



Shleimut Israel/Palestine Delegation Itinerary

Jewish communities visit Israel/Palestine
through a spiritual and social justice lens

Tuesday June 6 – Wednesday June 14, 2023

Shleimut/Wholeness

Shleimut's Israel/Palestine program supports Jewish communities to approach Israel/Palestine through their own Jewish spiritual and social justice values. Our delegations offer a clear educational process on the realities and complexities of Israel/Palestine through a justice-based, action-oriented lens. Shleimut provides spiritual sustenance and emotional support, including required pre-departure and post-delegation workshops.

Itinerary

Please note that some details are subject to change and speakers will be selected based on availability.

Speakers on our program will include leaders from some of the following organizations: Zochrot; The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants; African Refugee Development Center; Breaking the Silence; B'Tselem; Rabbis for Human Rights; Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; New Israel Fund; Ir Amim - City of Nations; Combatants for Peace; Hebron International Resource Network; Youth Against the Settlements; Holy Land Trust; Tent of Nations; Al-Shabaka; and more.

Tuesday June 6, 2023

What: Arrival; Group Opening Circle at hotel

Where: Tel Aviv/Jaffa

4pm Arrival

5pm Group Opening Circle, Kavanah / Setting intentions

6:30pm Group Dinner

Hotel: Tel Aviv/Jaffa

Wednesday June 7, 2023

What: The History of 1948 – Refugees from Europe & the Founding of the State of Israel / The Nakba & Palestinian Refugees

Where: Tour of Tel Aviv/Jaffa, with Palestinian and Israeli MEJDI-trained guides

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Introduction to our Palestinian and Israeli tour guides

Morning: Guided walking tours of Tel Aviv and Jaffa; meetings with Palestinian citizens of Israel and Jewish Israelis; experience the cities through the lens of the events of 1948 alongside contemporary social, political and economic dynamics

Lunch in Tel Aviv/Jaffa

Afternoon: We will explore the diversity of the Tel Aviv region, focusing on the inequities facing refugees, migrant workers and low-income Israelis.

Group Dinner: Nishmat Hayyim / Taking a breath to close the day

Free Evening in Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv/Jaffa

Thursday June 8, 2023

What: From 1948 to 1967 – Palestinian citizens of Israel's life under military rule / The building of the Israeli nation-state

Where: Northern Israel, with Israeli and Palestinian MEJDI-trained guides

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Travel to the north of Israel in the region of the Galil

Visit to Palestinian communities of Israel: understanding the legacy of the Nakba in the early years of the founding of the State of Israel and creation of Palestinian refugees; life under Israeli military rule in the early years of the state for Palestinians who stayed; contemporary inequities facing Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Lunch at a local Palestinian restaurant

Visit to Jewish Israeli kibbutz: understanding the rise and decline of the socialist kibbutz movement; gain insight into the historic multiple perspectives on Zionism by early Jewish Israelis; learn about life today on kibbutz.

Return to Tel Aviv

Dinner on your own

Optional evening cultural activity

Hotel: Tel Aviv/Jaffa

Friday June 9, 2023

What: 1967. In the aftermath of the Six Day War, the Israeli state gained control of the territories of Gaza (previously under Egyptian rule) and the West Bank (previously under Jordanian rule). We'll explore Jerusalem, its shifting boundaries since 1967, and its religious and political dynamics today.

Where: Jerusalem, with Palestinian and Israeli MEJDI-trained guides

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Check out of Tel Aviv/Jaffa hotel

Drive to Jerusalem

Regional driving and walking tour of East and West Jerusalem, with stops along the Separation Barrier; potential look-out points include Beit Safafa, Sur Baher, Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah, Har Hatzofim overlooking E1 region / Maale Adumim settlement, Beit Hanina, Pisgat Ze'ev settlement, Anata.

Lunch in Jerusalem

Walking tour of the Old City, with stops along the route to visit different neighborhoods and sites of significance in Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. Visits are likely to include the Kotel/Western Wall; Dome of the Rock/Haram Al Sharif; Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and segments of the Via Dolorosa. We will explore the religious significance of each site, the historic 1967 context, and contemporary socio-political dynamics.

