



## Israel and Palestine: Lands of Diverse Cultures

October 13 - 21, 2020

### Itinerary:

#### **Day 1: Tuesday, October 13, 2020, Arrival - Introduction to the Dual Narrative™ - Jerusalem**

Arrive to Ben Gurion Tel Aviv Airport and transfer to your hotel (*Private transfer included*). Enjoy a welcome dinner with your Israeli and Palestinian guides, who will introduce themselves and explain the exciting Dual Narrative™ perspectives you will hear during the trip. This evening hear from a local Geopolitical Speaker to get a better sense of the conflict and general political situation in the region.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (Dinner included)*

#### **Day 2: Wednesday, October 14, 2020, Old City – Three Religions – One City**

Begin the morning with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Mount of Olives. Then, take a full-day alternative tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites and neighborhoods with your two guides, one Arab and one Jewish. Start by visiting the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount. There meet with the local Imam, learn Islamic and Jewish traditions about the site, as well as local legends and stories. Continue to the Western Wall, to learn about how it became a worship place, and the debates over the site following the 1967 War. After lunch, walk part of the Via Dolorosa towards the Holy Sepulcher, where you will learn about the ancient church, its history of disputes and ownership claims, and the modern Christian community in Jerusalem. Enjoy a dinner with a Rabbi at his home.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 3: Thursday, October 15, 2020, Israel Museum and Holocaust Memorial**

Start the day by heading to the Israel museum, where you will be able see a model of Jerusalem's Old City 2000 years ago. Explore the Dead Sea Scrolls and see some of the best-preserved archaeological artifacts from local dig sites. After lunch head to Yad Vashem to learn about the history of the holocaust and its impact on the Jewish community and Israel today. After dinner, hear stories from members of The Parents Circle/Families Forum, a grassroots organization of Palestinian and Israeli families who have each lost immediate family members in the conflict.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 4: Friday, October 16, 2020, Bethlehem and Settlements**

Head towards one of the settlements in the region, to meet with a representative of the Jewish settlement movement and hear their perspective. Then, travel to Bethlehem, to visit the Church

of the Nativity, Manger Square, and the old city of Bethlehem. There, meet with a local pastor to learn about the Palestinian Christian community in Bethlehem. Afterwards, see the colorful and controversial graffiti on the Separation Wall, and visit the Banksi Museum. For lunch, visit a unique Bedouin farm, savor their local cuisine and hear their stories. In the evening, enjoy a traditional home-cooked meal with a local Palestinian family, and traditional songs from a joint Palestinian-Israeli musical group.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 5 – Saturday, October 17, 2020, Masada, Dead Sea and Jordan River**

Start the day at the fortress of Masada: built by Herod the Great as a refuge, the site was later used by rebels during the Jewish Revolt, and became an Israeli national symbol and site for military ceremonies. Afterwards, learn about the Dead Sea Valley environmental challenges, and enjoy free time to float on the Dead Sea.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 6 – Sunday, October 18, 2020, Nazareth**

This Morning, visit a kibbutz and learn about the movement. Head to Nazareth, visit the Christian Basilica of the Annunciation and the neighboring White Mosque in Nazareth. For lunch stop at a Druze village to enjoy their cuisine and hear about their unique culture. End the day with a local wine tasting experience.

*Hotel: Galilee (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 7 – Monday, October 19, 2020, Sea of Galilee and Upper Galilee**

Start the day by heading to Capernaum, known as “the town of Jesus,” then continue to the Mount of Beatitudes the site traditionally believed to be where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Continue up into the Golan Heights, to learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at Mount Bental, overlooking the Valley of Tears. Over lunch, in Masada, discuss the Syrian situation with a local. On the way back to the hotel, make a stop at the newly opened Um El Qanater, where archaeologists recently reconstructed synagogue.

*Hotel: Galilee (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 8 – Tuesday, October 20, 2020, Caesarea and Tel Aviv**

Drive down the Mediterranean Coast, making a stop at the beautiful Herodian seaside port of Caesarea. Learn about the Jewish, Christian, and Bosnian Muslim history of this Mediterranean city. After lunch in Caesarea, continue south along the coast towards Jaffa and Tel Aviv. There, learn the dual histories of the Arab and Jewish cities, including an explanation of the birth of Tel Aviv and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in Arab Jaffa. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers and guides.

*Hotel: Tel Aviv (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)*

#### **Day 9 – Wednesday, October 21, 2020, Departure**

Check out of your hotel and transfer on own to the airport.

*(Breakfast included)*