

Dear Friends,

Masa gap year programs present unmatched opportunities for young adults from around the world to learn and grow while options at home amid COVID-19 are limited.

**The Wall Street Journal** has recognized the value of these programs in their article, ["Israel Emerges as Top Destination for American Teens Amid Pandemic."](#)

"Masa Israel, the organization overseeing nonreligious gap-year programming in the country, said it is seeing a 40% increase in gap-year participants compared with last year, of whom two-thirds are American."

Our organizers share that while the total number of American students spending gap years overseas has dropped, the number of students spending gap years in Israel has increased.

We are proud that Masa Israel Journey is the leader in long-term experiences in Israel, bringing thousands of Jewish high school graduates from all over the world to Israel each year.

Our incredibly dedicated partners are helping make these journeys possible. We look forward to continuing to provide our gap year Fellows—and all Masa Fellows—with immersive and enriching experiences in Israel.

Sincerely,

**Ofer Gutman**  
**Acting CEO, Masa Israel Journey**

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