

## Israel Tour 2022 - FAQs

The following FAQs and answers are based on the situation as of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and are subject to change in line with Covid-19 developments in the UK and Israel, and the [Terms and Conditions](#) for application to Israel Tour.

### About FZY & Israel Tour

#### What is FZY?

The Federation of Zionist Youth (FZY) is a Jewish Zionist Youth Movement, strengthening Jewish and Zionist identity whilst creating a strong and vibrant Jewish community for tomorrow. At FZY we strive to challenge, stimulate, educate and excite British Jewish youth through an array of programming. FZY works within a pluralist framework and therefore welcomes and respects members from different Jewish and political backgrounds, whilst providing a space to explore your own Jewish identity and that of others. [Check out FZY's website](#) for more information about FZY's ideology and programmes.

#### What is UJIA Israel Experience?

UJIA Israel Experience is organised by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and supported by the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA) and facilitates Israel Tour as a service to FZY and other Youth Movement/Organisations, Synagogues, Student Organisations and other communal organisations incorporating an experience of Israel into educational activities. UJIA Israel Experience processes application data on behalf of FZY. All applicants are eligible to apply to the UJIA Bursary Scheme for financial assistance to cover the costs of the programme.

#### What is Israel Tour?

Israel Tour is a rite of passage which thousands of young British Jews have gone through over the last several decades. Israel Tour is a 2-4 week educationally driven Programme with an emphasis on "experience" and Jewish journey. The programmes for the different tour groups are varied and may include, as examples, guided visits to Israel's many beautiful and meaningful sites, seminars, hikes, swimming, water sports, abseiling or climbing. For further information, explore the [Israel Tour brochure](#).

#### What are the dates of Israel Tour?

FZY expects to take several Israel Tour groups, therefore they do not all leave and return on the same day. We expect the Year 11 Israel Tour groups to depart on 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July and to return on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August. The Year 12 Israel Tour groups are expected to leave for Israel on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August with them returning on 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August. All dates are subject to change.

#### What age participants is Israel Tour for?

In most years, Israel Tour is only for people graduating from Year 11 (S4 in Scotland). This year, due to FZY not being able to operate a programme over the last couple of years, those people completing Year 12 (S5 in Scotland) can also attend. For information about other programming FZY will be facilitating for other age groups, see the [FZY website](#).

#### Will both year 11 and year 12 children be in the same group?

No. FZY are planning separate groups for year 11s and year 12s which are operating at different times over the summer.

#### What will the year 12 experience be like?

Participants of the Year 12 trip are a year older, and the programme reflects that. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how complex Israel is, meeting and interacting with different communities while

forging their own Zionist identity over 16 action-packed nights. And there's loads of fun thrown in too, with time to explore Tel Aviv and relax by the Dead Sea. This is an engaging, exciting trip bursting with new opportunities.

### What type of accommodation with the participants be staying in?

FZY groups stay in lots of different types of overnight accommodation, including Kibbutzim, youth villages, and campsites. You can expect that the vast majority of nights will be spent in youth hostels; these are basic but clean and often quite lovely. Rooms typically sleep around four participants, normally with en-suite bathrooms and showers.

### What will the participants do on Israel Tour?

The core programme (subject to change) for each of our buses includes all of the following: Jerusalem, the Kotel, Old City, Yad Vashem & Mt. Herzl; Tel Aviv; Touring the north and south; Bedouin hospitality; Tsfat; Abseiling; Desert & water hikes; Maccabiah Games; Masada at sunrise; Dead Sea; Camel rides; Volunteering; Kayaking; Snorkelling the Red Sea\*; and Druze hospitality\*.

\*These options are not guaranteed for Year 12 trip as they have a shorter trip.

More details can be found in the [Israel Tour Brochure](#).

### How many participants will there be on an Israel Tour group?

This will partially depend on how many people apply. We are expecting to create buses that have 40 participants, although this could be slightly more or less depending on various factors.

### Will the participants be with their friends?

FZY's plan is to place participants with their friends whilst at the same time ensuring they get to be with some new people. As part of the application process you will be asked to highlight some people you would like to be in a tour group with. FZY will then attempt to split the tour groups as best as we can based on friendship requests and ensuring groups that are balanced. There will be at least one occasion that every Israel Tour group will meet up with every other, and many more times when groups will see and/or stay with each other as they travel across Israel.

### Can I join Israel Tour for a selection of days or a shorter time?

The basic answer to this question is no. However, if you have a personal situation that you believe may be 'exceptional' then please be in contact with the FZY Office who can determine whether there is anything that can be done about your specific case.

### Can an Israel Tour participant fly to / home from Israel independently of their Israel Tour group?

This year, due to many factors, the participant will need to fly out and come home with their Israel Tour group unless they have been required to isolate or in the case of an exceptional circumstance.

### Who are your staff?

Each Israel Tour bus is expected to have four madrichim (leaders) who will accompany the group throughout. Traditionally, this has been two British madrichim who are students in university, and two Israeli madrichim who have completed their IDF service, one of which will be a tour guide and another who will be a first aider. FZY, along with its partners from UJIA Israel Experience and Tlalim provide extensive, up-to-date and programme-specific training to all madrichim (British and Israeli) in safeguarding, child protection, discipline, welfare, education, etc. No madrich/a is allowed to begin their role without this training. We bring in external expertise to advise on and in some cases deliver certain training to ensure it is of the highest standard.

