



MEJDI TOURS

Itinerary

Wednesday, April 29

- Transfer to Jerusalem accommodations for check-in. 1 group transfer will be provided (transfer time is TBD but we recommend arriving no later than 3pm in order to participate in the welcome dinner and orientation).
- Meet your guide and walk to welcome dinner at popular Jerusalem restaurant with view of the Old City.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel (or similar) [Dinner included]

Thursday, April 30

Begin the day focusing on Jewish heritage in Jerusalem, with a panoramic view from atop the Mount of Olives, and an introduction to the Old City. Enter through the Zion Gate, see the Roman Cardo and the HaHurva synagogue. After lunch on your own in the heart of the Jewish Quarter, continue to the public excavation at the City of David and onto the Western Wall. Enjoy an afternoon exploration in the tunnels beneath the “Kotel,” taking you thousands of years back in time. Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening and opportunity to explore “downtown Jerusalem.”

Short drives from site to site and walking.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast included]

Friday, May 1

Meet Jerusalem’s other religious and national communities on this morning, venturing back into the Old City for a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Via Dolorosa and a walk through the Muslim Quarter to feel the energy of the Ramadan holiday season. A local community leader will speak about the importance of Jerusalem or “Al Quds” in Islamic tradition and within local Palestinian society. Head to the famous Mahane Yehuda market in the afternoon for lunch, before returning to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat. Join services at Nava Tehila* or another musical Jerusalem congregation before a festive dinner.

Short drives from site to site and walking.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Saturday, May 2

Visit the Masada National Park, home to an ancient fortress on a huge plateau overlooking the Dead Sea, in the Judean Desert. Make note on the way of the caves at Qumran, discovery site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to the Ein Gedi oasis, and enjoy David's Waterfalls; recall the story of David trying to hide from King Saul. After a hike in the park and packed lunch, enjoy the natural treasures of the Dead Sea. The hyper saline water makes floating easy, and the mineral rich mud is used by many for therapeutic skin treatments.

Approximately 3 hours round trip driving time.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Sunday, May 3

In the morning, visit Yad Vashem, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust. Hear testimony from a survivor for a personal glimpse into one of history's darkest moments. Take time to visit the museum and process together with a discussion about Jewish memory and the meaning of the charge to "Never Forget." Continue to Mt. Herzl next door to visit the memorial to the War of Independence and to pay tribute to the fallen with a moment of reflection. Lunch is on own with a few options nearby, before an afternoon visit to the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book to explore exhibits on both the past and present of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Enjoy a free evening in town.

Approximately 1 hour round trip transit time with short drives between sites.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast included]

Monday, May 4

Today, travel with two guides – one Jewish Israeli and one Palestinian - to trace the turbulent history of the birth of the state of Israel. Head west to the military memorial at Latrun and discuss the changing borders and divergent narratives around conflict in this holy land over the last 100 years and beyond. Have lunch in the Arab village of Abu Ghosh, and learn about how the unique story and promise of this Arab Israeli community. Next, learn about the significance of the town of Ein Karem in biblical traditions and view the Chagall installations at the Hadassah Hospital, a groundbreaking center of medicine serving both Jewish Israeli and Palestinian populations. After a group dinner, join a discussion with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists from the Bereaved Families Forum.

Approximately 1 hour round trip transit time with short drives between sites.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Harmony Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Tuesday, May 5

Check out of your Jerusalem accommodations in the morning and head to Beit Guvrin, the ancestral home of King Herod. Participate in an archaeological dig seminar at Tel Maresha, unearthing layers of history. Enjoy a hospitality lunch with the Bedouin community of Rahat* (or nearby village) before continuing in the afternoon towards Sde Boker to visit the old hut of former Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, and learn about his vision for the Negev Desert region. Continue to Mizpe Ramon for the evening. Enjoy a group dinner and relaxing evening at your accommodations.

