



# MEJDI TOURS

## Itinerary:

### Day 1: Monday, March 4, Arrival (No Guide)

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport, then transfer to hotel for check-in. Welcome dinner at the hotel. Evening program at the hotel: "Israel: a Land of Opportunity and Challenge."

*Hotel: Tel Aviv (Either [Leonardo City Tower](#)) - (Dinner included)*

### Day 2: Tuesday, March 5, Tel Aviv and Haifa

Hotel check out. Breakfast. Leave hotel. Tour Tel Aviv's historic Ahuzat Bayit neighborhood, the original suburb modeled on Herzl's vision in Alteneuland that grew into the modern city of Tel Aviv. There, take a walking tour under the fig and Poinciana trees of Rothschild Boulevard, to see Independence Hall and some of the Bauhaus style houses of the White City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Savor the best of local produce in the Carmel Market, head up the Mediterranean Coast along the Plain of Sharon to Haifa. See Mount Carmel, where Elijah the Prophet met the prophets of Baal and visit Elijah's cave. View the stunning hillside Baha'i Gardens and meet with a Bahai. End the day at a Galilee Kibbutz, check-in and have dinner on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Impressions sharing time either before leaving Haifa, on the bus or after dinner.

*Hotel: Galilee ([Kinneret Village](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included - Mehadrin Kosher)*

### Day 3: Wednesday, March 6, Galilee

Travel to the picturesque town of Tzfat (Safed) in Upper Galilee. A center of Kabbalah and one of the Four Holy Cities. Enjoy walking the village's narrow stone lanes and art galleries, visit its synagogues and deepen your understanding of Jewish mysticism with Kabbalist David Freedman. Sample some local cuisine with a visit to a local winery or cheese factory. Then drive through the Golan Heights to see some of the minefields and depopulated villages and have coffee next to the bunkers at Mount Bental, overlooking the Valley of Tears. Dinner. Impressions sharing and time to write prayers to place in the Western Wall. (If you want to write yours before you leave home, it may be on any slip of paper and of any length.)

*Hotel: Galilee ([Kinneret Village](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included - Mehadrin Kosher)*

### Day 4: Thursday, March 7, Jerusalem Dual narrative tour with 2 guides followed by Women of the Wall Opening Ceremony

Hotel check out. Breakfast. Leave hotel. Drive south through the Jordan River Valley. Take a tour with two guides, one Jewish and one Arab. Visit the hotly contested Temple Mount, to see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Meet with a local Muslim imam for a discussion on Islam and the

politics of the site. Explore the Muslim Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City. Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre Tour the Western Wall, learn about the significance of this sacred site and have free time for reflection, contemplation and personal prayer. If you wish, place a written prayer in a crevice between the Kotel stones. Free time to freshen up for the evening program. Join Women of the Wall for their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Welcome Event and Reception with Anat Hoffman, Chairwoman, Lesley Sachs, Executive Director and other Women of the Wall Dignitaries.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included)

### **Day 5: Friday, March 8, Jerusalem (No Guide)**

Rise and shine and arrive at the Western Wall by 6:45 am. Celebrate Rosh Hodesh Adar II and International Women's Day with a meaningful service at the Western Wall concluding with Israel's National Anthem, Hatikva. (Women of the Wall's prayer book is in English and Hebrew. The service will be in Hebrew. We will stand together to announce page numbers in English.) Have breakfast and attend the Women of the Wall Learning Session. (The Learning Session will be in English.) Join Women for a cafeteria style lunch and visit with Women of Wall and supporters from Israel and around the world. Return to your hotel and prepare for Shabbat. Shabbat service at Moreshet Yisrael, a Masorti/Conservative Synagogue where the service will be in English and Hebrew led by Rabbi Adam Frank. Have Shabbat dinner with local Jewish families who will host you for a Shabbat meal and treat you to their Jerusalem Narratives.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included)

### **Day 6: Saturday, March 9, Jerusalem (No Bus, No Guide)**

Three worship options:

- Kehillat Kol HaNeshama, a Reform Synagogue where sermon/drash and announcements will be in English and prayers in Hebrew. (Requires a taxi ride to and from our hotel.)
- Moreshet Yisrael, a Masorti/Conservative Synagogue. Sermon/drash, page numbers and announcements will be in English and Hebrew and prayers in Hebrew. (Short walk from our hotel.)
- Beit HaKnesset HaGadol (The Great Synagogue), an Orthodox Synagogue where men and women sit in separate sections and the service, sermon/drash and announcements are in Hebrew. (Short walk from our hotel.)

All three worship options will be followed by Shabbat lunch at our hotel. Afternoon talk with Rabbi Tati Schagas, a Reform rabbi and leader in Israel. Impressions sharing. Dinner. Join Women of the Wall for a Havdalah Dessert Reception and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Closing Program.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

### **Day 7: Sunday, March 10, Jerusalem**

Begin in the Old City's Jewish Quarter with a stroll through the cool cobbled alleyways and visit landmarks such as the Roman Cardo and Hurva Synagogue. Drive to Mount Scopus for a breathtaking view of the city. Then pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem (the Israeli Holocaust Museum) including the Children's Museum, and the Avenue of the Righteous Among Nations. Kaddish and Impressions sharing. Later, take a stroll through the Mahane Yehuda covered market

to sample fresh nuts, juices, and sweets. Dinner. Talk with Rabbi Andrew Sacks, a Conservative rabbi and Director of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included)

### **Day 8: Monday, March 11, Dead Sea and Masada**

Begin the day driving south to explore Herod's mountaintop fortress of Masada, with its breathtaking views of the Judean Desert and Dead Sea. Here, learn how archaeology and nationalism intersect to help create national identity. Take a dip in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea and return to your hotel. Dinner. Talk with Rabbi Daniel Roth, an Orthodox rabbi and Director the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

### **Day 9: Tuesday, March 12, Jaffa**

Take a walking tour of the historic port city of Jaffa. Shop in the artists' colony. Visit a bilingual kindergarten run by a Muslim Imam and his Jewish wife. Walk through the Florentine neighborhood discussing the unique graffiti and the politics and culture behind it. Visit to Rabin Square where will discuss Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and his memory today. Sharing personal and collective prayers for peace and thanksgiving. Conclude the day meeting with a staff member of BINA, a secular Yeshiva in Tel Aviv that provides Jewish learning opportunities to adults and college students coupled with *tikkun olam* outreach to impoverished Israelis and asylum seekers.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem ([Prima Kings Hotel](#)) - (Breakfast and Dinner included)

### **Day 10: Wednesday, March 13, Departure (No guide) or Optional Tours (additional fees apply)**

Breakfast. Impressions sharing.

A group departure transfer will be arranged for those departing on this day. Time of departure is TBD. (Breakfast included)

If you are interested in extending your travels, the following tours can be arranged for an additional charge (prices TBD):

- Tour of the Tunnels at the Western Wall. Tickets may be purchased through Mejdí Tours. Transportation on your own.
- Hiking tour to the top of Masada, including early morning transportation from Shani Hotel in Jerusalem to Masada, hike up and down Masada and return to Shani Hotel.
- Other optional tours. Please contact Mejdí Tours or make other arrangements.