

2024 MEJDI Tours - Scheduled Departures Israel & Palestine Dual Narrative[™] Multi-Day Tour (Optional Extensions - see page 5)

2024 Dates:

January 26 - February 2

March 8 - 15

April 12 - 19

May 17 - 24

June 14 - 21

September 13 - 20

October 18 - 25

November 8 - 15

Tour Cost: \$3,595 Per Person // \$830 Single Supplement

Included:

 7 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following 4* boutique hotels or similar; Yam Hotel (Tel Aviv) and Ambassador Boutique Hotel (East Jerusalem)

- 2 MEJDI-trained, English-speaking guides for 6 days: 1 Israeli and 1 Palestinian
- 5 days of private bus transportation
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Entrance fees, site visits, and honorariums for speakers¹
- Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance-REQUIRED
- Single occupancy supplement \$835 per person
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Individual/group airport transfers (arrivals and departures)
- Covid testing
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability



MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences:

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of destinations—the diversity of its people and their stories—in a way that benefits local communities around the world. We specially design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. So you don't just visit new places; you become part of them. These human experiences and how we treat the people you meet are what sets MEJDI apart.

- Enjoy MEJDI's Dual Narrative Tour™, a patented, socially conscious, award-winning approach to travel.
- Guiding in tandem, Israeli and Palestinian guides debate and highlight different political, religious, and historical opinions at each site in an immersive travel experience that takes you behind the doors of mosques, churches, and synagogues, through the halls of Palestinian and Israeli government, into active dig sites, and into the homes of Arab, Jewish, and Druze locals.
- MEJDI's trained guide-facilitators help open a conversation, answer challenging questions, model friendship through respectful dialogue and disagreement, and allow travelers to encounter new voices and perspectives.
- Take a full-day alternative tour of the **Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites** and neighborhoods with your two guides, one Arab and one Jewish.
- Hear stories from **members of a grassroots organization** of Palestinians and Israelis who are working towards peace in the conflict.
- Meet a local activist and chef for a food tour in Old Ramallah and hear about local food, restaurants, and her personal story.
- Hear from a representative of the **Jewish settlement movement**.
- Discuss political and economic challenges in Palestine with a Palestinian business person.
- Enjoy a traditional **home-cooked meal** with a **local Palestinian family** and traditional songs from **local musicians**.

Itinerary:

Day 1 (Friday): Arrival, Tel Aviv (no bus, no guides)

If attending the pre-tour extension, remain at your hotel in Tel Aviv and enjoy the day at leisure.

If arriving for your first day of the trip, transfer to your hotel (on your own). Check in and get ready for your journey starting tomorrow.

Hotel: Tel Aviv



Day 2 (Saturday): Tel Aviv - - Introduction to the Dual Narrative™ (bus, 2 guides)

Meet your Israeli and Palestinian guides, who will explain the Dual Narrative™ perspectives you will hear on the trip. Learn the dual histories of the Arab and Jewish cities, including an explanation of the birth of Tel Aviv and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in Arab Jaffa. Explore the 4,000-year-old history of the area and its transformation through time. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers and guides.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (breakfast & dinner included)

Day 3 (Sunday): Tel Aviv to Ramallah - History from Different Angles (bus, 2 guides)

Begin the morning visiting the **Diaspora Museum** to discuss the history and current state of the Jewish people around the world: their legacy, culture and personal stories. Then, head to **Ramallah** and meet a **local activist and Chef** for a **food tour in Old Ramallah** and hear about local food, restaurants, and her personal story. Later, visit the **Arafat Tomb** and **Museum**. Meet with a **Palestinian Businessman** to discuss political and economic challenges in Palestine. Make your way to Jerusalem for the night.

Hotel: Jerusalem (breakfast & lunch included)

Day 4 (Monday): Bethlehem - Bethlehem and Settlements (bus, 2 guides)

Travel to **Bethlehem** to visit the **Church of the Nativity**, **Manger Square**, and the old city of Bethlehem. There, meet with a **local peacebuilding NGO rep** in Bethlehem. Afterward, see the colorful and **controversial graffiti** on the **Separation Wall**, and visit the **Banksy Museum**. After lunch, head toward one of the settlements in the region to meet with a **representative of the Jewish settlement movement** and hear their perspective.

Hotel: Jerusalem (breakfast included)

Day 5 (Tuesday): Jerusalem - Three Religions, One City (no bus, 2 guides)

Begin the morning with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the **Mount of Olives.** Then, take a full-day alternative tour of the **Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites** and neighborhoods with your two guides, one Arab and one Jewish.

