



# MEJDI TOURS

**Temple Sinai / Temple Beth Zion  
Multiple-Narrative Trip to Israel & the West Bank  
Dates: January 8 - 18, 2022**

**Itinerary:**

Depart Boston Saturday night, January 7, 2023

**Day 1, Sunday, January 8, 2023: Welcome [Private Transportation, No Guides]**

- Meet the group's driver and transfer to Tel Aviv. For travelers not arriving on the recommended flight, you will need to make your way to the hotel on your own.
- Check in to the hotel.

*Hotel:* Market House Hotel, Jaffa

**Day 2, Monday, January 9, 2023: Tel Aviv**

- Meet your **Israeli and Palestinian guides** who will explain the exciting Dual Narrative perspectives you will hear on the trip.
- Begin the tour outside of the **Etzel House** dedicated to the pre-state Zionist paramilitary organization, the Irgun. With seaside views of both Jaffa and Tel Aviv, learn the Arab and Jewish histories of these adjoining cities including an explanation of the birth of Tel Aviv and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in Arab Jaffa and beyond. Briefly see the exhibit inside the Etzel House which tell the Israeli perspective on the 41 Irgun fighters who died in the battle for Jaffa in 1948. The building is one of the very few remaining structures from the Arab neighborhood of Manishiya that was in part destroyed during the 1948 battles.
- Continue to the **Hassan Bek Mosque** in the Manishiya neighborhood. This mosque was used by Arab snipers in 1948. The Israeli government razed nearly all of Manishiya except for the mosque.
- Continue on foot to the **Carmel Market Shuk** for lunch on your own.
- Stroll up **Bialik Street** to learn about the history of cultural Zionism. Bialik Street is home to Rubin Museum, the former residence of painter Reuven Rubin and Bialik House, the former residence of Israel's national poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. Beit Ha'ir, Tel Aviv's former town hall is at the top of the street.
- Conclude the afternoon with a visit to **Meir Park**, opened in 1944 and named after the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff. Meir Park is home to a prominent city funded gay community center. Outside of the center, you can find a monument dedicated to the gay victims of the Holocaust and a garden serving as a memorial to 2009 shooting spree at a Tel Aviv LGBT youth club.
- Return to the hotel and host a **speaker from the New Israel Fund** [ideally Micky Gitzin, Director of NIF in Israel] to provide an initial lay-of-the-land contextualizing the most pressing and inspiring social activism movements in Israel.



# MEJDI TOURS

- Have a group dinner.

*Hotel:* Market House Hotel, Jaffa [Breakfast and Dinner included]

## **Day 3, Tuesday, January 10, 2023: Gaza Border Region**

- Travel to the border region with the **Gaza Strip** to meet local residents from a variety of political perspectives to hear firsthand about how shelling, sirens, bunkers, tunnels, Iron Dome, and war have affected the border communities.
- Begin at the **Gush Katif and Northern Samaria Commemoration Center**. A former resident of Gush Katif will introduce the group to the story of Gush Katif starting with the history of the region, the establishment of their settlement communities, the dismantling of those communities and the challenges former residents face today.
- Then meet an activist from **Other Voice** – a grassroots volunteer initiative comprised of citizens from the communities bordering the Gaza border – knows that our violent reality can and must be altered. Other Voice keeps in contact with Gazans, calls for an end to the siege, works for an end to the attacks from both sides (that target primarily innocent citizens), and strives toward the co-creation of a sustainable reality for all.
- Contribute tiles to the **Path to Peace Mosaic Wall**, a joint mosaic creation, by thousands of people, towards hope, love, and happiness among all people. The creation is placed upon the border wall that divides the Gaza Strip and Israel, adjacent to the homes of Moshav Netiv Ha'Asara.
- Other Voice will organize a phone or video call between the group and **Gaza residents**.
- Return to Tel Aviv and have a group debriefing and processing session.
- Enjoy a free evening.

