

The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies
 Brandeis University
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CMJS Web Surveys

Welcome!

Thank you for participating in this ongoing analysis of the *Taglit-birthright isra* project. Your responses to this survey will add to information from over 50,000 young Jews - we survey BOTH participants and those who did not go on a trip - collected over the past seven years. Completing the survey should take about t minutes.

The information you provide is highly valued by *Taglit-birthright israel*; it helps organization to more effectively implement future trips. This research is being conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis Universi Your answers are confidential – the only results that will be reported are overa responses from the entire group of respondents.

Thank you for helping with this important project,

Theodore Sasson, PhD, Leonard Saxe, PhD,
 Shahar Hecht, MA, Rachel Maimin, BA (Winter '04/'05 bri alum)
Taglit-birthright israel Research Team

FAQs

- Why am I being surveyed even though I didn't go on a trip?
- Didn't I complete this survey already?
- 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?
- Why is "*birthright israel*" not capitalized?

- No
- Partial
- Yes

Introduction

Did you actually go on the *Taglit-birthright israel* trip in spring/summer 07?

- 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 much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?

The people on my bus....

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were on the trip just for a good time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Formed cliques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Felt like a group of friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Felt like a community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Were disruptive or distracting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent did you...

Not at All A Little Some-what Very Much

- Form friendships with others on the bus?
- Feel uncomfortable with some of the people on the bus?
- Feel like part of a community formed on the bus?
- Feel the group atmosphere enhanced your experience?
- Form a connection with the trip leaders?

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

	Not at All	A Little	Some- what	Very Much
Israel's landscape/natural environment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jewish customs and practices?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Israeli social problems?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your own Jewish identity?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jewish history?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Israeli culture and lifestyle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Arab-Israeli conflict?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modern Israeli history?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Your Israeli tour guide(s)...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Was difficult to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was friendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presented a single perspective on religion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was knowledgeable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was politically one-sided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Created a feeling of community on the bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was open to concerns and questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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...

Strongly **Strongly**

	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree
Helped me learn about the IDF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made me aware of what we have in common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made me feel connected to my Israeli peers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helped me understand the Arab-Israeli conflict	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Were limited by difficulties in communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made me aware of the differences between us	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helped me understand life in Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Led to personal connections with individuals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

At any time on the trip...

	No	Yes
Did you get drunk?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did others on your bus get drunk?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you meet people from other buses?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you call someone back home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you get injured?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you get sick?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you "hook up" with anyone?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did you buy souvenirs or gifts?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

More About the Trip

As you remember the trip, HOW MUCH did you feel that you were encouraged to...

	Not at All	A Little	Some- what	Very Much
Form your own opinions about the Arab-Israeli conflict	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donate money to Israel/the Jewish community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Move to Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consider continuing your Jewish journey	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Become more religious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get more involved in the Jewish community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Lobby on behalf of Israel

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A college seminar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A religious pilgrimage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A journey to my Jewish roots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An exhilarating trek	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A group Jewish experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A disappointment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did you extend your trip and stay longer in Israel?

- No
- Yes. How long did you stay? What did you do?

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

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often
Other participants from your bus?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trip leaders?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Israelis who joined your bus?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other <i>Taglit-birthright israel</i> alumni?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

How likely is it that you will visit Israel within the next two years?

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

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

- Take a vacation
- Visit family
- Visit friends
- Visit Israelis you met on the *mifgash*
- Go on a *Taglit-birthright israel* trip
- Go on an organized travel/touring program
- Attend a university study abroad program
- Attend a yeshiva or seminary religious study program
- Go on a volunteer program
- Work for pay
- Other. What?
- Don't plan to go to Israel

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

- Several times a day
- Once a day
- Every few days
- Once a week
- Once
- Never

Which of the following do you consult for news about Israel? (check all that apply)

- Cable news (CNN, MSNBC, FOX)
- Network news (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX)
- Israeli news sites (Ha'aretz, Ynet, Jerusalem Post, etc.)
- National Public Radio
- The New York Times
- Local Newspapers
- Jewish newspapers (The Forward, The Jewish Week)
- Weekly magazines (Time Magazine, Newsweek, US News & World Report)

- Email circulations
- Blogs
- Other. Please explain:

If someone asked you about the current situation in Israel, how confident do you feel i 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 stater When I think of Israel, I think about Israel as...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A source of pride	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A refuge for persecuted Jews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A technological powerhouse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A possible future home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An educational and cultural center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A country riven with internal strife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A militaristic society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A diverse multi-cultural society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A religious fundamentalist society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A lively democratic society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Your Views

To what extent do you think being Jewish means being a member of ...

