

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

2025 SEP 16 AM 11:19

Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):
J Street Education Fund

Travel Dates:
08/22/2025 to 08/29/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$873.00	\$144.00	\$419.00	\$1,325.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/16/2025

Date

Rayshon Payton

Printed Name of Traveler



Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9-16-2025

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

Yes

No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$873.00	Rayshon's flight cost more than expected at \$3,741 due to limited availability of flights to Israel. The bus cost was also slightly higher than expected at \$833 per person.
Misc. Expenses	\$387.00	Various expenses came in at a slightly different amount than originally projected: On-site Logistics Coordinator - \$690 (Estimated \$490) Meeting Room Rentals - \$310 (Estimated \$120) Speaker Honoraria - \$231 (Estimated \$360) Printing - \$72 (Estimated \$60) Security - \$409 (Estimated \$250)
Meals	\$419.00	The total food cost (\$1,156) per person was higher than estimated (\$737)
Lodging	\$144.00	The total hotel cost per person (\$1,116) was higher than estimated (\$972) due to the cost of late checkout for all participants

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

Yes

No

Explanation: Due to delays at Newark airport, the group arrived later than expected on August 23 so they were not able to observe the rally and went straight to dinner. The meetings with Members of the Israeli Knesset on 8/24 changed slightly to accommodate their schedule availability. The UNRWA site visit on 8/26 had to be moved to later in the day. Also on 8/26, PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Varsen Aghabekian could not meet, so we met with Fatah leader Major General Jibril Rajoub instead.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

Yes

No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

2025-21-9



Rayshon Payton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Rayshon,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of congressional staff for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground for five days, will depart DC on Friday, August 22, and return to the US in the morning on Friday, August 29.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for congressional staff to see the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict post-October 7th, focusing on the current crisis and plans for a path forward from what is arguably the lowest point in this conflict to date. This delegation will give congressional staff a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with Senate Ethics Committee rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting relevant paperwork in order to join this delegation.

Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for staff in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking, and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at cooperboyar@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami
President
J Street Education Fund

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Rayshon Payton

Employing Office/Committee:

BLUNT ROCHESTER, LISA

Private Sponsor(s):

J Street Education Fund

Destination(s):

Tel Aviv, Israel Jerusalem, Israel

Travel Dates:

08/22/2025 to 08/29/2025

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

I will participate in an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank, along with a delegation of congressional staff. As the Senators General Counsel and Foreign Policy advisor it is vital that staffers who shape and implement policy are able to experience the regional perspective to better enact lasting policies.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7/23/2025

Date

Rayshon Payton

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Sen. Blunt Rochester

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Rayshon Payton

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

7/23/2025

Date

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

J Street Education Fund: August 2025 StaffDel

Rayshon Payton

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

BLUNT ROCHESTER, LISA

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Tel Aviv, Israel

Jerusalem, Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

I will participate in an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank, along with a delegation of congressional staff. As the Senators General Counsel and Foreign Policy advisor it is vital that staffers who shape and implement policy are able to experience the regional perspective to better enact lasting policies.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

J Street Education Fund

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

Yes

No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

Public Charity

Address

PO Box 66073

Address 2 (Optional)

None

City, State Zip

Washington, District Of Columbia 20035 United States

Phone Number

9173121869

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) has sponsored House-side CODELs and StaffDels since 2010. We have brought one senate employee on a StaffDel in 2018, three Senators on a CODEL in 2023, and one senate employee in May 2025.

Educational Activities

JSEF serves to educate, organize, and mobilize pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans by implementing a diverse slate of work—from Congressional education and student organizing to lay leadership development, strategic communications and beyond—that embodies the breadth and depth of our vision for change.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for Congressional staff to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through meetings with Israeli and Palestinian political and civil society leaders and visits to strategic and holy sites, the trip will enhance participants' knowledge of the region and the dynamics behind one of the most vexing foreign policy challenges facing the United States. In addition, it will explore the essential role of active, engaged, and sustained US diplomatic leadership in bringing about a two-state solution.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

JSEF's travel program is the cornerstone of the work to inject nuance, empathy, and insight into a policy debate too often marked by ideology absolutism and indifference. JSEF's educational tours of Israel and the West Bank bring Members of Congress, congressional staff, and other key target audiences to the heart of the conflict, delivering first-hand knowledge and a deep, balanced understanding of the people, places, and events that shape this issue.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