*Hotel:* Market House Hotel, Jaffa [Breakfast and Lunch included]

## **Day 4, Wednesday, January 11, 2023: Haifa, Boston's Sister City**

- Check out of the hotel and drive north to **Haifa**, Boston's sister city in Israel.
- Take a **street food walking tour** in the lower part of the city for lunch.
- In the afternoon participate in a "**Life in Pink: Haifa's Queer History**" Walking Tour, an exploration of Haifa's secret queer history. Walking through the neighborhood of Hadar HaCarmel, this tour tells stories about love, murder, public gardens, police harassment, politicization, struggle, and pride, whose protagonists are lesbians, feminists, homosexuals, trans people, Jews, and Palestinians.
- Then visit **Isha L'Isha—Haifa Feminist Center**, the oldest grassroots feminist organization in Israel and one of the leading voices of women's rights in the country. Hear about their current projects include Women, Peace and Security; Fighting Against Trafficking and Prostitution of Women; and/or Women and Medical Technologies.
- Check into the hotel and have a group debriefing and processing session.
- Enjoy a free evening in Haifa.

*Hotel:* Bay Club Hotel, Haifa [Breakfast and Lunch included]



# MEJDI TOURS

## Day 5, Thursday, January 12, 2023: Shared Society in Haifa

- Start the day with a visit to the famous **Baha'i Gardens** to learn about the Baha'i faith.
- Then meet a representative of the **Beit Hagefen** Jewish-Arab Culture Center who will introduce the group to the organization's work and take the group on a "**History of Tolerance and Diverse Traditions**" Walking Tour through the city's **Wadi Nisnas district** – a Christian-Arab neighborhood famous for its art route. Explore one of Israel's most diverse cities and support efforts to combat intolerance through dialogue and education.
- Have lunch on your own.
- In the afternoon, meet **Jafar Farah**, Director of the **Mossawa Center: The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel**. Jafar is a long time advocate and activist for equal rights for the Arab community. Prior to founding the Mossawa Center, Jafar was a journalist and researcher for several years, working for Haaretz, several Arabic newspapers and TV programs on Israel's public channel 2.
- End the day by learning rhythm and harmony, peacemaking and reconciliation, through a group activity with an interfaith **Peace Drums Project** between Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth organized by **Leo Baeck Educational Center**. Also learn about how Leo Baeck serves as the hub of egalitarian Judaism in Haifa through its synagogue, schools, and community projects.
- Have **dinner** at the Leo Baeck Education Center **with teenagers preparing to enter the army**.
- Return to the group's accommodations for a group dinner.

*Hotel:* Bay Club Hotel, Haifa [Breakfast and Dinner included]

## Day 6, Friday, January 13, 2023: Ramallah

- Check out and drive to **Ramallah**.
- Over lunch, meet **Palestinian business leaders Sam Bahour**, Managing Partner of Applied Information Management. He regularly meets with Jewish groups and Israelis; doing so casts him in opposition to Palestinians who promote anti-normalization agendas.
- Visit the controversial **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.
- Meet with a **Palestinian politician** to discuss the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement, the anti-normalization movement, their perceptions of racism in Israeli and Palestinian society, and their perceptions of anti-Semitism in Palestinian society.
- Ascend to Jerusalem and check into the hotel.
- Join an egalitarian congregation for **Shabbat services** followed by **home hospitality for Shabbat dinner**.

*Hotel:* Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]



# MEJDI TOURS

## Day 7, Saturday, January 14, 2023: Shabbat and Sheikh Jarrah [NO Private Transportation, 2 Guides]

- Have a free morning to sleep in, attend **Shabbat services**, or explore a bit of the city on your own.
- In the afternoon, have an optional walking tour in the **East Jerusalem** neighborhood of **Sheikh Jarrah with Ahmad or Mahoud Muna, owners of the Educational Bookshop**.
  - Have a vegetarian lunch at the Educational Bookshop and hear about what it means to be Palestinian East Jerusalemite rather than an Arab citizen of Israel or a Palestinian in the West Bank. Also hear about the history of the Educational Bookshop and the literary culture of Palestine.
  - Visit **Alnayzak Innovation Lab**. Their mission is to develop a new culture of scientific education for providing economic opportunities and advancing the daily lives of Palestinians.
  - Visit the **Palestinian Art Court-al Hoash** to see a Palestinian contemporary art gallery.
- End the day with a group havdallah.
- Have a free evening.

