

Joyce Zeff Israel Study (IST)

FAQs

Who is eligible to participate in IST 2022?

Jewish teens or teens who are connected to the Colorado Jewish community and who are currently juniors in high school.

What is the cost of IST 2022?

This year's fee is \$8,700 per person. We recommend families sign up by **November 1, 2021**, to guarantee the price of the trip. Outstanding balances must be paid in full on or before **April 5, 2022**.

A **\$500 deposit is due at the time of registration** to guarantee your space; \$100 of the deposit is non-refundable.

What is included in the cost of IST 2022?

- Flights
- Land costs (i.e., accommodation, activities, buses)
- Health and medical insurance while on the trip
- Three meals per day
- Staff, including tour guides, Israeli counselors, American counselors, bus drivers, security guards, etc.

How do I sign my child up for IST?

Visit <http://www.jewishcolorado.org/joyce-zeff-israel-study-tour>, set up a CampMinder account, register, and get ready for the summer of a lifetime!

Registration, all payments, and trip documents must be made through the CampMinder Parent Portal.

What financial aid is available for IST 2022?

- JEWISHcolorado's Joyce Zeff Endowment Fund provides an optional \$1,000 per person grant to all IST families.
- Many Colorado synagogues also provide IST scholarships. Please talk directly with your synagogue to find out more.
- Families can apply for financial aid via FACTs. The link to the application can be found on CampMinder. Financial aid applications are due December 1.
- RootOne also offers vouchers; more information will be released after September 15.

Is there a payment plan?

Yes. The CampMinder application will offer you a choice of payment plan and type. **All payments are due on or before April 5.**

Payment with registration	\$500 deposit
First payment due by January 15	\$2,500*
Second payment due by February 15	an additional \$2,500*
Final payment due by April 5	Must be paid in full**

*\$25 fee will be incurred for past due payment

**\$75 fee will be incurred for past due payment

Program costs are subject to change and are not guaranteed until registration is complete and the deposit is received.

What if I need to withdrawal from IST?

IST has a comprehensive refund policy that can be found in the Terms and Conditions of your CampMinder application.

February 1, 2022, is the last day to cancel and receive a full refund. From February 2–April 5, 2022, families may cancel their registration but will not be refunded their \$400 deposit. Beginning April 5, 2022, all programs are non-refundable.

Do I need to purchase travel insurance?

We strongly recommend but do not require travel insurance. Your CampMinder account contains more information on the type of travel insurance recommended by our travel provider (under Forms). Travel insurance is billed directly from and managed by the travel insurance provider. *Travel insurance must be purchased prior to final payment.*

What are the options for elective week?

Gadna (Israeli Army Experience): A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the Israel Defense Force (IDF) and experience an Israeli army base. Wear a uniform, learn about different IDF jobs, gain experience in team building, and participate in boot camp. Are you up for the challenge? See just how many push-ups you can do and become part of a cohesive IST unit.

Volunteering: Groups volunteer in communities in the northern region of Israel. Past activities have included working at a food distribution center, interacting with adults with disabilities, creating murals for schools, building eco-friendly facilities, sorting clothes, and more.

Sea-to-Sea Hike: A three-and-a-half day, twenty-five-mile hike from the Mediterranean Sea to the Sea of Galilee. Explore nature, camp under the stars, get a little dirty, and create lifelong friendships and memories.

What should I pack?

We will send out a comprehensive packing list closer to departure. [Click here to view previous packing list.](#)

Is there pre-trip programming?

Yes! We host programs prior to the trip and send the dates to each participant. Pre-trip programming happens once a month prior to departure.

How much money should my teen take to Israel? In what form?

We advise teens to allot \$75-\$100 for each week of travel. We recommend teens come with \$100 in US dollars for exchange and a debit or credit card for the rest of their money.

Does my teen need cell phone service?

Teens do not need cell phone service. In past years, about half of our ISTers have opted to have service; the rest rely on Wi-Fi to use their phones. We will send information on how to purchase an Israeli SIM card closer to departure. For a SIM card to work, your phone must be unlocked by your cell phone provider.

What are the accommodations like on IST?

IST teens stay in a variety of locations, including hotels, youth hostels, *kibbutzim*, and the wilderness (camping). Refer to the sample itinerary for previous accommodations used by IST.

What are the laundry services on IST?

We send laundry out three times during the trip. Teens receive a plastic bag for dirty laundry; clothing is returned clean and folded. Items can be shrunk or lost, so we recommend you leave your favorites at home. JEWISHcolorado and its tour provider partners are not responsible for any clothing lost or damaged by the laundry service.

What is Host Family Weekend and what if my child does not have a place to stay?

IST teens have an opportunity to stay with friends or family in Israel. Host families pick the teens up from designated locations in Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. Hosts must be over the age of 21 and be able to provide a bed for any participant(s) that stay with them, as well as meals throughout the weekend.

If an IST teen does not have a place to stay, we will make arrangements to house them with a family in JEWISHcolorado's partner region Ramat HaNegev, where they can relax by the pool, meet Israeli teens, and enjoy life on a *kibbutz*.