Yes No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/22/2025 @ 04:00 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/29/2025 @ 07:19 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

Yes No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$3,701.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$3,000.00
Note Departing from Newark on August 22 and returning to DC on August 29		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$565.00
Note Bus for duration of the trip		
Train	Coach	\$136.00
Note A one-way train from DC-Newark to avoid delays caused by the Newark Airport as we have seen recently.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$972.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/23/2025	08/25/2025	Port Tower	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	2	\$252.00	No
08/25/2025	08/28/2025	Prima Royale	Jerusalem	None	Israel	3	\$156.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$737.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/23/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74.00	\$0.00	\$74.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
08/24/2025	\$0.00	\$91.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$166.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
08/25/2025	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$93.00	\$0.00	\$123.00	Tel Aviv and Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
08/26/2025	\$0.00	\$51.00	\$79.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
08/27/2025	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$86.00	\$0.00	\$116.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
08/28/2025	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$98.00	\$0.00	\$128.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1,325.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Logistics Coordinator fee)	\$490.00	
Other (Tour Guide)	\$45.00	
Other (Meeting room rentals)	\$120.00	
Other (Speaker honoraria)	\$360.00	
Other (Printing)	\$60.00	
Other (Security)	\$250.00	

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: August 2025 StaffDel

Travel Date(s): August 22, 2025 - August 29, 2025

Travel Destination(s): Israel and the West Bank

Sponsor: _____

Jeremy Ben-Ami

(printed name of sponsor representative)

President

(title)



(signature of sponsor representative)

July 15, 2025

(date)

Stacy Baird, Office of Sen. Maria Cantwell
Nick Caron, Office of Sen. Maggie Hassan
Clark Gascoigne, Office of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
Marcos Ibarra, Office of Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
JC Jain, Office of Sen. Tim Kaine
Jooeun Kim, Office of Sen. Mark Kelly
Robert Nelson, Office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Rayshon Payton, Office of Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester
Lucy Perkins, Office of Sen. Tammy Baldwin
Oliver Riquelme, Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich
JJ Villalvazo, Office of Sen. Alex Padilla
Ethan Whiting, Office of Sen. Raphael Warnock



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

August 22-29, 2025

ITINERARY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

4:00 PM	Amtrak - 178 Northeast Regional departs DC Union Station (Rayshon Payton)
5:00 PM	Amtrak - 136 Northeast Regional departs DC Union Station (Stacy Baird, JC Jain)
7:00 PM	Amtrak - 178 Northeast Regional arrives at Newark Liberty International Airport
8:00 PM	Amtrak - 136 Northeast Regional arrives at Newark Liberty International Airport
11:50 PM	UA0090 departs Newark Liberty International Airport (Stacy Baird, JC Jain, Rayshon Payton)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

4:20 PM	UA0090 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport
7:00 PM	Drive to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM**Welcome Dinner: Overview of the Current Moment in Israel**

Journalist Neri Zilber will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: Neri Zilber, Journalist and Middle East Politics Analyst

Location: Porter & Sons, HaArba'a St 14, Tel Aviv-Yafo

9:00 - 9:30 PM**Rally to Bring Home the Hostages**

The group will stop by to observe the rally calling for a deal to end the war and return all of the hostages.

Location: Hostages Square, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel:

Port Tower Hotel | Hayarkon 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

8:30 - 8:45 AM

Drive to Hostages Square

8:45 - 9:45 AM**Meeting with Hostages Families Forum**

We will hear from Israelis who have family members held hostage in the Gaza Strip about the condition of their loved ones and advocacy for their release. Hostage Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions, and express solidarity in support of the families.

Speaker: Maya Roman

Location: Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

9:45 - 10:15 AM**Tour of Hostages Square**

The Hostages Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions, and express solidarity in support of the families. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with the exhibitions on display, such as a mock tunnel representing the experiences of the hostages in Gaza.

10:15 - 10:30 AM

Walk to American Zionist House, 1 Daniel Frisch Street, Tel Aviv

10:30 - 11:45 AM**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101**

This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography, and political dynamics in the region.

