



MEJDI TOURS



Congregation for
Humanistic Judaism

The Birmingham Temple in Israel 2016

OPTIONAL Pre-Trip Extension to Petra: June 10th – June 13th

Day 1: Sunday June 12th - Depart from Detroit

Day 2: Mon. June 13th – Arrive Tel Aviv

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport, transfer to Hotel in Jerusalem. Join Rabbi Jeff for a neighborhood walk and gather for a welcome dinner.

Hotel: Jerusalem (D)

Day 3: Tue. June 14th- Jerusalem Overview

Begin the day with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Mount of Olives. Next, visit the Western Wall, Jewish Quarter, and City of David, then take the Tunnel Tour. Finally, visit the Herodian mansion, Burnt House and stop by the Broad Wall. Late afternoon and evening are free. Optional: stay in old city to visit Tower of David Museum and walk the ramparts.

Hotel: Jerusalem (B)

Day 4: Wed. June 15th- Jerusalem (Israeli Narrative)

Explore Jerusalem's political history from an Israeli perspective. Pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum. Later learn about Israel's wars and have a conversation with an Israeli soldier at Mt. Hertzl. In the afternoon enjoy Jerusalem on your own then take an optional trip to see the bustling nightlife of Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem

Hotel: Jerusalem (B, L)

Day 5: Wed. June 16th -West Bank – Hebron (Palestinian Narrative)

Journey south and cross the checkpoint into Hebron, for a tour of the city. Walk the Separation Wall, and then head to Shepherd's Field to savor fresh local cuisine at a Bedouin tent. Choose from a variety of activities for the afternoon: meet with a Palestinian politician for a discussion about Bethlehem's economic and political situation, join a local Palestinian activist or church leader for a conversation about life in Hebron, or visit the Aida refugee camp. Close the day with a traditional,

home-cooked meal and live music, hosted at the home of a Palestinian family in Bethany.
Hotel: Jerusalem (B, L, D)

Day 6: Fri. June 17th - Samaria (Settlements) and Ramallah

Sit with members of the Yesha Council (council of Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria), to hear about their ideology and goals. Meet locals from the settlement and learn about life there. Then, drive to Ramallah to learn about the Palestinian Authority, visit the Mahmoud Darwish Museum, and meet with a Palestinian politician and/or NGO. Return to Jerusalem for Kabbalat Shabbat together with members of our Jewish Secular Humanist community in Israel.

Hotel: Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 7: Sat. June 18th - Israel Museum and shrine of the Book

Private morning tour of Israel Museum and shrine of the Book with Rabbi Sivan Maas. Group lunch with Israeli members of the movement. Afternoon, return to the Old City to visit the venerated sites of Christianity and Islam (Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Dome of the Rock).

Hotel: Jerusalem (B, L)

Day 8: Sun. June 19th – Masada, Ein Gedi and Qumran

Early morning at Masada, dip and lunch at the Dead Sea, afternoon hike in Ein Gedi nature preserve and visit to Qumran, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. .

Hotel: Jerusalem (B, L)

Day 9: Mon. June 20th - Beit Alpha, Beit Shean and Tiberias

Drive north via the Jordan River Valley. Walk back in time at some of the most breathtaking and oldest cities in Israel, visit an archeological gem of the north; a synagogue uncovered by chance right outside a Kibbutz, then see what Kibbutz life is about. Finish the evening on the shores of the Sea of Galilee or enjoy the ancient Roman ruins and hot springs at Hamat Gader. St. Peter's Fish dinner at The Decks restaurant overlooking the water.

Hotel: Tiberias (B, D)

Day 10: Tue. June 21st - The Golan Heights

Visit the Talmudic village, and see the sound and light show at Kazrin. Learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, tour by jeep to see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at Mount Bental, overlooking the Valley of Tears. Visit a Cherkes village to hear from a forgotten minority group. In the evening meet with Robbie Gringras, creative director of Makor.

Hotel: Tiberias (B)

Day 11: Wed. June 22nd - Nazareth and Tel Aviv

Travel to Nazareth for a meeting with local peacemakers, take a tour of the White Mosque and Church of the Annunciation. Stop in Zichron for lunch on your own and end the day in Tel Aviv. Optional: you might want to join Rabbi Jeff for a fun evening at one of his favorite Tel Aviv nightclubs (cost not included).

Hotel: Tel Aviv (B)

Day 12: Thu. June 23rd - Tel Aviv and Jaffa

Visit the Palmach Museum and Independence Hall, as well as Rabin Square to discuss Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and his memory today. In the afternoon visit the Peres Center for Peace and

meet local movers and shakers. This evening take a walking tour of the historic port city of Jaffa, then relax with free time to shop and dine on your own.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (B)

Day 13: Fri. June 24th

The morning is free for independent exploration or beach time. Then experience the bustling open air market, Shuk ha'Carmel and Nachlat Binyamin. Later enjoy a community Kabbalat Shabbat and have Shabbat dinner at the port.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (B, D)

Day 14: Sat. June 25th- Tel Aviv

Start the day with a walking tour of Neve Tzedek. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax in Tel Aviv or pack, then reconvene for our farewell dinner.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (B, D)

Day 15: Sun. June 26th- Depart from Israel and Arrive in U.S.

Very early transfer to the airport for flight home.