Optional: Shabbat services in Jerusalem

Group Shabbat Dinner at the hotel

Hotel: East Jerusalem

Saturday June 10, 2023

What: Shabbat. On the holiest day of our week, we will experience Shabbat as an opportunity to rest, replenish, rejoice. Participants are encouraged to spend the day in alignment with their highest needs, whether that be quiet, down time to decompress; synagogue time to connect with Jewish prayer; a long walk through Jerusalem, or something else. If you would like to visit with friends or family in the region, this is a free day to plan that visit.

Where: Jerusalem

Breakfast at the hotel

Optional Shabbat morning service in Jerusalem

Lunch at the hotel

Afternoon: optional Torah text study; free time; rest

Dinner on your own

Havdalah: The group will come together after dinner to share and reflect about our experiences.

Hotel: East Jerusalem

Sunday June 11, 2023

What: From 1967 to today, the West Bank is under occupation. In the year 2000, Bethlehem, the city recognized by Christianity as the birthplace of Jesus, held the promise and potential to become a mecca for tourism, leading to job creation and an influx of financial support. Instead, the Israeli government built a wall dividing Bethlehem from its historic farm land and isolated it from Jerusalem.

Where: Bethlehem, with Palestinian MEJDI-trained guide

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Check out of Jerusalem hotel.

Drive to Bethlehem. Walk through Checkpoint 300 / Machsom Shlosh-me'ot at Rachel's Tomb. Passports in hand.

Visit the City of Bethlehem: Walking tour of Bethlehem, including the Separation Wall at the Checkpoint, Aida Refugee Camp; the Old City of Bethlehem, Church of Nativity, Mosque of Omar, Bethlehem Peace Center.

Lunch: Afteem. Arguably the best humus and m'sabaha in the region.

Visit the outskirts of Bethlehem to gain an understanding of the impact of the Separation Barrier and settlement expansion on Palestinian villages. Stop in Al Walaja.

Visit Tent of Nations, a Palestinian owned farm surrounded by settlements and persevering to maintain its organic farm and ancestral agricultural practices.

Dinner: Tent of Nations: Nishmat Hayyim / Taking a breath to close the day

Hotel: Bethlehem

Monday June 12, 2023

What: Hebron's most infamous dates are 1929 and 1994, marking the 1929 Hebron Massacre by Palestinians, and the 1994 Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre by Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein.

Where: Hebron and South Hebron Hills, with Palestinian MEJDI-trained guide

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Drive to Hebron.

Walking tour of H1 and H2, regions of the city of Hebron divided to accommodate Israeli settler population living inside this Palestinian city. While most of the West Bank is divided into Areas A, B and C, the presence of Israeli settlers directly inside the city of Hebron led to a different system of military control and administration.

Lunch: South Hebron Hills Palestinian community

Much of the South Hebron Hills is under demolition orders under the Israeli government's justification of designating this land 'Firing Zone 918.' Meet some of the Palestinian leaders and communities who steadfastly resist Israeli home demolitions and harassment by settlers.

Dinner: The Tent in Beit Sahour: Nishmat Hayyim / Taking a breath to close the day

Cultural Event in Bethlehem

Hotel: Bethlehem

Tuesday June 13, 2023

What: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat died in 2004. In the years since, the Palestinian movement for liberation, self-determination and human rights has adopted a multiplicity of strategies and approaches. We'll meet with a rising generation of Palestinian activists striving for equity, justice and dignity. A continued look at the West Bank under Occupation.

Where: Ramallah, with Palestinian MEJDI-trained guide

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Drive out of Bethlehem, walk through Checkpoint 300, drive across Jerusalem to Qalandiya Checkpoint to Ramallah, walk through Qalandiya checkpoint, and drive into the city center of Ramallah.

A driving and walking tour of down Ramallah, including Al Manara Square, Arafat's tomb, and outdoor markets.

Lunch in Ramallah

Afternoon meetings with key leaders and rising stars in the Palestinian liberation movement.

Dinner in Ramallah: Nishmat Hayyim / Taking a breath to close the day

Hotel: Bethlehem

Wednesday June 14, 2023

What: Closing Circle

Breakfast at the hotel: Morning Kavanah / Setting intentions

Group session at the hotel: Closing Circle & Taking It Home. Reflection on the learning we've done. Given our in-depth experiences, beginning to ask: what is our role moving forward, individually and collectively?

Lunch at the hotel

1pm. Drive to Jerusalem for 2pm arrival in Jerusalem.

From Jerusalem, participants transfer on their own to the airport or other destinations.

Safe travels, and thank you for your participation!