Speaker: Cooper Boyar, J Street

Location: American Zionist House

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Short break

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Lunch Briefing: Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101

An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.

Speaker: Tal Elovits, Public Policy Consultant

Location: American Zionist House

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Conversation: Looking Forward - Israeli Strategy and Constructive Policy

A conversation on Israel's security landscape, public discourse, and evolving challenges post-October 7.

Speakers:

Maj. Gen (Res) Nimrod Sheffer, former head of the IDF Planning Directorate

Shira Efron, Policy Advisor, Israel Policy Forum

Location: American Zionist House

2:30 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Hotel + Executive Time

5:00 - 5:45 PM

Meeting with MK Ayman Odeh

We will meet with MK Ayman Odeh, a Palestinian Member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Hadash party, to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, his vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Port Tower Hotel

5:45 - 6:00 PM

Short Break

6:00 - 6:45 PM

Meeting with MK Shelly Meron

We will meet with MK Shelly Meron, a Member of the Israeli Knesset and Yesh Atid party, to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, her vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Port Tower Hotel

6:45 - 7:15 PM

Drive to Dinner

7:15 - 9:15 PM

Dinner with Israeli Colleagues

Meet with Israeli leaders in the liberal camp to discuss the challenges and strategies of building political power and advancing progressive domestic and foreign policy.

Guests:

Ibrahim Abu Ahmad, Geopolitical Expert

Eran Nissan, CEO, Mehazkim

Naomi Sternberg, Gender & Conflict Resolution at the Geneva Initiative

Achiya Schatz, CEO, Fakereporter

Nadav Salzberg, Spokesperson for Member of Knesset Gilad Kariv

Hadas Zangi, Head of the Young Democrats

Location: Ola Ola, Simtat HaCarmel 27, Tel Aviv-Yafo

Hotel:

Port Tower Hotel | Hayarkon 300, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972 3 715 6666

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

8:00 - 8:30 AM

Bring Luggage to lobby + Drive to Machane Aviv

8:30 - 10:00 AM

IDF Briefing Strategic Briefing

The security briefing by the IDF will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today, IDF goals and priorities for the ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts, as well as for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Location: Machane Aviv

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bus Briefing en route to Gaza Envelope

Overview of Israeli policy towards the Gaza strip pre-October 7, the situation on the ground and the humanitarian crisis, and Israeli policies and barriers regarding humanitarian assistance.

Speaker: Ma'ayan Cohen, Resource Development Coordinator, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

12:00 - 12:45 PM

Boxed Lunch at Kibbutz Alumim

12:45 - 1:00 PM Drive to Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:00 - 2:45 PM **Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities**
We will be led on a tour by a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.

Guide: Chen Kotler
Location: Kibbutz Kfar Aza

2:45 - 3:00 PM Drive to NOVA site

3:00 - 3:30 PM **NOVA site visit**
We will visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.

3:30 - 5:30 PM Drive to Jerusalem

5:30 - 7:15 PM Check in to hotel + Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM Drive to the Dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM **Group Dinner**
Participants will be guided in a discussion debriefing the trip so far and discuss any questions for the remainder of the program.

Speaker: Adina Vogel-Ayalon, J Street
Location: Piccolino

Hotel: Prima Royale Hotel | Mendelevskaya St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2 560 7111

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

8:00 - 9:00 AM Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin

9:00 - 10:00 AM **Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council**
We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank, about their lives and their hopes for the future.

Speaker: Eliana Passentin, Head of Binyamin Regional Council
International Affairs
Location: Sha'ar Binyamin

10:00 - 10:30 AM Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp

10:30 - 11:45 AM **UNRWA Site Visit: Briefing on Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank**
We will hear from UNRWA representatives at the Jalazone Refugee Camp about providing services both in the West Bank and in Gaza, and the impact of recent Israeli legislation on UNRWA operations.

Speaker: Roland Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs in the West Bank
Location: Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Drive to Ritaj Managerial Solutions

12:15 - 1:15 PM **Lunch Briefing: Palestinian Politics 101**
We will discuss the history of the Palestinian national movement, the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank, and the current state of Palestinian politics.

