



Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour (IST) FAQs

Updated: October 7th, 2020

Please note: Due to the pandemic and the resulting postponement of the IST 2020 trip, IST will run two simultaneous trips in the summer of 2021: one for the original IST 2020 teens (graduating seniors) and a second for eligible IST 2021 teens (rising seniors).

Is my child eligible to participate in IST 2021?

The IST 2021 trip is exclusively for current high school juniors.

The IST 2020 trip (that is, the trip that was postponed) is exclusively for current high school seniors. There are still spots available for this trip. If you are a current senior and did not register for IST 2020 last year, you may still register for this trip.

How much does IST 2021 cost?

The cost of IST 2021 is \$8700 per person. We recommend that students sign up by **November 1st** to guarantee the price of the trip. All payments must be paid in full on or before April 1, 2021.

The cost includes:

- One week in Poland
- Four weeks in Israel
- All travel, program, staff, tour guides and entrance fees
- Air-conditioned coach transportation
- All meals
- Medical insurance
- Security
- Hotel accommodations
- Gratuities

Commented [E11]: What's a staff fee? Do students pay staff fees?

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How do I sign my child up for IST?

To sign your student up, go to the [IST webpage](#) and set up an account with CampMinder. Once you have a CampMinder account, you can begin to fill out the application. Once the application is complete and you have paid the \$500 deposit, your student will be automatically enrolled for IST.

Is there any financial aid available to help pay for IST 2021?

Two types of financial aid are available:

Subsidies: JEWISHcolorado offers an optional subsidy of \$1,000 per person to all IST families from the Joyce Zeff endowment fund. Many congregations also provide subsidies for their confirmation students.

Scholarships: You may apply for financial aid via FACTS, you can find the link to the application in your CampMinder parent portal. Scholarship requirements and amounts are detailed on the application form. Financial aid applications are due December 1st, 2020.

Is there a payment plan?

The application on CampMinder requires that you choose one of four payment plans. All students' IST fees must be paid in full by April 1, 2021.

What if I need to withdrawal from IST?

IST has a comprehensive refund policy.

If you withdraw:

- before November 15, 2020, you will receive 100% of your money back.
- before February 15, 2021, you will lose \$100 (airline deposits are non-refundable after November 15).
- after February 15, 2021, you will lose your \$500 deposit.



- after March 15, 2021, you will lose your deposit, airline ticket fees, and any other non-refundable trip costs.

Do I need to purchase travel insurance?

Medical insurance is included in the price of IST. If you would like to purchase travel insurance, you may choose an option that is available on your CampMinder parent portal.

What are my options for Elective Week?

Gadna (Israeli Army Experience): A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the Israel Defense Force (IDF) and experience it all on an Israeli army base. You'll dress up in uniforms, learn about the different jobs of the army, about team building, and participate in a boot camp. Are you up for the challenge? If so, this is the perfect opportunity to see how many push-ups you can do and to become part of a tight knit unit with your fellow ISTers.

Volunteering: Groups will 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 for a clothing, and much 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 comprehensive packing lists as the departure date approaches.

Is there any pre-trip programming?

There are pre-trip programs that will include educational and social components. Before your student departs, they will have learned about Poland, the Holocaust, Israeli culture, politics, history, and much more.



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

We advise students to allot \$75-\$100 for each week of travel, for a total of \$375-\$500. We recommend that students have some U.S. dollars on hand; the remainder of their money is safest on a debit or credit card. Don't forget to call your bank and let them know your teen will be using your credit or debit card internationally.

Where do ISTers stay?

ISTers stay in a variety of locations, including hotels, youth hostels, kibbutzim, and in the wilderness while camping.

How do ISTers do laundry?

Laundry is sent out three times on IST. Students will be given plastic bags to fill, and their clothes will be returned, cleaned and folded. Students may bring their own laundry bags. We encourage students to label all clothing in advance to ensure laundry gets returned to the right person. 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?

ISTers have an opportunity to stay with friends or family in Israel for one weekend. Host families will pick up and drop off the students at designated locations (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa). Hosts must be at least twenty-one years old and be able to provide a bed for any participant(s) that stay with them, as well as meals throughout the weekend. If an ISTER does not have a place to stay, we will match them with a host family in Ramat HaNegev, JEWISHcolorado's partner region. It is a great opportunity for our American teens to hang out with Israeli teens, relax by a pool, and enjoy life on a kibbutz.