

Accelerator Weekend Agenda

Thursday, November 7th

12:00pm - 7:00pm

Registration

12:00pm - 7:00pm

Optional Meetings with Tour Operators

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Reception

7:30pm

Official "Kickoff" and Buffet Dinner

Friday, November 8th

Shabbat starts at 5:22pm

7:00am - 8:00am

Breakfast

8:00am - 8:15am

Walk to Opening Session

8:25am - 8:55am

Welcome/Opening

with Gil Galanos itrek Co-Founder and CEO

The opening remarks will welcome everyone to the Accelerator Weekend and inspire Leaders as they embark on this journey of itrek leadership.

8:55am - 9:20am

Your itrek Leadership Journey

with Matt Miller, Director of Graduate Programs

Hear about best practices and learnings from itrek's experienced staff before rolling up your sleeves to advance your Israel Trek planning with your Leadership Team. This session will provide essential insights around the challenges of working together under pressure and lessons you can learn from past itrek Leaders.

9:20am - 9:30am

Making the Most of the Accelerator Weekend

with Gilad Peled, Director of Education

What should Leaders expect from the Accelerator Weekend? What are the goals? How can Leaders actively participate in their Accelerator experience to best prepare themselves to lead an Israel Trek or Community Experiences?

9:30am - 9:45am

Divide into groups for next session

9:45am - 10:45am

My Role as a Leader

with itrek Tour Educators

Leaders will engage in an experiential activity with their peers, led by itrek Tour Educators. Throughout the activity, Leaders will reflect on past leadership experiences and consider their role in the Israel Trek or Community Experiences.

10:45am - 11:15am

Break

11:15am - 12:30pm

Critically Connected: Israel Engagement in a Time of Conflict

with Dr. Rachel Fish and Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin

This session will provide important context and terminology for Leaders to consider while planning their Israel Trek or Community Experiences. What challenges do Leaders face on campus today, and how can I support Israel even when or if I criticize it? What should we consider when visiting a complex region and a country in turmoil? How do my feelings about Israel influence the way I plan and lead an Israel Trek or Community Experiences, and what do my participants hear when we talk about Israel? This session will provide valuable insights into the intricate relationship and reciprocal influences between Israeli and American realities with essential tools to handle this reality.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Small Group Reflection

with itrek Tour Educators

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Finding the Right Words to Tell Your Story

with Alex Goldstein

Everyone has a story and motivation for why they have devoted their time, effort, and energy to leading an Israel Trek. Alex Goldstein, a veteran of political, NGO, and private sector strategic communications, will explore how to clearly and persuasively communicate our own stories and passions and how to use those stories authentically to connect with our broader campus communities.

3:00pm - 3:15pm

The itrek Network: Your Community Awaits

Your leadership journey doesn't end once your Israel Trek is over. Hear from itrek Alumni and the itrek Network Team (Ilana Sidorsky, Carina Romanov, and Evan Majzner) about your global itrek Community and the many social, professional, and funding opportunities available to you and your participants.

3:15pm - 5:00pm

itrek Workstations

Work with your Leadership Team on your Israel Trek or Community Experiences. Experts, itrek Educators, itrek Alumni, itrek Program Managers and the itrek Team will be in the Hub to support Leaders during this time.

5:10pm

Candle Lighting

5:30pm - 6:45pm

Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv

Traditional Prayers for Shabbat

6:00pm - 6:30pm

Shabbat B'Yachad (Shabbat Together)

Informal Communal Gathering

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Shabbat Reception

7:00pm - 8:15pm

Shabbat Dinner

8:30pm - 10:00pm

Game Night

Shesh Besh tournament and other board games

Saturday, November 9th

6:45am - 7:30am

Optional Yoga Session

with Gil Galanos

7:00am - 7:45am

Optional Mind Map Activity

with Joel Meyer

When did you last pause to reflect on who you are and where you're going? In this deeply personal and introspective workshop, you'll have the chance to explore your thoughts, ideas, character, and motivations, leaving with a renewed sense of direction and self-awareness. (This session will include writing.)

7:00am - 7:45am

Optional Session: When Words Fail, Art Prevails

with Maya Yehezkel

In an inspiring conversation, we will explore how creativity offers unique insights and opens up new ways of understanding the challenges and experiences we face. Together, we will discuss how the creative process allows us to confront difficult questions, reflect on identity, and engage with the ongoing narrative of life in Israel.

7:30am - 8:45am

Breakfast

9:00am - 10:00am / 10:15am - 11:15am

Concurrent Sessions

The sessions below will run concurrently, each attended by half of the Leaders. The first session block will run from 9:00am - 10:00am. After a 15 min break, Leaders should switch rooms. The second session block will run from 10:15am - 11:15am.

