Welcome!

Thank you for participating in this ongoing evaluation of the Taglit-Birthright Israel program. Your responses to this survey will add to information from over 50,000 young Jews - BOTH participants and those who did not go on a trip - collected over the past seven years. Even if you did not go on the trip, it is very important that we hear from you.

Those who complete the survey will be entered in a lottery to win one of 20 $50 Amazon.com gift cards. We will select 5 winners each week for the next 4 weeks. So, the sooner you respond, the more chances you have to win.

This short survey will take about ten minutes to complete. The information you provide is highly valued by Taglit-Birthright Israel; it helps the organization to learn more about those interested in the program and to more effectively implement future trips.

This research is being conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. Your answers are confidential – the only results that will be reported are overall responses from the entire group of respondents.

Thank you for helping with this important project,

Theodore Sasson, PhD, Leonard Saxe, PhD,
Shahar Hecht, MA, Monica Pevzner, BA (Summer ’05 Taglit alum)
Taglit-Birthright Israel Research Team

The survey starts as soon as you click the "Next" button below.

FAQs

Why am I being surveyed even though I didn’t go on a trip?

Did I complete this survey already?

How do I get my deposit back?

I have some criticism about my Birthright experience.

What is the purpose of this survey?

How does this information help Taglit-Birthright Israel?

How do you keep my answers confidential?

How can I get the results of this research?

Will Birthright ever be able to see my responses?

What is the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies?

I have an issue with the questions that you ask in your survey. Do I have to respond?

I am having technical issues with the survey.

I never gave permission for my email to be used. How did you get my contact information?

Plenty of people complete these things - why should I?

Whom do I contact if I have any other questions about this research?

Introduction

Did you actually go on the Taglit-Birthright Israel trip in summer 2008?

☐ No. We want to hear from you anyway! Please continue!
☐ Yes

Applying

If you did not go, have you applied to go this coming winter?

☐ No
☐ Yes

The Trip

How many of the people on your bus were you friends with before the trip?

☐ None
☐ One or two
☐ Three to five
☐ More than five

To what extent...

Did your bus feel like a group of friends?

Did your bus feel like a community?

Were the people on the bus disruptive or distracting?

Did the group atmosphere enhance your experience?

 thinkers about this trip, HOW MUCH did you learn about...

Modern Israeli history?

Israel’s landscape/natural environment?

Israel culture and lifestyle?

Israeli social problems?

The Arab-Israeli conflict?

Jewish history?

Your own Jewish identity?

Jewish customs and practices?

Thinking about your trip’s Israeli tour guide (moreh derech), how much do you AGREE or
DISAGREE with the following statements?

Your Israeli tour guide(s)...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Was politically one-sided
Created a feeling of community on the bus
Was friendly
Was knowledgeable
Presented a single perspective on religion
Was open to concerns and questions
Was boring

How much did you interact with the Israelis who joined your bus (mifgash)?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Very much

Thinking about the Israelis who joined your bus (mifgash), how much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?

My interactions with the Israelis on my bus...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Led to personal connections with individuals
Made me aware of what we have in common
Helped me understand my Jewish identity
Helped me understand life in Israel
Helped me understand the Arab-Israeli conflict
Helped me learn about the IDF (Israel Defense Forces)
Were an important part of my Taglit-Birthright Israel trip
Made me feel connected to my Israeli peers

At any time on the trip...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you get drunk?
Did others on your bus get drunk?
Did you meet people from other buses?
Did you call someone back home?
Did you get injured?
Did you get sick?
Did you meet any Israeli friends/family?
Did you buy souvenirs or gifts?

More About the Trip

Trip participants have described the trip in many ways.

Overall, for me, the trip felt like...

- Not at All
- A Little
- Some-what
- Very Much

A fun vacation
A learning experience
A religious pilgrimage
A journey to my Jewish roots
An encounter with the real Israel
Too much for ten days
A group Jewish experience
A life-changing experience
A disappointment

Since your return from Israel have you been in contact with...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other participants from your bus?</th>
<th>Trip leaders?</th>
<th>Israelis who joined your bus?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9 times</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 times or more</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you currently in a romantic relationship with someone you met on your trip?

- No
- Yes

Have you encouraged friends, siblings and others to participate in future Taglit-Birthright Israel trips?

- No
- Yes, once or twice
- Yes, a few times
- Yes, I "talk it up" all the time

Thinking About Israel

In the past month how often did you actively seek news about Israel?

- Never
- Once
- Once a week
If someone asked you about the current situation in Israel, how confident do you feel in your ability to give a good explanation?

- Not at all confident
- A little confident
- Somewhat confident
- Very confident

Thinking about Israel, how much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When I think of Israel, I think about Israel as...</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A diverse multi-cultural society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lively democratic society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A religious fundamentalist society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A militaristic society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A possible future home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A source of pride</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians should Israel be willing to...

- Dismantle all of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
- Dismantle some of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
- Dismantle none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
- Don't know

Have you made any plans to visit Israel?

- No
- Yes, in the next year
- Yes, in more than a year from now

Thinking About Israel (continued)

If you do go to Israel, what do you plan to do? (check all that apply)

- Take a vacation
- Visit family
- Visit friends
- Visit Israelis you met on your bus (mifgash)
- Go on a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip
- Go on an organized travel/touring program
- Study at an Israeli university
- Attend a yeshiva or seminary religious study program

Your Views

There are different ways of being Jewish. For you personally, how much does being Jewish involve...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring about Israel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countering anti-Semitism?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working for social justice?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending synagogue?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Jewish organizations?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering to help those in need?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrating Jewish holidays?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remembering the Holocaust?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How important is each of the following to you personally in your life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>A Little Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating someone Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marrying someone Jewish</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Raising your children Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent do you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Jewish history?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Israel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to the Jewish community where you live?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Jewish traditions and customs?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to your Jewish peers?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jewish Learning

Over the past three months, have you taken a course in...

