



MEJDI TOURS

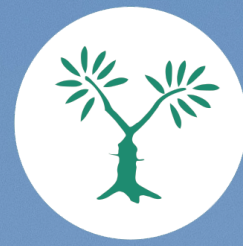
A Tour Company for a Better World



An Introduction to MEJDI Tours

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The MEJDI Difference



DUAL NARRATIVE

There's more than one side to every story. Our innovative multi-narrative approach exposes travelers to the complexity of local history and culture, offering a nuanced understanding of each destination.

AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

From home cooked meals to engagements with local artists and youth, genuine encounters foster appreciation for different ways of life. Rather than sell a destination, the MEJDI invites travelers to become a part of it.



VALUES-BASED TRAVEL

"Mejdi" - meaning both "honor" and "respect" in Arabic - is our guiding principle. MEJDI prioritizes respect for local host communities while reflecting the values of our diverse groups of travelers.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Decades of relationship building around the world means behind-the-scenes access to key sites, community leaders and local experts.



TRUSTED & FEATURED BY:

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
EXPEDITIONS

Smithsonian
MAGAZINE

TED

The New York Times

Certified
B
Corporation



Expertise & Customization

MEJDI's carefully curated educational travel experiences are differentiated by commitment to authenticity, educational depth, extraordinary customer service, and superior destination knowledge.

GUIDE EDUCATORS & LOCAL EXPERTS

Our guides are premier educators and facilitators capable of bringing their destinations to life. Clients note that: "The tour leaders' commitment to cultural education and awareness is truly beyond compare."



CUSTOMIZABLE & EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

With deep global roots, MEJDI offers access to unique voices and unlikely experiences at each destination. Itineraries are adapted collaboratively to meet our partners' educational goals.



SAFETY & SECURITY PROTOCOLS

With relationships in government, contacts in international agencies, and unparalleled local expertise, MEJDI goes above and beyond to keep travelers safe and secure.



PRE-TOUR EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

MEJDI Tours begin before take-off and continue after travelers return home. Virtual education offerings and enrichment opportunities inspire continued engagement with their destination and institution.





MEJDI TOURS

Featured Destinations and Educational Themes



Educational Themes and Focus Areas

Agriculture & Food Production

Ancient Civilizations

Art, Music & Cinema

Business & Economic Development

Conflict & Reconciliation

Conservation & Biodiversity

Engineering & Technology

Healthcare & Human Services

Political Science & Government

Religious & Cultural Studies

Israel & Palestine:
Landmark Destination
(all educational categories available)

Other MEJDI Destinations
(see full list below)
(custom itineraries available in all destinations)

MEJDI Custom Program Features

- GUIDE EDUCATORS, LOCAL EXPERTS AND LEADERS
- EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO UNIQUE SITES AND VOICES
- SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES
- PRE-TRIP RESOURCES AND LEADER TOOLS
- DEDICATED TRAVELER SERVICES LIAISON
- SAFETY & SECURITY PROTOCOLS

OTHER DESTINATIONS

- 1 Israel/Palestine & Jordan
- 2 UAE
- 3 UK (N. Ireland) & Ireland
- 4 Australia & New Zealand
- 5 Argentina
- 6 Chile
- 7 Costa Rica
- 8 Peru
- 9 Tanzania (Safari)
- 10 USA (NYC, Civil Rights, Southwest, Washington, DC)
- 11 Japan
- 12 Vietnam



Socially Conscious Experiences

“MEJDI Exclusive”

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of each destination - the diversity of its people and their stories - in a way that benefits communities around the world.

Deliberate itinerary design, meant to immerse travelers in the local experience, and to demonstrate utmost respect for our hosts, is what sets MEJDI apart.

FEATURED EXPERIENCES:

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Over 20+ Destinations Available



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

THE BALKANS: LAND OF BLOOD & HONEY

Explore the Land of Blood & Honey in dual perspective, with both a Serbian and a Bosnian guide on board. Experience Belgrade, Serbia's capital, built at the confluence of rivers, and holding over 2,000 years of history within its city limits. Meet with both combatants and survivors of recent conflicts for their first-hand accounts of a tumultuous past. Explore Sarajevo with a renowned local photo journalist and visit picturesque Mostar, a medieval town on the banks of the Neretva River. Reach the fortified town of Dubrovnik on Croatia's Adriatic Coast for stunning views and discussion with local creators.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- "Dual Narrative" experience led by both a Serbian and a Bosnian guide
- Exclusive meeting with a decorated Serbian general now devoted to coexistence
- Discussion with an award-winning writer on Belgrade's current political climate
- Photojournalist presentation on life in Bosnia and Herzegovina before and after the war
- Meet an economics expert to discuss indicators for the Balkan countries on path towards the EU



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Serbia

Welcome to Belgrade! Your Balkans adventure begins with an important welcome meeting and a festive group dinner.

Day 2: Belgrade Old Town

Explore a city rich in history from Roman times to Austrian occupation. See the striking architecture along Belgrade's Knez-Mihailova Street and visit the Belgrade Fortress for insight into a diverse civilization. Meet with a local journalist to discuss the impact of Belgrade's past conflicts on its present political and socio-economic landscape.

