

# FAQ's

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### **What is Kayitz?**

Kayitz, the Hebrew word for Summer, is the name of our Year 11 Europe trip for 2025. We are excited to be visiting Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Mostar, Sarajevo, exploring Jewish heritage through different lenses, and coming together as a Liberal Jewish group to solidify and discover how our own Jewish identities fit in to that history. Kayitz will be 10 days worth of exploration to allow for the group to really get to know one another and form a strong Kehilla (community). It will run between 27<sup>th</sup> July - 6th August and will feature a taster weekend on 18-19th of Jan to ensure that participants have an opportunity to meet each other before embarking on this once in a lifetime experience.

### **What is Gesharim?**

Gesharim means *Bridges*. It is a joint trip between LJY-Netzer and RSY-Netzer to Israel for 7 days, running from 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> July. The trip will give the participants a chance to see and explore many different parts of Israel. We will be doing some of the Israel highlights from the beach to the Kotel, Masada to the Dead Sea whilst meeting amazing inspiring people who have been working towards a better future for all. They will also have a chance to volunteer giving some practical support to Israel.

### **Will the two trips have the same leaders**

We are planning that the Gesharim leaders will be from both Kayitz and RSY's Europe tour.

### **Will there be information events?**

Absolutely, LJY are running an information zoom for parents at 6pm on the 11th of December. [Sign up here](#)

We are also running a taster weekend on 18-19th of Jan to ensure that participants have an opportunity to meet each other before embarking on this once in a lifetime experience.

## **Finances**

### **Is financial assistance available?**

Financial assistance will be available for LJY, provided by Liberal Judaism. Finances should never be a barrier to entry for our programming, so even if you are curious about our financial assistance programme please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Gesharim participants will be able to additionally apply to the UJIA.

### **How and when do I pay?**

A deposit is required upon initial application and there is a section in the initial online application that can process payment of this. The deadline for the payment of the deposit is 17th January 2025. The full balance of the Programme is due and must be paid no later than 20th April 2025. Payment using credit / debit card through BACS online payment or over the phone is preferable, although

other payment methods are accepted. Contact Jess (jess.s@liberljudaism.org) to explore additional payment methods.

## **Gesharim/The Israel add on**

### **Can my child just go to Israel?**

Kayitz is a required part of the program, we want everyone to share this part of the experience to create a kehilla (community). Gesharim is an optional add on.

### **What are the lines for deciding if Gesharim runs**

As a British charity we follow the advice of our government. We will be following the FCDO guidelines.

### **Why are you looking at FCDO advice and not following UJIA which uses other criteria?**

The trustees of our movement have discussed this in great depth. Their position is that, as a UK based charity, we should follow UK government advice, which is currently not to travel to Israel except for essential reasons. We are hopeful that this will change before our deadline of March 19th.

This is not a critique of UJIA or other movements - but is where our trustees have landed on this difficult decision - and they have the legal responsibility.

### **When will LJY-Netzer decide if Gesharim runs**

Up to 19th March we can cancel at very little cost to the families. We will make a decision by this date. If the situation gets worse after 19th March and we feel we can no longer run the trip, we will reimburse as much money as we can, but cannot guarantee an amount now.

### **When can families cancel on Gesharim**

You can cancel and receive most of your money back (minus a small admin fee) up to 19th March. After 19th March you are free to cancel but we cannot guarantee a refund above our cancellation policy.

### **What is the refund policy if LJY-Netzer cancel Gesharim**

Before 19th March RSY will refund all cost of Gesharim minus £150 admin fee.

Before 10th June we will refund all costs possible. We will charge a maximum £700.

### **Why is Gesharim with RSY-Netzer and what will this mean**

The Israel component is the most expensive part of this summer plan and doing it together makes it more affordable for all.

Both movements are Reform Zionist and have very similar beliefs around Israel, it will make it an opportunity to learn from each other.

We have run successful Europe tours and our Israel gap year programme with them for years and our experience is that mixing at this age makes both movements stronger when they go back to be leaders.