Spotlight Session: Persuasive Communications

in Moments of Campus Tension

with Alex Goldstein

In this session, Alex Goldstein will discuss the building blocks of persuasive communication in the context of tense or antagonistic moments on campus. He will explore the different types of scenarios Leaders may encounter and provide communication strategies for navigating them effectively.

Engage, Inspire, Recruit:

Campus Strategies for Success

with Program Managers and itrek Alumni

Learn best practices and engage in a brainstorming conversation around ideas and methods to effectively recruit on your campus. This session aims to create a foundation and provide tools to support Leaders in recruiting fellow students to their Israel Treks.

Group #1

Group #2

11:15am - 12:15pm

itrek Workstations

Work on your Israel Treks or Community Experiences. Experts, itrek Educators, itrek Alumni, itrek Program Managers and the itrek Team will be in the Hub to support Leaders during this time.

12:15pm - 1:15pm

Embracing Diversity: Navigating Israel with a Range of Perspectives

with itrek Tour Educators and itrek Alumni

Our identity inherently impacts our perspective. How can Leaders help their participants make sense of what they hear and see? What tools are available to support Leaders in this effort? What will participants see that Israelis do not when it comes to Israel?

Four sessions will run concurrently, allowing Leaders of different backgrounds to focus on their approach to leading peers with different opinions, religious affiliations, gender identities, and backgrounds.

Israeli Leaders - Michael Bauer (*held in Hebrew*)

Non-Jewish Leaders - Miri Eisin

Jewish non-Israeli Leaders - Joel Meyer

Jewish non-Israeli Leaders - Shira Boso & Maya Yehezkel

1:15pm - 2:15pm

Shabbat Lunch

2:15pm - 3:30pm

Shabbat Rest / itrek Workstations

Work on your Israel Trek or Community Experiences. Experts, itrek Educators, itrek Alumni, itrek Program Managers and the itrek Team will be in the Hub to support Leaders during this time.

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Winds of Change: The Shifting Geopolitical Situation in Israel

with Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin

Israel's geopolitical situation is fundamental in shaping any experience related to the country. In this session, we will delve into the evolving geopolitical landscape of Israel and its surrounding region, examining the complexities that define Israel's role on the global stage.

Join us for a dynamic discussion on how these changes affect both Israel and the broader Middle East.

4:45pm - 5:45pm

From Experience to Insight: The Value of Reflection

with Tour Educators and itrek Alumni

Israel Treks and Community Experiences involve much more than just what you see, who you meet, and what you eat. They are intense and immersive. As Leaders, how can we prepare for this encounter? In this session, you will practice using processing and reflection as tools.

These formal and informal opportunities help participants reflect on their experiences, take ownership, and put information into context.

Group #1 - Michael Bauer

Group #2 - Maya Yehezkel

Group #3 - Joel Meyer

Group #4 - Shira Boso

5:45pm - 6:45pm

Prepare for the Party / itrek Workstations

Work on your Israel Trek or Community Experiences. Experts, itrek Educators, itrek Alumni, itrek Program Managers and the itrek Team will be in the Hub to support Leaders during this time.

6:16pm

Havdalah

6:45pm - 7:30pm

Shabbat Reception

7:30pm - 8:00pm

Transfer Off-Site to Party Venue

8:00pm - 12:00am

Party

Dinner Included

Sunday, November 10th

7:15am - 8:15am

Breakfast

8:30am - 9:30am

Live storymark™ Podcast Recording

with Host Gil Galanos, itrek Co-Founder and CEO, and Congressman Ritchie Torres

To ensure sound quality, please silence all your devices and do not leave the room during the recording unless absolutely necessary.

9:45am - 10:30am

Network: Showcasing Alumni

As the Accelerator Weekend comes to a close, join alumni Leaders and participants to discover the opportunities that await you following your Israel Trek or Campus Experience. The itrek Network gives you the chance to continue making an impact while expanding your global professional connections.

10:45am - 11:45am

Equipped for Tomorrow:

Tools and Reflections for the Journey Ahead

with itrek Tour Educators

After an immersive Israel Trek or Community Experience, participants will benefit from a dedicated session that helps them process their journey and the tools they've gained. A closing session is a powerful tool for Leaders to maximize the impact of the Israel experience. By modeling a closing session, you will acquire a crucial leadership skill. How should you prepare for this closing session? What unique challenges do you face as a Leader at the end of the Israel Trek? What tools can you use to make this a memorable conclusion?

11:45am - 12:30pm

Farewell Lunch