Itinerary, continued

Day 3: The History of Yugoslavia

Explore Yugoslavia's history in Zemun, a charming part of Belgrade with Habsburg influences. Visit a WWII memorial, delve into the Museum of Yugoslavia, and trace the Kingdom from earlier histories through the Socialist era until today. Hear divergent perspectives on the life and legacy of former revolutionary and statesman, Josip Broz Tito, upon visiting his gravesite.



Day 4: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Meet with an expert on the Serbian Revolution to recount the overthrow of Slobodan Milošević before heading to the airport for your flight to Sarajevo. A city walking tour upon arrival illuminates the Ottoman and Austrian quarters, and why Sarajevo is called the European Jerusalem. Later, a world-renowned Bosnian photojournalist will present on the city's siege and post-war daily life.

Day 5: The City Then & Now

Visit an ancient Jewish Cemetery near the frontline of the 1992 conflict. In an exclusive meeting with a Serbian general who supported the Bosnians, learn about his change of attitude and post-war efforts with the Education Builds Bosnia organization. Take a gondola to the mountains for a scenic view of Sarajevo, followed by discussion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's current affairs.

Day 6: Remembering a Troubled Past

Visit the National Museum of Sarajevo, showcasing a rich national history. An impressive collection includes Greek pottery, Roman mosaics, and the renowned Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest such manuscripts in the world. Bear witness to an exhibit on the Srebrenica massacre and meet a curator who lost members of his family in this tragedy. Meet a descendant of Josip Broz Tito, former President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to discuss his complex life and legacy.

Day 7: Bridges of Mostar

Leave Sarajevo for the city of Mostar in Herzegovina, stopping in Konjic to explore its once top-secret nuclear bunker. Tour Mostar's historic old city including an iconic UNESCO Heritage Site, the single arch bridge over the Neretva River. Gain insights into the city's diverse history as a "mixed city" of Orthodox Christians, Catholics and Muslims. Visit local places of worship and climb a minaret for a spectacular view. A longtime local resident will join you for dinner.

Day 8: The Neretva River + Cooking Class

This morning, explore town on your own or enjoy a light 2 hour rafting trip (good for beginners) for a new perspective on Mostar's famous bridge. Then discover Bosnia-Herzegovinian cuisine and learn to cook regional dishes under the guidance of a local chef.

Day 9: Beyond the Walls of Dubrovnik

Transfer to Dubrovnik, a port city listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its renowned medieval history and striking Old City walls. Explore a captivating blend of history and natural beauty on a walking tour covering the city's resilience following brutal siege in the early '90s and fame as a filming location for the television hit Game of Thrones. In addition to stops at city highlights, visit the gallery of a prominent international photojournalist to hear tales of his travels, work, and daily life in Croatia.

Day 10: Elaphiti Islands

Take a boat ride to nearby islands, soaking in the sights of bright blue sea surrounded by stunning beaches. Explore the rich history of well-traveled waterways, swimming and snorkeling in and around the natural sea caves and walking winding island trails. Return to the mainland for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Join the group for a festive farewell dinner this evening.





MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

CENTRAL EUROPE IN FOCUS

Study Central Europe as a robust global region made up of distinct national destinations. Stop at historical landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Prague's Old Town Square and the Hungarian Parliament building, delighting in their medieval charm and prominent part in making history. Get to know Poland as an emerging continental actor and pass bucolic landscapes throughout the European journey. Revisit moments of conflict and humanitarian tragedy, learning from leaders in business and civil society about building bridges today.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Meet the executive of an international company based in Germany
- Medical clinic site visits to compare healthcare infrastructure and delivery
- Panel discussion with scientists and engineers
- Local students salon covering between national and pan-European identity
- Visit a refugee center to learn about crisis response in a local context
- See how an airport complex functions from the inside



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Berlin

Transfer from the airport to Berlin, a city poised at the cutting edge of European culture. Your adventure begins with an orientation and festive group dinner.

Day 2: Berlin

See Checkpoint Charlie and visit the Topography of Terror Museum, on the site of old SS and Gestapo headquarters. Stop by Brandenburg Gate and explore the "Road Not Taken" at the German History Museum to reconsider decisive moments in history. Learn about Germany's division at the Stasi Museum and meet a leading historian to discuss how technological innovation was applied historically for both the benefit and tragic detriment of society.

Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Potsdam and Sanssouci

After meeting an executive from a major global company, travel to the magnificent Sanssouci Palace, the former summer residence of Frederick the Great.. Continue to Potsdam's historic city center and visit a world renowned medical clinic that demonstrating a unique approach to patient care.



Day 4: Dresden | Prague

Stop in Dresden en route to Prague, beginning with a walk through the cobbled streets of Mala Strana to the Old Town Square. Observe the stunning architecture of the "City of One Hundred Spires" and meet with a representative of the Czech professional association for scientists to hear about recent contributions to the broader Central European eco-system.

Day 5: On to Poland

Stop at a small-scale electronics manufacturer or global exporter to appreciate how geographic location in the center of the continent has propelled Czech efficiency in the field. Travel by train or bus to Krakow.

Day 6: Kraków

Take a walking tour of Nowa Huta – a former communist town turned eastern Quarter of Krakow. Continue to the remarkable Old Town to visit Rynek (main square), one of the oldest and most recognizable medieval plazas in Europe. Stop at the Renaissance period Cloth Hall and walk through the Jewish quarter. In the afternoon, tour the airport complex to learn how business partnered with the municipal government to overhaul its major transportation hub.

