

# A different kind of education with the Israeli Youth Hostel Association



Protecting  
Destinations  
Culture  
& biodiversity



## Summary

In recognition of its educational mission, HI Israel has education centres offering a wide range of programs for students, teaching staff, soldiers, visitors, tourists and others. The programs offer a fascinating and tangible experience, adapted to the geographic and historic location of each hostel, and providing added value beyond the accommodation.

Activities are held in Hebrew and English, including in the evenings, some by prior arrangement, serving both guests of the hostel and outside visitors.

## National HI Association

IYHA – Israel Youth Hostel Association

## Hostels

Read more below

## SDGs Contribution



## Social

Inclusivity  
Mind opener  
History and culture

## Economic

Educational centres – unique experience tied with the geographical and historical location of each hostel

## Environmental

Environmental awareness  
Water conservation



## Educational programmes

### HI Rabin: “Red lines in Israeli democracy”

Is it possible to manage the disputes and disagreements in Israeli society differently? In order to tackle this question, with violence being a common method of problem solving, and with the feeling that we lost our common moral infrastructure, we established the Rabin Educational Center. Exclusion of women, violence in sports, racism towards immigrants and minorities, the people’s trust in their leader – all these have been, and still are, hot topics in the young Israeli democracy.



The murder of our prime-minister by an Israeli citizen brought a social problem to light that we cannot ignore. Educators must continue to create educational opportunities in order to deal with the challenges of day-to-day reality. The centre’s team is committed to professional and extensive work as we process the subjects dealt with in our program. Our goals are strengthening the core values of society and making the *Red Lines in Israeli Democracy* clear and salient.



## HI Masada: “A news flash from the great revolt”

The dramatic events of the great revolt are covered in the form of a contemporary news program, with live broadcasts from the field, and a panel of guests in the studio. The active participation of the audience in interactive polls makes the viewers an integral part of the events. The presentation, either in preparation for a visit to Masada or as a summary after the visit, provides the audience with the broad context of the period, reflecting the tough dilemmas that arose in the course of the revolt, and examining their relevance for Israeli society today.



Read more about the [News of the Great Revolt](#)



# HI Pki'in: "The Golden Way"

## Minorities in Druze village Pki'in

An audio-visual presentation and interactive quiz inviting viewers on a journey between the history and present of the various communities in the village Pki'in, especially the Druze community, its heritage and its characteristics.

The sound & light show provides an opportunity to meet local characters, representing the texture of multi-cultural life in the village. "The Golden Way" puts the heritage and characteristics of the Druze people to the front stage, exposing the audience to dilemmas derived from the complexity of life in the village: Between tradition and progress, between the will to assimilate and the need to protect the Druze people's uniqueness. The presentation is an interactive movie combining a dialogue between a character in the hall and the characters in the movie. At the end of the movie, participants are invited to use personal controllers and take part in a trivia quiz about Pki'in and the Druze religion.



Read more about [The Golden Way](#)



## Meeting the Land of Israel – Models of Israel

3D Models of the land of Israel can be found in a number of hostels across Israel. The models offer travellers an educational experience, aiming to lead participants to look at the land, study its geographical and physical characteristics, and learn about the different cities, towns, and villages around the country. Next to the models, we placed information stations that provide a voice instruction in Hebrew or English on the country's geography and the region around the hostel – at the click of a button. The stations are accessible for differently abled people.



## HI Karei Deshe – Water in Israel

In the courtyard at Karei Deshe Hostel stands a 6m (18 ft.) aluminium model of Israel, which demonstrates the topographic structure of the land and shows the large cities in the country, main roads and all of our hostels. The model acts as a base for activities about the water in Israel: showing the national water pipe route, precipitation in the different areas, streams and rivers, water reservoirs, flood waters and more. There is a voice instruction box next to the model.

The model's structure was based on the topographical data of Israel using computerised cutting.

