



MEJDI TOURS

- Tour:** **Main Trip: Iliff School of Theology 2022**
- Dates:** **Nov 29, 2022 - Dec 9, 2022**
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the locations listed in itinerary, or similar hotels as necessary¹
1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 7 days
2 MEJDI-Trained Guides in Dialogue for 2 days
9 days private group transport on large bus, including 1 group airport transfer on final morning prior to extension
Meals as listed in itinerary where B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, and D=Dinner: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers²
Audio headsets if group is 20 or more total participants
Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotel and wait staff
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
- Not included:** International airfare
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement: \$820 for length of tour (as available)
Any necessary covid testing and/or treatment
Extension in Jordan
Meals not included in the itinerary
Bottled water (tap water safe in most of Israel-Palestine; reusable water bottles encouraged)
Transportation outside of group itinerary
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing**³ 21-23 paying participants: \$2,885 per paying person
18-20 paying participants: \$2,995 per paying person
15-17 paying participants: \$3,155 per paying person

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability.

² Subject to confirmation based on availability, including specific speakers; comparable substitutions as necessary.

³ Subject to change based on confirmation.

Itinerary

Day 1, Tue Nov 29 (No Bus, No Guide)

Using transportation information provided by MEJDI (shuttle, train, or private taxi), travelers transfer on own from airport to hotel in Jerusalem for check-in. Then meet up for an included dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Holyland hotel or Similar, Jerusalem. [D]

Day 2, Wed Nov 30 (2 Guides, No Bus)

On Wednesday, begin early with MEJDI's award-winning "dual narrative" introduction to ancient Jerusalem. Get to know your Jewish Israeli and Palestinian guides as you head over to the nearby Old City of Jerusalem for an overview of its importance to both people groups. Include a visit to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, with close-up view of the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque; the iconic Western Wall, with a tour the tunnels below; the City of David with thorough exploration of the site with an archaeologist, and a discussion with your guides of the controversies surrounding the site; and with a tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for an overview of Christian communities there and beyond in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Holyland hotel or Similar, Jerusalem. [B, L, D]

Day 3, Thr Dec 1 (2 Guides, Bus)

On Thursday, continue with both guides as you discuss the history of Jerusalem's expansion and some of its most pressing issues today. Begin with a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial. Then visit the neighboring village of Ein Karem for a discussion of its religious significance, as well as a dual narrative conversation on its place in history around the events of 1948.

From there, head along the "Green Line" discussing key events and issues from then to today, including Israeli West Bank settlements, Palestinian refugees, security concerns, and possible paths forward. Close the day by meeting with Rabbi Daniel Roth for a discussion on religion and peace. Following dinner debrief a full and heavy day with your group leaders.

Overnight: Holyland hotel or Similar, Jerusalem. [B, D]

Day 4, Fri Dec 2 (1 Guide, Bus)

On Friday, head back on foot to the Old City to meet with a local merchant couple (arranged by group leaders) and to enjoy some free time to explore the Soukh. Then head to the vibrant Jewish marketplace of Machane Yehuda for exploration and lunch on your own. In the afternoon, enjoy a brief break at your hotel before heading out in early evening for a traditional Shabbat meal in the home or homes of local Jewish families.

Overnight: Holyland hotel or Similar, Jerusalem. [B, D]

Day 5, Sat Dec 3 (1 Guide, Bus)

Conclude your time in Jerusalem on Saturday with a guided visit to the Israel Museum.

See the 3D map of Second Temple Jerusalem, the Shrine of the Book and Dead Sea Scrolls, and more, including an exploration of the regions earliest civilizations. From there, head south to Bethlehem, where you'll be introduced to life in Bethlehem and Palestinian Christians by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. From there, meet up with host families for dinner and overnight with Palestinian families.

Overnight: Homestays in Bethlehem [B, D]

Day 6, Sun Dec 4 (1 Guide, Bus)

After breakfast with your host family, head to Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem for morning worship and informal conversations over coffee with members of the congregation, or take time to explore Bethlehem's soukh and Nativity Square. Regather for a group lunch and a tour of the Church of the Nativity. Then head out through the Judean desert to the Jordan Valley, and south along the valley to Kibbutz Ein Gedi.

Overnight: Ein Gedi Kibbutz Hotel or Similar [B, L, D]

Day 7, Mon Dec 5 (1 Guide, Bus)

On Monday, tour Herod's desert fortress, Masada. Discuss its ancient history, as well as its role as a national symbol to many Israelis today. From there, make a stop at the Dead Sea for a float in its mineral rich waters and included simple lunch, and at Qumran, nearby site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Then head north to Nazareth.

Overnight: Villa Nazareth or Similar. [B, L, D]

Day 8, Tue Dec 6 (1 Guide, Bus)

On Tuesday, head out to Nazareth's neighboring site of ancient Tziporri / Sepphoris for a short visit with discussion of that cosmopolitan city's emergence at the beginning of the Common Era. Contrast what you see there with common depictions of Galilean life as you continue to the coastal city of Akko/Acre. In Akko, enjoy lunch on own and exploration of the remains of the underground Crusader city, as well as the later "Old City" above it, and today's modern Akko. Include a visit with Mohammed Falili, Director of Akko's Jewish-Arab Community Center as part of your introduction to modern Akko.

Overnight: Villa Nazareth or Similar. [B, D]

Day 9, Wed Dec 7 (1 Guide, Bus)

In the morning, head northeast to the Golan Heights. Visit the important archaeological site of Tel Dan, and meet for lunch with a member of the Golan's Druze community. From there, head south through the Golan, with narration from your guide, to the "Sea" of Galilee for a tour of the lakeside sites of Capernaum and Migdal.

Overnight: Villa Nazareth or Similar. [B, D]

Day 10, Thr Dec 8 (1 Guide, Bus)

On Thursday, depart Nazareth to the impressive ruins of Caesarea Maritima for a tour to discuss the city's role in the complex relationship between Herodian Judea and Rome, and time to explore its market area and lunch on own. Finally, travel south along the coast, with narration through the bustling modern city of Tel Aviv and then to its neighboring ancient city of Jaffa. In Jaffa, enjoy introductory tour of Jaffa, including the ancient port, Jewish Yemenite Culture and Art Museum, and nearby Arab and Jewish neighborhoods. Check into your hotel, and then head out on foot to the locally famous [Dr. Shakshuka](#) for a taste of North African influence on today's eclectic Jaffa. Bid farewell to your guide, and enjoy a free evening for further exploration on own, or rest.

Overnight Tel Aviv-Jaffa. Ruth Daniel House or Similar. [B, D]

Day 11, Fri Dec 9 (Bus Transfer, No Guide)

On Friday, one group transfer to Ben Gurion airport is included for those departing prior to the extension in Jordan.

End of Main Tour Program. [B]