### **Political stance?**

LJY Netzer is a Reform Zionist youth movement. We believe in the existence of a Jewish state and that we have a duty to work towards it becoming a just and safe place for all. We are focused this year on creating brave and safe spaces where all our members can openly discuss Israeli politics in a supported environment.

[Here](#) is a link to our Israel educational aims

## **Who gets priority?**

People whose families are members of a Liberal Synagogue currently and have been since at least 1/9/24

People who have been on an LJY-Netzer event in the last 2 years

### **Will them choosing to do the Israel add on effect their place on the waiting list – priority for getting a place**

No Kayitz will be filled on first come basis apart from the priority period

## **Who runs the Tours?**

LJY's Israel and Europe Tours has been run successfully for decades through a partnership of UJIA Israel Experience, and the Chavayah. LJY-Netzer are responsible for the educational content, delivery and ethos of the programme, and all communication with you.

Gesharim: UJIA Israel Experience (organised by The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and supported by UJIA) takes on a number of administrative roles including helping manage the application process, and being responsible for crisis management. UJIA Israel Experience provides support to LJY and its tour provider in Israel, the Chavayah, to help ensure Israel Tours run smoothly and to high standards. The Chavayah is responsible for all the day-to-day arrangements on the ground, for example food, transportation and accommodation. UJIA provides financial assistance on a means tested basis to participants to ensure Gesharim remains accessible for all.

### **What is UJIA Israel Experience?**

UJIA Israel Experience is organised by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and supported by the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA), and facilitates Israel Tour as a service to RSY-Netzer

and other youth movements/organisations, synagogues, student organisations and other communal organisations incorporating an experience of Israel into educational activities. UJIA Israel Experience processes application data on behalf of RSY-Netzer. Gesharim participants are eligible to apply to the UJIA Bursary Scheme for financial assistance to cover the costs of the programme.

## **How and when do I apply?**

Applications for this summer will open on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9am, and the link to apply online will be available via the LJY-Netzer website.

The deadline for applications is January 31st 2025. (On occasion, late applicants can be accommodated. Please contact LJY-Netzer directly if the deadline has passed, to check availability.)

## **Before the trips leave**

### **Insurance**

Travel and medical insurance policies are included in the cost of both Kayitz and Gesharim. These policies will be made available to you by LJY.

Please make sure to spend some time reading these policies to know exactly what is and what isn't covered. There may be some pre-existing medical conditions that are not covered in the general policy, and additional cover may need to be provided. Please speak to LJY about arranging this cover.

On Gesharim, medical costs in the event of 'hostile action' are covered by the Israeli State, and include a number of additional benefits, including transportation costs for families, mental health support, and ongoing grants and support where required. The travel insurance policy covers you for cancellation, curtailment and disruption in a number of scenarios, as well as covering lost, delayed or damaged luggage.

Despite this cover, we encourage all participants not to bring expensive or valuable items with them on Kayitz or Gesharim to avoid unnecessary upset.

### **What is the cancellation policy?**

If an applicant cancels their place on Gesharim (Israel add on)...:

Before 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025: a full refund will be paid less the administration fee;

On or after 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and before 30<sup>th</sup> May: refund of amount payable less £700;

On or after 30<sup>th</sup> May: no refund (any outstanding balance remains payable).

If an applicant has applied for Europe Tour only and cancels their place on Europe Tour...:

Before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025: refund of 100% of amount paid (or payable) less the administration fee;

On or after 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and before 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025: refund of 100% of amount paid (or payable) less the deposit and administration fee;

On or after 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and before 20<sup>th</sup> April: refund of 50% of amount payable less the deposit and administration fee;

On or after 20<sup>th</sup> April and before 30<sup>th</sup> May: refund of 20% of amount payable less the deposit and administration fee;

On or after 30<sup>th</sup> May: no refund (any outstanding balance remains payable).

If an applicant has applied for Tour (including Europe Tour and Israel Tour) and cancels their place on both parts, their payments will be divided between the two tours and refunded according to its refund policy. We have negotiated the best terms and conditions possible for each part of the trip.

