



JDC Entwine Insider Trip Frequently Asked Questions

What is JDC Entwine?

JDC Entwine is a one-of-a-kind movement for young Jewish leaders, influencers, and advocates who seek to make a meaningful impact on global Jewish needs and international humanitarian issues. Entwine offers service experiences in Jewish communities and non-sectarian settings around the world, educational events and programs, and leadership development opportunities. Entwine is an initiative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the largest Jewish humanitarian organization in the world. JDC works in 70 countries, specializing in humanitarian aid, Jewish community renewal, and disaster relief.

Who is the appropriate candidate for JDC Entwine Insider Trips for College Students?

JDC Entwine looks to put together a diverse group of college students from across North America ranging in background, academic and extracurricular interests, class year, etc. There is no one profile that is appropriate. We look for applicants who are interested in learning about and taking action on behalf of global Jewish issues and are excited to participate in a group travel experience.

JDC Entwine Insider Leadership Trips for College Students are open to current undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 22 years old.

What are the goals of JDC Entwine Insider Trips for College Students?

JDC Entwine's Insider Trips for College Students are opportunities for young Jewish leaders to engage with global Jewish and humanitarian issues while traveling with a group of likeminded peers. The goals of Entwine's Insider Trips are that Jewish young adults will connect and build friendships with their fellow participants and peers overseas; have the opportunity to learn about the challenges facing Jews in another part of the world and the role of JDC in responding to overseas needs; and, upon returning home, will engage in advocacy for overseas Jewish needs.

What is expected of participants?

Participants who engage fully before, during, and after JDC Entwine's Insider Trips gain the most from the experience. Before the trip, participants are expected to participate in virtual pre-trip briefings, read the provided briefing materials to gain a better understanding of the community, and acquaint themselves with the other participants. Pre-trip activities may also include collecting donations to bring to the community. On the ground, participants are expected to participate in all scheduled activities and will get the most out of the experience by making an effort to get to know all fellow participants and actively engage with community members. Following the trip, it is up to participants to bring the experience home in whatever way speaks to them; follow up activities can range from planning educational events to blogging about the experience to organizing a fundraiser based on the needs of the community. JDC Entwine staff is available to assist with post-trip follow up activities.

What is involved in the application process & what information should I have handy?

The application asks for information about your education and activities/volunteer experience, current employment, as well as a few short essay questions. You will also need to upload a copy of your resume. A select number of applicants will be invited for an interview within one month following the application deadline. Trip interviews are conducted via Skype with JDC Entwine staff and last between 15-25 minutes.

When will I find out if I am accepted & how long do I have to confirm my participation?

All participants will be notified of acceptance about three to four months before the trip departure date. If selected, you will have approximately one week to confirm your participation and pay the non-refundable trip deposit.

What is included in the participation fee?

Unless otherwise noted, included in the participation fee is roundtrip airfare from a point of departure in the United States, local transportation, meals, hotel accommodations (note: the participation fee covers accommodations in double or triple rooms, briefings, tours, leisure activities, and medical and emergency evacuation insurance. Not included in the participation fee are items of a personal nature such as souvenirs and extra snacks and drinks.

I cannot afford the full cost of the trip. What kinds of subsidies are available? Can I fundraise from other sources to help cover the cost of my participation fee?

We encourage participants to fundraise to cover the cost of the trip. Past participants have been extremely successful in raising additional funds to help cover the cost of participation. JDC Entwine Insider Trips are leadership experiences, and many local organizations, synagogues, alumni associations, and employers agree on their value.

Is my payment refundable should I have to withdraw after confirming my participation?

A non-refundable deposit of \$800, due within one week of notification of acceptance, is required to confirm your participation and reserve your spot on the trip.

Typically, the remainder of the participation fee is due two months before the trip departure date. Cancellation after the submission of final payment may result in a loss of the entire payment. No refunds will be made within seven days of departure.

Is my payment tax deductible?

No. Participation fees are payments, not donations, and therefore do not qualify as tax deductible.

Is kosher food available? What accommodations are made for Shabbat?

In general, meals are kosher-style. Should participants require strictly kosher food, they should indicate this on their application and participation form. When available, JDC staff will try to accommodate as best as possible. In some locations, certified kosher food may not be available, in which case, alternate arrangements can be made.

JDC Entwine Insider Trips are pluralistic and designed for all levels of Jewish observance; travel is not required on Shabbat. When possible, Shabbat is spent with the local Jewish community and local traditions/practices are observed. A variety of options are given throughout the day on Shabbat (for example, attending synagogue, free time, walking tour, etc.).

What does the group flight entail? Can I book my own flights?

Participants must travel to the trip location on the group flight. Depending on airline rules, participants may receive frequent flyer miles for these flights and, if desired, may be able to upgrade their tickets for an additional cost.

Can I extend my stay after the group trip? Can JDC staff assist with post-trip accommodations?

Participants can usually extend their trip after the group experience. Extensions are subject to availability and any difference in fare/change fees charged. Participants interested in extending will be given contact information for JDC's travel agent only once the deposit for the trip is submitted.

JDC Entwine staff is not available to assist with any post-trip travel plans, recommendations, or accommodations. We are happy to connect you with our preferred travel agent who may be able to assist with your requests.

What accommodations are made for the security and safety of participants?

JDC is the largest Jewish humanitarian aid organization, operating in over 70 countries, with more than 100 years of experience and longstanding relationships around the world. The organization does as much as possible to ascertain and ensure the safety of staff and participants traveling with JDC. Locations for travel are selected based on an assessment that they meet high levels of safety and security. Security conditions are subject to constant and rapid changes. JDC's Global Security team monitors conditions on an ongoing basis and adjusts instructions and activities as necessary. Security guidelines are shared with

the group before departure and participants will receive a comprehensive security briefing by local staff upon arrival to the field.

All participants are required to share emergency contact information with JDC Entwine staff. Additionally, JDC Entwine staff always travel with an international cell phone, should participants need to reach loved ones or vice versa.

When will I find out who else is in the group? Will there be an opportunity to connect prior to the trip itself?

Shortly after confirming your participation for the trip, you will receive a formal “Welcome E-mail” with logistics, briefing materials, and dates to mark on your calendar. You will also be introduced to the rest of the group and will receive everyone’s bios and contact information.

There will be two group briefings via webinar and/or by phone within the two months before takeoff. Additionally, if there are a few participants in a given city, these participants may organize an informal get together, which JDC Entwine staff and trip co-chairs are happy to help facilitate.

What is a Trip Chair?

A Trip Chair is a trip participant who takes on certain leadership roles and responsibilities before, during, and after the trip. Trip Chairs work very closely with JDC Entwine staff throughout the program development process, and are essential members of the team who help lead the trip. Typically, there are two Chairs on every Entwine trip, in addition to one or two JDC Entwine staff members (the ‘JDC Entwine Group Leader’).

Does participation in one trip preclude my participation in future trips?

Not at all! Many alumni participate in multiple trips. Alumni are encouraged to get involved by applying to be a Trip Chair of a future trip, and after graduation, getting involved in their local Entwine Learning Networks and pursue other leadership opportunities through Entwine. For more information about Entwine’s Learning Networks, visit our website: <http://jdcentwine.org/events>.