

Information Sheet for Tamid B'nai Mitzvah in Israel

Updated February, 2026

Dear Families,

Electing to have your child's b'nai mitzvah in Israel is a lifelong dream for many. We have over a decade of experience supporting children and families in this process and we hope this information sheet provides a starting point for your planning and preparation. We are happy to connect you with other Tamid families that have made this trip - all were excellent and unique. We're excited for you and are here to help at every step along the way. Mazel tov!

Tour Operator/Guides

Most families pair up with an Israeli tour operator to handle the logistical aspects of their journey. Please inquire if they have experience with b'nai mitzvah ceremonies. A tour operator should be able to provide a Torah scroll. Tamid will provide the prayerbooks.

Student Preparation

Your child will prepare to lead their ceremony, to read from the Torah Scroll, and to write their speech, exactly like their classmates that are celebrating in New York. If there is additional learning and prep that you would like to include, please speak with Christina or Chesney.

B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony

Most families elect to have their ceremony in the Old City of Jerusalem at the Kotel. Davidson's Arch was created about 25 years ago to accommodate mixed seating for men and women at the Western Wall. Alternative to the Western Wall are other locations in Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, The Negev, and Tzfat, etc. The ceremony lasts about one hour and can occur on Saturday, Monday, or Thursday (days the Torah is read aloud).

Officiation and Date Selection

Rabbi Darren loves to travel to Israel to celebrate with families. Please contact him directly to speak about your plans and dates. If he is unavailable, he will match your family with one of his rabbi colleagues in Israel. There male and female rabbis, US born, European, and Israeli, that have led ceremonies for Tamid families and formed a bond of a lifetime. If Rabbi Darren joins you, he will travel to Israel independently and will meet your family at your hotel the day before your ceremony. We ask that families make a \$5000 tzedakah contribution to Tamid which will be used to cover his travel expenses. Tamid will pay the honorarium on your behalf if your family uses a local rabbi in Israel.

Additional Considerations

In addition to an Israel ceremony, some families also have one in New York for local family and friends. Also, please consider doing a mitzvah project in Israel. Rabbi Darren and your tour operator can make suggestions. This has been a highlight of past trips. Lastly, for peace of mind, most families have taken trip insurance for every aspect of their journey to accommodate for any security issues, delays, or cancellations that may arise.

Thank you for giving your child an experience that will root their Jewish identity for a lifetime. Am Yisrael Chai – we love you!