Day 7: Salt Mines & Rzeszów

In the morning, visit the Salt mines just south of Krakow dating to the 13th century. Head east towards the town of Rzeszow to learn about how a smaller city has proactively maintained peace following an influx of refugees from the war in Ukraine. Hear stories from the local refugee community and learn how Poland addresses a continuing crisis.

Day 8: Košice

Continue to the Slovakian city of Košice, arriving in the beautiful Old Town including St. Elisabeth's Cathedral and Jakab Palace. Discuss the process of peaceful separation between Slovakia and the Czech Republic (later Czechia) in 1993. Over dinner, meet with a local school official to discuss how financial and science education factors in their curriculum.

Day 9: Hungary

Travel by train to Budapest in the morning. Explore the Buda Castle District. Later, visit a medical tourism facility, a growing economic phenomenon providing care such as dentistry and cosmetics to a global clientele.

Day 10: Budapest

Meet with a civil society leader to discuss political trends and changing public discourse before heading into town to the famous building of the Hungarian Parliament. Continue to the Monument of Shoes on the Danube Bank and see the Museum of Terror. Enjoy a cooking workshop presented by a local chef for lunch. After time to explore on your own, gather for a festive dinner.



Day 11: Departure or Extension Tour to Vienna

Optional trip extension to Vienna features iconic landmarks and architectural marvels such as Schönbrunn Palace, the Vienna State Opera and Hofburg Palace.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

Inside Colombia: A Multi-Narrative Adventure

Delve into Colombia's complex past and its ongoing transformation on an exploration of the country's diverse culture, history and ecology. Hear stories from those recently engaged in conflict, now building towards a brighter future. Check out the barrio of Bogota, canoe the mangrove channels of Cienaga de la Virgen and explore the Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve, discovering the local peoples' longstanding commitment to protecting their sacred mountain ecosystem.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Learn about sustainable food and coffee production
- Immerse in the stunning landscapes of the Guiana Shield and Tayrona National Park
- Hike along winding mountain trails to majestic waterfalls and unique rock formations
- Visit a former FARC guerilla camp to learn how conflict shaped local communities
- Meet fishermen in the natural mangrove channels of Cienaga de la Virgen.
- Visit the Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve to learn about the centuries-old initiative of Colombia's indigenous peoples to protect their sacred mountain ecosystem.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Bogotá

Welcome to Bogotá! Your Colombian adventure begins with an orientation meeting and festive group dinner. If planning to arrive early, we're happy to arrange accommodation.

Day 2: Barrio Egipto

Visit the once perilous neighborhood of Barrio Egipto where ex-gang members offer first hand accounts of the transformative impact of university-sponsored training in tourism and guiding. After lunch with Madres de La Candelaria, an organization for victims of Colombia's prolonged violence, experience the traditional Colombian sport of Tejo blending history, beer, and exploding targets.

Itinerary, continued

Day 3: El Cañón del Güejar

This morning, visit a former war zone in El Cañón del Güejar, southern Colombia, an area completely off-limits to visitors prior to the peace agreement of 2016. Enjoy an easy rafting trip down the Guejar River before returning to your lodge for the evening.



Day 4: Jungle, Former FARC Camp, & Acantilados

Walk the mountain jungles of a former FARC hideout and relax at the base of cascading waterfalls. After lunch, visit a former guerrilla camp and learn about the complex history of the FARC. Hike to Acantilados and marvel at the unique geology of the Guiana Shield, a 1.7 billion-year-old Precambrian geological formation and protected area known for its plant and animal diversity, and unique rock formations.

Day 5: La Palma y El Tucán Coffee Experience

Make your way to La Palma y El Tucan, a coffee farm nestled among steep mountains and dense forests that supports the fair trade practices and eco-farming of the neighboring coffee-growing communities. A local barista will show you around the farm and explain the "most expensive" coffee in Colombia.

Day 6: Cartagena

Conclude your coffee experience and transfer to the airport for your flight to Cartagena. Settle in to your hotel upon arrival, then set out on a walking tour through Getsemani and the Old City of Cartagena. Observe the juxtaposition of the hip and lively neighborhood of Holy Trinity Square set against the Old City.

Day 7: Ciénaga de la Virgen

Take a Canoe trip through the lagoons of a remote fishing village in Cienaga de la Virgen, a lesser-known gem for bird-watching and rich cultural experiences. Hear first-hand stories from the local fishermen while they navigate intricate natural channels formed by the mangrove forest and its exuberant biodiversity. Enjoy lunch and an ancestral drum workshop at La Boquilla beach.

Day 8: Cartagena - Tayrona National Park

Drive up Colombia's Caribbean coast from Cartagena to Tayrona National Park, a large protected area covering the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta as they reach the coastline, known for its palm-shaded coves, coastal lagoons, and vibrant rainforest. Stop for lunch with views of stunning seaside scenery.

