

East Travel Information



Departure and Return

The tour begins with bus pick-ups in Queens, NY and Bergen County, NJ. Exact departure and return times and locations will be emailed to you before the summer. We will be leaving in the morning and returning in the evening. Be sure to pack lunch for the first day.

For those who live far from the NY/NJ area, you may wish to have local relatives or friends meet you and bring you to the group departure. If not, please contact us to arrange for an Achva representative to meet you at the baggage area upon arrival and bring you to one of the group pick-ups. The process is reversed at the end. If possible, try to arrange for travel the day before departure and the day after return. Whatever your travel plans, please be sure to keep the Achva office informed of your plans well in advance of the trip.

Luggage Information (Extremely Important)

You will bring the following with you:

- 1 light-weight sturdy suitcase - Maximum Size: 60 linear inches. (Linear measurement equals: width plus height plus depth of the outside (L+W+H) of a closed suitcase not including wheels.)
- 1 small, preferably soft overnight bag for one or two day trips. Must fit in the overhead bin.
- 1 backpack supplied to you by Achva. You will carry this around with you when traveling.

In addition to the size restrictions, there are weight restrictions. There is a maximum weight limit of 50 pounds for your main suitcase. You may pack your overnight bag separately with up to 20 pounds in addition to your main 50 pound suitcase.

Be sure to paste an identification marker inside your luggage and attach one tag to each piece of baggage. Use stickers or colored tape on the outside to make it quickly identifiable. Remember that you will have to carry around your own suitcase and it will have to take a lot of wear and tear over the course of the summer.

Personal Property Insurance

Achva does NOT cover loss, damage or theft to baggage or personal belongings. Check your family's homeowner's insurance policy to see if you are covered for these types of losses. You may also wish to purchase travel accident insurance for your luggage. We recommend that you do not bring anything expensive on this trip including luggage, jewelry, clothing, or electronics.

Participants are strongly urged to know the location of their backpacks and suitcases at all times. Please do not leave them lying around unattended in public places. Achva cannot bear responsibility for baggage or personal effects lost, stolen or damaged during the trip.

[Additional Information](#)

Trip Accommodations

Accommodations are generally in hotels, with some occasional occasional home hospitality for Shabbat. Usually, there are three boys to a room, two beds and one cot or roll-away. There are generally four girls per room, with two girls sharing a queen-size bed. Participants are not permitted to charge items or services to their room.

For Shabbat home hospitality, participants will be placed together with other participants in host homes near our host shul. Meals will be provided by Achva at the shul; homes will only be used for sleeping. If you have friends or relatives living in these communities that would like to host, please let us know.

Spending Money

You will want some spending money for drinks, snacks, gifts, souvenirs and other discretionary items. While Achva provides three meals a day plus snacks and admissions to all activities, there are always extras that kids wish to add on and understandably so. This amount will vary greatly depending on your spending habits. We recommend bringing an ATM card with access to funds, which allows parents to add more cash to the account as needed. If you would like a staff member to hold cash for you, we can accommodate but we do not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen cash or credit cards under any circumstances

Free Time

You will have limited time to visit relatives/family friends in most cities to which we travel. With prior written permission from parents and clearance by the Head Counselor, you may arrange for a family friend or relative to pick you up for a visit and return you to the group. Be aware, however, that the group leaders may, at their discretion, change the scheduled time for an activity and you would need to adjust accordingly.

Travel Time

Generally, there is some bus travel virtually every day. Aside from Shabbat, we are out and about seeing sites and attractions. You will be traveling on a coach bus equipped with air-conditioning; a lavatory (for emergencies); TV screens for watching selected and screened movies/tv shows during long stretches of highway. Achva reserves the right to monitor any content, such as games, DVDs, or streaming services such as Netflix, which you watch during the trip even on your private device.