*Hotel:* Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

## Day 8, Sunday, January 15, 2023: Bethlehem and Hebron

- Cross into the West Bank and see the wall from the Palestinian perspective.
- Visit the **Walled Off Hotel**, set up and financed by world renowned Street Artist **Banksy**, to see their museum and art gallery.
- Tour a **Palestinian refugee camp**.
- Have a **vegetarian group lunch**.
- Travel to **Hebron's Old Town** for a multiple narrative tour of this holy and fractious city. Meet with both Jewish settlers and Palestinians. Visit the **Cave of the Patriarchs**.
- Return to the hotel and hear stories from members of **The Parents Circle/Families Forum**, a grassroots organization of Palestinian and Israeli families who have each lost immediate family members in the conflict.
- Have dinner on your own.

*Hotel:* Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

## Day 9, Monday, January 16, 2023: Old City of Jerusalem

- 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/AI-Haram al-Sharif** and tour the precinct.
- Have free time for lunch on your own.
- 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.



# MEJDI TOURS

- 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 the hotel and have a group processing session.
- Have a free evening.

*Hotel:* Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem [[Breakfast included]

## **Day 10, Tuesday, January 17, 2023: West Jerusalem**

- Tour the **Nachlaot** neighborhood of Jerusalem with **Drori Yehoshua**. Drori was born in the Kurdish neighborhood of Jerusalem. He is a Talmud Instructor at the Shalom Hartman Institute, one of the founders of Memizrach Shemesh and Kol Yisrael Haverim, and facilitates Kol Yisrael Haverim communities. Drori feels privileged to be active in the following organizations: Prisoners in Rehabilitation, Beit Hashem Nelech, Tag Meir (Spread the Light—Together Against Terror), Invitation to Piyut, SPCA Israel. Drori will also teach the group about Jewish views on racism and intolerance through the perspective of Sephardic sages.
- Have lunch on your own in the **Machane Yehuda shuk**.
- Visit **Beit Alliance**, the home of the New Spirit organization and an incubator for the capital’s creative and professional artistic community. After having stood desolate and abandoned for 15 years, the former Alliance School, centrally located near the Machane Yehuda market now houses artists groups working and creating together in one community. New Spirit’s mission is to develop professional, artistic and multi-faceted communities with the special Jerusalem characteristics and leadership awareness to further economic development and social changes in Jerusalem.
- End the day with an optional visit to the **Israel Museum**. Have dinner on your own at the museum.

*Hotel:* Harmony Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast included]

## **Day 11, Wednesday, January 18, 2023: Jaffa**

- Check out after breakfast and return to Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
- Tour the historic port city of Jaffa, highlighting how it has become an incubator for coexistence and shared society.
  - Go inside Maskit, a luxury women clothing shop in the heart of the flea market that was founded in 1945 by Ruth Dayan and became a global phenomenon. Maskit was born out of an ideology to create work opportunities for new immigrants in the field of crafts. After the Six Day War, Arab-Israeli coexistence became one of Maskit’s major sources of inspiration. Learn about Ruth’s fascinating close friendship with Raymonda Tawil, Yasar Arafat’s mother-in-law.



# MEJDI TOURS

- Visit Hilweh Market, a local artisanal store featuring handmade housewares, textiles, jewelry and other contemporary and traditional items from Palestine and the Arab World. Meet Hilweh Market's founder and curator Adrieh Abou Shehadeh along with her husband and her husband Jack Saba, Program Director of Telos, a Christian organization dedicated to forming communities of American peacemakers across lines of difference.
- Visit the Tabeetha School to learn about its history and visit the school's Museum of Coexistence and meet with students and staff.
- Have lunch on your own in the Jaffa flea market.
- Check out the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop.
- Visit Physicians for Human Rights-Israel's clinic in Jaffa and learn about the communities they serve from one of their staff members.
- Visit the Bustan Yafa Bilingual (Hebrew, Arabic) Kindergarten that operates in the spirit of the Waldorf method and meet with its director.
- Continue to the antiques, trendy hip shops, and funky kitsch packed into the Jaffa Flea Market to have lunch on your own.
- End the tour by participating in a workshop with **BINA: The Jewish Movement for Social Change** on "Bringing Israel Home: Talking about Israel in Our Communities," facilitated by the BINA educator.
- Have a group processing session.
- Group transfer to the airport is available.
- Check out after breakfast and return to Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
- Group transfer to the airport is available.

[Breakfast included]