

**SUMMER 2020!**



# MAKE ISRAEL YOURS



**Mach Hach BaAretz** is Bnei Akiva's summer tour of Israel for teens completing the tenth grade. It is the largest and most popular program of its kind, with over 300 participants every summer. Mach Hach offers a wide range of diverse programs to match the varied interests of each individual.

**In Bnei Akiva**, love of Israel is not a slogan, but a passion. Mach Hach has led tours of Israel every summer for over forty-five years, in good times and bad. Helping our participants develop an everlasting bond with Israel is at the forefront of our mission. This goal guides every aspect of our touring experience, from staffing to itinerary planning to program development.

Mach Hach is not just another tour of Israel, but an authentic Israel experience. Our alumni can attest that they "Lived Israel" for the summer. With new and innovative programs being added into our itinerary, this summer will be like no other!



"Mach Hach gave me a second 'family' I never knew I needed."

**Polly Zarzhevsky**  
West Hempstead, NY



One of the most outstanding features of Mach Hach is the relationships you will create with both friends and staff. Before the summer, groups of 35-43 campers are assigned to a bus. In this intimate setting, every camper can be fully appreciated and feel that they belong. Each group takes on a life of its own with a distinct personality and character. Mach Hach "buses" have reunions for years to come. Each bus has its own itinerary, fine-tuned by its individual staff. Every bus has six staff members: a Rosh Bus (Head Counselor), a tour guide, a logistics coordinator and three counselors. Staff members serve as role models and develop meaningful connections with the participants. Our staff consists of a mix of Americans and Israelis, all of whom have ample camp experience.



# MEET OUR STAFF

Mach Hach has a deeply committed and experienced administrative staff running and overseeing the program. Our senior staff is “on the ground” in Israel and not running the program from overseas. They are in constant contact with the groups, visit them regularly throughout the summer and can be contacted by parents twenty-four hours a day.

Throughout the year and during the summer, we engage parents through a weekly newsletter, an active Facebook page and weekly videos produced by our staff. Through social media, we bring parents inside the Mach Hach experience!



**Rabbi Dan Katz** has been Director of Mach Hach BaAretz since 2012, bringing a new energy and vision to the program. Previously, he served for ten years as part of the administrative team at Camp Moshava (IO). Dan has been an active leader in Bnei Akiva, serving in the positions of Director of Bnei Akiva of New York and Rosh TVL.



**Michelle (Bokor) Kaplansky** is the Israel Programs Administrator for Bnei Akiva and a part of the Mach Hach administration for over fifteen years. During the year, she oversees the administrative needs of Yeshivat/Midreshet Torah V'Avodah, in addition to working on the preparations for Mach Hach. Previously, she served as Assistant Director of Camp Moshava, Wild Rose.



**Rabbi Shaul Feldman** is the Executive Director of Bnei Akiva of the US and Canada. Rabbi Feldman has spread Bnei Akiva through building a large network of Shlichim (Israeli emissaries), founding Moshava Ba'ir day camps and creating Yeshivat and Midreshet Torah Va'avoda, an innovative year in Israel program.

At the heart of the Mach Hach experience is the most robust and dynamic itinerary around. Every year we add new components to make sure it remains fresh and current. The itinerary includes the key historical sites, amazing hikes and pure fun. However, the Mach Hach itinerary offers so much more (to be detailed in the coming pages):



## Program Options

Choose between five different Adventure Track options. We also offer two additional add-ons before the summer for an extended Mach Hach experience.



## Highlight Events

Feel the power of over 300 Mach Hach campers joining together for these special events.



## Chessed

Give back to the people of Israel with volunteer opportunities throughout the country.



## Sports

Enjoy inter-bus basketball games.



## Israel Advocacy

Gain skills and techniques to advocate for Israel with a program designed by Stand With Us just for us.



# THE BEST ITINERARY



# HIGHLIGHT EVENTS

Though it has the feel of a smaller program, Mach Hach offers the benefits of a larger one. Through various inter-bus programs, you will have the opportunity to make friends from across North America. Mach Hach combines the best of both worlds: the diversity and energy of a large program with the comfort and familiarity of a smaller one.



## Opening Night

There is no better way to start a summer in Israel than in the Old City by the Kotel. On the first night, we whisk away all our campers straight to the Old City. After dinner and introductions, we continue on to the Kotel for our opening program of the summer!