### What is the price of Israel Tour and what does it include?

FZY has an early bird reduced price in addition to our standard price. These are the prices:

- Israel Tour Year 11 Reduced Price – £3,675

- Israel Tour Year 11 Full Price – £3,799
- Israel Tour Year 12 Reduced Price – £2,699
- Israel Tour Year 12 Full Price – £2,799

The early bird reduced price is only available to applicants who make their initial application and deposit payment before 13:00 on 7 March 2022. The price includes outbound and return flights between the designated airport and Israel, accommodation, three meals a day, educational guided tours, seminars, transportation in Israel, group activities, entrance fees, security costs, and the insurance policy. The price does not include spending money (i.e., for snacks and memorabilia) and a refundable damage deposit. Israel Tour is more expensive than previous years due to the additional costs of running the programme during a pandemic.

### Will the participants need spending money?

There will be times participants may want to buy snacks, ice cream, memorabilia, etc. whilst in Israel. We recommend participants bring with them a small amount of spending money to purchase these things if they want.

### What food will be provided?

Breakfast and dinner are often served buffet-style in hostels. Because participants spend each day out and about, lunch varies between sandwiches, packed lunches, and hot lunch deliveries (like school meals!). All of the food we provide is certified Kosher and the programme caters for a wide range of allergies and dietary requirements. Sometimes, if groups are spending a lunchtime in a marketplace or an evening in a shopping mall, participants receive the cash-equivalent of a meal so that they can choose their own food.

### Can FZY cater for special dietary requirements?

In most cases, FZY can cater for special dietary requirements if we are made aware of these in advance. In Israel, food allergies are far less common than in the UK; especially with regards to nut, sesame and chickpea allergies. Consequently, we are unable to provide food suppliers, restaurants or accommodation sites in Israel that can guarantee that food has been made in a nut free environment or guarantee that specific foods have not been present in the preparation of a dish. Additionally, many snacks (including chocolate and crisps) contain nuts, sesame and/or chickpeas which means their presence are likely to be found throughout Israel, including in kitchens.

### How does Shabbat look on FZY Israel Tour?

Shabbat is often one of the best days on Israel Tour as we create a real '*Shabbatmosphere*' that encapsulates the whole group. FZY is a pluralist youth movement, and as such do not dictate or educate how participants should / shouldn't observe Shabbat. We will provide three different services / options for participants to engage in on Friday night and Shabbat morning and all the activities that we offer operate within the laws of Shabbat. In public places we ask that the participants do not break Shabbat, but in their rooms and private spaces they are able to as they wish.

### Can participants use their phones?

During programmed time and at other times stated by the madrichim (leaders) we have a phone-free environment to encourage the participants to socialise with one another and build lasting friendships. At limited and specified times during the programme, participants can use their phones.

### What is the procedure if a participant is unwell?

There will be a first aider on the group staff of Israel Tour. If a participant is feeling unwell or requires extra support, the first aider alongside the other group leaders will be available to assist. There are group rakazim (coordinators) and other staff based in Israel to support this process.

### What happens with medication during Israel Tour?

The medication will be held and dispensed by the British Israel Tour madrichim (leaders) for the entirety of Israel Tour. It is the responsibility of the participant to remind and request the madrichim to administer their prescribed medication in the correct dosage and at the designated time. The only exceptions relate to EpiPens, Insulin and Inhalers. All participants requiring an EpiPen, Insulin or an Inhaler must ensure they bring three doses with them on Israel Tour. The participant must carry one dose on them at all times and two additional doses should be handed into the British madrichim.

### Application Process

#### How do I sign up?

To sign up you need to complete a short online application form. This must be accompanied with a deposit which can also be paid online via the application form. A more thorough application and medical form will be sent later in the process.

#### How and when do I pay?

A deposit is required upon initial application and there is a section in the initial online application that can process payment of this. The deadline for the payment of the deposit is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The full balance of the Programme is due and must be paid no later than Thursday 28 April 2022. Payment using credit / debit card through FZY's online payment system is preferable, although other payment methods are accepted. Contact Ruth ([ruth@fzy.org.uk](mailto:ruth@fzy.org.uk)) at the FZY office to explore additional payment methods.

#### What if I can't afford the full cost of Israel Tour?

FZY is an inclusive youth movement and we understand, especially during the challenging financial times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, that not everyone can pay the full price for Israel Tour. Therefore, there is financial assistance available for families that are unable to pay the full price of the programme from FZY, the [Friends of FZY](#) and the [UJIA](#). As part of the initial online application form there is an opportunity to request financial assistance. If you require further information and/or your circumstances have changed and you did not request financial assistance on the initial application form, please contact Claire ([claire@fzy.org.uk](mailto:claire@fzy.org.uk)) at the FZY office in confidence. She will be able to explain the financial assistance process further and answer any questions you may have.

