL initiative provides courses and trainings to help guide older adults through the labyrinth of decisions involved in this new period of life. Meet with those designing this new strategic direction as well as beneficiaries who are enjoying a positive and productive retirement as a result.

Participate in a Ramadan Dinner Event in Northern Israel

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 3: Friday, April 21

Theme: Diverse Jewish Expression

Our global Jewish community includes a diversity of religious expression and dedication to creating a culture of belonging for all Jews, especially in the Jewish homeland. On Friday, as Jews prepare for Shabbat (in a country where there is no other word for seventh day of the week), explore the challenges and opportunities to the diversity of religious practice. Visit Judaism’s holiest location, the Western Wall in Jerusalem and then let your spirit soar with an authentic Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat (welcoming of Shabbat) at sunset in Tel Aviv.

Morning **Breakfast in the Hotel**

Begin the day with a beautiful drive to Jerusalem

Special Meeting at City Hall with Jerusalem leaders in celebration of Jerusalem at 75

Enjoy the panoramic view from Kikar Safra and meet with different representatives of Jerusalem’s population, working together to enhance Israel’s capital.

Visit to the Western Wall

Lunch at the First Station

Afternoon **Drive back to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat**

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with “Beit Tefila Israeli” at the Tel Aviv Port

Beit Tefila Israeli’s joyous Kabbalat Shabbat gathers secular, religious and traditional Israelis and Jews from around the world in prayer, poetry, music and dance

Shabbat Dinner with Mission participants and Special Guests

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv



Day 4: Shabbat, April 22

Theme: Israeli Shabbat

Today will be at leisure in honor of Shabbat. Consider attending optional Shabbat services at a local synagogue or participate in a city walking tour with your mission guide.

We are happy to help arrange day trips outside of Tel Aviv to locations of your choice at your own cost or you can enjoy a free day exploring Tel Aviv and her beaches on your own!

Noon **Lunch at hotel**

Join together on Shabbat afternoon to meet with Israelis, new and old, changemakers and activists dreaming and continuing to build Israel.

Participate in a special Havdalah ceremony with your new National Mission family

Dinner on own in Tel Aviv

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 5: Sunday, April 23

Theme: Maximizing our impact, together

Morning **Breakfast at hotel**

Participate in a memorable hands-on activity that reflects Jewish Federation's commitment to safe, healthy, and caring communities.

We will offer a choice of activities, for example:

Volunteer with a Hands-on Activity where we will help sort and pack rescued produce for those in need.

Mission time for Reflection

Buses back to Tel Aviv

Lewinsky Market Food Tour

Afternoon **Return to hotels by 2PM to prepare for the opening event of the Israel at 75 General Assembly**

Join those who have arrived for the General Assembly and head out together to Tel Aviv Expo for the opening event, together with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren HaYesod, and the World Zionist Organization.

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv



Israel at 75 General Assembly

National Mission

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Day 6: Monday, April 24

Israel at 75 General Assembly

Take part in a day-long gathering to explore key issues facing the global Jewish community in 2023 together with leaders and partners from North America, Israel and around the world.

Location: Expo Tel Aviv International Convention Center

In the evening, we will observe Yom Ha'Zikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, with a special experience at Latrun, the site of fierce fighting during the 1948 War of Independence. This evening is hosted by MASA Israel Journey, which provides long-term immersive experiences for thousands of young Diaspora Jews every year. We will join thousands of current MASA participants for this special event that transitions us into Israel's most somber day of the year.

Location: Latrun

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 7: Tuesday, April 25

Israel at 75 General Assembly

Yom Ha'Zikaron continues, we will join a Mifgash ("Encounter") in small groups of General Assembly participants, guided by Israeli educators, former Schlichim, and others. Groups will take part in ceremonies to honor the fallen and engage in a series of conversations designed to convey the special meaning of this solemn day for their Israeli counterparts.

Location: multiple tracks and sites across Israel

In the evening, we will shift to celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's 75th Birthday, with a mega Yom Ha'Atzmaut event open to all!

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv or Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 8: Wednesday, April 26

Israel at 75 General Assembly

The Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration will continue with a unique festival that embraces local Israeli traditions, including barbecues, music, dancing, and more!

Location: Neot Kidumim Park –the Biblical Landscape Reserve located midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv

Hotel Check-Out and Depart Israel

OPTIONAL: In the evening right after the General Assembly, we'll join together with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Mega Mission for an out-of-this-world celebration. Gather with us under the stars, among the ancient ruins, for an Israel 75th Anniversary music spectacular. It's a night that will live on in your imagination forever. Don't miss it!

Location: Caesarea Amphitheater

Participants staying in Israel after Wednesday, April 26 can book extra nights at the mission hotels. We'd be happy to assist!

