



MEJDI TOURS

Temple Micah of Denver

March 22 - March 31, 2020

Itinerary:

Day 1, Sun, Mar 22: Arrival (2 Guides, No Bus)

- Upon arrival, transfer on your own to the hotel in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. A group transfer (not included) can be arranged if a large number of people arrive on same flight.
- Gather for a welcome and orientation with the group's multiple narrative guiding team, made up of one Israeli guide and one Palestinian guide.

Hotel: Lighthouse or Similar, Tel Aviv

Day 2, Mon, Mar 23: Tel Aviv (2 Guides, Bus)

- Travel to the historic Ahuzat Bayit neighborhood, the original suburb modeled on Herzl's vision in *Alteneuland* that grew into the modern city of Tel Aviv. There, take a walking tour beginning under the fig and Poinciana trees of Rothschild Boulevard to learn to learn about the city's history and to observe some of Tel Aviv's Bauhaus style buildings.
 - o Begin outside the former house of Eliyahu Golomb, one of the founders of the Haganah organization, the pre-State Jewish military force that later evolved into the Israel Defense Force-the army of the State of Israel- in 1948.
 - o See the Tel Aviv Founders Monument, Statue of Meir Dizengoff, and Nahum Gutman's Fountain and learn about the figures and events depicted.
 - o Outside of Independence Hall, learn about the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence and the founding of the State of Israel.

- Have lunch on your own in the Levinsky Shuk Market.
- Take a tour of the Largest Bus Station in the World with BINA: The Jewish Movement for Social Change. This tour will present the entrepreneurial spirit that led to the establishment of Neve Sha'anun and the New Central Bus Station; the vision for success and the reality of failure. It will reveal the unique sub-culture that has evolved in the empty spaces of the station and the communities which it serves. The tour will raise questions of social, financial, and racial gaps in the "White City." This will include a walking tour of the Central Bus Station and processing with BINA.
- Return to the hotel and have dinner on your own.

Hotel: Lighthouse or Similar, Tel Aviv [Breakfast included]

Day 3, Tue, Mar 24, 2020: Jaffa (2 Guides, Bus)

- Check out after breakfast.
- Take a walking tour of Jaffa through the lens of music with a member of the multi-ethnic hip hop group System Ali. The tour combines the history of the city of Jaffa in its 5,000 years of existence with a discussion of the conflictual issues of the city in recent decades through textual and musical works performed on the site.
- Have free time for lunch on your own.
- In the afternoon, meet students and faculty at the Tabeetha School. Jane Walker-Arnott, a mid-19th century young Scotswoman who came to Jaffa on a Christian Mission, founded the school after observing the lack of educational opportunities for girls under Turkish rule. The school remains supported by the Church of Scotland and continues to provide education for youngsters of all faiths. Visit the school's Museum of Coexistence.
- Check out the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop.
- Visit the Bustan Yaffa Bilingual (Hebrew, Arabic) Kindergarten that operates in the spirit of the Waldorf method and meet with its director Ihab Balha. For more the 18 years, Ihab has been an Islamic cleric and a researcher of the Sufi Movement - the mythical Islamic movement. Ihab is sanctifying values of Islam for Peace and Love which constitute powerful tools to bridge and join hearts between people.
- Ascend to Jerusalem and check into your hotel.
- Have a free evening to have dinner on your own and shop.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast included]

Day 4, Wed, Mar 25: Four Quarter Religion, History, and Art Tour of Old City Jerusalem (2 Guides, Bus)