Start by visiting the **Dome of the Rock** and the **Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount**; learn **Islamic** and **Jewish traditions** about the site, as well as local legends and stories. Continue to the **Western Wall** to learn about how it became a worship place and the debates over the site



following the 1967 War. After lunch, walk part of the **Via Dolorosa** towards the **Holy Sepulcher**, where you will learn about the ancient church, its history of disputes and ownership claims, and the modern Christian community in Jerusalem. Hear stories from **members of a grassroots organization of Palestinians and Israelis** who are working towards peace in the conflict.

Hotel: Jerusalem (breakfast included)

Day 6 (Wednesday): Jerusalem - Holocaust Memorial (bus, 2 guides)

Start the day by heading to **Yad Vashem** to learn about the history of the **holocaust** and its impact on the Jewish community and Israel today. Tour **Mt. Hertzel** and **The Ethiopian Memorial.** Then have lunch on your own at **Shuk Machane Yehuda**. Take a free afternoon before regrouping for dinner and engaging in discussion with a **local Jewish religious leader from Jerusalem**.

Hotel: Jerusalem (breakfast & dinner included)

Day 7 (Thursday): Masada, Dead Sea and Jordan River (bus, 2 guides)

Start the day at the fortress of **Masada**. Built by Herod the Great as a refuge, the site was later used by rebels during the Jewish Revolt and became an Israeli national symbol and site for military ceremonies. After, learn about the **Dead Sea Valley's environmental challenges** and enjoy free time to float on the **Dead Sea**. Then, head back to your hotel to rest before dinner. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional **home-cooked meal** with a **local Palestinian family** and traditional songs from **local musicians**.

Hotel: Jerusalem (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)

Day 8 (Friday): Departure (no bus, no guides)

Check out of your hotel and transfer on your own to the airport. Or, continue on the post-tour extension to Jordan.

(breakfast included)



2024 Optional Extensions

- 1. Pre-trip Northern Israel Extension Tour (2 days prior)
- 2. Post-trip Jordan Extension Tour (4 days after) see page 8





Arrive early to get an additional glimpse of the Israeli/Palestinian terrain. This pre-tour extension will expose you to the beauty, the religious history, and the geopolitics of this land.

- Begin your tour in the picturesque lakeside town of Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee/Lake Kinneret, where you'll learn about the Jewish and Christian histories of the area.
- Continue up into the **Golan Heights** to learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at **Mount Bental** overlooking the Valley of Tears.
- Travel to Nazareth for a tour of the White Mosque and Church of the Annunciation.
 Then make a quick stop to view the Bahai Gardens in Haifa on your way to a local
 Druze family for lunch. Spend the afternoon in Herod's port city of Caesarea
 Maritima, where you'll tour the ruins, learn about the area's old Bosnian Muslim
 community and Crusader history, and enjoy the ocean breezes along the beach. End
 the tour at your hotel in Tel Aviv, where you will meet up with your fellow travelers to
 bring the full Dual-Narrative Tour to an end.



2024 Dates:

January 24-26

March 6-8

April 10-12

May 15-17

June 12-14

September 11-13

October 16-18

November 6-8

Extension Cost: \$1,240 Per Person // \$255 Single Supplement

Included:

- 2 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotel or similar: <u>Bay View</u> (Haifa) and <u>Kibbutz Lavi Guesthouse</u> (Galilee)
- 1 MEJDI-trained, English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 2 days of private transportation
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- Entrance fees and site visits
- Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance Recommended
- Single supplement costs \$255 per person
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Individual/group airport transfers (arrivals and departures)
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Northern Israel Extension Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival (1 group transfer)

Arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport, meet your driver, and head to your hotel in Haifa. Check in and get ready for your journey starting tomorrow.

Hotel: Haifa



Day 2: Galilee and Golan Heights (guide/driver)

Begin your tour in the picturesque lakeside town of **Tiberias** on the **Sea of Galilee/Lake Kinneret**. Learn about the Jewish and Christian histories of the area, and visit the graves of the famous rabbis buried there. Passing by the **Mount of Beatitudes**, continue up into the **Golan Heights** to learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at **Mount Bental** overlooking the **Valley of Tears**. Return to **Galilee** for the evening.