** subject to confirmation, options may be limited to due to Ramadan observance*

Approximately 3 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Mizpe Ramon – Ramon Suites (or similar) [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Wednesday, May 6

Transfer to the border in the morning, and cross into Jordan. After viewing the desert landscape of Wadi Rum on a 4 x 4 jeep ride, continue towards the town of Petra for an afternoon tour of the ancient city with entrance and horse ride by the Siq, continuing to the Treasury, Street of Facades, Theater, Royal Tombs, Byzantine Church and optional walk up the steps to the “Ad Deir” Monastery. Arrive to your hotel for check-in and a group dinner.

Approximately 4 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Petra – Old Village Resort (or similar) [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Thursday, May 7

Make a long drive to the north on this day, stopping to view the famous map of Madaba at St. George church. Have lunch at the well-known Haret Joudna restaurant before returning to Israel via the Allenby Bridge crossing. Drive northward to Beit Shean, one of the oldest cities in Israel. In the beautiful Archaeological National Park, you can see the history of Israel through the archaeological remains from each historical period. Make a stop next at the 6th century synagogue at Beit Alpha to consider the Jewish trends and

customs of both a previous time and our own. Head to our hotel for a group dinner and evening to relax.

Approximately 4.5 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Galilee – Amiree HaGalil Boutique Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Friday, May 8

Drive to the city of Tzfat, take a tour along the ancient streets of the city, learn the secrets of Kabbalah, and get to know the different varieties of synagogues in the city. Stop at Davidka Square, to reflect through Rabbi Aura's family history on the capture of this city by Jewish forces in 1948. Also visit the famous Artist colony of Tzfat, including the workshops of famous artists David Friedman and Avraham Loewenthal's in the Tzfat Gallery of Mystical Arts. In the afternoon, visit the Jezreel Valley winery and later join the "Masorti" community of Kibbutz Hannaton (*or other spirited community*) for services and Shabbat dinner.

Approximately 2.5 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Galilee – Amiree HaGalil Boutique Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Saturday, May 9

Visit Ein Keshatot in the Golan Heights, an archaeological site that has been recognized as a National Heritage Site. See the remnants of a Jewish village, along with an impressive synagogue from the Talmudic period. Visit Mt. Bental, one of the magnificent viewpoints in the area, and see the different borders that surround Israel. Hear about the battles of previous wars and enter the authentic bunkers that were used in the war. For our surprise lunch, we will be hosted by a Druze family in Mas'ade and enjoy traditional Druze cuisine. Have a casual conversation with the members of the family - you might even get to hear some information about the secret Druze religion. Don't forget to ask about the healing forces of the local medicinal herbs in the area and learn some "grandmother secrets" you can use at home. Continue to Banyas waterfall, in the Jordan river, before heading back to your accommodations.

Approximately 2 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Amiree HaGalil Boutique Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Sunday, May 10

Departing the Galilee, follow the coast south to Caesarea Maritima, Herod's harbor city, and visit the ruins with a renowned geo-archaeologist and National Geographic Explorer. Arrive to Tel Aviv in time for lunch at the Tel Aviv port, and learn of the labor invested in building a leading Mediterranean city. In the afternoon, make a visit to the Palmach museum to learn about various dimensions of the struggle to ensure the birth of the Jewish State. Continue this conversation along the central Tel Aviv Rothschild Boulevard and at Independence Hall. Check in to your hotel and enjoy the evening on your own.

Approximately 2 hours total transit time.

Overnight: Tal Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Monday, May 11

Begin the day with a morning tour of Old Jaffa with two guides – one Jewish Israeli and one Palestinian citizen of Israel. Learn of the evolution of this neighborhood in recent times, and continue north into one of the earliest Tel Aviv neighborhoods of Neve Tzedek. Find lunch in the Carmel Market and continue to Gan Meir for a discussion on trends in social activism. Conclude the afternoon tour with a stop at the Rabin Memorial to consider the complex legacy of this Israeli leader, and possibilities for a shared future. Enjoy a farewell dinner before returning to your hotel to prepare for departure.

Approximately 30 minutes total transit time.

Overnight: Tal Hotel (or similar) [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Tuesday, May 12

Early morning AM departure.