

## Ulpan Kibbutz Yagur

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### **Welcome to the ulpan at Kibbutz Yagur.**

The ulpan is an important part of the identity of the kibbutz.

Upon your arrival, you will receive your room assignment, room key, laundry number and magnetic card for the dining room. You will also receive sheets, pillow cases and a bag for a water bottle.

You will find a blanket and pillow in your room.

For the next five months, you will be an important part of the kibbutz. You will work hard, you will study hard and you will have fun. You will be here during the holidays. You will celebrate the holidays with us and hopefully you will participate in the holidays with us.

Be considerate of your fellow ulpanists and make sure they are considerate of you. The key to success is to keep things in balance.

### **Studies**

Shortly after you arrive, you will be given a Hebrew placement test to see at which class level you will study. We have different levels – from beginner to advanced. There may be some movement between classes during the ulpan if the teachers feel it would be appropriate.

You will have Hebrew studies three days a week  
Schedule is as follows:

Breakfast is available from 07:00-8:00. Class is from 08:00-15:00 with a morning break, lunch break, and afternoon break. Exact times vary based on specific class schedules.

Our ulpan is geared for people who want to learn Hebrew. You must come on time for class, you must do your homework and you must participate in the class. At the end of five months, you will be amazed at how much Hebrew you will have learned. If you have a learning disability, please notify your teacher discretely so we will be aware of the situation.

### **Work**

We will try to place you where you want, but the kibbutz' needs come first. You must be on time for work and work to the best of your ability. We take work and studies

very seriously. Our work week is three days. You will need to make, at least, two shabat shifts in the ulpan kitchen!

Those who come to work with a positive and open attitude have the most success and the best experience.

### **Behavior**

We understand and expect that ulpanists are responsible adults who will behave accordingly. Our goal is to explain the rules clearly to avoid misunderstandings.

In general, behave as your parents would expect you to behave at home. Be considerate of each other.

All public indoor areas, including the office, your room and the dining room are no smoking areas.

If you are late for class or work for a reason not acceptable to the staff, you will receive a warning. The second time, you will be sign for last time warning, The third time you will be asked to leave the ulpan.

Violence is not acceptable. If you have a problem with someone, see us and together, we will find a solution. If you are violent, you will be asked to leave the ulpan. Drugs of any sort, including marijuana are illegal in Israel. If you are caught in possession of drugs, you will be asked to leave the ulpan immediately.

Ask permission of your roommates if you want to have a guest in your room. Guest are not allowed to stay for the night. Let the staff know about guests after 20:00. Use common sense in deciding how to behave. We could list thousands of specific behaviors and still not cover everything.

Remember, some things which may seem funny at two in the morning are not so funny the next day in the office. Think before you do something you may regret. We have listed only the highlights. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with Ari or Corinne.

One of the best ways to get on the wrong side of the staff is to make a mess and not clean up after yourself – including throwing cigarettes on the ground. No one wants to clean up after someone else.

*Get a good night's sleep.* It is impossible to function if you party all night – to say nothing of the fact that you will probably be bothering other people. Don't forget, your work/class day is very long and rigorous. You will be allowed to go to the club (ultrasound) only on Fridays and holidays. Treat yourself with respect!

Most people on the kibbutz have bicycles. The bicycles are private property and people can get very nasty if they catch someone taking their bicycle without permission.

Keep in mind there are security cameras throughout the kibbutz – some hidden.

If god forbid, you are the victim of a sexual attack or harassment, notify us immediately. There is a committee on the kibbutz which deals these matters. The people on the committee are highly professional and discreet.

If you are confronted with an emergency (where to order pizza is not an emergency) do not hesitate to call us at any time, day or night.

If during the month you behaved accordingly (class, work and free time) you will get 50 NIS bonus from the kibbutz.

### **Rooms**

You will probably live two or three people to a room, except for couples who have made arrangements in advance. Be considerate of your roommates just as they must be considerate of you. Keep your room clean and tidy as well as the area outside your room. If you have a problem you feel you cannot handle, tell us and we will do our best to help you.

We will come around to check your room once a week. We will try to respect your privacy as much as possible, but there are times we must enter your rooms, such as to do repairs, check the room and to wake up people who do not arrive on time for work or school.

If something is broken in your room, notify us immediately so we can repair it. Some of you may have not learned how to keep clean rooms – if so, we will help you. We have cleaning material in the office. If your room is clean and neat, you will feel much better. No pets are allowed in your rooms! If you lose your room key, you will be charged 15 NIS for a new one.

### **Valuables**

Be careful with your valuables. We suggest that you keep valuables and excess cash locked in the safe in the office. Always lock your door. Check your insurance well and know what is and isn't covered. The kibbutz is not responsible for loss or damage to your property.

### **Cash Point**

There is a cash point at the supermarket (Stop Market) where you can use your credit card. It is a short walk from the main ulpan building.