Speaker: Sam Bahour Co-founder & Emeritus Member, Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy (A4VPE)
Location: Ritaj

1:15 - 2:30 PM **Lunch with Palestinian Civil Society**
We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.

Speakers:
Bushra Khalidi, Humanitarian Policy Lead, Oxfam
Obada Shtaya, Co-Founder and CEO, Institute for Social and Economic Progress (ISEP)

Location: Ritaj

2:30 - 2:45 PM Drive to Negotiations Affairs Department

2:45 - 4:00 PM **Meeting with PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Varsen Aghabekian**
We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.

Location: PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ramallah

4:00 - 5:30 PM Drive to Jerusalem

5:30 - 7:15 PM Executive Time

7:15 - 7:30 PM Drive to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM **Dinner Discussion: Regional Challenges and Opportunities**
Discussion on Iran's role in the region and its impact on Israeli and Gulf security, opportunities for defense cooperation and shifting alliances, and what it means for US interests.

Speaker: Nimrod Novik, Executive Team, Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)

Location: Sea Dolphin

Hotel: Prima Royale Hotel | Mendele Mokher Sfarim St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2 560 7111

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

8:00 - 9:00 AM **Introduction to Settlements**
Overview of the Israeli settlement enterprise, the history, strategy, and vision of the settler movement.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

Location: Prima Royale Hotel

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Settlement Tour en route to Hebron**
Learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.

Guide: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Walking Tour of Hebron**
Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli settlers who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in the city on a tour of downtown, see both Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, learning how life in the city has changed over time. On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area, see checkpoints in the city and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.

Guide: Nadav Weinman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:00 - 1:30 PM

Drive to South Hebron Hills + Lunch on the bus

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Site Visit to Palestinian Village in Area C

We will hear directly from residents about life in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Executive time

6:15 - 7:15 PM

Meeting with Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In this meeting, we will discuss Israel's foreign policy priorities and the relationship the MFA has with the US Congress.

Speaker: Elad Stromayer, Director of the Department for Congressional Affairs at the North American Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem.

Location: Prima Royale Hotel

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Drive to dinner

7:30 - 9:15 PM

Dinner: Peacebuilding in the Current Moment

Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) will lead a dinner discussion on peace work in the current moment, with an emphasis on the impact of MEPPA funding cuts on the peace movement.

Speakers:

Nivine Sandouka, Regional Director, ALLMEP

Gidon Bromberg, Executive Director, EcoPeace Middle East

Maisam Jaljuli, CEO, Tsofen-Tashbik

Robi Damelin, Parents Circle - Families Forum

Location: Tmol Shilshom

Hotel:

Prima Royale Hotel | Mendele Mokher Sfarim St 3, Jerusalem | +972 2 560 7111

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

8:00 - 8:30 AM

Drive to Old City

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**Old City Tour**

We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem – including the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance.

Guide: Hava Schwartz

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to lunch

12:30 - 2:00 PM**Lunch at the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem**

We will be joined by Palestinian residents who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinians in East Jerusalem face.

Speakers:

Mahmoud Muna, Manager, Educational Bookshop

Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop

Location: Educational Bookshop, Salah Ad-din St 19, Jerusalem

2:00 - 3:30 PM**East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour**

The group will stop at viewpoints overlooking areas of contention in East Jerusalem to evaluate the latest developments in Jerusalem and their impact on a potential solution for the core issue of Jerusalem.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Terrestrial Jerusalem

3:30 - 4:30 PM**Meeting with the US Embassy**

Discuss US policy in the region, the current approach and priorities of the administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.

Speaker: Stephanie Hallett, DCM

Location: Prima Royale Hotel

4:30 - 5:45 PM

Check out of Hotel

5:45 - 6:30 PM

Load luggage on to bus + drive to dinner

6:30 - 8:00 PM**Farewell dinner**

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from the past week how this experience will impact their work in the US.

Location: Andalucia

8:20 PM

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

11:25 PM

UA0091 departs from Ben Gurion Airport
(Stacy Baird, JC Jain, Rayshon Payton)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

4:10 AM

UA0091 arrives at Newark Liberty International Airport

6:00 AM

UA1366 departs from Newark Liberty International Airport (Sara
Engelhard, Maha Syed)

7:19 AM

UA1366 arrives at Washington Dulles International Airport