#### What are the key dates I should be aware of when applying for Israel Tour?

Applications for Israel Tour open on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and close on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. FZY has limited spaces available so complete your forms early to avoid disappointment. If you are not offered a place, you may be put onto a waiting list or our partners at UJIA Israel Experience may be able to support you to get a place with a different Youth Movement/Organisation.

#### When will I need to pay?

Deposit is due by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and full payment is due by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Unfortunately, due to the difficulty of organising Israel Tour this year, payments must have cleared by these dates and no later otherwise the place on Israel Tour for the participant will be compromised.

#### Are there limited spaces on Israel Tour?

Yes. FZY have a certain number of flights to Israel that have been reserved. Additionally, to ensure a high standard of programming, there are a limited number of madrichim (leaders) who can facilitate the groups. FZY envisions being able to take several hundred participants on Israel Tour, but should applications be very high, there will be a limit on the number of applications we can accept.

#### Will my child have priority if they have been on an FZY programme in the last 12 months?

Yes. Those participants that have been enrolled on an FZY programme this past year will receive priority if they apply to Israel Tour before the early bird deadline on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. After this deadline

passes, FZY can no longer provide priority to anyone. Even within the time allocated for priority placement, FZY will still operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there may be other factors, i.e., ensuring balanced Israel Tour groups with regards to gender, etc. or governmental regulations that may impact the acceptance process.

### Will there be an information evening?

Absolutely. As there may be changes to Israel Tour based on government guidance over the coming months, FZY will be setting dates for an information evening closer to the time. We will share this date and other information about the meeting with parents/guardians in due course.

## Covid-19

### What happens if a participant gets Covid-19 and can't go on Israel Tour?

If a participant tests positive before their Israel Tour departure date and meets the conditions of cancellation for the reasons stipulated by the cancellation insurance we have secured, then a refund will be provided, less administration fees. Participants who subsequently test negative or complete any required isolation periods may be able to join their Israel Tour programme at a later date at the discretion of FZY and at their own cost. Full details are available in the [Terms and Conditions](#).

### What happens if a participant gets Covid-19 in Israel on Israel Tour?

Currently anyone testing positive for Covid-19 in Israel needs to self-isolate for a minimum of 5 days. While the participant cannot be in physical contact with other people during this period, the organisers of Israel Tour will ensure that there is a minimum of two leaders on call 24/7 and there will be access to an assigned medical professional. In cases where we deem it necessary on welfare grounds (physical or mental), we may ask for a formal commitment that a parent or guardian will join the participant during the isolation period before agreeing that they can participate in the programme. If a participant contracts Covid-19 during Israel Tour, we will make every effort that they can re-join the programme as soon as regulations allow. If their isolation period extends beyond the final date of Israel Tour, the organisers will ensure they are placed on the first available flight out after their isolation period ends and will provide the same level of support throughout the isolation period.

### Do I need to take out my own insurance for Israel Tour?

As part of the cost of Israel Tour, travel and medical insurance is included. Policy details are available on request. If you would like to secure additional cover over and above the cover that has been secured and is included within your Israel Tour package, you are entitled to action this independently. Some pre-existing health conditions are not included, so you should ask for a copy of the insurance policy to confirm whether the condition is included.

### Will participants who are not vaccinated or partially vaccinated be allowed entry to Israel?

As of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, non-Israeli citizens from the UK will be allowed to travel to Israel regardless of their vaccination status. However, in anticipation that Covid-19 regulations may change again before the summer, we strongly encourage all applicants to follow the advice of the UK government regarding vaccinations and to ensure that vaccinations and recovery are properly documented.

The latest information on Entry of Non-Israeli Citizens to Israel by Air can be found here:

<https://corona.health.gov.il/en/abroad/arriving-foreign-nationals>

## Cancellation

### What are the cancellation terms of Israel Tour for non-Covid reasons?

An Applicant who cancels a place prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 will be entitled to a refund less an Administration Fee. Details of the administration fee can be found in the full [Terms and Conditions](#).

Any Applicant who cancels after the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 will be entitled to a refund or liable for an outstanding balance according to the following schedule:

- 61 days or longer prior to departure date: 100% of amount paid (or payable) less deposit and the Administration Fee;
- From 31-60 days prior to departure date: 50% of amount paid (or payable) less deposit and the Administration Fee;
- From 15-30 days prior to departure date: 20% of amount paid (or payable) less deposit and the Administration Fee;
- From 1-14 days prior to departure date: 0% of amount paid (or payable).

Some reasons for cancellation may be covered through insurance. Please contact FZY for details of the insurance policies.

#### [Will I get my deposit back if Israel Tour is cancelled?](#)

You will be entitled to a refund of your deposit less the administration fee if you have to cancel before Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

If Israel Tour is cancelled after 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 due to changed travel regulations (UK or Israel) including vaccination requirements, then we will work to achieve as high a refund as possible based on our contracts. We will only provide a refund for the maximum amount we can recoup less a Covid Cancellation Administration Fee, which is outlined in the [Terms and Conditions](#) of Israel Tour.

Within the [Terms and Conditions](#), it will be made clear what is refundable and under what circumstances.