



# MEJDI TOURS

- Tour Name:** Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Pastor Gerald Bishop
- Dates:** March 14 - March 22, 2022
- Included:**
- 8 nights' accommodation, double occupancy, at the following hotels or similar: Ruth Daniel (Jaffa), Beatitudes Pilgrim House (Galilee), Holy Land (Jerusalem)
  - 1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 5 days
  - 2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 3 days
  - 9 days of private bus transportation, including 1 group arrival transfer and 1 group departure transfer
  - Meals listed in the itinerary: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 dinners
  - Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
  - Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
  - Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
- Not included:**
- International airfare
  - Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
  - Single Supplement- \$650 (limited availability)
  - Meals not mentioned in the itinerary, beverages with alcohol
  - Individual airport transfers outside of group transfer
  - Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** \$2,365 per person

**(See Full Itinerary Below)**



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## ITINERARY

### **Day 1, Mon, Mar 14: Arrival (Bus Transfer, One Guide)**

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, meet your primary MEJDI-trained guide, and transfer to the hotel. Overview group program at dinner. If arriving earlier in the day, some touring in the Jaffa-Tel Aviv area may be added here.

*Hotel: Ruth Daniel, Jaffa. Meals: Dinner included.*

### **Day 2, Tue Mar 15: Jesus' First Century Context (Bus, One Guide)**

Begin with a brief introduction to the significance of Jaffa and Tel Aviv, and then drive north along the coast. Tour Herod's port city of Caesarea Maritima, seat of government of Pontius Pilate and site where Paul stood trial before Felix. Learn about ancient and modern history and issues on the way to Nazareth. Tour Nazareth Village, a re-creation of small town First Century Galilee life, sharply contrasting with Caesarea. Then explore bustling modern Nazareth, including visits to Mary's Well and Church of the Annunciation, before continuing to the Sea of Galilee.

*Hotel: Mt of Beatitudes Pilgrim House, Galilee. Meals: B, D included.*

### **Day 3, Wed Mar 16: Galilee and Pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Bus, One Guide)**

Visit the Mount of Beatitudes to recall the Sermon on the Mount, as well as Capernaum, site of much of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Take a Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee and enjoy St. Peter Fish lunch overlooking the waters. Then drive South along the Jordan Valley to the Baptismal Site near Jericho, with narration on ancient and modern history and issues of the area. Stop at the Baptismal Site for a time of devotion, travel by Rachel's Tomb and into Bethlehem.

*Hotel: Choose Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem or homestay in Bethlehem. Meals: B, L, D included.*

### **Day 4, Thr, Mar 17: Palestinian Experience and Context (Bus, Two Guides)**

In Bethlehem, tour the Church of the Nativity, the Separation Wall and Banksy Museum, and hear from a resident of a Refugee Camp before seeing and discussing the West Bank Israeli Settlements on the way to Tent of Nations, the nearby farmland of a Palestinian Christian family. Hear from the Nassar family over lunch at Tent of Nations before closing the day with a debrief with both guides. Then drive to your hotel in Jerusalem.

*Hotel: Choose Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem Meals: B, L, D included.*

### **Day 5, Fri Mar 18: Jewish Experience and Context (Bus, Two Guides)**

On Friday, begin with a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial. Debrief with your two guides before making additional stops chosen by your two guides to discuss recent events in Greater Jerusalem and surrounding areas, particularly of concern this day to Israelis. In the evening, your Israeli guide accompanies you to visit a Synagogue for prayers welcoming in the Jewish Sabbath.

*Hotel: Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem. Meals: B, D included.*



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## **Day 6, Sat Mar 19: Lutheran Ministries and Via Dolorosa (Bus, One Guide)**

On Saturday, drive past the destroyed Palestinian village of Lifta to discuss events of 1948. Later head to the LWF's Augusta Victoria Hospital. After an overview of LWF ministries and a picnic Lunch, descend the Mount of Olives, stopping at Dominus Flevit Church - "the Lord Wept" - and say a prayer over today's Jerusalem as Jesus did centuries before. Stop by Gethsemane before continuing along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, thought by many to be the site of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, and end point of Christian pilgrimage for centuries. As desired, finish the day with a stop at the tranquil Garden Tomb.

*Hotel: Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem. Meals: B, D included.*

## **Day 7, Sun, Mar 20: Lutheran Partner Ministries (Bus, One Guide)**

On Sunday, join Lutheran Christians for worship at one of the Bethlehem-area ELCJHL churches. After coffee hour, attend a banquet at the Bedouin-inspired Tent Restaurant, and welcome available ELCJHL pastors and ELCA mission staff. In the afternoon: tour the Lutheran-affiliated Dar al Kalima College in Bethlehem, and then either have free time in Bethlehem OR group trip with guide to Hebron.

*Hotel: Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem. Meals: B, D included.*

## **Day 8, Mon, Mar 21: Jerusalem Old City and Today (Bus, Two Guides)**

On day four, begin MEJDI's UN award-winning Dual Narrative approach to touring, as a second guide joins your group for the most contested aspects of the Holy Land. Hear your Palestinian and Israeli guides in dialogue with a dual narrative overview of Jerusalem's religious and geo-political history. Tour the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary, and meet with an Imam from the Waqf. Stop at the iconic Western Wall, and tour the Jewish Quarter. Meet with a speaker Rabbi Arik Asherman or Rabbi Daniel Roth, as available. Then tour the neighborhoods surrounding the Old City for a dual-narrative discussion of pressing issues today. Then enjoy a special closing dinner with the ELCJHL's bishop as available.

*Hotel: Holy Land Hotel Jerusalem. Meals: B, D included.*

## **Day 9, Tue, Mar 22: Depart (Bus Transfer, No Guide)**

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departure. *(B included)*