



MEJDI TOURS



Stories of the Past, Struggles in the Present, Hopes for the Future

Israel and Palestine Tour

October 26 - November 4, 2022

Included:

- 9 nights' accommodation, double occupancy, at the following hotels, or similar as necessary: St George Guesthouse (East Jerusalem), 4 Nights, Bethlehem Homestays (Bethlehem), 2 Nights, Daria (Galilee) / Nablus, 2 Nights Cinema Hotel (Tel Aviv), 1 Night
- 1 MEJDI-Trained guide for 8 days
- 2 MEJDI-Trained guides for 1 day
- Bus transportation for 10 days including 1 group arrival and 1 group departure transfer
- Meals listed on the itinerary: 9 Breakfasts[B], 3 Lunches[L], 9 Dinners[D]
- Water bottles on bus during touring days
- Entry and Speaker fees for the sites and speakers mentioned in the itinerary
- Customary tips for hotels, guides, driver, and restaurants
- Headsets personal use during tour days
- US and Jerusalem based customer service representatives

Not Included:

- International Airfare
- Travel insurance-REQUIRED
- Single supplement- \$780 per person
- Any required COVID testing costs
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation not mentioned in itinerary
- Anything not explicitly listed as included

Pricing:

- 20-25 Travelers: \$3,000
- 15-19 Travelers: \$3,150



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ITINERARY

Day 1: Wed, Oct 26, Arrival; 1 MEJDI guide at dinner

Group lands at Ben Gurion International Airport and transfers to hotel. Meet your guide at the group welcome dinner.

Overnight: St. George's Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, East Jerusalem [Dinner]

Day 2: Thurs, Oct 27, Historical Context of Jerusalem; 2 MEJDI guides

Begin the morning with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the **Mount of Olives**. Then, take a full-day tour of the **Old City** and learn about the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with two guides: one Arab and one Jewish. Visit the traditional sites associated with Jesus's crucifixion and burial: the **Garden Tomb**, the **Via Dolorosa** (Way of Sorrows), and the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**--discuss the many conflicts over the site. Visit the **Temple Mount** and meet with a **local imam** for a discussion on Islam and politics in the Old City. Visit the **Western Wall** and meet a **local Rabbi** for coffee before enjoying free time in the city. (A visit to some archaeological sites will be included, if possible.)

Overnight: St. George's Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, East Jerusalem [B, D]

Day 3: Fri, Oct 28, Israeli and Palestinian Perspectives, Jerusalem; 1 MEJDI guide

Begin your morning with a tour of some Jerusalem neighborhoods with **ICAHD (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions)**. Visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust. Tour **Mt. Hertzl** and take a walking tour of **Ein Kerem** to learn different narratives about Zionism and Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Lunch on your own. Afterwards, return to your hotel for a group dinner, with special guests from **Musalaha**, Salim and Kay Munayer (Reconciliation and Peacebuilding).

Overnight: St. George's Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, East Jerusalem [B, D]

Day 4: Sat, Oct 29, Jerusalem 1 MEJDI guide

Worship **with local church** community in Jerusalem alongside members of **OneVoice** - Christian Palestinian and Messianic Jewish Women, Leadership & Peace Movement. After church have **lunch with the women** and learn more about the OneVoice movement and what this group of women are seeking to do to advocate for peace. (Note: Since you will be in Jerusalem, it is unlikely Palestinian Christians from the West Bank will be able to attend, but we can do our best to try to make this happen. It will depend on if they have permits from Easter to enter Jerusalem). In the afternoon, meet with members of the Israeli activist community such as **Sahar Vardi** and others engaged in issues such as demilitarization, issues surrounding Israeli Defense Force (IDF) conscription, and other issues affecting Israeli society. This could be a good opportunity to meet with a **Palestinian activist** who is working in parallel with the Black Lives Matter movement and Ferguson. Have dinner at your hotel in Jerusalem.

Overnight: St. George's Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, East Jerusalem [B, L, D]



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Day 5: Sun, Oct 30, Palestinian Perspective, Bethlehem; 1 MEJDI guide

Begin your day with **Rabbi Naamah Kelman** of **Hebrew Union College** and then meet with the **UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** in Jerusalem for a briefing on current politics. Drive to **Bethlehem**, where you will cross the checkpoint on foot and take a walk along the separation barrier with **Col. Danny Tirza**. Stop at **Rachel's tomb** to hear a briefing on the separation barrier from your guide. Then travel to **Nativity Square**, visit the **Church of the Nativity** and hear from Palestinian Christian and peacemaker **Sami Awad** from Holy Land Trust. Visit Palestinian museum of the occupation at **Bansky's Walled Off Hotel**. Members of the group can choose to spend the night and have **dinner with local families in Bethlehem** or meet back up with your group for dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Homestay [B, D]

Day 6: Mon, Oct 31, Hebron; 1 MEJDI guide

Start your day with a visit to **Shuhada Street** and see the work being done by United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) for Palestinian shopkeepers. Next, visit the **Settler Museum** and have a conversation with a **Hebron Settler**. Meet with a representative of **Breaking the Silence**, an organization of former Israeli soldiers who have given testimony to the demands of their service in the Occupied Territories. From there, visit the **Abraham Mosque and Synagogue**. Have a **group lunch**.

Continue to the **Palestinian Center for Conflict Transformation** with founder and director **Zoughby**. In the evening meet with **Daoud Nasser** from the **Tent of Nations** and have a **home cooked fresh Palestinian meal** for dinner on the Nasser farm. During dinner meet with a representative of **Churches for Middle East peace** to discuss their work in the Holy Land.

Overnight: Homestay [B, L, D]

Day 7: Tues, Nov 1, Bethlehem; 1 MEJDI guide

Learn about **Palestinian refugees** during a morning visit to **Aida Refugee Camp** and the **Alrowwad Center**, whose programming focuses on women and youth. Learn about the villages that were destroyed in 1948 and the significance of the key at the refugee camp's entrance. Then, travel to **Bethlehem Bible College** for coffee and a meeting with a member of the school's Palestinian Christian leadership. For lunch, enjoy a **home-cooked meal and live music by 2-3 Israeli-Palestinian musicians**, hosted at the home of the **Abu Sarah family** in Bethany. Visit with **Sabeel in Beit Hanina**, on the way to the **Galilee** area. Meet with settler **Itamar Cohen** at your hotel.

Overnight: Galilee [B, L, D]



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Day 8: Wed, Nov 2, West Bank Visits; 1 MEJDI guide

Begin the morning in **Capernaum**, the hometown of Jesus. Visit the **ancient synagogue** there to get a glimpse into life at that time. Visit **Jacob's well** and the **Canaan Fair Trade market in Burqin/Jenin**. If time allows, you may also be able to visit the **church in Burqin**. Meet with **Father Elias Chacour** and visit the **school in Ibillin**. Meet with **Jonathan Cook, BBC journalist**. Dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Nablus or Kibbutz in Galilee [B, D]

Day 9: Thurs, Nov 3, Caesarea Maritima and Megiddo; 1 MEJDI guide

Spend the day at the ancient site of **Megiddo** and at **Caesarea** on the Mediterranean Sea. Visit the incredible Herod's fortress, the site where Paul was sent to Rome for trial (Acts 25). Lunch on your own. Say goodbye to the **group** at a **dinner** at your hotel in Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Tel Aviv/Jaffa [B, D]

Day 10: Fri, Nov 4, Departure; No Guide

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your flight home.

[B]