- Enter the Old City through the Dung Gate and visit the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza and learn about the current state of affairs to create an egalitarian section.
- Ascend to the Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif and tour the precinct.
- Have free time for lunch on your own in the Jewish Quarter.
- Visit the Museum of Psalms to participate in a text study of a selection of Psalms through art. The Museum of Psalms features the Psalms Collection, 150 paintings for each of the Psalms created by Moshe Tzvi Halevi Berger, one painting for each one of the Psalms.
- Learn about the Christian “Stations of the Cross” along the Via Dolorosa and the incense-filled halls of the Holy Sepulchre Church, the place identified as both the site of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
- Weave through the shops and alleyways of the Arab *shuk* (market) in the Old City, where you can have some free time to practice your haggling skills.
- Meet Wissam Razzouk at Razzouk Ink, a 700-year-old Christian family owned tattoo parlor that catered to Coptic Christian pilgrims. He has centuries of family stories to tell including his own recent involvement in “Healing Ink,” which uses tattooing to help Israeli victims of terrorism and war overcome trauma.
- Return to your hotel and have dinner on your own.
- In the evening, have a 1-on-1 session with members of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus involving discussion, singing, storytelling and more. The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program for Israeli and Palestinian high school students in Jerusalem.

Hotel: Villa Ba’Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast included]

Day 5, Thr, Mar 26: The Musrara Neighborhood and Praying Together in Jerusalem (2 Guides, Bus)

- As an early morning option for those who are interested: Join Women of the Wall for their monthly Rosh Chodesh service at the Kotel.
- Regroup all together at Jerusalem’s City Hall. The guides will provide an orientation to the Musrara neighborhood there. Musrara lies along the Seam Line that physically dividing Jerusalem from 1948-1967 and tacitly remaining a buffer between East and West Jerusalem since then. While Musrara is a model of successful neighborhood renewal, it still preserves memories of difficult absorption processes, discrimination, and the first authentic Israeli protest movement, “the Black Panthers.”
- Have the opportunity for some shopping for a good cause at Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old.
- Visit the Ma’aleh Film School and screen 2-3 short films produced by their graduates, meet with one of the filmmakers. Ma’aleh films primarily deal with

the Israeli experience, Jewish identity and Israeli society and culture. The meeting with the filmmaker encourages broad discussion about the film, the behind the scenes story and reasons for its creation.

- Have lunch together.
- In the afternoon, Then visit the Musrara - The Naggar School of Art in the heart of the Musrara neighborhood and see the school's three galleries beginning with its social gallery followed by two others in the school's main building.
- Meet a Mizrahi rights advocate from the Israeli Black Panthers.
- Return to the Old City and join with Praying Together in Jerusalem, a movement whose participants believe in the power of side-by-side prayer to bring friendship, respect and, ultimately, peace between people of all faiths. Meeting once a month, the participating groups hope to be joined by members of all faiths who wish to show their love of the Holy City and all of its inhabitants through a public expression of their faith. Participating organizations includes: Tantur Ecumenical Institute, the Elijah Interfaith Institute, Abrahamic Reunion, Interfaith Encounter Association, Kids4Peace, the Sisters of Sion, Microphones for Peace, Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution, ADAShA The Jerusalem Center for Interreligious Encounter and Dibbur Hadash.
- Have a free evening.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Day 6, Fri, Mar 27: Silwan and Shabbat (2 Guides, Bus)

- Tour the "City of David" archaeological site with an archaeologist from the archaeological activist organization Emek Shaveh.
- Then visit a Palestinian community center in Silwan to hear from Palestinian residents about the impact of the archaeological site and influx of ideological settlers in their neighborhood. Have lunch there.
- Return to the hotel and have some pre-Shabbat downtime.
- Attend an egalitarian Shabbat service.
- Then, be hosted by a Jewish family for a Shabbat dinner.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Day 7, Sat, Mar 28: Shabbat, Mount of Olives, and East Jerusalem (2 Guides, Bus)

- Begin the morning with a Shabbat morning gathering with reflections, contemplations, prayers, and songs at the hotel.
- Drive to the top of the Mount of Olives and take in the magnificent view. For Jews and Muslims alike, the Mount of Olives is where the gates of heaven will open up on Judgment Day. This is why it is considered an important burial ground in both faith traditions. Along the slope of the hillside a series of important historical churches on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

According to the gospels, Jesus and his disciples are said to have prayed at the site of the Garden of Gethsemane the night before Jesus's crucifixion.