### **What extra security measures will be in place?**

On Kayitz there will be a security guard with the group at all times. Additional training will be given to UK madrichimot (leaders) on safety & security best practice. We will be working with local Jewish groups (CST equivalents) to follow best practice in those areas.

On Gesharim there will be an armed security guard with the group at all times. Additional training will be given to UK madrichimot on safety & security best practice. Participants' free time will be restricted to those areas approved by the office of the Cheder Matsav/Moked Teva. Participants should be aware that the decision to allow free time is made on a day-to-day basis. If participants are given free time, it will always be within specific groups of no less than three participants and will have to report to their Israel Tour madrichimot at regular intervals. Participants will have an emergency card that will include all relevant and emergency phone numbers. Travel to and from any potential free time activities will only be on the group bus.

## **During the trip**

### **What age participants is Kayitz and Gesharim for?**

Our summer tours are for people graduating from Year 11 and 12. For information about other programming LJY will be facilitating for other age groups, see the LJY website.

### **What type of accommodation will the participants be staying in?**

LJY groups stay in lots of different types of accommodation, including hostels and hotels. These are basic but clean and often lovely. Rooms typically sleep around four participants, normally with ensuite bathrooms and showers.

**How many participants will there be on Kayitz?**

This will partially depend on how many people apply. We are expecting to have a group of 30-40 participants.

**How will participants travel to each part of the trip?**

Participants taking part in Gesharim will fly to Europe from Israel.

Participants who are only taking part in Kayitz will fly to Europe from Heathrow. Once in Europe they will travel to each city by coach. The return flight will be to Gatwick.

**Who are your staff?**

Both Kayitz and Gesharim are staffed by our most experienced madrichimot (leaders). They have all been through our hadracha (leadership) training and have led on many events.

LJY provide extensive, up-to-date and programme-specific training to all madrichimot in safeguarding, child protection, discipline, welfare, education, etc. No madrichol is allowed to begin their role without this training. We bring in external expertise to advise on, and in some cases deliver, certain training to ensure it is of the highest standard. Additionally, the trips will be accompanied by a tour guide, welfare support and a security guard.

**Will the participants need spending money?**

There will be times participants may want to buy snacks, ice cream, memorabilia, etc. We recommend participants bring with them a small amount of spending money to purchase these things if they want.

**What food will be provided?**

Breakfast is often served buffet-style in hostels. Because participants spend each day out and about, lunch varies between sandwiches, packed lunches, and hot lunch deliveries. Dinner is then had in a mixture of restaurants and at hostels. All the food we provide is vegetarian and the programme caters for a wide range of allergies and dietary requirements.

**Can participants use their phones?**

We will not be collecting participants' phones in and it is up to them to make an informed decision about when is an appropriate time to be using their phones. We encourage a space where participants are respectful and do not use their phones during programming. Madrichimot (leaders) may work with participants at the beginning of tour to decide on a phone policy all together.

**What is the procedure if a participant is unwell?**

There will be a first aider on the tzevet (staff team). If a participant is feeling unwell or requires extra support, the first aider alongside the other group leaders will be available to assist.

**What happens with medication?**

The medication will be held and dispensed by the madrichimot (leaders) for the entirety of Tour. The only exceptions relate to EpiPens, Insulin and Inhalers. All participants requiring an EpiPen, Insulin or an Inhaler must bring spares.

**What is your level of religious observance?**

We are a Liberal Jewish youth movement. We believe in making Judaism accessible and part of our event. We believe in supporting our community to make informed decisions so we will discuss religious choices with them before giving those options. We pray at some point each day and do Birkahat Hamazon (grace after meals) after Lunch and Dinner. We make Shabbat really special on our events, making it feel different.. All the food we provide is vegetarian (cooked in shared kitchens). On tours many of the meals are pizzur (given a stipend in a town centre) We cannot control what food every child buys.

**How do I sign up?**

To sign up you need to complete a short online application form. This must be accompanied with a deposit which can also be paid online via the application form. A more thorough application and medical form will be sent later in the process.