Day 9: Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve

Visit the Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve today to learn about how the local community of indigenous peoples relate to the ancient Tayrona civilization. Reflect on the tribe's centuries-old initiative to protect their sacred mountain ecosystem in the valleys of the Palomino, Don Diego, San Miguel, and Ancho rivers, as you hear residents describe the history and daily life in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Day 10: Don Diego River

Today's relaxing tubing adventure on the Don Diego River glides down the smooth waterway, inspiring wonder at the surrounding jungle. Hear the calls of howler monkeys and birds as the river meets the sea.



Departure or Extension in Medellin

Depart early this morning for your flight home or extension in the bustling metropolis of Medellin.

Optional trip extension in the bustling metropolis of Medellin or "City of Eternal Spring," the capital of Colombia's mountainous Antioquia province.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Traditions of Rhodes

Fly to Rhodes to see its striking wild flowers, herbs and birds rarely seen. The island offers arable land for cultivation of citrus, fruits, wine grapes and olives. Meet a young entrepreneur who applies traditional land use practices to modern conservation, then visit a medieval residence and building of the Knights of St. John.



Day 4: Welcome to Athens

Continue to Athens for a full day of guided visits to the famous Acropolis and Mars Hill. Enjoy a delicious lunch with an expert in Greek Philosophy or local journalist who specializes in Greek national politics. Explore the cobblestone streets of the Plaka neighborhood in the afternoon.

Day 5: Road to Delphi

Drive through Thebes, Levadia and Arachova, known for its colorful handwoven rugs and crafts. Arrive in Delphi, the ancient sanctuary of Apollo where Pythia delivered prophecies respected all over the ancient world. Visit the Museum housing the bronze statue of Charioteer, one of the masterpieces of ancient Greek art, then proceed through the sacred way including the Temple of Apollo and its surroundings.

Day 6: Lessons in Greek Health

Spend the morning with a team of emergency responders based in Athens, for another window into the local healthcare system. Learn about innovation in disease control and how lessons learned in the “Blue Zones” are applied to an urban context. Depart to Crete in the afternoon, arriving in time for an evening at leisure.

Day 7: Chania Old Town

Stroll through the maze-like alleys of Chania's Old Town, admire Venetian architecture, and explore vestiges of various historical occupations. Meet with a local fashion designer over lunch, visit the Chania Archaeological Museum, then transfer to nearby Rethymno.

Day 8: Agriculture and Municipalities

Experience the traditional farming methods of an organic farm, Gain insight into Crete's food production and gather fresh vegetables for lunch amidst olive groves. Return to Rethymno for a guided tour of its Medieval town, followed by dinner with a Cretan official of Culture and Tourism.

Day 9: Santorini - Athens

Ferry from Crete to Santorini to visit Oia, learning about local seafaring history and taking in views of whitewashed houses carved into clifftops. From Fira, gaze over the still active volcanic island of Nea Kameni before visiting the Museum of Prehistoric Thira. Head to the airport for your flight to Athens.



Day 10: Departure or Extension tour to Turkey

Transfer to the airport and depart for home today or continue with an extension tour to Turkey.

Optional trip extension to Istanbul, Turkey exploring its rich history, culture and exchange with Greek neighbors.. Visit landmarks such as the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and Grand Bazaar.

GREECE: FROM ANCIENT TO CONTEMPORARY

Experience the beauty, flavor and cultures of Greece from a local's perspective. Absorb dramatic views of the Aegean Sea, study the birth of an ancient civilization, and meet distinctive communities from across the mainland and stunning Greek Isles. Appreciate the unique cultures of Thessaloniki, Rhodes and Crete, and feel the gravity of urban Athens set against the backdrop of iconic sites like the Acropolis. Learn about land conservation, local healthcare, religious traditions and more.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Hands-on farming experience highlighting organic technique
- Ride-along experience with local healthcare professionals
- Expert presentation on the connection between Ancient Greece and contemporary national politics
- Introduction to “Blue Zones” and factors contributing to longevity
- Private gallery visit hosted by leading fashion designer
- Mini-hike exploring both land and sea conservation issues



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Greece

Welcome! Your adventure in Greece begins with an important welcome meeting and a festive group dinner.

Day 2: Thessaloniki Landing

Take a multi-perspective tour of the city covering ancient periods, the Ottoman era, and radical movements of the early 20th century. Pass through neighborhoods known for their unique heritage and evolving demographic realities and discuss religious diversity in northern Greece. Visit an urgent care center for a glimpse into the local healthcare field.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

Dual Narrative Tour of Israel and Palestine

Featured by TED, National Geographic, Smithsonian Magazine, the United Nations, and the New York Times - **MEJDI's industry-first "Dual Narrative Tour"** brings you through the Holy Land with two expert guide-educators: one Israeli and one Palestinian.

Explore Tel Aviv, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem to uncover their rich history, culture, and contemporary complexities through inclusive dialogue. Benefit from our co-founder's Jerusalem upbringing, engaging in intimate discussions with local leaders, peacebuilders, and prominent organizations. Hear personal stories from residents, share meals with families, and savor private music performances for an enriched experience.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.

All Educational Categories Available

- Exclusive access to mosques, churches, and synagogues, Arab and Jewish family homes
- Open conversation and answers to challenging questions from guides modeling friendship through respectful dialogue
- Full day alternative tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites
- Stories from grassroots organizations of Palestinians and Israelis working towards peace
- Palestinian business executive discusses changing economic realities
- Home-cooked meals and traditional live music



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Tel Aviv

Welcome to Tel Aviv! Land at Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport or pass the Allenby Crossing from Jordan and transfer to your hotel. Check in and prepare for your journey to begin in the morning.