The infrastructure around the model has: light, seating, comfortable access to the area and a water tap needed to demonstrate rainfall on the model. Vocal explanations (Hebrew,



English) are available via the speaker near the model and an educational booklet for group activities are ready to use.



## HI Haifa: City-Mountain-Sea

A youthful, exciting film takes the audience on a special educational journey about Haifa and the Carmel mountains that surround the hostel.

The journey goes through 3 main subjects:

- Haifa as a city of multiple cultures & religions.
- Haifa as a port city, a city of industry.
- Haifa as a Green City (nature and landscape)

The movie reflects opposite sides of the city. It presents the ongoing search for balance between development and conservation as well as the cultural and religious tolerance of Haifa. The story of Haifa is a fascinating example of the challenges we face in Israeli society.



## HI Acre (Akko): Conservation and development in a city of heritage - The past as a lever for the future

The hostel in Old Acre (Akko) is situated on land in which a variety of archaeological remnants present the main cultural values of Old Acre. The remnants from these periods, which portray a complex urban environment, lead UNESCO to declare the city as a world heritage site.

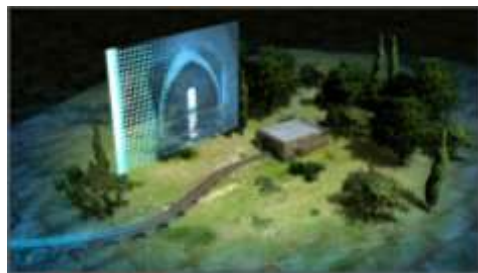
Physical remnants from two different historical periods, were discovered on the new hostel's premises: a crusader residential neighbourhood, presenting the day-to-day life of that era and a water carrying system from the period of the Ottoman empire.

In order to understand these findings, and enrich the hostel visitors' experience, it is important to showcase the artefacts, allowing us to present an urban tapestry. The program includes:

- An archaeological display
- Illustration and instruction stations focuses on the story of the findings

On the hostel premises, we display these two facets of the Crusades period and the Ottoman empire which are barely displayed to the public within the old city of Acre.

The goal of the program is to connect the hostel, its education program, and the findings on its premises to the historical and cultural content of the entire Old City of Acre. This makes the hostel a cultural and educational base, a starting point for visitors of Old Acre, and a community centre connecting the local public to the rich history of the city.



## HI Bet Shean: Beit She'an in the Hellenistic period

A mural depicting life in Beit She'an during the Hellenistic period using thousands of humoristic characters. Next to the mural, we installed a voice-based instruction box, providing students with information about life in the area during that time, in Hebrew and English. The mural is used to prepare or summarise the visit for groups coming to the region.



## HI Bet Shean: Mobile navigation game

The hostel in Bet Shean offers its guests a mobile navigation game. Participants are divided into small groups and they walk around exploring the city and its historical sites. The competition is based on a mobile application, an aerial photograph of the area and an assignments booklet.





## Recommendations

### Several tips:

The success of the educational program is based on a very precise plan using these principles:

- The subject should be related to the location or to other characteristics of the hostel.
  - The subject should be unique, don't pick a subject that is presented in sites nearby.
  - Think about your audience and try to make the program relevant to their life: use up to date methods and technology.
  - Think about maintaining the program: costs, simplicity, location etc.
  - Make the program easy to handle for your staff at the hostel and ensure that they are taking part in the planning process.
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## Technical details

**Reach:** Local/ National/ International

**Target audience:** HI Members/ Guests/ General Public/ Educational Staff/ Youth Groups / Families

**Funding:** The association's headquarter builds a 5 year budget and the educational programs are part of this plan.

**Estimation of total number of participants per year: about 30,000**

- Youth Groups: 65%
- Families: 30% (mainly weekends & holidays)
- Press release
- Partners
- Web page
- Email to members
- Social media
- Direct marketing to tourist agents and schools

**Communication plan to find participants:**

- NA e-Newsletter
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**Would you like to know more about Israel  
YHA's Educational programmes?**

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Programs**

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