



ITINERARY

October 6–9, 2024

# We Choose Life

October 7 Solidarity  
Mission to Israel



*Your Voice in Israel*



## ITINERARY

Join us as we mark a year since the atrocities of October 7. Stand in solidarity, pay respects to those who were murdered, support the hostage families, and hear stories from people who remain evacuated from their communities.

The solidarity mission will guide participants through crucial sites impacted by the terrorist attacks, offering a chance to pay respects and witness ongoing recovery efforts firsthand. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with survivors, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers, first responders, and community leaders who have shown remarkable resilience in the aftermath of the attacks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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*Your Voice in Israel*



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

# Arrivals / Opening Program

Group Transfers from airport to the hotel

Opening Program at **Hostage Square** with Guest Speaker –

Jewish National Fund-USA is a proud and strong supporter of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum in Israel. Hostage Square is the public plaza located in front of the Tel Aviv Art Museum of Art and across from the offices of the IDF. Since October 7, 2023, the families of hostages taken have encamped in the square calling attention to the plight of the hostages taken by Hamas. The square features art installations and banners calling for the release of those taken. We will hear from a representative of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum in Israel.

Dinner at the hotel

**Overnight:** Ritz Carlton, Herzliya



MONDAY, OCTOBER 7  
**Memorializing  
October 7**

Breakfast at the Hotel

**Yad Mordechai** – Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, located within the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council and just two miles from the Gaza Border, was named after Warsaw Ghetto Uprising hero Mordechai Anielewicz. The museum on the restored battlefield site, where valiant members fought during the 1948 War of Independence was hit by a terror rocket on October 7. It ripped a hole in the exhibit of the bunker replicating the ones used by resistance fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto. This is a poignant reminder that 80 years post Holocaust. Jews are still fighting for their lives.

**Sha'ar HaNegev Athletic Center** – We will lay a cornerstone at the site of the new and largest sports center in the Israel Envelope in memory of Ofir Libstein, the former head of the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council Ofir was murdered on October 7 defending his town of Kfar Aza. His son Nitzan Libstein, mother-in-law Bilha Epstein, wife's nephew, Netta Epstein, and fifty-eight others were murdered that day. Nineteen people were taken hostage from Kfar Aza.

Pay our respects to communities in the Israel Envelope

Lunch

Honor the memory of the victims at the Nova Festival site – in Kibbutz Re'im and take part in a ceremony of Jewish National Fund-USA's Be Inscribed initiative, a timeless tribute of a new Sefer Torah to Kibbutz Re'im as a beacon of light and remembrance.

Attend a moving **Building Together Ceremony** at Kibbutz Re'im – commemorating those we've lost, supporting the hostage families, and envisioning future plans for rebuilding affected communities together.

Dinner

**Overnight:** Ritz Carlton, Herzliya



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

# Challenges in the North

Breakfast at the Hotel

**Akko – Western Galilee Now Tourist Information Center** – Tens of thousands of residents of the north of Israel have been evacuated from their homes, due to the ongoing rocket fire from Hezbollah in Lebanon. Many businesses in the north are also fighting for their lives. Most employees in the region fall into one of these categories: tourism, agriculture, or construction. With these industries halted by the evacuations, many people on reserve duty and limited tourism to the region is in dire need of help. We will have a discussion with local residents – employment & small businesses

Meet with Regional Council Representatives. We will have a discussion with local residents about employment and small businesses.

**Packing Food with Basma** – Basma Hino, a Druze woman from the north originally decided to feed her late husband's unit during the war. She began cooking meals for them and other IDF soldiers, including her son, Noor, out of her restaurant. This grew to her cooking, packing and distributing more than 400 meals each week to different units. Basma acquired kosher certification for her restaurant to ensure as many soldiers as possible could enjoy her food. Jewish National Fund-USA has connected Basma to other local business owners who have assisted in expanding her efforts. Each week the Jewish National Fund-USA volunteer missions work with Basma to prepare and pack these meals.

Lunch with Firefighters in **Kfar Masaryk** – A Kibbutz in the Western Galilee

Security Briefing

Light Dinner at the Hotel

**Israel Philharmonic Orchestra** – Opening Night in Tel Aviv – This concert is the IPO's way of recognizing and responding to the anniversary of the 10/7 attacks on Southern Israel by Hamas. Conducting will be internationally acclaimed Israeli, Lahav Shani and soloist violinist Maxim Vengerov, Russian Israeli, also internationally renowned, will be performing.

**Overnight:** Ritz Carlton, Herzliya



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

# B'Kol Dor V'Dor Looking to the Future

Breakfast at Hotel & Checkout

See one of the 14 communities in the South where Jewish National Fund-USA volunteers have worked to make it place people can come back home to. Spend the morning with US students and the students of the Hashmoer HaChadash Leadership program – a Year-long gap-year program before enlistment in the IDF. Life-changing, character-building and challenging, the students participate in agriculture work, safeguard lands and study group-based Zionism

Lunch

**Sde Boker** – visit Ben Gurion's grave – stand at the site where David Ben Gurion had the vision to populate the Negev as the next frontier of Israel.

**Tour of Beer Sheva** – as we follow in the footsteps of Ben Gurion we will visit the capital of the Negev and witness the unbelievable growth of the city of Beer Sheva and look to the future

**Farewell Dinner at AMHSI** – South Campus

Transfer to Airport for Departing Flights