### **Ulpan Office and Moadon**

The ulpan office and moadon are for your use. Keep them clean and insist others do so as well. The Moadon includes a TV and DVD player for Israeli and Region Free DVDs. Feel free to use the moadon and the office, but clean up after yourself. If you see someone not cleaning up after themselves, tell us and we will take care of the situation.

### **Internet**

There are three desktop computers in the office for your use. If there is a line of people waiting to use a computer, be brief. They are available after work/class until 10PM. WiFi is available for your laptops in the office and on the benches outside.

**Laundry**

You will mark your clothes with a numbered tag which we will give you. You will bring your dirty laundry to the office on Tuesday and it will come back to your laundry box in the office, on Wednesday. Clothing not marked properly will get placed onto a table for all the ulpanists.

The kibbutz is not responsible for lost clothes.

**Health**

If you have a health problem, let us know when you arrive. If you require special medication, make sure you have a supply for the entire ulpan.

If you become sick, you must first come to the office and we will send you to the clinic as necessary. You cannot go to the clinic unless you have come to the ulpan office first. The clinic on the kibbutz is excellent. If they determine you need a specialist, they will send you to the area clinic or hospital. Any medication you receive from the clinic will be charged to you at the end of the month.

If you are chronically ill and cannot function, we will have to reconsider your ability to continue on the program.

Do not abuse alcohol – alcohol abuse will cause you many problems. A hangover is not a sickness, we have no tolerance or sympathy for alcohol abuse. Inability to function as a result of alcohol, will be dealt with severely.

If you are sick and cannot work or attend classes, you are too sick to go to the pub or parties, beach or the pool. We have occasionally identified a strange disease in the past among some ulpanists. They are sick all day and make an amazing recovery in the evening! This is not acceptable.

The clinic is closed in the evenings, holidays and Shabbat. If you have a medical emergency when the clinic is closed, call us and we will arrange for medical consultation and if necessary hospitalization.

Dental care is not covered by the clinic on the kibbutz.

**Health Insurance**

If you are an Oleh (new immigrant), you are eligible for free health insurance from the government. We will take you to the postal bank where you pay around 14 NIS. It is very important that you get CLALIT (Israel has several HMO's, CLALIT is one of them. CLALIT is the HMO we have on the kibbutz).

If you are a tourist, we will file the insurance application for you when you arrive and the insurance payment is part of the money you paid to MASA.

**Term dates**

The ulpan is a full five months. The winter ulpan begins the last week of December and ends the last week of May. The summer ulpan begins the last week of June and ends the last week of November.

**Trips**

We will be going on several trips during your ulpan. We will give you a schedule of the trips shortly after you arrive. You must always wear strong, closed walking shoes, a hat and carry at least a liter and a half of water. Always keep safety and security in mind.

**Food**

Our dining room serves two meals a day, six days a week, with very few exceptions. We are a secular kibbutz and the food is not kosher.

You will be given a magnetic debit card to use in the dining room. Your budget is 350 NIS per month. If you run out of credit on your card you need to pay the difference at the end of the month and you will not be entitled to your bonus! If you have money left in your account at the end of the month, it does not roll over.

Whenever you charge something on your card, you will receive a receipt which will show what you bought, how much each item cost. It will probably take you a few days to understand how the dining room works.

Do not take plates or silverware from the dining room. It is looked upon as stealing. If you want to take food from the dining room, there are plastic containers at a reasonable price. If you have guests you can buy a meal ticket at the office for them. If you lose your card you will be charged 15 NIS for a new one.

**Mail**

You can receive mail or packages at the address noted above. They will be put in your post box in the ulpan office.

**Deposit**

You must pay a deposit when you arrive. (Either \$100, 400 NIS).

The deposit will be returned to you at the end of the ulpan only

- if you finish the entire ulpan
- if you do not cause any damage
- if you leave your room and the area outside the room in a clean state
- if you return all the things you received from the ulpan, such as sheets, pillow cases, blankets, work shoes, clothes, water bottle holder, laundry net, etc..

**Days off and free time**

The work/study week ends around noon on Friday. You must be back by Sunday morning for class or work. We suggest you return Saturday evening.

We have not finalized the holiday schedule yet, but we will notify you concerning the schedule as soon as possible.

You are forbidden to travel to any Arab country during the ulpan.

There is a bus or taxi service to and from the kibbutz to the train station at Lev Hamifratz..

### **After the Ulpan**

As a tourist, after the ulpan there are many programs available for you. Some examples are:

- Magen David Adom (Medic training)
- Internships
- Marvah (six weeks taste of the army)

We will invite people from the Jewish Agency to speak with you about these and other programs. There are several universities that will send representatives to speak with you about studies.

As an oleh, we will invite representatives from the army to speak with you and assist you. In addition there will be representatives from the student authority, and the ministry of absorption.

### **Summary**

The ulpan at Yagur is an experience of a lifetime. No matter what else you do, you will always remember your ulpan.

For olim, it is a great first step in your new home. For those of you not fortunate enough to stay with us in Israel, you will return home with a stronger connection to Israel and the Jewish people.

From all of us here in the ulpan, we wish you the greatest success and we are here to help you in any way we can.