## Shabbat Mach Hach

For one Shabbat during the summer, all buses join together for an incredible Shabbat of unity. Imagine the ruach and inspiration created by 300 friends joining for one energy-filled Shabbat. Special guests and programs make this Shabbat a highlight of the summer.

## Banquet

The last night of the summer, we bring everyone together for an emotional closing program. After dinner, we have some special thank yous, a slideshow and cap it all off with a live concert. There is no better way to close the summer together!



# ADVENTURE WEEK

All Mach Hach Adventure groups enjoy a three day specialty track chosen before the summer. The specialty tracks include: Army, Chessed, Culturefest, Negev and Yam L'Yam. Mid-summer, all Mach Hach buses split up for their specialty week and join members of the other buses who chose the same Adventure option. More detailed descriptions are available on our website.



## Army

Your Mefakdim (sergeants) will give you the real feel of the IDF. Be prepared to be pushed to your limits in this thrilling army experience.



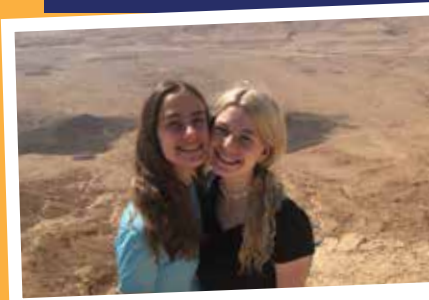
## Chessed

Each day focuses on a different type of Chessed: the needy, the sick, the physically and mentally handicapped and the elderly. Learn about yourself and give to others!



## Culturefest

Experience all the sounds, tastes and sights that modern Israeli culture has to offer. See Israel through a totally new lens.



## Negev

Connect with the beauty and splendor of the Negev desert. Bond with your friends as you learn to survive in the wilderness.



## Yam L'Yam

Take part in one of Israel's most popular hikes, crossing the width of Israel from the Kinneret to the Mediterranean Sea and culminating with a thrilling five mile bike ride.



# ADVENTURE ITINERARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<b>JULY 6</b> <b>Depart</b> <b>JFK/Newark/</b> <b>LA</b>	<b>JULY 7</b> Arrive Ben Gurion Kotel Opening Ceremony  Overnight: Jerusalem
<b>JULY 12</b> Nachal Betzet Acco Museum Rosh Hanikra Louis Promenade  Overnight: Haifa	<b>JULY 13</b> Muhraha Shvetzaria Haktana Nesher Bridge  Overnight: Haifa	<b>JULY 14</b> Misgav Am Aryeh Hashoeg Kayaks Basketball  Overnight: Golan
<b>JULY 19</b> Stand With Us Hirbat Midras Camel Riding  Overnight: Bedouin Tent	<b>JULY 20</b> Massada Dead Sea Swimming Ein Gedi  Overnight: Massada	<b>JULY 21</b> Ein Ovdar Kever Ben Gurion Snorkeling Eilat Boardwalk  Overnight: Eilat
<b>JULY 26</b> Guvrin Caves Save a Child's Heart Bar Ilan Visit Basketball  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 27</b> Aleh Volunteering Old City Tour Ir David Kotel Tunnels  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 28</b> Yad Vashem Har Hertzl Pizza making for soldiers  Overnight: Jerusalem
<b>AUGUST 2</b>  <b>Adventure</b> <b>Week</b>	<b>AUGUST 3</b>  <b>Adventure</b> <b>Week</b>	<b>AUGUST 4</b>  <b>Adventure</b> <b>Week</b>
<b>AUGUST 9</b>  <b>Banquet</b>  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>AUGUST 10</b> Kotel Farewell Activities Depart Ben Gurion	<b>AUGUST 11</b>  <b>Arrive</b> <b>JFK/Newark/</b> <b>LA</b>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
<b>JULY 8</b> Superpharm Shopping Har Hatzofim Zichron Yakov  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 9</b>  <b>Shiva Assar</b> <b>B'Tammuz</b>	<b>JULY 10</b> Tzfat Kever Rashbi Shabbat Shopping  Overnight: Haifa	<b>JULY 11</b>  <b>Shabbat in</b> <b>Haifa</b>
<b>JULY 15</b> Har Arbel Teverya Swimming Teverya Boat Ride Kfar Kedem-Donkeys  Overnight: Golan	<b>JULY 16</b> Nachal Hakibbutzim Katef Shaul Aquakef  Overnight: Golan	<b>JULY 17</b> Nachal Gilabun Har Bental Um El Kantir Shabbat Shopping  Overnight: Golan	<b>JULY 18</b>  <b>Shabbat in</b> <b>the Golan</b>
<b>JULY 22</b> Har Tzfachot Water Sports Yotveta  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 23</b> Tel Azeka Kfar Etzion Museum Biar Mud Caves Basketball  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 24</b>  <b>Free</b> <b>Weekend</b>	<b>JULY 25</b>  <b>Free</b> <b>Weekend</b>
<b>JULY 29</b> Ammunition Hill Food Packaging Shabbat Shopping  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>JULY 30</b>  <b>Tisha B'Av</b>	<b>JULY 31</b>  <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Mach Hach</b>  Overnight: Jerusalem	<b>AUGUST 1</b>  <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Mach Hach</b>  Overnight: Jerusalem
<b>AUGUST 5</b> Start Up Tour Independence Hall Kikar Rabin Ariel Sharon Park  Overnight: Ein Tzurim	<b>AUGUST 6</b> Leket Volunteering Yafo Tour Carmel Market Blind Museum  Overnight: Ein Tzurim	<b>AUGUST 7</b> Gush Katif Museum Colored Sands Shabbat Shopping  Overnight: Mitzpe Ramon	<b>AUGUST 8</b>  <b>Shabbat in</b> <b>Mitzpe Ramon</b>



