

BYFI Security Policy

The Current Situation in Israel

The situation inside Israel is volatile. Our plans for the summer are based on the assumption that the situation in Israel will continue to be so. Random terrorist attacks have been an ongoing fact of life in Israel. In all likelihood, there may continue to be problems of various sorts, including strikes, rioting, and protests in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and combinations or singular incidents of rock throwing or stabbing, missiles in the Gaza strip area and physical attacks on Israel Defense Force (IDF) personnel, Israeli residents and tourists.

Although these incidents are usually restricted to specific geographical areas that we will seek to avoid (see below), there have been incidents in areas of Jewish Jerusalem (and other parts of Israel) which have been perceived as safe at other times. For many years Israelis and tourists have had to accept random acts of violence (such as bombings on buses and terrorist attacks) within Israel. Our security guidelines have been developed in consultation with our Israeli Staff Security Director, Yosi Yeshaya. Our summer planning and the guidelines under which we operate attempt to take the unpredictability and volatile aspects of living in Israel into account.

Our Security Director maintains liaison with the Israeli Police Department, the Israeli Army, the United States Embassy in Israel and international security advisory services throughout the summer.

When in Israel, we carefully review our itinerary in light of security considerations on an ongoing basis. Our itinerary will be cleared by the central Israeli Government office that coordinates the activities of the Army, the Police and the Intelligence Services; they issue specific guidelines as to where it is safe to travel and the best routes to use. Local security personnel are notified of our travel plans and will immediately notify the group in the event of incident or security risk.

If necessary, we will change our itinerary to reflect information we receive about any heightened risk or security concerns. Our current plans as to where we will base the group for much of the summer and what areas we will visit may change as a result of evolving developments. For security reasons, we will not distribute a detailed copy of this coming summer's itinerary to parents or Fellows in advance.

Geographic Restrictions for the 2012 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel Program:

-----No travel in or near the Gaza strip.

-----No travel in the West Bank beyond Israel Defense Force security barrier. Travel within East Jerusalem is limited to accessing the most popular sites therein.

-----Fellows never travel independently. Whenever the Fellows travel as a group, they are accompanied by one or more staff members. While in the Goldstein Youth Village, they are in an enclosed, protected environment, within which Fellows may move freely, but which they are NOT allowed to leave on their own. In certain circumstances, if security conditions permit it, Fellows will be allowed to go in small groups to certain designated areas in Tzfat, Ein Harod and Jerusalem, once they have received permission from BYFI staff to do so. When/if Fellows leave the group with a pre-approved visitor/relative, they are picked up by the visitor at Goldstein Youth Village and returned there before a pre-approved time.

Identification/Contact Cards

All Fellows will be issued a personal identification card that includes faculty/staff contact information. This card must be carried by the Fellow at all times.

Staff Supervision

Whenever all of the Bronfman Youth Fellows travel, BYFI staff will always accompany them in order to supervise. We will also be accompanied by members of our security staff. Trips will be by chartered bus. The group will not travel by public bus. All group travel plans are reviewed by the Security Director.

Circumstances where Bronfman Fellows will travel without staff supervision:

While we are in Tzfat and Ein Harod, there may be opportunities for small groups of Fellows to go to specific places in town on their own, but only after receiving permission to do so and according to our staff's instructions. Fellows will not be allowed to go outside of these areas on their own.

The Fellows spend a weekend at homes of our Israeli Fellows. All of these homes are located in areas that the group can visit (i.e., not the West Bank, Gaza, etc.). The Fellows travel to and from the homes where they are staying either by chartered bus or by a private taxi. While on the homestay, their local travel is supervised by the Family hosting them. The Fellows are briefed before the trip on the homestay guidelines established by BYFI's Security Director.

Any picking up or dropping off of a Fellow by a relative or friend needs to **21 years old or over, and must be prearranged** with the administrative office before departure from the United States. In the event of such prearranged activity, the program will not be responsible for Fellows until their return. Permission to visit a relative or friend will be subject to the summer schedule. **Fellows cannot miss organized educational sessions to visit with family or friends. Actual scheduling of such visits will be subject to the approval of the Security Director in Israel.**