



IsraelNow 2025 General FAQ

1) Is IsraelNow still planning to travel to Israel in February and March 2025?

Safety is always our paramount concern and the IsraelNow team is in constant contact with our security advisors to make safety determinations regarding Israel travel. IsraelNow will not travel to Israel if there remains an active state of war. As of now, we remain hopeful that the war will end and stability will return to the region, allowing our program to run uninterrupted.

2) Why is IsraelNow offering a Texas option in 2025?

We recognize that there is a lot of uncertainty related to travel to Israel and understand that many of our eligible 8th graders are unable to commit to this type of experience. In response, IsraelNow is offering a concurrent alternative experience to Texas.

3) Will IsraelNow's Alternative Experience achieve the same goals at the Israel Experience?

Yes! IsraelNow's goals are to help our participants connect to Israel, expand their peer networks, and build Jewish self-confidence. While nothing can replace being in Israel, IsraelNow is committed to creating an experience that will achieve these goals in both Israel and Texas.

4) What are the IsraelNow 2025 dates and fees?

The program fee for our Israel program is \$3,050, which includes airfare, room and board, and all programs and activity fees. IsraelNow is planning to travel to Israel on the following dates:

- **February Trip: February 16- February 24**
- **March Trip: March 23- April 1**

The program fee for our Texas program is \$500, which includes airfare, room and board, and all programs and activity fees. The IsraelNow Texas experience, while shorter than the Israel trip, will run concurrently in both February and March 2025:

- **February Trip: February 19- February 23**
- **March Trip: March 26- March 30**

Dates subject to change

5) Who is eligible to participate in the IsraelNow Experience?

Any Jewish 8th grader from the Chicagoland area is welcome to apply for either our Israel or Texas experience.

6) Can I participate in both the Israel and Texas programs?

Unfortunately, 8th graders can only participate in one IsraelNow experience.

For FAQs related to Israel, please refer to questions 7-11. For FAQs about Texas, see questions 12-17.



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IsraelNow 2025 Israel Specific FAQ

7) Where will my teen stay while in Israel?

IsraelNow has contracted with Neve Ilan, in between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. This hotel, located in central Israel, will provide us with the space and atmosphere to create an IsraelNow experience. It is also conveniently located to allow us to explore a diversity of Israel as we strive to achieve our goals and create meaning and memories.

8) What will my teen experience while on IsraelNow in Israel?

IsraelNow remains committed to our goals of helping our participants connect to Israel, expand their peer networks, and build Jewish self-confidence. While we are still finalizing our itinerary, we are planning an immersive Jewish experience, which will combine outdoor adventure, touring, experiential, and interactive activities. Teens will be able to make new friends and visit iconic sites around Israel including a visit to the Old City of Jerusalem, a chance to explore Tel Aviv, hike the beauty of the land, and volunteer.

9) Who will be on my teen's bus, and who will my teen room with while in Israel?

As with any IsraelNow experience, we aim to help teens meet new friends by intentionally diversifying our groups. Once we know who will be joining our program, we will share a form to request roommates. Teens will also be placed into small groups to facilitate relationship building and reflection.

10) What is the timeline to make decisions and commit to this experience? And what other dates should I be aware of if we decide to participate?

Teens must apply to IsraelNow by September 30 to participate in our 2025 trips. Once a teen is enrolled in the program, families will be asked to follow the below timeline

- **Tuesday, October 15 -All Forms Due!** Log into your CampInTouch account and navigate to the Forms and Documents section to see the status and submit outstanding forms.
- **Sunday, December 15- Last chance to withdraw from our ISRAEL experience and receive a full refund.** Families have until this date to withdraw with zero financial penalty to give you as much time as possible to make an informed decision about your teen traveling to Israel. Unfortunately, after December 15 we will not be able to give any refund if our program travels to Israel. If IsraelNow cancels travel to Israel at any time, you will receive a full refund.
- **Orientation Dates:**
 - February Experience: November 10 (teen only), January 26 (teen only), February 10 (teen & parent/guardian)
 - March Experience: December 1 (teen only), March 2 (teen only), March 18 (teen & parent/guardian)

11) Can I change my enrollment to the Texas trip after I'm already enrolled in the Israel program?

Yes! You can switch from the Israel program to the Texas at any time, pending availability. If you have already paid more than the \$500 program fee, any overage will be refunded to you. Please note that once you opt out of the Israel program, your spot will be released. If you decided to reenroll in the Israel program, you will be accommodated only as space allows.



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IsraelNow 2025 Texas Specific FAQ

12) Where will my teen stay while in Texas?

IsraelNow has contracted with URJ Greene Family Camp in **Bruceville, TX**. This accommodation site will provide us with the space and atmosphere to create an IsraelNow experience domestically. It will also give us the opportunity to travel into the Dallas-Fort Worth and Austin areas as we strive to achieve our goals and create meaning and memories.

13) What will my teen experience while on IsraelNow in Texas?

As we mentioned above, IsraelNow remains committed to our goals of helping our participants connect to Israel, expand their peer networks, and build Jewish self-confidence. While we are still finalizing our itinerary, we are planning an immersive Jewish experience, which will combine outdoor adventure, touring, experiential, and interactive activities. Teens will be able to make new friends and visit iconic sites throughout Texas.

14) Who will be on my teen's bus, and who will my teen room with at URJ Greene Family Camp?

As with any IsraelNow experience, we aim to help teens meet new friends by intentionally diversifying our groups. Once we know who will be joining our program, we will share a form to request roommates. Teens will also be placed into small groups to facilitate relationship building and reflection.

15) What is the timeline to make decisions and commit to this experience? And what other dates should I be aware of if we decide to participate?

Teens must apply to IsraelNow by September 30 to participate in our 2025 trips. Once a teen is enrolled in the program, families will be asked to follow the below timeline

- **Monday, September 30- Last chance to withdraw from our TEXAS experience and receive a full refund.** After this date, families will not be eligible for a refund from IsraelNow.
- **Tuesday, October 15 -All Forms Due!** Log into your CampInTouch account and navigate to the Forms and Documents section to see the status and submit outstanding forms.
- **Orientation Dates:**
 - February Experience: November 10 (teen only), January 26 (teen only), February 10 (teen & parent/guardian)
 - March Experience: December 1 (teen only), March 2 (teen only), March 18 (teen & parent/guardian)

16) Can I change my enrollment to the Israel trip after I'm already enrolled in the Texas program?

The program fee for the Texas program is non-refundable after September 30. If you wish to change your enrollment into the Israel program, you will be accommodated as space allows and your program fee will be applied to the balance owed. If you cancel your Israel registration, the \$500 program fee will be forfeited to IsraelNow.



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17) What happens if I have paid more than \$500?

If you choose to enroll in our Texas experience and have paid \$500 or more to IsraelNow for the Israel trip, \$500 will be credited to your account and the balance will be refunded to you. **Refunds can take up to 30 business days to be processed into your account.**



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