



December 7, 2023

In the spirit of Hanukkah beginning tonight, we strive to bring light and hope into our communities by announcing that Yallah! Israel registration for Summer 2024 is officially open. Our ultimate goal is to provide a summer filled with joy, friendship, and growth, through meaningful experiences in Israel – something our collective community so desperately need in this moment.

In our 150 years, the URJ has had to navigate continuing our mission — bringing impactful experiences to Jewish teens — through some very difficult times. Though we remain hopeful and therefore are fully preparing to welcome teens in Israel this summer, we are of course mindful of the challenges at hand, and remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. We also recognize that not all families will feel comfortable sending their teen to Israel this summer, and we are working very hard to finalize details on a meaningful alternative that aligns with our mission and Reform Jewish values.

As a reminder, all deposits are fully refundable until February 27, 2024, and more information regarding the \$3,000 RootOne Vouchers will be coming soon. In the event it is not safe to travel to Israel this summer, families will be given the option to receive a full refund or switch to the alternative program. Please visit our website for more information regarding our [Safety & Security protocols](#), [Fees & Conditions](#), and [Summer 2024 FAQs](#).

Thank you for being an integral part of our URJ family, and please don't hesitate to [reach out](#) with any questions or concerns.

Our hearts are united in ongoing prayers for peace. [Here are resources](#) on what the URJ is doing and how you can support Israel during this difficult time.



December 5, 2023

As the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, draws near, our hearts are filled with hope, and our goal shines brighter than ever: to bring the light of our teens' wonder and excitement to our Israel immersive experiences this coming summer. Based on the data we have collected from our families, we are excited to announce our plans for two immersive experiences this upcoming summer.

### **Opening Yallah! Israel Registration for Summer 2024**

Yallah! Israel registration for Summer 2024 will open **this Thursday, December 7**. Our goal is to illuminate the path towards a summer filled with joy, growth, and meaningful experiences in Israel. Though we acknowledge the challenges we face, our optimism remains steadfast, and we believe in the possibility of providing a transformative journey for our teens. We are thrilled that over 150 URJ teens from our URJ camps and congregations have expressed deep desire to join our Yallah! Israel experience this summer, and we look forward to welcoming these teens from across our communities.

### **Program Implementation Update**

As we prepare for these enriching experiences, please allow us to share some critical aspects of our Israel program planning:

- **Ensuring Safe Travel:** No groups will stay near borders or areas deemed unsafe by Israel's "Situation Room", a special unit administered by the Ministry of Education and coordinated with Israel's security services, and our itinerary will have backup programs in place to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience for all participants.
- **Updated Israel Education:** Understanding the impact of the ongoing situation, our Israel education curriculum will encompass a comprehensive understanding of the current events, shedding light on their effects on Israel, Palestinians, and the global Jewish community.

Our commitment to providing a safe, enlightening, and transformative summer experience remains unwavering. We are dedicated to ensuring that your teens' journey, whether in Israel or through our alternative program, will be filled with the richness of Jewish heritage, Israel education, and community.

Please email [yallahisrael@urj.org](mailto:yallahisrael@urj.org) with any questions.



October 20, 2023

This has been an extraordinarily difficult two weeks for all of us as we watch the events unfolding in Israel. For so many of us, this is not something happening thousands of miles away. Our families, friends, and colleagues -- including former counselors and staff and our numerous alumni -- have been directly impacted and we share in their pain. We know that you join us in praying for a swift end to the war, healing for those injured, and the safe return of all those taken captive.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and will update this page and our communities in the coming weeks. While we have made the initial decision to delay our Summer 2024 registration, which was originally scheduled to launch on October 18, 2023, we remain committed to providing your teens with an incredible immersive experience. With that includes having a clear understanding of the security and safety situation in Israel.

In the meantime, please feel free to [reach out](#) if you have any questions. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate these unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you so much for your partnership and ongoing trust and support for the last 65 years.