

Building

Building your community Israel travel experience

1 *Build your Israel story.*

- Setting Goals Together - Why am I going? What am I expecting? Why are we making this trip now? What do we want participants to come away with?
- Recruit your educational staff for the journey (rabbis, counselors, guide, etc.)
- Is there a thematic red thread that clearly runs throughout and is reinforced day by day?
- Is there variety and balance of activity types?

2 *Give participants ownership of the program.*

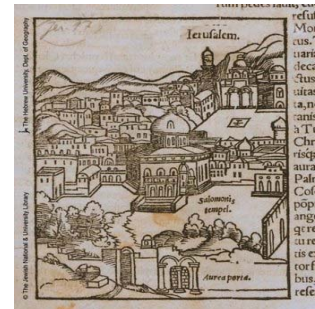
- Plan by committee.
- Meet several times before the trip for information, learning, and getting to know each other.
- Prepare with the group a newsletter that goes out several times before the trip.
- Do participants have active leadership roles?
- Share the preparations with the larger community.

3 *Choose a provider who can be a partner.*

- Does the provider have an educational staff?
- Interview candidates for guides.
- Hold planning meetings with the committee and the provider.

4 *Identify peak moments.*

- Celebrate holidays and life cycle events.
- Mark personal and group achievements.
- Relate to significant historical anniversaries.
- Keep a group travel log in words and pictures.



5 *Go off the beaten track.*

- Challenge participants to do things 'out of the ordinary'
- Provide experiences in small groups.
- Interact w/Israelis in a thoughtful, planned way.

6 *Too much family?*

- Activities aimed at family bonding.
- Activities aimed at specific age groups.
- Activities where people prepare for each other.

7 *Make space for wrap ups, round ups, and down time.*

- People need to rest.
- People need to discuss their experiences.
- People need to be updated about itinerary and logistics.

8 *No trip is an island.*

- Have a plan for post-Israel follow through . . .
- Learning together . . .
- Celebrating together . . .
- Sharing with the rest of the community . . .

9 *Turn meal time into real time.*

- Eat at places that are not available at home.
- Give opportunities for people to eat as families with families.
- Provide an opportunity to cook together.

Sense of place is not just something that people know and feel. It is something that people do.

Albert Camus