	Not at All	A Little	Some-what	Very Much
A nationality?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A cultural group?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An ethnic group?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A lifestyle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A religious group?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A people?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

	Not at All	A Little	Some-what	Very Much
Caring about Israel?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having a rich spiritual life?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading Jewish books?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observing Shabbat?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making the world a better place?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending synagogue?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Celebrating Jewish holidays?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Countering anti-Semitism?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leading an ethical and moral life?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting Jewish organizations?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remembering the Holocaust?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

	Not Important	A little Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Being Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dating someone Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marrying someone Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raising your children Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent do you...

Not at All	A Little	Some-what	Very Much
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- Feel a connection to Jewish history?
- Feel a connection to Israel?
- Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?
- Feel a connection to your local Jewish community?

Jewish Learning

In the next two years do you plan to take any courses specifically focusing on Jewish subjects, such as Jewish history, the Holocaust, or Hebrew?

- No
 Yes

Are you taking any such courses this year?

- No
 Yes

If so, which courses are you taking/will you be taking? (check all that apply)

- Jewish history
 Modern Israel
 The Holocaust
 Hebrew language
 The Arab-Israeli conflict
 Hebrew/Jewish literature
 Bible/Talmud
 Other. Please specify:

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
 Other. Please describe:
 Wasn't contacted by any organization

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

	Never	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6 times or more
Hillel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chabad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local Jewish federation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A synagogue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Jewish organization(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please specify:

Activities

Since your return from Israel, 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
 Taglit-birthright israel alumni association
 Your trip organizer
 Other. Please describe:
 Wasn't contacted by any organization

Since your return from Israel, how often have you engaged in activities sponsored by..

	Never	Once	Twice	3-5	6 times
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

				times	or more
Hillel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chabad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local Jewish federation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A synagogue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taglit-birthright israel alumni association	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your trip organizer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Jewish organization(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please specify:

Activities (continued)

In the past three months, in what kind of Jewish activities did you participate? (check all that apply)

- Israel related activities
- Cultural activities
- Religious activities
- Community service/social justice
- Social activities
- Jewish learning activities
- Other. Please describe:

Are you an officer or a board member of a Jewish organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Are you employed (full-time or part-time) by a Jewish organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Activities (continued)

Since your return from Israel, in what kind of Jewish activities did you participate? (check all that apply)

- Israel related activities
- Cultural activities
- Religious activities
- Community service/social justice
- Taglit-birthright israel reunions or events
- Social activities
- Jewish learning activities
- Other. Please describe:

Are you an officer or a board member of a Jewish organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Are you employed (full-time or part-time) by a Jewish organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Activities (continued)

If you haven't participated in Jewish related activities in the past three months, why not? (check all that apply)

- I don't have time
- I'm just not interested
- I don't know when/where these activities take place
- I don't know people I can go with
- I don't feel connected to people who participate
- There are no Jewish activities/events where I live
- I don't need Jewish organizations to feel Jewish
- Other. Please explain:

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)
- A graduate student
- Other student. Please explain:

Do you consider yourself to be...?

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

How many of your close friends are Jewish?

- None
- A few
- Half
- Most
- All

In the past month have you...

	Never	Some-times	Usually	Always (every week)
Lit/participated in lighting Shabbat candles?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had/attended a special meal on Shabbat?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

This fall did you....

	No	Yes
Attend Rosh Hashanah services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attend Yom Kippur services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visit a Sukkah?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other than for the High Holidays, how often, if at all, did you attend some type of organ Jewish religious service in the past three months?

- 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
Father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mother	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are your parents Jewish now?

	No	Yes
Father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mother	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Where were your parents born?

		If other, please specify:
Father	<input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mother	<input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>	<input type="text"/>

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	
	No	Yes
Full-time Jewish day school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>
Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>
Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>

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

	If yes, number of years	
	No	Yes
Full-time Jewish high school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>
Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>
Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/>

During your high school years...

	No	Yes
Did your household keep kosher?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did your family celebrate Hanukkah?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did your family hold or attend a Seder?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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 Jewish educational program?

No
 Attended
 Worked
 Attended and worked

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

Other Thoughts

Do you have any additional thoughts about your Jewish identity or Israel?

Other Thoughts

Do you have any other thoughts or comments about your Jewish identity or your *Taglit birthright israel* experience?

Thank You!

Thank you for participating in this important survey!

If you have any questions about *Taglit-birthright israel*, visit their Website
<http://www.birthrightisrael.com>

Submit Survey

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