

US JUDGES MISSION

February 2026



Prepared by: Rachel Gordon

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, February 10 2026

- 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.
- Meet with **wounded IDF soldiers** at the **Tel Hashomer Hospital** and hear their stories of bravery both in the battlefield and in rehabilitation
- Presentation by faculty member, **Prof. Tami Karni**, Chairperson of the National Helsinki Committee for Human Medical Research and Chair of the Ethics Bureau of the Israel Medical Association.on **Ethical and Legal Challenges in Treating Wounded Soldiers in Israel** (pending)
- Light lunch at Tel Hashomer
- Visit **Kikar HaHatufim** (Hostage Square) in Tel Aviv & meet with family members of a released hostage
- Transfer to Jerusalem & enjoy a spectacular lookout over Jerusalem from the **Haas Promenade**
- Check-in to your hotel, unpack, rest & relax
- Enjoy a private dinner at the **Joy Restaurant** with guest speaker **Nitsana Darshan Leitner** - Founder and President of Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center who will discuss **Justice Beyond Borders - Holding State and Non-State Actors Accountable Through International Law**

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 2 - JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, February 11

2026

- Optional **early morning guided run** in the streets and alleyways of Jerusalem
- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Departure
- Time for reflection at the **Western Wall**
- Explore the fascinating **Western Wall Tunnels** that unlock the secrets of Jerusalem's glorious past
- Exclusive **VIP Tour** in the **City of David** highlighting the newest excavations & areas that are not open to the general public
- Catered lunch at the City of David together with **Doron Spielman** - Vice President City of David Foundation - who will discuss **Archaeology, Heritage and Legal Narrative: The Case of the City of David** How historical evidence and heritage-sites intersect with modern legal, property, and international narrative challenges (pending)
- Visit the **Supreme Court** and meet with **Justice Noam Sohlberg** or **Justice David Mintz** for a discussion on **The central role of the Supreme Court in balancing security, human rights, and democracy** (pending)
- Tour Israel's parliament - **Knesset**. and meet with **Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana** (Please bring your passport & ensure to dress respectfully). (pending)
- Private dinner at the **Piccolino Restaurant** in Kikar HaMusika with **Yohanan Plessner** - President of the Israel Democracy Institute who will discuss the topic **Judicial Review, Democracy and the Balance of Powers: Israel's Challenge** (pending)

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 3 - GAZA ENVELOPE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, February 12 2026

- Full Israel breakfast at the hotel
- Lecture with **Ruth Halperin-Kaddari** — **Full Professor of Law at Bar-Ilan University & Founder of the Dinah Project** who will discuss **Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War: Legal Frameworks and Challenges in the October 7 Context** (pending)
- Hear an in-depth security briefing at a Gaza overlook with **Yaron Buskila** - Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) & CEO of the Israel Defense & Security Forum. Yaron was an Operations Officer in the Gaza Division and saw combat on October 7th. (pending)
- Visit **Sderot** including the media center, the Memorial at the site of the Police Station, Children's Playground & more
- Lunch at **Chabad of Sderot** with Rabbi Asher Pizem who will share his incredible story of faith & resilience (pending)
- Visit a Kibbutz that was attacked on October 7th (Nir Oz/ Kfar Aza/ Be'eri) and hear the first hand accounts as well as their path to healing and rebuilding their community
- Pay tribute to the memory of those who were murdered at the **Nova Music Festival Site** and meet with **Daniel Sharabi** who fought valiantly against the terrorists and saved countless party-goers from certain death.
- Host **IDF Combat Soldiers for a BBQ** at their base with music and dancing
- Return to Jerusalem

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 4 - JERUSALEM (NO GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, February 13 2026

- Full Israeli Breakfast at your hotel
- Lecture by **Rabbi Dr. Levi Cooper** — Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Bar-Ilan University. on the topic of **The Role of Mishpat Ivri (Jewish Law) in Israel's Legal System**
- Lecture by **Khaled Abu Toameh** - Khaled Abu Toameh — Senior Distinguished Fellow at the Gatestone Institute, and former Palestinian-Affairs Correspondent for The Jerusalem Post on the topic of **The Role of Media, Information and Narrative in Conflict and Justice: Insights from Palestinian Affairs**
- Departure
- Enjoy an in-depth tour of the **Security Barrier** with its chief architect **Dr. Dani Tirzah** and understand the many complex security, demographic & humanitarian issues at play
- Experience the vibe at the **Machane Yehudah Outdoor Market** as Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat.
- Lunch on own, shopping time and prepare for Shabbat
- Candle lighting at the hotel
- Join thousands of people from around the globe in joyous celebration of Shabbat at the **Western Wall**
- Enjoy a festive Shabbat meal at the hotel together with Lone Soldiers

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 5 - SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM AT LEISURE (GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, February 14 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Day at leisure on own in Jerusalem. Options include:
- Morning at leisure to relax **OR**
- Join morning services at the lively **Mayanot Synagogue** or at the impressive **Great Synagogue**
- Shabbat lunch at the hotel with **Gil Hoffman** - CEO of Honest Reporting and former Jerusalem Post Senior Political Correspondent for an update on **Israel Current Affairs**
- Rest & relax
- Experience the sites & sounds of the historic **Jewish Quarter** including the Cardo, Broad Wall, Batei Machase & more
- Musical Havdalla
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 6 - JERUSALEM TO CAESAREA (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, February 15 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Lecture by **Gil Troy** - Distinguished Scholar of North American History at McGill University on the topic of **Law, Academia, and the Battle Over Narrative: Combating the Academic Intifada in the USA**
- Checkout & departure
- Visit the **United Hatzala Headquarters** & meet with Arab & Jewish first-responders who are saving lives daily
- Pay tribute to the IDF heroes who are interred at the **Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery**
- Lunch on own in Bet HaKerem
- Discover the magnificent port city of **Caesarea** including the Roman Theater, Hippodrome, Palace of King Herod & more...
- Dinner at **Aresto Restaurant** in the port together with Druze entrepreneur & social activist **Koftan Halabi**
- Transfer to the Galilee & check-in to your hotel

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel - Galilee

DAY 7 - UPPER GALILEE (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, February 16 2026

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Departure from the hotel
- Discover the Mystical City of **Tzfat**, including the beautiful synagogues, artists' colony, candle factory & more
- Meet with Kabbalistic artist **Avraham Loewenthal** in his studio
- Enjoy shopping time & lunch on own in Tzfat - not included
- Explore the gorgeous **Tel Dan** Nature Reserve where nature, history & hydro-politics come together
- Meet with local residents at **Kibbutz Misgav Am** on the border with Lebanon & hear about the battle against the Hezbollah first-hand
- Dinner in Tiberias at **Decks Restaurant** on the banks of the Sea of Galilee - included
- Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee with music

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel - Galilee

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Check-out & departure
- Visit the remarkable **Ancient Synagogue** at **Um El Kanatir** that has been painstakingly rebuilt using revolutionary technological methods.
- Hear the incredible story of the IDF troops at **Tel Saki** who were totally overrun by the Syrians during the Yom Kippur War
- Lunch and wine-tasting at the award-winning **Golan Heights Winery** in Kazrin.
- Explore the Golan Heights by **jeep** in an off-road adventure
- Transfer to Tel Aviv
- Enjoy a farewell dinner at **Regina Restaurant** in the Old Train Station
- Fly to the USA from Ben Gurion Airport
- NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!!!

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