Day 2: Tel Aviv - Introduction to the Dual Narrative™

Meet your Israeli and Palestinian guides for an introduction to the Dual Narrative™ framework that will shape this experience. Hear different stories of the evolution of Jaffa from an ancient port to a "mixed" city today and track the birth of Tel Aviv, understanding both Arab and Jewish perspectives on this transformation. Explore the 4,000-year-old history of the area and enjoy a festive welcome dinner.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Ramallah, de facto capital

Visit the ANU Museum in the morning to trace the history of the Jewish people around the world. Depart Tel Aviv for Ramallah, arriving in time for an Old Town food tour with a local chef featuring classic Levantine flavors. Continue to the Arafat Tomb and Museum to review the complex legacy of a Palestinian leader and meet a local entrepreneur to discuss political and economic challenges in Palestine.



Day 4: Bethlehem & Settlement Bloc

Enter the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, then stand in Manger Square and before meeting a civil society leader working to build a better future in the Holy Land. See the colorful graffiti murals along the controversial Separation Wall and browse the Banksy Museum inside the Walled Off Hotel. After lunch, visit one of the Israeli settlements nearby to hear their perspectives on the land and the conflict.

Day 5: Jerusalem - City of Three Faiths

View Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives to open a full day alternative tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim neighborhoods and holy sites. Start beside the Dome of the Rock, hearing of the site's significance and prominence within both Israeli and Palestinian national narratives. Continue to the Western Wall to feel spiritual energy of Jewish anticipation and recall how the site was transformed after the 1967 war. Walk along the Via Dolorosa towards the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and browse the bustling thoroughfares of the Muslim Quarter.

Day 6: Memorials and Markets

Visit Yad Vashem to learn about the Holocaust and its continuing relevance for Israeli self-understanding today. Traverse the walkways of the cemetery on Mt. Herzl and pass the Ethiopian Memorial remembering thousands lost on their overland journey to Israel. Spend time at the famous Machane Yehuda market in the afternoon. Over dinner, hear Jerusalem religious leaders speak about their visions for a city that is inclusive of all faith communities.

Day 7: Masada, Dead Sea and Jordan River

Head to Masada, riding the cable car to Herod's desert fortress turned refuge from the Roman siege on Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Learn about efforts to address environmental challenges at the Dead Sea before floating effortlessly along the salty beaches at the "lowest point in the world." Head back to Jerusalem to rest before a home-cooked dinner with a local family accompanied by traditional song and dance.

Day 8: Departure or Optional Jordan Extension Tour

Check out of your hotel and make your way home or, continue on the post-tour extension to Jordan



OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR TO THE GALILEE

Stop at the remarkable archaeological park of Caesarea Maritima, take in views from the Golan Heights into Syria, and visit the White Mosque and Church of Annunciation in Nazareth. Touch the waters of the Sea of Galilee and see the Bahai Gardens of Haifa from above.

OPTIONAL JORDAN EXTENSION TOUR

Explore the wild beauty of the Arabian Peninsula with MEJDI's add-on to Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerash and Amman. Share coffee with Bedouin hosts in Wadi Rum, venture into an ancient Nabatean city, and see the monumental ruins of the best-preserved Roman city in the Arab Middle East. Meet with Syrian refugees for firsthand insight into how the impact of conflict extends throughout the region.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

DISCOVER MOROCCO

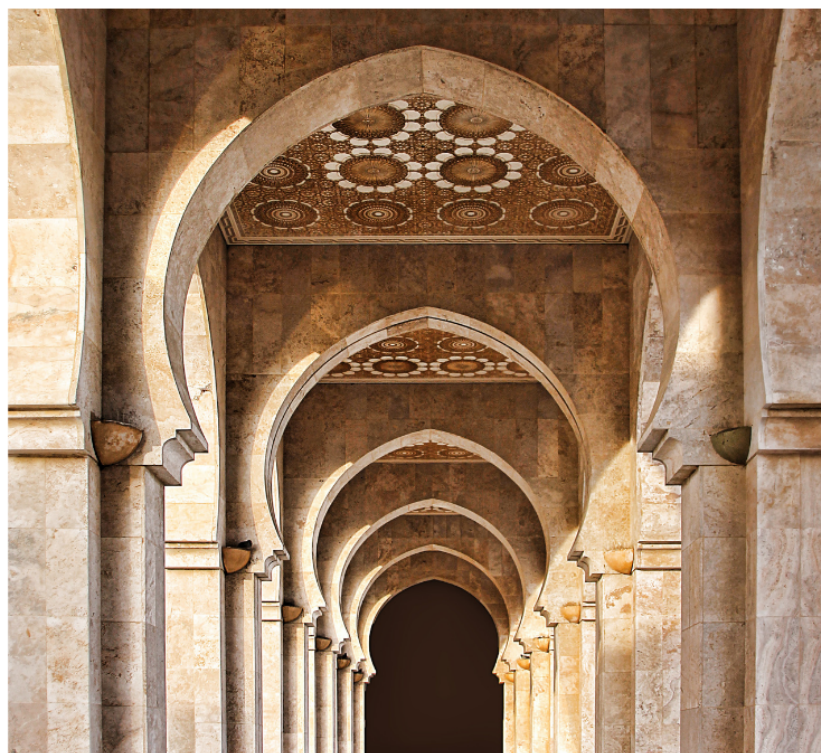
Immerse in Morocco's rich cultural history and centuries-old traditions. Step inside stunning and significant venues, moving from city markets to quiet sanctuaries, and from the mountains to the desert. Share meals with Moroccan families, enjoy private cultural performances, and hear about current affairs from leaders of local organizations, religious communities, and newsrooms. Gain behind-the-scenes access to historic sites in Marrakech and Fes, absorbing both remarkable views and illuminating narratives of an inspiring Moroccan landscape.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Hands-on culinary experience led by a local family in the Atlas Mountains.
- Exclusive Hadra Sufi show with local female musicians and performers
- Explore Moroccan affairs with leading academics, civil society leaders, and storytellers.
- Traditional live music in Fes
- Meet an Amazigh movie maker and visit the Atlas Film Studios in Ouarzazate
- Tour the Jewish Museum with its head curator or join a synagogue ceremony
- Catch a beautiful sunset while glamping in the Sahara Desert.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Marrakech