"It's the perfect combination of fun, learning, Zionism, proud Judaism and amazing friends."

**Noam Karger**  
Sharon, MA



# OPTIONAL ADD-ON MACH HACH LEADERSHIP

Mach Hach Leadership is an optional one week add-on to the start of the summer open to all Mach Hach campers. Campers arrive in Israel one week prior to the group flights and engage in an intensive one week program that seeks to develop the skills of budding high school leaders. Each day of the program has a different theme which begins with learning in the Beit Midrash in the morning and continues with hands-on learning in the afternoon. A separate application for the program can be filled out on our website.

"Mach Hach strongly reinforced my love for Israel, Am Yisrael and Torah learning."

**Anat Rimmon**  
Los Angeles, CA



## Beit Midrash

The source of Jewish wisdom is found in our wealth of Jewish texts. As such, we examine what Jewish tradition has to say on various leadership-related topics.



## Hands-On Learning

Through engaging activities, insightful discussion and guest speakers, campers gain practical leadership skills to take back to their schools and communities. Led by alumni of Bnei Akiva camps and chapters, participants are mentored to reach their potential.



## A Leadership Cohort

Perhaps best of all, spend the week with other teens who share your goals and mission. Meet others from around the country who are looking to become leaders in their communities and are excited to build their skill set. Leave with a group of peers to communicate and share ideas with following the summer.



**New for Summer 2020:** Mach Hach is touring Europe! Already been to Israel and looking for something more exotic to tack on to your summer? Then, Mach Hach with the European add-on is made for you! Starting one week before Mach Hach begins, we will explore the cities of Prague, Budapest and Vienna. At the close of the week, meet the rest of Mach Hach in Israel and join the regular Mach Hach program. Tour three European cities and still get the full Israel experience!



### Sightseeing

In addition to exploring these cities, see the major tourist sites. Enjoy a cruise on the Danube. Get a panoramic view of Budapest from Fisherman's Bastion. Take in the regal beauty of Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna. Cross the Charles Bridge and stroll around the historic Charles Square in Prague.

### Jewish History

As a lead in to our summer in Israel, see first-hand the Jewish history in Europe in the years prior to the founding of the State of Israel. Visit Theodor Herzl's birthplace on Dohany Street and learn about his life at the Herzl Center in Budapest. Visit a memorial for the Chatam Sofer. See the shuls of Prague. Memorialize those killed in the Holocaust at the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp.

### An Intro to Israel

Through our week in Europe, you will better understand the founding of the modern Zionist movement and the work that went into creating a modern Jewish State. Upon arrival in Israel, you will fully appreciate it as the fulfillment of centuries of Jewish dreams.







## Contact Us

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## You can find us on the web at:

[www.machhach.org](http://www.machhach.org)

[www.youtube/MachHachBA](http://www.youtube/MachHachBA)

 [MachHachBaAretz](https://www.facebook.com/MachHachBaAretz)

"Coming  
on Mach Hach  
was the best decision  
I ever made.  
It gave me friends  
and experiences to  
last a lifetime."

**Elai Herzfeld**  
Washington, DC

