

Birthright Pregame

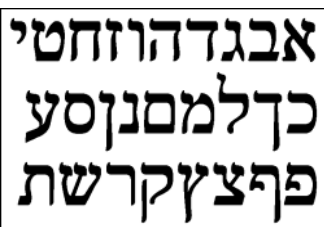
Hey Birthright participants! Based on your feedback and ideas I've created a menu of custom pre-trip programs to help you get to know each other and prepare for the trip. **Please come to 3 out of the 5 events below – if at all possible please attend the two mandatory events, as those will be really helpful.** All events are at Hillel and will include food!

Please send me rough RSVPs for which of the programs you think you'll be attending by **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30** so that I can order food, if your plans change that's perfectly fine. Come to as many as you want!

Israel 101 with Iftah Burman - MANDATORY

Sunday, November 4th 3:30pm or Thursday, November 8th 6-7pm (same program twice)

Iftah is an Israeli tour guide and is one of the best in the business. His "Israel 101" will be an awesome introduction to Israel, geography, history, politics that will be the basis for what you will be hearing about on the trip.



Hebrew 101 with Dr. Irit Aharony and Israeli students

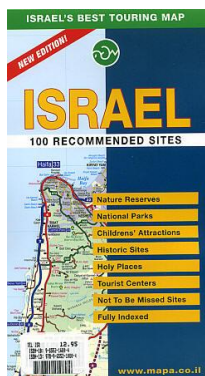
Monday, November 12th 6-7pm

Hebrew is a fascinating language with many interesting quirks and influences from Yiddish, Arabic and others. Dr. Irit Aharony and some of your Israeli peers will teach the basics and discuss what the language says about the personality of the Israeli people.

START-UP NATION book discussion

Thursday, November 29th 6-7pm

START-UP NATION, by Dan Senor and Saul Singer, addresses the trillion dollar question: How is it that Israel – a country of 7.1 million, only 60 years old, surrounded by enemies, in a constant state of war since its founding, with no natural resources—produces more start-up companies than large, peaceful, and stable nations like Japan, China, India, Korea, Canada, and the UK? How is it that Israel has, per person, attracted over twice as much venture capital investment as the US and thirty times more than Europe? This is a fantastic book and really worth checking out, if you don't have a copy let me know and I would be happy to get you one. Read it on your flight home over Thanksgiving, and come back to campus and discuss the book with us over dinner!



Oh the Places You'll Go: Harvard Birthright Orientation – MANDATORY

Sunday, December 2nd 5-7pm

Do I really need water shoes? How hot is it actually going to be at Masada? Should I bring this formal dress? I'm thinking about bringing my guitar, is that a good idea? What is the Old City like? At this event we will go over the itinerary together with Israeli peers who will tell you about all of the sites you will see, their favorite places in Israel, and tourist experiences not to be missed. This will also be our general orientation about trip logistics, packing lists, and anything else you want to discuss.

Latkes and "Homeland" Chanukah study break

Tuesday, December 11th 8-10pm

Take a break from the reading period monotony with Homeland, based on the Israeli series Hatufim. Latkes and sufganiot will complete the Chanukah spirit!



Are you excited yet?? YOU SHOULD BE!!!