Welcome to Marrakech! Your Moroccan adventure begins with an important orientation and festive group dinner. If planning to arrive early, we can arrange accommodation.

Day 2: Marrakech, Old City

Set off for the Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to visit ancient quarter sites including Madrasa Ben Youssef, formerly the largest Islamic college in Marrakech, and see Bahia Palace, a late 19th-century palace built by a powerful Grand Vizier of Sultan Hassan I. Continue to Mellah, the Jewish Quarter, and stop by the synagogue for a conversation with community leadership. In the evening, enjoy a private Hadra Sufi show with local female musicians.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Palaces and Tombs

Begin the day at the 16th-century Badia Palace and the Saadian tombs. Over lunch, meet a local storyteller—a vocation that thrived in Morocco until the 20th century. Learn how a traditional pastime has remained a relevant part of a changing cultural landscape. Continue to the Majorelle Garden and the Berber Museum in the afternoon.



Day 4: Atlas Mountains and Ouarzazate

Learn about daily life in a small Berber town in the Atlas Mountains before a hands-on culinary workshop offered by members of the local community. After exploring the secrets of Moroccan cuisine, enjoy lunch together with your hosts. In the afternoon, hike or ride a mule across the mountainscape for breathtaking views.

Day 5: Aït Benhaddou

Delve into Moroccan filmmaking at the Atlas Studios in Ouarzazate. Continue to Aït Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see a remarkable panorama of earthen construction and learn about how these techniques inform contemporary innovation. Head back to Marrakech and conclude the day in conversation with a celebrated movie maker or local official.

Day 6: Casablanca

Drive to Casablanca in the morning to visit the famous Hassan II Mosque and check out the traditional hammam. Take a short city tour and meet a leading curator at the Jewish Museum. Hear from a civil society leader and journalist over dinner before heading to the airport to catch a one hour flight to the Sahara Desert.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TOUR: See the blue-washed town of Chefchaouen, coastal Tangier, and capital Rabat.

Day 7: Erfoud and The Sahara Desert

Explore Erfoud and its surroundings, including the Maadid Palace and one of the region's stunning oases. Learn about the contours and characteristics of the Sahara before reaching your tented camp in the dunes of Merzouga. Enjoy a camel ride and watch the sun set over the desert expanse before dinner and a drum circle by the campfire. Watch for breathtaking views of the star-filled night sky.

Day 8: Journey to Fes

After sunrise and an early morning spent reveling in the desertscape, begin your overland trip to Fes, stopping along the way for lunch on your own and three stunning photo ops. Check out Ifrane, a region known as the Switzerland of Morocco.

Day 9: Old Medina

Enter the religious capital of the Kingdom of Morocco and traverse the largest medina in North Africa, with over 9,000 tiny streets and alleys rich in color, scents, mosaic tiles, mosques, and courtyard. Visit the Mellah (Jewish Quarter), where the community once traced its lineage to the period following the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Stop in the old tanneries, Al-Attarine Madrasa, the craftspeople quarters, and the Marinid Tombs, before meeting a local professor to delve further into local history.

Day 10: Maknes, an Imperial City

Spend the day in the Imperial City of Maknes, stopping en route at the impressive Roman archaeological site of Volubilis. Explore the Medina, founded as a military settlement in the 11th century, and Bab-el-Mansour, the main ceremonial entrance to the Kasbah of Sultan Moulay Isma'il. Note the beautifully preserved green and white zellij tiles, marble columns, and Koran inscriptions before continuing to the Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail. Have your farewell dinner at a private home, accompanied by live traditional Moroccan music.





A Dual Narrative Tour of Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland conveys a deep history of conflict and remains an active site of reconciliation. This tour features both a Catholic and a Protestant tour guide working in tandem to convey their unique interpretations of history and current events. Travelers explore a stunning landscape while meeting with local leaders between Belfast and Derry/Londonderry including journalists, politicians, artists and analysts. This incomparable experience offers insight into how peace was achieved, and how it is sustained today.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.