Hotel: Galilee (breakfast & dinner included)

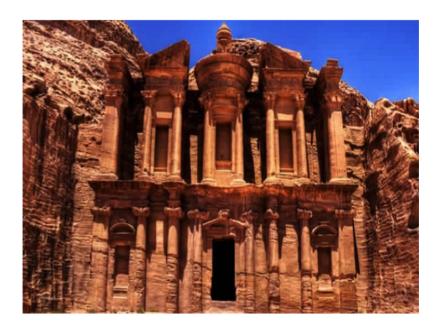
Day 3: Nazareth and Caesarea Maritima (guide/driver)

Travel to **Nazareth** for a tour of the **White Mosque** and **Church of the Annunciation**. Then, make a quick stop to view the **Bahai Gardens** in Haifa on your way to a **local Druze family** for lunch. Continuing south, spend the afternoon in Herod's port city of **Caesarea Maritima**. There, tour the ruins, learn about the area's old Bosnian Muslim community and Crusader history, and enjoy the ocean breezes along the beach. End the day at your hotel in **Tel Aviv**, where you will meet with your fellow travelers for the main tour.

Hotel: With Main Trip (breakfast & lunch included)



2024 POST-TRIP JORDAN EXTENSION TOUR



Explore the wild beauty of the Arabian Peninsula with MEJDI's add-on to **Petra, Wadi Rum, and Jerash**. This tour is the perfect combination of relaxation, education, and adventure. With only a few extra days, you can:

- Experience traditional Arabian desert life in the valleys of Wadi Rum. Share coffee with bedouins, see camels in their natural habitat, and view rock inscriptions (ancient and modern) left by local tribes.
- Give back and help bring positive change to the Middle East by meeting with **Syrian** refugees in Jerash. Learn first-hand about the conflict in Syria, ask questions, and hear how the war has taken a toll on countries like Lebanon and Jordan, and on everyday Syrian families. This is an experience exclusive to MEJDI.
- Check off your bucket list the impressive and monumental ruins of **Jerash**, the best-preserved Roman city in the Arab Middle East following the destruction of Palmyra.
- Put on your cowboy hat (or fedora) and explore the ancient Nabatean city of Petra!
 Walk through wind-swept sandstone valleys with stunning rock striations, and discover the echoing chambers of ancient tombs. The more adventurous can ride a horse or a donkey through the valleys of this famous "Indiana Jones" filming site.



2024 Dates:

Feb 2-5

March 15-18

April 19-22

May 24-27

June 21-24

September 20-23

October 25-28

November 15-18

Extension Cost: \$1,390 Per Person // \$240 Single Supplement

Included:

- 3 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar; <u>Hayat Zaman Hotel</u> (Petra), <u>Mena Tyche Hotel</u> (Amman)
- 1 MEJDI-trained, English-speaking guide for 3 days
- 4 days of private bus transportation including group airport/border transfers
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- Water on the bus throughout the tour
- Collective visa and departure fees
- 1-way flight Tel Aviv Ramon (Eilat)
- Entrance fees, site visits, and honorariums for speakers²
- Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance- REQUIRED
- Single occupancy supplement \$190 per person
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Individual/group airport transfers (arrivals and departures)
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Jordan Extension Itinerary:

Day 1: Crossing to Jordan - Wadi Rum (guide/driver)

Check out of your Jerusalem hotel and meet your driver for a transfer to the airport in Tel Aviv. Fly to Eilat, Israel's southernmost city, where you will transfer to the Israel/Jordan border. Cross the border (we'll provide detailed guidance), meet your Jordanian guide, and

² Subject to confirmation based on availability



make your way south to explore the lunar-like landscape of **Wadi Rum**, where T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) stayed with Bedouin friends and allies during World War I. Discover epic sand dunes and rose-tinted mountains where Bedouin tribes still make camp. Make your way to **Petra** for the night, located just a few steps from this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Hotel: Petra (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)

Day 2: Petra

Spend a full day exploring **Petra**, the legendary city of the Nabataean people. Hidden in deep canyons south of the Dead Sea, this remarkable site was founded more than 2,400 years ago. Enter the ancient city through its primary entrance, known as the Siq, a narrow chasm between naturally sculpted cliffs. This passageway, which could have been easily defended against attack by an invading army, ends at the glorious sight of the world-famous Treasury. Go on a guided visit to the expansive site where hundreds of monuments were rediscovered only in 1812. Then enjoy time on your own to explore the Royal Tombs or the Monastery.

Hotel: Petra (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)

Day 3: Jerash/Amman

This morning, travel north on the historic King's Highway and visit one of the best-preserved cities of the Roman Empire, **Jerash**, called the "Pompeii of the Middle East." Step back in time as you explore the colonnaded streets, visiting the South Theater, the Temple of Artemis, and the ornate Nymphaeum. Later, continue to Jordan's capital, **Amman**, a modern and culturally diverse city steeped in an ancient past. Meet with a **local refugee**, and then enjoy time exploring this fascinating city before gathering for a **farewell dinner**.

Hotel: Amman (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)

Day 4: Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

(Breakfast included)