

PROGRAM

Celebrating Women and Unity!
Southern New Jersey Women's Mission to Israel
October 16 – 22, 2025
(Draft itinerary as of February 13, 2025; subject to change)

Embark with us on a trip of empowerment and inspiration, gathering in Israel and celebrating women, diversity, and unity!

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL

- Group arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.
- Upon arrival, you will receive airport assistance and will be led through all entrance procedures and taken to meet your Tour Educator and driver.
- Drive towards Jerusalem.
- Start your journey on the Haas Promenade with a breathtaking panoramic view of Jerusalem. Together, recite the ***Shehechianu*** blessing to celebrate this special moment, setting the tone for an unforgettable experience. Share your hopes and expectations for the journey ahead as you take in the historic landscape.
- **Welcome Dinner** with **Ayelet Nahmias Verbin**, a former Member of Knesset (MK) and a prominent figure in Israel, to discuss current affairs, Israel's global standing, the status of women in Israel, and JAFI activities post-October 7th. Ayelet currently serves as **Chairwoman of the Fund for Terror Victims of the Jewish Agency**.

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

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DAY TWO: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

THE BEAUTY OF JERUSALEM

- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- Hike the **Sataf** in the Jerusalem Mountains. The reserve is filled with agricultural terraces with olive trees, vines, and orchards; springs that spring year-round and flow into water pools and irrigation canals; and stunning corners with views of the Jerusalem Mountains and the surrounding communities.
- Drive to the **Har Eitan Farm** for a cheese tasting. Like any good alchemist, cheesemaker Shai Seltzer works magic: changing the milk of his Anglo-Nubian crossbred goats into dozens of varieties of pungent cheeses, from the mildest, creamy little crottin disks to big-flavored, crumbly wheels that are aged for up to five years.
- Return to Jerusalem and visit the shuk – **Machaneh Yehuda** to experience the excitement as Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat.
- Afternoon free for shopping and exploring the city.
- Check into the hotel.
- Prepare for Shabbat.
- 5:25 p.m. Shabbat Candle lighting at the hotel.
- Experience the profound spirituality of welcoming Shabbat at the **Kotel – the Western Wall**.
- **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel joined by female lone soldiers.

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY THREE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 (NO BUS)

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning reflection and meditation session.
- **The Old City Ramparts**. Stroll along the ancient outer walls for a bird's eye view of the remarkably diverse, yet closely bound communities of Jerusalem's Old City.
- Meet with **Hannah Bendcowsky**, program director from the **Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue**, an interreligious organization that promotes an inclusive society for all religions. Walk through the sites of the **Christian Quarter** together with Hannah to discuss the status of Israel's multi-ethnic Christian community and the issues of identity it faces as a small minority living in a Jewish state.
- Return to the hotel for Shabbat lunch.
- Free afternoon to relax.
- 6:40 p.m. **Havdallah** service to end Shabbat and welcome the new week.
- Have dinner on own and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

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DAY FOUR: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025**TRAUMA AND RECOVERY**

- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and drive to Ofakim.
- Visit the **JAfi Youth Futures** program in Ofakim. A Jewish Agency subsidiary and flagship program, Youth Futures is one of Israel's leading positive-intervention programs, mentoring for at-risk children, teaching skills for academic improvement, and social integration that last a lifetime.
- Have lunch with inspiring local women in Ofakim.
- Visit the **car graveyard**, where destroyed cars from October 7th are displayed as a memorial.
- Visit the site of the **Nova Music Festival** where a memorial has been created in honor of those taken and killed. Meet with a survivor and hear her story.
- Visit **Kibbutz Be'eri**, one of the kibbutzim that was hit hardest by the Hamas onslaught. Meet with a kibbutz member and hear their story from that dark day.
- Drive to Kibbutz Zikim – 10 families from this kibbutz spent two weeks at our JCC Camps at Medford, and now they are excited to host us!
- Drive to Tel Aviv and check into the hotel.
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

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DAY FOUR: MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025**DO AS ISRAELI WOMEN DO**

- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- Embark on a breathtaking **bicycle tour** to Jaffa, enjoying the picturesque coastal scenery.
- **#Shop - Fashion Tour of TLV with fashion curator Galit Reisman:** Israel is acclaimed as a vibrant and flourishing fashion hub, with Tel Aviv at the forefront. The city's converted apartment studios are alive with passion and creative energy, where Israeli designers craft bold and innovative designs.
- **#Eat:** Enjoy free time and lunch on own in the trendy **Shuk HaCarmel**,
- **#Street Art of War:** Walk through Tel Aviv's Florentine neighborhood, to see the vibrant graffiti art that has flourished in recent years. Following the events of October 7th, new paintings have emerged, expressing the deep impact on Israeli society, mourning, and hope.
- **#Pray: Bring Them Home NOW!** Visit **Hostages Square**. Stand in solidarity with the families of those still being held captive in Gaza. As you come together in hope and unity, pray for the safe and swift return of all hostages, dreaming of the day when this square will no longer be needed.
- Return to the hotel.
- **Mevashlim Chavaya:** Enjoy a private cooking workshop, guided by an expert chef! Play with new flavors and ingredients and have a blast while doing it.

Overnight: Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

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DAY FIVE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025**INSPIRING WOMEN OF ISRAEL**

- Morning Yoga session overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.
- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- **Children are Our Future:** Meet with the team at **Sasa Setton Project** in **Sheba Hospital**. The project helps children overcome both psychological and physical challenges. Visit the learning spaces where hospitalized children participate in educational programs and the rooms where life-saving procedures take place.
- **Breaking the Glass Ceiling:** Attend a meeting at **Tel Aviv City Hall** to hear the inspiring stories of Israeli women shattering the glass ceiling. Hear from women leading major operational projects in the city and learn about innovative women's leadership programs in Israel's most modern city.
- **Empowering Women, Preserving Heritage: Ashager Ararao's Feminist Vision at the Battae Center-** Discover the rich tapestry of **Ethiopian Jewish** culture at the **Battae Center**, where **Ashager Ararao's** feminist vision shines brightly. As a platform for exploration and appreciation, Battae invites guests to delve into the vibrant heritage of Ethiopian Jews through diverse mediums like food, photography, art, music, and dance. We will participate in an empowering Ethiopian dance experience.
- Return to the hotel.
- Have dinner on your own.
- Night walking tour with your guide.

Overnight: Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

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DAY SIX: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025**UNITED WE STAND**

- **Have** breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel for a morning hike overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- **United we stand!** Conversation to discuss the global antisemitism crisis and why it's so important that you are here, now, standing with Israel and standing together with Jews worldwide.
- Lunch on your own and afternoon free for last-minute shopping and time to freshen up.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- **Farewell Dinner** and final reflections.
- Flights back to the U.S.

Travel safely and come back again soon!

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