- Explore Northern Ireland with Catholic and Protestant tour guides.
- Meet local journalists and leaders from different political traditions
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Giant’s Causeway
- Learn about the Good Friday agreement from a conflict resolution expert
- Browse the Titanic Museum and the Ulster Museum in Belfast
- Tour Skainos Square—an urban regeneration development and community shared space in inner East Belfast
- Support host communities’ efforts to build a brighter future for all



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Belfast

Welcome to Belfast! Your Irish adventure begins with an important welcome meeting and a group dinner. If planning to arrive early, we’re happy to arrange accommodation (subject to availability).

Day 2: Belfast - Before the Troubles

Travel to the innovative Titanic Belfast Museum, shipyards, and maritime industry that shaped this historic city. Later, explore CS Lewis Square and sites associated with his life in Belfast.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Barriers and Bridges

Meet with former politicians and combatants from both sides of the conflict to better understand how Belfast has changed over time. Tour the barriers and walls that still divide the city and enjoy a meal in Skainos Square, a post-conflict urban village working towards a unique vision of shared community. End the day over dinner with journalists from different political traditions.



Day 4: Belfast - Reflections and Restoration

Visit Queens University in Belfast for reflection on the Troubles Display and the Art of the Troubles gallery in the Ulster Museum. Venture to the Europa Hotel—the most bombed hotel in the world—to hear the stories of loss and rebuilding of victims’ lives on both sides, as told by those personally affected by the conflict. Later, visit Crumlin Road Gaol, a former prison situated on Crumlin Road in North Belfast. End the evening at dinner, in conversation with a local playwright or songwriter.

Day 5: Dunluce Castle & Giant’s Causeway

Depart Belfast for the Antrim Plateau, past the Glens, to the northern coast of Ireland for a visit to the Dunluce Castle, one of the most impressive in Northern Ireland. For lunch, stop at Bushmills before continuing to the Giant’s Causeway, whose hexagonal volcanic formations have earned its distinction as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hear charming tales of the Celtic giant for whom the site was named. Arrive to Derry/Londonderry for the evening.

Optional trip extension to Dublin and Galway to complete your exploration of the region’s right heritage and history - a perfect blend of city excitement and natural beauty.

Day 6: Derry/Londonderry

Take a guided tour of the Derry Walls with two guides - one formerly of the IRA, the other of the UDA - sharing their different perspectives and paths to personal reconciliation. Explore the Siege Museum, featuring exhibits on the Siege of Derry and the associated clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry. After lunch downtown, continue with your guides to the Peace Bridge. End the day with a discussion over drinks at a celebrated local pub.

Day 7: Conclusions

Begin the day at the Museum of Free Derry and view the extensive murals on Free Derry Corner and at the Bloody Sunday Memorial. On the way back to Belfast, visit the famous Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, established by salmon fishermen in 1755. Enjoy an opportunity to reflect and connect over a festive “farewell dinner.”



Day 8: Departure or Extension

Enjoy an extended tour of Dublin and Galway or head to the airport for your departing flight



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

DISCOVER SPAIN

Journey through Spain and Andalusia, where each city—Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Granada, and Seville—unveils a vibrant tapestry of history, culture and expression. From Moorish palaces to sandy beaches and energetic urban thoroughfares, experience a destination rich in both heritage and dynamic community life. Meet leaders, professionals, and local students for discussions on how Spain's unique history of social collaboration and conquest informs their pursuit of a prosperous future.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Meet with an activist from a popular social movement in Catalonia
- Conversation with a flamenco performer
- Discussion with leading journalist on Spanish politics and current events
- Visit an interfaith organization working to reconcile histories of conflict
- Tour a leading national hospital to understand its unique approach to healthcare
- Tech-entrepreneur presentation on connections between academia and industry
- Explore architectural marvels of both medieval and modern times



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to Barcelona

Welcome to Barcelona! Your Spanish adventure begins with an important orientation meeting and festive group dinner.

Day 2: Barcelona

Begin the day with a visit to the unfinished Segrada Familia church, tour the grounds and discuss Gaudí's many legacies. Explore the Gothic Quarter, passing by the Jewish Quarter, La Boqueria market, Casa Mila, and the Barcelona Cathedral, then cruise the famous La Rambla street to Plaza Catalunya. In the evening, meet a local activist to better understand Catalan identity and claims to autonomy.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: Journey to Madrid

Head to Madrid via train, then take a half day panoramic tour including a tasting tour through one of the city markets, the Almudena cathedral, and Real Palace. Enjoy a flamenco show in the evening, showcasing a unique art form and cultural tradition with regional flare.



Day 4: Madrid

Tour city center sites including the Parque del Retiro, la Plaza Mayor, the Debod Temple and the Prado Museum. Later, meet with a local healthcare professional at their workplace for a conversation comparing their training, licensing requirements and approach with that of peer nations. Continue to dinner with a journalist who will provide an overview of current affairs and politics

Day 5: Toledo Day Trip

Meet with an interfaith organization over breakfast before heading to Toledo. Visit Plaza de Zocodover, Puerta de Bisagra, and Santo Tomás Church (home to the masterpiece, "The Burial of Count Yorga" by El Greco). Continue to the Synagogue Santa Maria la Blanca, the El Tránsito Synagogue and Sephardic Museum, The Church of San Román, the Mosque Cristo de la Luz, the Moorish Art Gallery, and the Toledo Cathedral.

