ISRAEL TRIPS FOR DAY SCHOOLS
For 110 years, Young Judaea has brought together thousands of Jewish teens and students from across the United States and around the world from every religious, cultural, and political persuasion. These participants bond through a shared commitment to Jewish values, Jewish pride, and love of Israel.

Young Judaea is a Zionist, pluralistic movement with no political or religious affiliation that provides informal educational programs. Our purpose is to strengthen Jewish and Zionist identity in all its forms through activities in Israel and North America. Young Judaea has a close relationship with Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, who for many years has sponsored Young Judaea programs.

With both informal and formal summer and year-round programs in both the US and Israel, from pre-K to college and beyond, Young Judaea is unique in its ability to offer a fun, meaningful, safe, social environment that also includes a distinct focus on education, leadership, and social action. The result is generation after generation of strong Jewish leaders who have created lifetime friendships with other Jews and are empowered to truly make a difference in their communities, and in the world.

Young Judaea has been running programs in Israel for nearly 70 years, including summer programs for teenagers, Year Course – a formally accredited gap year program, Onward Israel programs, Amirim – a summer internship and volunteer program, and WUJS – an internship program for young professionals. We also offer other specialized programs in cooperation with partners from around the world.

Young Judaea Israel has two main campuses, one in Jerusalem and the other in Tel Aviv, that house more than seventy participants each. We maintain offices in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, including a highly-experienced and mobile logistics department.

We look forward to working with you as partners and hope that our experiences, passion, and resources can help you provide the excellent standard of programming that you expect!
The Young Judaea Israel experience is an unparalleled trip to the heart of Jewish peoplehood, Israeli society, history and culture. Our tailor made programs turn lessons into life-long memories, and our unique approach to pluralistic Zionism ensures that everyone finds their home with Young Judaea. Our dedicated staff work closely with our partners, – schools, synagogues, Jewish institutions – to build a customized itinerary that brings Israel alive for students, weaving the classic Israel tour with innovative educational adventure and encounters with real Israelis, many of whom are alumni of our programs. An optional orientation and follow-up led by our staff at your school builds and sustains the impact of the experience, grounding the lessons in the context of the student’s lives at home.

**Guides & Educators**

Young Judaea maintains a highly-experienced, long-serving staff of educators who contribute to all our programs to ensure participants have the best possible educational experience. In keeping with our pluralist Jewish and Zionist mission, these educators span a broad political and religious spectrum, adding diversity to the programs for which we provide educational material. We work with experienced, licensed tour guide educators and a faculty of experts in their field who have many years’ experience working with different populations.

**Safety & Security**

The safety and security of our clients, partners and participants is our primary concern. Young Judaea has a designated security officer and committee that constantly review and update our security procedures. We consult with the Head of Security of the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature – the agency responsible for field trips throughout the country. Our consultant is in daily contact with all of Israel’s security services. Young Judaea may at times take security measures that are in advance of and/or exceed those recommended by the Israeli security authorities, if together with our partner it is felt necessary.

**Educational Philosophy**

Our programs offer educational experiences to a range of ages and backgrounds in varying lengths and intensities, and are united by an overarching ideological foundation. These follow the guiding principles of our movement.

**Israel**

Whether cultural or religious, we seek to foster a sense of meaning and connection to the ethics, traditions, and aspirations of our Jewish heritage.

**Judaism**

We cultivate an environment where the diversity of Jewish peoplehood and community are valued at the highest level.

**Pluralism**

Encouraging participants to understand their place in the chain of Jewish continuity and the need for effective leadership and community building.

**Leadership**

A commitment to making a difference in a variety of social, political, cultural and religious realms, along with the development of strategies and skills to do so.

**Tikun Olam**

Building a connection and commitment to the Jewish land, people, and society that allows for constructive criticism and fosters a desire to engage in its betterment.
SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY 1 | Arrival
Meet Young Judaea trip leaders at the airport and travel up to Jerusalem. Our first stop will be the Hass Promenade, which offers a breathtaking overlook of Jerusalem and serves as the perfect spot for the group’s welcome orientation to Israel.
Accommodation: Jerusalem

DAY 2 | Jerusalem
Take in the history of the Jewish quarter, trek through the ancient Hezekiah Tunnel, tour the City of David, and visit the kotel. Finish off an incredible day with a Segway tour and an activity learning about Israel’s complex political situation.
Accommodation: Jerusalem

DAY 3 | Yad Vashem, Har Herzl, Negev
Spend a meaningful day confronting the tragedies of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem before visiting Har Herzl to learn about the accomplishments and sacrifice of Israel’s military and political heroes. Head south to the Negev to ride camels and have s’mores at a bonfire under the stars.
Accommodation: Jerusalem

DAY 4 | Masada & Dead Sea
Rise before the sun and hike to the top of Masada, the site of one of the Jewish people’s most infamous stories. Then cover up in some Dead Sea mud before floating in the saltiest sea in the world! We’ll travel back up to Jerusalem for a visit to Mahane Yehuda, the city’s colorful outdoor marketplace, and then prepare for Shabbat in the holy city. Services optional.
Accommodation: Jerusalem

DAY 5 | Shabbat
We’ll have optional services available in the morning before taking a walking tour in some of Jerusalem’s most beautiful and historical neighborhoods, taking advantage of the relaxed Shabbat atmosphere to get ready for the non-stop week ahead. Spend the evening out downtown on the popular Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall.
Accommodation: Jerusalem

DAY 6 | Galilee
After heading north, hike the beautiful Mt. Arbel with incredible views of the Galilee at the top of its high cliffs. Then descend to the Kinneret where we’ll have an afternoon of fun in the water.
Accommodation: North

DAY 7 | Golan & Jordan River
Go as north as you can in Israel with a tour of the Golan and a jeep ride up Mt. Bental, learning about the military history in the region. Then, a classic kayak ride down the Jordan river! We’ll cook lunch outdoors before heading to the mystical city of Tzfat.
Accommodation: North

DAY 8 | Akko & Caesarea
Take in the incredible Crusader ruins of Old Akko and learn about the city’s fascinating history as a port thousands of years old, then travel to Caesarea to learn about the Roman presence in Ancient Israel. We’ll meet Israeli teens for an encounter activity in Tel Aviv.
Accommodation: Tel Aviv

DAY 9 | Tel Aviv
Spend the day giving back to communities in need through volunteer work in Tel Aviv with several different options. Then learn about Tel Aviv’s status as a global high-tech hub while touring various companies and learning more about Israel’s reputation as “Start-Up Nation.” Finish up with an evening out in the city.
Accommodation: Tel Aviv

DAY 10 | L’hitraot!
What better way to say goodbye to Israel then with free time at one of Tel Aviv’s most colorful spots, Shuk HaCarmel? Wander down Nachalat Binyamin on a walking tour through the city’s historic and hip neighborhoods before a visit to the ancient port city of Jaffa. Finally, hit the famous Tel Aviv beaches before it’s time to head to the airport and return home! L’hitraot!

*Sample 10-day itinerary. Options available up to 6 weeks.
“We’re getting ready for our third trip with Young Judaea for our 9th and 10th graders. They develop a trip with our students in mind, they accommodate any special needs of our students, they respond to our requests for changes from year to year, and we always love our tour guide! Young Judaea staff are easy to work with, and they take care of everything from the moment we get through security until it’s time to say goodbye.”

Cantor Paula Pepperstone, Director Rabbi, Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies Syracuse