

JDC Entwine Insider Trips Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the appropriate candidate for JDC Entwine Insider Trips for Young Professionals? What is the age range of the group?

JDC Entwine looks to put together a diverse group of young professionals from across the United States, United Kingdom, and around the world ranging in age, background, profession, and interests. We look for applicants who are interested in learning about and taking action on global Jewish issues and are excited to participate in a group travel experience. There is no one profile that is appropriate.

JDC Entwine Insider Trips for Young Professionals are open to post-college age individuals. Participants generally range in age from early 20s through late 30s.

What are the goals of JDC Entwine Insider Trips for Young Professionals?

JDC Entwine's Insider Trips for Young Professionals are opportunities for young Jewish adults from around the world to engage with global Jewish and humanitarian issues while traveling with a group of likeminded peers. Jewish young adults will connect and build relationships with their fellow participants and peers overseas, will learn about the opportunities and 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, make 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 are available to assist with post-trip follow up activities.

What is the informal educational content of Entwine's Insider Trips?

Throughout Insider Trips, there will be moments for the full group to partake in facilitated conversations around global Jewish responsibility. These conversations tend to be among the highlights of our trips!

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

The application asks for information about your activities/volunteer experience, current employment, as well as a few short essay questions. A select number of applicants will be invited for a conversation within one month following the application deadline. Trip interviews are conducted via Zoom an Entwine staff member and last between 10 and 15 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 within one month of the application deadline. 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 round-trip airfare from a point of departure in the United States, local transportation, meals, hotel accommodations (note: the participation fee covers accommodations in double rooms; participants may elect to stay in a single room for an additional fee), 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?

Insider Trips participation fees are highly subsidized in order to provide greater access and opportunity for participation (the average actual cost of an Insider Trip is estimated at \$4,500/person).

If additional financial help is needed in order to participate, we provide assistance, whenever possible, by connecting participants with funding opportunities in their local communities. While we cannot guarantee that funds will be available from other funding sources, we are happy to help facilitate these connections.

Please reference the [JDC Entwine Fundraising Guide](#) for useful information on raising additional funds for your trip, including recommendations on local organizations to reach out to and tips on creating a crowd-sourcing page.

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

A non-refundable deposit is due within one week of acceptance and is required to confirm your participation and reserve your spot on the trip. If applicable, the remainder of the participation fee is typically 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 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?

If there is a group flight for the trip, North American-based 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. Participants coming from locations other than North America will book their own travel to the trip location in coordination with JDC Entwine staff.

If there is no group flight, all participants will be responsible for book their own travel to and from the trip location. Parameters will be given in your acceptance letter regarding arrival and departure times.

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

Each airline has their own parameters around flight extensions. Most airlines allow for 1-2 deviations per group flight. Extensions are granted on a first come-first serve basis from the time the participant has confirmed their participation (by submitting their deposit and participation form).

Participants extending their stay will be required to submit a \$50 change fee to JDC, a \$50 change fee to our travel provider, plus any difference in airfare.

JDC Entwine staff are 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. Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own insurance after the program dates.

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

The 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 the JDC. Locations for travel are based on an assessment that they meet high levels of safety and security. 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 their trip location. All participants are required to share emergency contact information with JDC Entwine. Additionally, JDC Entwine staff always travel with an international cell phone, should participants need to reach loved ones or vice versa.

Can I see a list of participants before confirming my participation? Can I be connected with past program participants to discuss the trip?

To protect the privacy of JDC Entwine’s participants, we do not share names and contact information with people who are not confirmed on the trip. Upon confirming your participation, you will be invited to join a Facebook group for the trip, where participants are encouraged to interact with one another and coordinate travel.

To protect the privacy of JDC Entwine’s alumni, we also do not connect past trip participants with applicants. We would be happy to connect you with a member of the Entwine Engagement team to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding the trip. The Engagement team has personal experience participating and leading Insider Trips and will be able to provide additional trip details.

Once the group is confirmed, JDC Entwine will send a formal Welcome Email to all participants. This email will have links to briefing materials, participant bios, and the Facebook group.

How do I know which vaccinations I will need?

Because JDC Entwine is not a medical institution, we are not able to provide medical advice. We recommend participants visit the CDC website and speak with a travel physician for vaccination suggestions.

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 in local Entwine programming, DIY initiatives, and other leadership opportunities. For more information, visit <http://jdcentwine.org/education>