

Flights

To Israel

Mach Hach BaAretz tuition includes a round-trip flight on one of our six group flight options departing on Sunday, July 6th:

- ELAL-Newark #1: ELAL #028 leaves at 1:30 PM and arrives the next day at 6:55 AM.
- ELAL-Newark #2: ELAL #026 leaves at 9:00 PM and arrives the next day at 2:25 PM.
- ELAL-JFK #1: ELAL #010 leaves at 1:29 PM and arrives the next day at 7:00 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #2: ELAL #002 leaves at 5:30 PM and arrives the next day at 11:00 AM
- Los Angeles: ELAL #006 leaves at 2:00 PM and arrives the next day at 1:55 PM.
- Miami: ELAL #018 leaves at 2:00 PM and arrives the next day at 9:00 AM

From Israel

For the return trip there will be six group flights, departing on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning August 13th and arriving in the US on the 13th:

- ELAL-Newark #1: ELAL #027 leaves at 12:30 AM and arrives at 5:15 AM.
- ELAL-Newark #2: ELAL #025 leaves at 1:00 AM and arrives at 5:45 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #1: ELAL #001 leaves at 1:00 AM and arrives at 5:50 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #2: ELAL #009 leaves at 5:55 AM and arrives at 10:45 AM.
- Los Angeles: ELAL #005 leaves at 1:05 AM and arrives at 6:00 AM.
- Miami: ELAL #017 leaves at 12:15 AM and arrives at 6:30 AM.

Flight Credit

Anyone who chooses to book their own flight will receive a \$1800 tuition credit. Please send us a copy of your e-ticket and the credit will be assigned to your account.

Alternate Flight Plans

If you wish to fly only one way on the Group Flight, please contact our travel agent, Stuart Katz, at stuart@taltours.com. He'd also be happy to help with domestic flight connections and any additional travel needs. It is often cheaper and more efficient to book a connecting ticket with the group flight.

Arrivals

Staff will be at Ben Gurion Airport from 7:00 AM until 4:00 PM to meet campers not on the group flight. A bus will be available from Jerusalem to the airport for any campers already in Israel (further information to follow in June). Those who would like to meet us at the airport, should arrive no later than 2:30 PM. In the weeks before arrival, exact details will be shared and you will be asked to fill out a form to let us know your plans.

Departures

At the end of the trip, the group flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport. All campers will be transported to Ben Gurion Airport. Anyone who is not flying on a group flight should be picked up from the airport, or can be put into a taxi by our staff. We do not recommend picking up campers from anywhere other than the airport; the last hours of Mach Hach are precious and nobody wants to miss them! Passports

are given out at the airport – if anyone does need to leave earlier that day, they may need to pick up their passport at the Bnei Akiva office in Jerusalem at another time. Bnei Akiva is not responsible for transportation or lodging costs of any camper not on a group flight that requires him/her to arrive at the airport at any other time. For those who would like to pick up in Israel prior to arrival at the airport, you can be in touch with our staff one week before the end of the summer to coordinate.

Electronic Travel Authorization For Entry Into Israel (ETA-IL)

As of January 1, 2025, all international travelers from visa-exempt countries must have a valid ETA-IL prior to departing for Israel. **All campers who are not Israeli citizens must fill out their own form in order to board a flight to Israel.** The cost of the application is 25 Shekel (roughly \$7 USD). The form can be accessed at: <https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il/>

Supervision

Members of the Senior Staff of Mach Hach BaAretz/Bnei Akiva will be present at all airports for the departures and arrivals of the group flights. Staff members will be on those flights to accompany and supervise the campers.

Domestic Connecting Flights

Campers from outside of New York who are flying into New York area airports to connect to the group flights can be met by Mach Hach staff and escorted to the group flight terminal. Those arriving in JFK or Newark should arrive 4½ to 6½ hours before the departure of their respective flight.

At the end of the program, we will escort campers to flight terminals at Newark or JFK. Connecting flights should not depart earlier than 3 hours after arrival of the group flight. Please note that while it may be possible to catch an earlier connection, we cannot promise that we will be able to escort the camper to his/her terminal. **Please forward the e-ticket or flight itinerary to our office so we can give it to the camper before the flight, and so we can help everyone arrive at his/her proper connecting terminal on time for the flight.**

Passports

Please make sure that your passport is valid for six months after the date of return from Israel. Participants not holding a valid American or Canadian passport should contact our office to ascertain if a tourist visa must be obtained prior to your departure for Israel. All passports will be collected upon arrival in Israel and stored in our safe until the conclusion of the program.

Luggage

Because of the traveling nature of the program we recommend that you pack lightly. Each camper is allowed to bring one large suitcase and hand luggage; the storage space under the buses cannot accommodate more than that. We find that a sturdy duffle bag with wheels is best. In Israel, each camper will receive a Mach Hach backpack to be used for day trips and hikes. Airline baggage regulations allow each passenger to bring one bag weighing up to 50 pounds. Please see their websites for additional details and updates, and for carry-on luggage regulations. For bus-packing purposes, we also request that any carry-on bags you bring on the flight be foldable once in Israel.