VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL®

Volun-Tour Israel: *Serve. Explore. Connect.*

THE VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL CONTINUES NEW 'VOLUN-TOUR' INITIATIVES FOR 2025/26

New York, NY, [9/20/2025] — Volunteers for Israel (VFI) is excited to announce the launch of its new 'Volun-Tour' programs for 2025/26, offering unique and rewarding opportunities for English speaking adults and senior volunteers to stand with Israel. These programs are designed to meet Israel's pressing needs during and after the current war, providing meaningful ways for volunteers to make a difference.

Embark on a Volun-Tour: Stand with Israel!

Calling all adventurers, dreamers, and change-makers! VFI (Volunteers for Israel) is thrilled to unveil our brand-new "Volun-Tour" programs for 2025/26 for adults and seniors.

What's a Volun-Tour? Picture this: You, under the Israeli sun, rolling up your sleeves to make a real impact with genuine connections and meaningful work while learning about the land of Israel.

During a 42-year partnership with Sar-El, VFI recruited, processed, and prepared thousands of American volunteers to work on IDF bases. Our focus has changed and expanded its scope to encompass a wider range of Israel's rich and fulfilling volunteer opportunities for English-speakers worldwide.

Our new Volun-Tour programs cater to active adult and senior first-time or experienced travelers. We provide carefree volunteer experiences led by expert Israeli professionals. VFI's All-Inclusive programs cover housing, most food, transportation, program costs, and gratuities. They also include customized weekend tours to both well-known and lesser-known sites with our limited size groups.

Volun-Touring offers unique experiences and personal satisfaction for 6 to 16-days through real and meaningful service to Israel. Tailored to the interests of adults and seniors, the programs offer the finest experiences that our Israeli partners can devise. Volunteers can choose from various categories, including archaeology, IDF food support, medical support, farming, reconstruction, holy land, nature, and more.



Highlighted Volun-Tour Programs:

- **VFI Mission: Feed the Soldiers:** Spend a work week as a civilian volunteer on a comfortable IDF base near Jerusalem. Participants who are 18-79 are welcome! Wear fatigues and visit a different base each day where you will prepare and serve meals from mobile kitchens. Enjoy cultural programs and trips after your work day Experience 4 days of touring with our experienced guides. Learn more.
- **VFI Rehab Program:** Hospital Volunteer at Reuth Tel Aviv Medical Center – assist medical staff and patients in their daily activities. This 16-day program includes 10 volunteer days and 6 days touring and travel with Julia. Limited on-campus residence. Learn more.
- **VFI Archaeology and Feed the Soldiers Program:** Volunteer the first week with professional archaeologists from Tel Aviv University working in Old City Jerusalem seeking biblical artifacts, lectures and touring restricted areas. Spend your second week in uniform traveling from your IDF base with a mission to provide custom food to soldiers from mobile kitchens. This 16-day program includes 10 volunteer days and 6 days touring and travel with Julia. Learn more.
- **VFI Archaeology Volun-Tour Program:** Immerse yourself in Israel's ancient history and culture at the world-class Jerusalem City of David archaeological dig working with professional archaeologists seeking biblical artifacts, lectures, and touring restricted areas. This 9-day program begins on Friday and includes 5 volunteer days and 4 touring and travel days. Learn more.
- **VFI Holy Land Volun-Tour Program:** Merge faith with action and experience Israel in a meaningful way. Enjoy 4 days of meaningful volunteer activity and spend 5 days exploring Israel's sacred sites and biblical history. Enjoy comfortable accommodations and seamless daily transport to meaningful volunteer work and inspiring sightseeing destinations. Learn more.
- **VFI Volun-Tour Odyssey—*A New Adventure Every Day*:** This 9-day immersive experience combines impactful volunteer work at diverse sites across Israel with guided tours of the country's cultural and historical treasures. Participants engage in hands-on service projects that foster direct connections with local communities. The program includes five days of meaningful volunteering and four days of exploration, with a moderate level of physical activity. Open to all ages. Learn more.
- **VFI Private Custom Group Volun-Touring:** Here is an opportunity for your family, your synagogue, your church, your community organization or havurah to serve and see Israel together—especially suitable for active adults and seniors. Choose volunteer activities that match your group's needs and ability levels. Possibilities include rebuilding, IDF support, farming and food distribution, archaeology and more. Create a budget-friendly itinerary, with special benefits for group leaders/organizers. A typical schedule blends five meaningful days of volunteer work with four days of exploring Israel's most beloved sites—plus a few off-the-beaten-path surprises. Learn more.

Message from VFI President Lemor Warzman



Dear VFI Volunteers, Supporters and Friends:

As the war in Israel unfortunately continues, the need for continued support, both financially and on the ground, is imperative.

In order to fulfill our mission, I am happy to share that our entire VFI Volun-Touring team has diligently put together an impactful series of Volunteer +Touring opportunities.

Each program combines tours within Israel as well as opportunities to connect with Israeli's during the volunteering portion of the trip.

Our VFI team has spent countless hours ensuring that every aspect of these trips leaves our participants with a feeling of accomplishment and impact as well as comfort and enjoyment.

Please check out our latest VolunTouring trips at **www.vfi-usa.org** and begin your journey with VFI and Israel.

