



MEJDI TOURS

4 Day, 4 Night - Return to the Land of Your Soul: A Kabbalistic Journey to Israel Optional Extension With Rabbi Rayzel Raphael and Rabbi Sarah Leah Grafstein May 12-16, 2016

Day 9, Thursday Night, May 12: Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv

Day 10, Friday, May 13: West Bank and Jerusalem

- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit Kever Rachel, the matriarch Rachel's grave. Many religious Jewish women who are pregnant or who experience fertility problem pray here. The site is in a walled enclave that juts into the city of Bethlehem.
- After visiting the tomb, cross into the West Bank and see the wall from the Palestinian perspective.
- Have lunch in Efrat with Shlomo Katz who will sing and teach carlebach style songs to help set a tone for Shabbat.
- Continue south to Hebron's Old Town for a multiple narrative tour of this holy and fractious city. Meet with both Jewish settlers (Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum from the Hebron Fund) and Palestinians. Visit the Cave of the Patriarchs with Rabbi Hochbaum.
- End the day in the Gush Etziyon region of the West Bank. There meet with peace-builders from the Roots Project, a joint Palestinian and Israeli settler peace-building initiative.
- Return to Jerusalem. Check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- Shabbat services and dinner TBD. [The trip leaders are going to see if Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagen will host them for services.]

Hotel: Beit Shmuel with upgrade option [B, L, D]

Day 11, Saturday, May 14: Jerusalem [no guide, no bus]

- Spend Shabbat afternoon learning with some amazing educators.

Hotel: Beit Shmuel with upgrade option [B, L]

Day 12, Sunday, May 15: Jerusalem

- Begin the day with a visit to Mount Scopus where Hebrew University is located and take in the spectacular views while learning the history of the site.
- Then visit the Mount of Olives. Be welcomed into a community of interreligious peace-builders by Ibrahim Ahmad Abu El-Hawa and Eliyahu McLean. Along with other religious leaders, they founded the Jerusalem Peacemakers.

- In the afternoon, visit the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Return to the hotel to meet with a representative of the Interfaith Encounter Association.
- Free evening.

Hotel: Hotel: Beit Shmuel with upgrade option [B]

Day 13, Monday, May 16: Sderot and Ramle

- Check out.
- Visit Sderot and Israel's border region with the Gaza Strip. Meet local residents from a variety of political perspectives to hear firsthand about how shelling, sirens, bunkers, tunnels, Iron Dome, and war have affected them and their communities.
- Lunch in Sderot.
- Return north to Ramle (or Ramla) to visit Open House Ramle where the non-fiction story Lemon Tree took place. The Open House Center in Ramle was founded in 1991 to further peace and coexistence among Israeli Arabs and Jews in this mixed city. The two families who have lived there before and after 1948 represent the two nations laying claim to the land of Israel/Palestine.
- Visit the Pool of the Arches in Ramle, rare subterranean water pool, built in 789 AD, during the rule of the famous last Halif of El Rashid.
- Transfer to the airport and/or Tel Aviv.

[B, L]