- Go on a volunteer program
- Work for pay
- Make aliyah
- Serve in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)
- Other. What?
Are you planning to take any such courses in the next twelve months?

- No
- Yes

Activities

In the past three months, were you INVITED by any of the following organizations to participate in Jewish or Israel related activities? (check all that apply)

- Hillel
- Chabad
- Your local Jewish federation
- A synagogue
- Birthright Israel NEXT
- Your trip organizer
- Other. Please describe: ____________________________
- Wasn't contacted by any organization

In the past three months, how often have you ENGAGED in activities sponsored by...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3-5 times</th>
<th>6 times or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chabad</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A synagogue</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthright Israel NEXT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your trip organizer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Jewish organization(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, please specify: __________________________________________________________

Activities (continued)

In the past three months, how often have you engaged in the following types of Jewish/Israel-related activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3-5 times</th>
<th>6 times or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rallies/demonstrations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts/performances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibits</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures or panel discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parties/celebrations</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Little About You

Are you CURRENTLY....?

- Not a student
A freshman (1st year)
A sophomore (2nd year)
A junior (3rd year)
A senior (4th year)
Studying for a Master's degree (e.g. MA, MBA, MSW, MS)
Studying for a Doctoral degree (e.g. PhD, EdD)
Studying for a Professional degree (e.g. MD, JD)
Other student. Please explain:

How many of your close friends are Jewish?
- None
- A few
- Half
- Most
- All

In the past three months, have you dated...?
- Did not date
- Only Jews
- Mostly Jews
- Jews and non-Jews equally
- Mostly non-Jews
- All-Jews

Do you consider yourself to be...?
- Secular/Culturally Jewish
- Just Jewish
- Reform
- Conservative
- Reconstructionist
- Orthodox
- No religion
- Other. Please specify:

Do you have family and/or friends in Israel?
- Family. Please describe:
- Friends

In the past THREE MONTHS, how often have you done any of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listened to Jewish/Israeli music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Jewish/Israeli literature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewed Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Jewish/Israeli websites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the past MONTH have you...

Which of the following best describes your current practices regarding keeping kosher?
- Don't follow kosher rules at all
- Follow some kosher rules like avoiding pork or shellfish
- Keep kosher only at home
- Keep kosher all the time

Last Passover did you hold or attend a Seder?
- No
- Yes

Last Hanukkah, did you participate in the lighting of Hanukkah candles, either in or out of your home?
- No
- Yes

Other than the High Holidays, how often, if at all, did you attend some type of organized Jewish religious service in the past MONTH?
- Never
- Once
- A few times
- Weekly
- Daily

Your Upbringing and Background

Were you raised...?
- Secular/Culturally Jewish
- Just Jewish
- Reform
- Conservative
- Reconstructionist
- Orthodox
- No religion
- Other. Please specify:

Were your parents born Jewish?
- No
- Yes
Are your parents Jewish now?

- Father: No ☐ Yes ☐
- Mother: No ☐ Yes ☐

Where were your parents born?

- Father: No ☐ Yes ☐
- Mother: No ☐ Yes ☐

Are your parents members of or do they donate to a... (check all that apply)

- Synagogue?
- Jewish Community Center?
- Jewish federation?
- Other Jewish organization? Please describe: 

During elementary and middle school (grades 1-8) did you attend...

If yes, number of years

- Full-time Jewish day school? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week? No ☐ Yes ☐

During high school (grades 9-12) did you attend...

If yes, number of years

- Full-time Jewish high school? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week? No ☐ Yes ☐

During your high school years...

- Did your household keep kosher? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Did your family celebrate Hanukkah? No ☐ Yes ☐
- Did your family hold or attend a Seder? No ☐ Yes ☐

Did you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony?

- No ☐ Yes ☐

Have you ever attended or worked at an overnight camp that had Shabbat services and/or a Jewish educational program?

If yes, number of years

- Attended ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐
- Worked ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐

If you were asked to read a text in Hebrew, how much would you understand?

- Don't know Hebrew alphabet at all
- Can read the letters but not understand the words
- Some of what I read
- Most of what I read
- Everything I read

The Elections

It is election season and there is great interest in understanding young adults' political views. This is an opportunity to learn more about what Birthright Israel applicants think are the most important issues. Please feel free to skip any questions that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

There are a lot of issues that will have an impact on how people will vote in this election. How much will the candidates' positions on each of the following issues influence who gets your vote for President?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>Some-what</th>
<th>Very much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>The environment</td>
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<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Elections

This past election there has been great interest in understanding young adults' political views. This is an opportunity to learn more about what Birthright Israel applicants think are the most important issues. Please feel free to skip any questions that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

There were a lot of issues that had an impact on how people voted in this election. How much did the candidates' positions on each of the following issues influence who got your vote for President?

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Immigration</td>
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<td>The economy</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Terrorism
Education
Immigration
Israel
Energy
Iraq
The environment
The economy
Iran
Taxes
Health care
Abortion

Health care
Israel

Other Thoughts

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments?

Thank you for participating in this important survey!
Would you like to receive results of this survey?
  - No
  - Yes

Please enter the e-mail address you would like the results to be sent to:

Submit Survey

If you have any questions about Taglit-Birthright Israel, please visit their Website http://www.birthrightisrael.com

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