B'Shalom,
Lemor Warzman, VFI President 2025/6
lemorwass@yahoo.com

INTRODUCING LARRY ALSSID, PROGRAM MANAGER, VFI ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM



My first trip with VFI was in November 2006, following the war between Israel and Hezbollah. I had always felt a strong connection with Israel, but I wanted to show my support more directly. Volunteering with VFI gave me that opportunity—working alongside Israelis, sharing meals, and living daily life with them was an experience unlike anything a typical tourist might have. I returned to Israel five more times—twice with my family and three times to volunteer. My latest trip, in May 2025, was part of the Archaeology Plus Rebuilding Program, where we worked at the City of David and helped rebuild northern kibbutzim damaged by recent hostilities. Israelis repeatedly told us how isolated they felt since October 7, and how much our presence meant to them, both emotionally and economically.

I live in Long Island, New York, with my wife, and my two adult sons live nearby. I worked as a Clinical Psychologist for over 40 years before retiring in 2022. My roots in Israel run deep—both of my paternal grandparents were born in Jerusalem in the 1890s during the final years of Ottoman rule, and my ancestors were part of a migration of rabbis and scholars to the city in the 19th century. Each trip has allowed me to discover more about my family history, visit places where my ancestors lived and worked, and reconnect with relatives still in Israel. My involvement with VFI has now deepened as I've taken on the role of Program Manager for the Archaeology Programs, helping others connect with Israel in meaningful, hands-on ways.

I regret waiting until my 50s to visit Israel; the media often portrays it as unsafe, yet I have always felt welcomed and secure there.

Volunteering in the City of David was unforgettable. We explored sites like Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Pool of Siloam, the Gihon Spring, and the Pilgrimage Road—walking the same path our ancestors took to the Temple Mount thousands of years ago. It was humbling to dig in the ruins where they lived and worked during the time of the First Temple's destruction. I regret waiting until my 50s to visit Israel; the media often portrays it as unsafe, yet I have always felt welcomed and secure there. For anyone hesitant about visiting or volunteering, I encourage you to take the leap. As we say, "Next year in Jerusalem"—or better yet, "Today in Jerusalem!"

Larry Alssid — lalssid@gmail.com

Now is the time to back your beliefs with action and support the Jewish homeland with your hands and your heart.

VFI MISSION: FEED THE SOLDIERS (EVP) PROGRAM

by Andy Krupp (akrupp@flagmaster.org)

Zionism and Israel have always been part of my life for as long as I can remember. My mother visited Israel as a teenager in 1961, and I followed in her footsteps on my teen tour in 1985.

Since then, I've been fortunate to visit Israel 14 times—for seminars, vacations, and multiple volunteer programs with the IDF. But my most recent trip was the most emotionally and spiritually rewarding.

This was my second visit to Israel since the war began, and my first time living on an army base since volunteering in the 1980s. I expected rough, bare-bones conditions, but was pleasantly surprised by the facilities provided to us. Even the food was delicious.



VFI created a warm and welcoming environment, with an outdoor gathering area, a clubhouse stocked with drinks and snacks, and even a washing machine. Many evenings, we sat together discussing life, the war, and how the experience was changing us. These conversations helped us all process the gravity of what's happening around us.

The food was delicious. VFI created a warm and welcoming environment, with an outdoor gathering area, a clubhouse stocked with drinks and snacks.

My Hebrew is roughly at the level of an Israeli kindergartener, but I still gave a short speech in my broken American Hebrew to a group of soldiers after we cooked and served them lunch. I thanked them for everything they're doing for Israel, the Jewish people, and the free world. The pride I felt in those young heroes is something I will never forget. Sometimes, a simple hug and thank you can make a soldier's day. On that day, and at every base we visited, I know we helped make the war feel a little less horrible.



COST OF VOLUN-TOUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS - ALL INCLUSIVE	DAYS	COST FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	AGE LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE
VFI Mission: Feed the Soldiers	9	$ 1,920	$ 250	79	10
VFI REHAB PROGRAM					
Live on Hospital Campus	16	1,945	233	none	3
Live in Nearby Hotel	16	3,027	1,086	none	3
VFI ARCHAEOLOGY & FEED THE SOLDIERS	16	4,781	939	79	10
VFI ARCHAEOLOGY Program	9	TBA	TBA	none	5
VFI Holy Land Volun-Tour Program	9	2,747	672	none	7
VFI Volun-Tour Odyssey	9	TBA	TBA	none	5
VFI Private Group Volun-Touring	Custom	TBD	TBD	none	none

Note: Above costs are subject to change to reflect circumstances. Airfare and health insurance not included.

About Volunteers for Israel

Founded in 1982, Volunteers for Israel is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose goal is to provide opportunities for volunteer service for English speakers in Israel.

To learn more visit *www.vfi-usa.org*

VFI EDUCATES

ZOOM FIRST, REALITY AFTER

LIVE WEEKLY PROGRAMS

LIVE FROM ISRAEL!

Join VFI EDUCATES:

Every Thursday at 2:00 PM EST on Zoom.

No need for a plane ticket or passport—travel virtually with us to Israel! VFI's free, weekly one-hour Zoom programs feature captivating experts discussing fascinating topics: art, archaeology, geography, history, architecture, Kabbalah, music, and more. The audience spans the globe.

Simply enter this code in your web browser: *TINYURL.COM/VFIEDUCATES4*

After the program, linger for our friendly "schmooze" session. It's like a cozy café where old friends and new ones reunite. Swap stories, swap smiles. Discuss anything—except today's politics.

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VFI ON-LINE STORE

NEWLY DESIGNED VFI Tee-SHIRTS

Newly designed VFI Tee-shirts are now available for $25. with free shipping. They are available in sizes Medium to 3XL. State your size. VFI adjustable cap is $20. Includes free U.S. shipping. See *vfi-usa.org/shop*
Payment can be made by Zelle to *vfifinansecy@aol.com*
OR check payable to VFI and mailed to: Volunteers For Israel, PO Box 20616, New York, NY 10025



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