

# Chabad of Markham - Solidarity Mission to Israel



February 2025

Prepared by: Deena Schechterman

## Itinerary

**Please note that the itinerary is not final and is subject to change based on time, weather, security and other considerations.**

### **DAY 1 - TEL AVIV (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)**

**Monday, February 10 2025**

- Welcome to Israel!!! Land at **Ben Gurion Airport** on Flight # where you will be met by our **VIP service** representative once you exit the plane & escorted through passport control, baggage claim & customs. Please keep your blue slip from Passport Control throughout the trip.
- Tour of the state of the art **Marcus National Blood Services Center**- the world's first underground anti-missile blood center & learn about MDA's heroic activities on October 7th
- Packed lunch - included
- Meet with wounded IDF Veterans at the **Tel Hashomer Hospital** and hear of their courage both on the battlefield & in rehabilitation
- Dinner at local restaurant - included
- Visit **Hostage Square** in Tel Aviv - hopefully by then all the hostages will be safely home with their loved ones!!!
- Check-in to your hotel - unpack, rest & relax
- Dinner at Regina Restaurant in the Old Train Station with guest speaker Aliza Landes who served in COGAT(Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories) - included

**Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel - Tel Aviv**

### **DAY 2 - GAZA BORDER (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)**

**Tuesday, February 11 2025**

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Departure (please ensure that you have closed shoes for the volunteering as well as protection against the sun)
- Volunteer with local farmers in the South who have been affected by the conflict and assist them planting, harvesting or packaging their crops
- Visit **Sderot** including a lookout over Gaza, the site of the Police Station, Children's Playground & meet with residents who will share their experiences from October 7th.
- Lunch at **Chabad of Sderot** with **Rabbi Asher Pizem & Mrs. Tzivia Pizem** who will share their perspective of life in the city - included
- Bear witness at one of the kibbutzim that was brutally attacked by Hamas terrorists on October 7th
- Meet with a survivor from the **Nova Music Festival** in the Re'im Forest
- See the burnt-out cars that bear silent testimony at **Tekuma**
- Host **IDF Combat Troops** for a **BBQ** at their base with music & dancing - included
- Return to Tel Aviv

**Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel - Tel Aviv**

## DAY 3 - SAR EL (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, February 12

2025

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- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Check-out & departure (wear closed shoes & bring protection against the sun)
- Volunteer at an **IDF Base** with Sar-El packaging & sorting military equipment or supplies. You will be given an IDF uniform to wear but should have your own underwear, socks, shoes, belt & hat. Lunch is included at the base.
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- **Welcome to Jerusalem!** Enjoy a spectacular lookout over Jerusalem from the **Haas Promenade** with musical accompaniment
- Time for reflection at the **Western Wall**
- Check-in to the hotel - unpack, rest & relax
- Dinner at the hotel - included

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem**

## DAY 4 - GUSH ETZION (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, February 13 2025

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- Departure
- Volunteer at **Pantry Packers** packaging food for the needy
- Time for reflection at **Rachel's Tomb** on the outskirts of Bethlehem
- Enjoy lunch & wine tasting at the award-winning **Gush Etzion Winery** - included.
- Discover the **Path of the Patriarchs** in an off-road ATV adventure. (Bring driver's license).
- Hear the remarkable story of the defenders of the Gush in 1948 at the moving, Kibbutz Kfar Etzion **Sound-&-Light Show**
- Departure for Jerusalem
- **Pitmaster** is the culinary experience of a lifetime! Enjoy a sumptuous meal of dishes that have carefully prepared by your pitmaster in a live show accompanied by music and an electric atmosphere

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem**

## DAY 5 - JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, February 14 2025

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- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Pay tribute to the heroes who are interred at the **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery**
- Volunteer at the **Michael Levin Lone Soldier Center**
- Experience the vibe at the **Machane Yehudah Outdoor Market** as Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat.
- Afternoon at leisure
- Candle-lighting at the hotel
- Join thousands of Jews from around the globe in joyous celebration of Shabbat at the **Western Wall**
- Enjoy a beautiful **Shabbat dinner** & fabrengen in the Jewish Quarter & host some lone soldiers

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem**

## DAY 6 - YEMIN MOSHE (GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, February 15 2025

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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Join morning services at the **Great Synagogue/ Italian Synagogue or Chabad of Rechavia**
- Torah class at the hotel with **Rabbi & Rebbetzin Plotkin**
- Private **Shabbat lunch** at the hotel with **Gil Hoffman** - CEO of Honest Reporting & former senior political correspondent of the Jerusalem Post
- Rest & relax
- Enjoy walking through the beautiful **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood & **Montefiore's Windmill**
- Musical Havdalla
- Evening at leisure

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem**

## DAY 7 - CENTRAL REGION (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, February 16 2025

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- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the new interactive museum at **Sha'ar HaGai** and learn about the incredible sacrifice made, in order to keep the lifeline to Jerusalem open in the 1948 War of Independence
- Visit with **David Guedalia**, father of Yosef Geudalia who was killed on October 7th fighting in Kfar Aza
- Lunch at local restaurant - included
- Meet with inspirational wounded IDF veterans through **Brothers for Life** at Beit Ha'Achim in **Kfar Truman**
- Volunteer at the distribution center of **Soldiers Saves Lives** and learn about the fascinating and powerful organization that was created days after the October 7th attacks
- Return to Jerusalem

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem**

## DAY 8 - DEPARTURE (NO GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, February 17 2025

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- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Check-out & departure
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport & fly to Canada
- NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!!!

Mailing Address:

Phone & Fax - Toll free US & Canada:

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