



# MEJDI TOURS

## **Gary UMC Spiritual Pilgrimage: A Dual Narrative Perspective**

April 24 - May 2, 2019\*

\*Optional extension tour to Jordan (May 2 - May 5, 2019)

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Day 1: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and transfer to Jerusalem for check-in and a welcome dinner with one of your MEJDI Tour Guides and welcome from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) staff.

Hotel : [Ritz Hotel](#)<sup>1</sup>, Jerusalem (Dinner included)

#### **Day 2: Thursday, April 25, 2019 - Jerusalem - 2 Guides**

Take a full day alternative tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with two guides, one Arab and one Jewish. Visit the hotly contested Temple Mount, to see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Meet with a local imam for a discussion on Islam and the politics of the site, and then explore the Muslim Quarter. Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter, and meet with a rabbi.

See holy sites such as Ecce Homo (under the city by where the old Fortress used to be); or Caiaphas' house. Finally, tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to learn about its many sectarian conflicts. After a group lunch at the Old City (Bulghourji restaurant), end the day with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Mount of Olives.

Hotel : [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

#### **Day 3: Friday, April 26, 2019 - Qumran, the Dead Sea, and Jericho - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Leaving Jerusalem, head to the ancient fortress of Masada. Next, walk the ruins at Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered and home to the ancient Essene community. Take a dip in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea, then head to Qasr El Yahud the traditional Baptism site of Jesus (optional baptisms). Stop in Jericho to see the ruins of the ancient city and for a special dinner at the Temptation Center before

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<sup>1</sup> Hotels subject to change based on tour confirmation.

returning to Jerusalem.

Hotel: [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

**Day 4: Saturday, April 27, 2019 - West Bank - Hebron and Tent of Nations - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Spend the morning in Hebron, visiting the Tomb of the Patriarchs and the Old City. Walk through the old city souk and learn about the effects of the Oslo Accords on the division of the city. Meet with a member of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program (EAPPI) to learn about settler violence on the community living in Hebron. On the way back to Jerusalem, stop at the Tent of Nations and meet with members of the Nassar family who “refuse to be enemies.” Have a home cooked Dinner at the Tent of Nations for Dinner.

Hotel: [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

**Day 5: Sunday, April 28, 2019 - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Visit the site of Popular Nonviolent Resistance in the Palestinian Village of Nabi Saleh and meet a Palestinian family known for their nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation. Make your way to the Village of Aboud. Enjoy a social lunch learning about Palestinian life in a traditional village. Late meet with Father Emmanuel Awad at the the Greek Orthodox Church for worshipping and a conversation about the community there.

Hotel : [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

**Day 6: Monday, April 29, 2019 - Jerusalem (Israeli Narrative) - 1 Israeli Guide**

Explore Jerusalem’s political history from an Israeli perspective. Pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum. Then, take a walking tour of Ein Kerem to learn different narratives about Zionism and Israel’s 1948 War of Independence and also visit the Church of the Visitation. Following lunch, learn about Israel’s wars and iconic leaders at Mt. Hertzl. Finally, enjoy an optional trip after dinner to see the bustling nightlife of Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem.

Hotel: [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

**Day 7: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 - West Bank – Bethlehem and/or Hebron (Palestinian Narrative) - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Begin the morning with a meeting with a local artist - Shoshana Gottesman from the Jerusalem youth chorus. Then, journey south and cross the checkpoint into Bethlehem, for a tour of the Church of the Nativity. Walk the Separation Wall, and then head to Shepherd’s Field to savor fresh local cuisine at a Bedouin tent. Meet with a Palestinian church leader for a conversation about life in Bethlehem. This afternoon visit with the local Methodist office. Close the day with a traditional, home-cooked meal and live music, hosted at the home of a Palestinian family in Bethany.

Hotel : [Ritz Hotel](#), Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

**Day 8: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - Samaria (Settlements) and Ramallah - 1 Palestinian Guide**

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 NGO. Stop by Nazareth to see the Church of the Annunciation and meet with Mirna shayer to hear about christian communities in the Galilee en route to Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee. Travel to Galilee and spend the evening on the shore of the Lake Knereset.

Hotel: [Kfar Kinneret](#)<sup>2</sup>, Galilee (Breakfast and Dinner included)

**Day 9: Thursday, May 2, 2019 - Galilee - 1 Palestinian Guide**

Visit the sacred sites along the Sea of Galilee including the Jesus Boat Museum at Ginnosar, where scientists have re-constructed a 2,000 year old fishing boat. Then, explore Capernaum, home of Peter and site of Jesus' ministry. Enjoy a hilltop prayer in the gardens at the Mount of Beatitudes. Visit St. Peter's primacy where Peter encountered Jesus on the shore after his resurrection. End the day with a dinner of Saint Peter's fish overlooking the Sea of Galilee, and some time for enjoying the evening breezes and nightlife along the pier.

- A late evening transfer to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport will be provided. Details will be included in the tour confirmation email sent to registered travelers.

**Alternatively, you can spend another night at the Galilee hotel for departure the next day (May 3) at an additional cost (\$210 for a double room/ \$180 for a single room).**

Optional Extension Tour (or post-stay) Hotel: [Kfar Kinneret](#), Galilee (Breakfast and Dinner included)

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