



# MEJDI TOURS

- Tour:** Tour of Israel and Palestine with the Center for Swedenborgian Studies
- Dates:** March 20-30, 2022
- Included:**
- 10 nights' double occupancy at following hotels, or similar as necessary: Golden Walls Jerusalem, Bethlehem homestays, Beatitudes Pilgrim House, Metropolitan Tel Aviv
  - 2 MEJDI-Trained Guides in Dialogue for 2 Days
  - 1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 5 Days
  - 6 Days of Private Bus Transportation
  - Meals listed in Itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 10 dinners
  - Bottled water on the bus daily
  - Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers listed in itinerary
  - 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 - \$660 per person (limited availability)
  - Audio headsets
  - Meals not mentioned in itinerary
  - Airport transfers
  - Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Tour Itinerary:** Starts on Next Page



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## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1, Sunday, March 20, Arrival: (No Bus, No Guides)**

Transfer on own to Jerusalem. Arrival information and airport transfer guidance will be provided. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel.

Hotel: Golden Walls, Jerusalem. (Meals: Dinner)

### **Day 2, Monday, March 21: Jerusalem - Old City Walking Tour**

In the morning, meet your tour guides - one Arab/Palestinian and one Jewish Israeli - and take a tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites. Visit the Temple Mount / Haram al Sharif; see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Tour Western Wall and Jewish Quarter, along with City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel. Meet local residents of Silwan (Siloam) to hear different views about the site and to discuss archaeology and national identity. Also visit Armenian and Christian Quarters, with stops at the Tomb of Mary and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. End with a time of reflection at the Garden Tomb.

Hotel: Golden Walls, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

### **Day 3, Tuesday, March 22: Jerusalem Free day**

This is a free day. Suggestions for things to do: Old City, Israel Museum, wander Jaffa Street to Mechane Yehuda for a taste of Israeli daily life. Visit Salah al Din Street for a taste of Palestinian life, and stop at the Educational Bookstore to browse large collection of books on Palestinian history, politics, and culture. More ideas will be provided later.

End the day with a representative from Combatants for Peace.

Hotel: Golden Walls, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

### **Day 4, Wednesday, March 23: Jerusalem - Modern Jerusalem, West and East**

Continue your two-guide model as you discuss events in the region and in Europe in the 19th and early 20th Century on the way to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Center. Tour Yad Vashem, and then take a walking tour of West Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, including discussion of both its religious significance and its place in different narratives about Zionism and the War of 1948. As you head back to East Jerusalem, discuss key events up to today and debrief with both guides. Close a heavy day with a descent down the Mt of Olives to the Garden of



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Gethsemane, with a stop at “Dominus Flevit - the Lord Wept,” where pilgrims recall the tears of Jesus over the lack of peace in the Jerusalem of his day. Bid farewell to one of your two guides.

Hotel: Golden Walls, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

## **Day 5, Thursday, March 24: Bethlehem District Tour**

Head to nearby Bethlehem, visit the Separation Wall, and take a tour of Banksy Museum. Visit with three speakers on this day: an Israeli West Bank settler, a Palestinian refugee, and over lunch with a Palestinian family at their farm known as Tent of Nations. Also visit the Church of the Nativity and take brief free time in Manger Square. Split into smaller groups toward the end of day for homestays with Bethlehem host families.

Overnight Bethlehem Homestays (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## **Day 6, Friday, March 25: Judean Desert**

Head east for a steady descent into the Judean desert and Jordan Valley. Visit Jericho, one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, and also one of its lowest. (Group leader to choose ahead: Take cable car to the monastery at the of Mt of Temptation, or take a tour of Hisham’s Palace and its amazing mosaic floors.) Also visit Qumran, site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the 20th Century, and discuss theories about why they were there, and who lived at the site. Enjoy a float in the nearby Dead Sea, and stop for a time of reflection at the Jordan River site where pilgrims mark the baptism of Jesus, as well as the crossing of the ancient Israelites into Canaan. Then head north along the Jordan to the Galilee.

Hotel: Beatitudes Pilgrim House. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

## **Day 7, Saturday, March 26: Galilee**

Visit the Mount of Beatitudes church, just outside your guesthouse, and tour Capernaum, a hub for Jesus’ ministry in the Galilee. Spend the remainder of the day in the Golan Heights, hear about the Druze communities there, the history of the Golan, and enjoy a hike to the waterfall at Banias.

Hotel: Beatitudes Pilgrim House. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)



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## **Day 8, Sunday, March 27: Galilee**

Pick up your boxed lunch, and bus into Tiberias. For those who've elected to bike, pick up your bike for a ride along the Sea of Galilee / also known as Kinneret. Keep the guide and driver informed of itinerary and planned stops, as those electing to stay with the bus will follow the same route, and your guide can offer information on the various stops around the waters. Stop for a boxed lunch, and include a boat ride in late afternoon. Return bikes before transfer back to your guest house.

Hotel: Beatitudes Pilgrim House. (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## **Day 9, Monday, March 28: Nazareth and Givat Haviva**

After three nights on the Galilee, depart for Nazareth. There, visit St. Mary's Well inside Saint Gabriel Orthodox Church, and discuss the role of icons in Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. As available, visit with Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Nazareth Office. Enjoy some time in the Soukh (stop by the famous Al-Babour Spice Shop if time permits!), and visit the impressive Basilica of the Annunciation with its collection of artwork from around the world depicting Mary and Christchild. As you head out toward Tel Aviv, stop at Givat Haviva Kibbutz' Center for a Shared Society to hear from a speaker about their work. Finally, bid farewell to your guide and driver.

Hotel: Metropolitan in Tel Aviv. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

## **Day 10, Tuesday, March 29: Tel Aviv-Jaffa - Free Day**

Finish your time in the Holy Land with an open day. Some possible alternatives (on own, any entrances and transport not included): Enjoy a day at the beach in Tel Aviv, explore Old City Jaffa, visit the cafes in Tel Aviv, head to Tel Aviv University for a tour of Rabin Museum (closes early), and much more. Don't forget to make arrangements ahead for transfer to the airport as needed. These can be arranged directly with your last hotel.

Hotel: Metropolitan in Tel Aviv. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

## **Day 11, Wednesday, March 30: Depart on Own**

Breakfast included at hotel. Airport transfers will be arranged directly with the hotel. For those interested in a post-stay extension tour of Jordan, please email [info@mejditours.com](mailto:info@mejditours.com).

(Meals: Breakfast)