- Have lunch together.
- In the afternoon, visit East Jerusalem's forgotten palace, Tel El Ful, covered by the very popular Israel Story Podcast episode "King of The Hill". One of the Israel Story podcasters will guide the group through the location describing the myths, history, Jordanian royals, Palestinian families, and Israeli generals associated with the site.
- Return to the hotel and have a light dinner on your own.
- Go as a group to the Burnstein Basement Klezmer located in large Yiddish library in the heart of an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood. They begin with Havdallah, serve kugel, and perform live music with comical aspects.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Day 8, Sun, Mar 29: Northern West Bank (2 Guides, Bus)

- Travel to Ramallah and visit the controversial new Yasser Arafat Museum. Discuss and debate Arafat's complex legacy from multiple perspectives as both an unrepentant terrorist and a national freedom fighter, as both a revered Palestinian statesman and a politician tainted by corruption, and as both a deserving and undeserving Nobel Peace Prize recipient.
- Continue north to the city of Birzeit. Tour the Birzeit Brewery and meet the founders.
- Have lunch in the Old Town.
- Then see the magnificent architecture and collection at the new multi-million dollar Palestinian Museum in Birzeit. The museum is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history, culture and society of modern Palestine.
- End the afternoon with a tour of Rawabi, the first planned Palestinian city.
- Return to the hotel in Jerusalem and have a free evening.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Day 9, Mon, Mar 30: Southern West Bank (2 Guides, Bus)

- Travel to Bethlehem.
- Tour the separation barrier up close and discuss both its impact on Israelis and Palestinians and the images you see painted on the wall.
- Visit the Walled Off Hotel, set up and financed by world renowned Street Artist Banksy, to see the hotel's museum and art gallery.
- Continue south to Hebron. Have a group lunch. Then take a tour of the Old Town. Walk down Shuahada Street. Visit the Women in Hebron Cooperative shop. See the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs.

- Then meet with settler peacemaker involved in the Abrahamic Reunion Movement or Roots organization in a settlement.
- Return to the hotel and have a presentation from the Parents Circle-Families Forum, an organization of Israeli and Palestinian parents who have lost loved ones to the conflict and who have come together to work for peace.

Hotel: Villa Ba'Moshava or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Day 10, Tue, Mar 31: Jerusalem's Art Scene and Machane Yehuda Shuk (2 Guides, Bus)

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- In the morning, have the option of taking a graffiti tour in downtown Jerusalem and/or the Nachlaot neighborhood. Have the opportunity to contribute to a piece of urban street art.
- Then sample your way through the hustle and bustle of the Machane Yehuda shuk market. Have lunch on your own.
- In the afternoon, dive deeper into Jerusalem arts scene around the shuk with a visit to the Muslala Art Collective in the towering "white elephant" Clal Building across the street. Muslala's artist hub is a project aiming to create a new vision for the building as an art, culture and sustainable living center. Muslala is community of artists and craftspeople who live and thrive on the rich soil of Jerusalem. Their goal is to nurture and grow a sustainable and flexible community which is sensitive and connective between one and oneself, between one and his community, and between one and the Earth.
- Have a closing processing session in the Muslala Workspace.
- Have a farewell dinner at Anna, a high-quality Italian restaurant in the spectacular Ticho House, a historic building that belongs to the Israel Museum. The Dualis Yozma Fund established Anna as a social business that trains and employs youth in distress, providing them with an opportunity to acquire a profession and to change the course of their lives. The Ticho House features the art of Israel's beloved painter, Anna Ticho (1894 -1980) and contemporary art exhibitions.
- The guides will help travelers arrange transfers to the airport.

End of Tour Program [Breakfast and Dinner included]