Day 6: Palaces and Sanctuaries

Visit the Alhambra, the Moorish palace and fortress complex, and the Sacromonte and Albayzín by foot. Meet with the Muslim community in Granada, and visit the Foundation Mosque of Granada, the first mosque constructed in the city after the expulsion of the Muslim community in 1492.

Day 7: Granada

Walk Granada's Old Town including the Real Chapel (where the Catholic Kings are buried) and nearby highlights. Visit the campus of a local university to hear from students and graduates about recent start-ups emerging from their sciences and tech program. Later, meet the founder of an innovative company working to apply neuroscience research to the local classroom.

Day 8: Seville

Visit with the Three Cultures of the Mediterranean Foundation before setting out on a walking tour including The Real Alcázares of Sevilla, built for King Peter of Castile. Continue through Plaza de Ponce de León and the old town of Seville including the Jewish quarter of Santa Cruz and its central mosques. Over dinner, meet a leader from the local nursing association.



Day 9: Departure/Extension

After breakfast, check out and depart for home or continue on the post-trip extension to Morocco.

Optional trip extension to Morocco including Tangier, Chefchaouen "Blue City," Fez, and Casablanca. Drive through the Atlas mountains, enjoy a cooking class and Sufi performance.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

EXPLORE SOUTH AFRICA

Journey through legendary South Africa, a terrain rich in natural beauty, culture, and diverse narratives. Learn of the nation's apartheid past and the triumphant movement for equality. Meet with members of government, journalists and community leaders as you explore how the country simultaneously contends with a troubled past and works to build a better future. Along the way, encounter the vistas, flora and fauna that make South Africa one of the most stunning places in the world.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Learn the history of apartheid, making visits to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site, District Six Museum, Apartheid Museum and more
- Hike the picturesque trails through the Drakensberg conservation areas
- Delve into the field of Human Rights with university faculty and political leaders
- Encounter unique wildlife on land and at sea
- Briefing with a leading local journalist on economic issues and development trends
- Tantalizing food tour at one of Cape Town's famous markets



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Johannesburg

Welcome to Johannesburg! Your South African adventure begins with an important welcome meeting and a festive group dinner.

Day 2: History of Apartheid

Meet your guide at the Apartheid Museum for a journey back in time illustrating the 20th century history of South Africa. Visit Constitution Hill, where the infamous apartheid regime prison once stood, and stop by the Flame of Democracy to reflect on human rights and reconciliation.



Itinerary, continued

Day 3: From Separation to Unity

Travel to Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital. Visit the Union Buildings, Freedom Park and Nelson Mandela's House Museum in Soweto township. Return to Johannesburg for a brief visit to Ellis Park Stadium and discussion with a local athlete on the role of sports in cultivating new national bonds. Enjoy an evening performance at the Market Theater.



Days 4 - 6: Drakensberg

Drive south to the picturesque mountains bordering Lesotho, a high-elevation lockland country within South Africa. Take a 1-2 day hike across the stunning landscape then continue south, stopping at the Nelson Mandela Capture Site. Fly from Durban to Cape Town.



Optional trip extensions include a trip to **Kruger Park** for an encounter with stunning wildlife and biodiversity or travel to the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe to admire **Victoria Falls**.

Day 7: Cape Town

See city highlights including the cable car to Table Mountain, District Six Museum, Bo-Kaap and the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Meet leaders of an initiative bridging between neighborhoods of different backgrounds on the basis of faith.

Day 8: Day Tour to Hermanus

Begin the day with a tour at the 18 Gangster Museum, an innovative living exhibit led by x-offenders sharing their personal stories of redemption. Continue for an adventurous Cape Canopy Zipline tour before whale watching at Hermanus.



Day 9: Day tour to Cape Point

Explore the Southern African Bay area, driving south from Cape Town through Clifton Beach, Hout Bay and Mariners' Wharf, and Chapman's Peak Drive (Ou Kaapse Weg). See the penguin colony at Boulders Beach in historic Simon's Town and check out the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Return to the city to wrap up your program in conversation with a panel of university faculty and local officials on human rights in historical and contemporary contexts.

Day 10: Departure/Extension

Check out and depart for the airport for your flight home or continue with a post-trip extension tour.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel

THE SOUL OF SOUTH KOREA

Journey through an enchanting landscape, exploring the vibrant culture of South Korea. This unique experience fuses ancient traditions and modern marvels, taking you from the bustling streets of Seoul, to the serene beauty of historic palaces and temples nestled in nature. See what lies at the cutting edge of engineering and tech development, meet with entrepreneurs, and collaborate with local performers. Enjoy celebrated local dishes and experience the warmth of Korean hospitality.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.



- Tour the headquarters of a leading tech company with an executive
- Local entrepreneur presentation on launching small businesses
- Seminar on robotics, IT, smart manufacturing and 3D Printing
- Witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at iconic Gyeongbokgung Palace
- Explore the Daejeon Museum of Art with a curator
- Workshop with local artist on Korean identity



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Seoul

Welcome to Seoul! Your South Korean adventure begins with an important welcome meeting and a festive group dinner.

Day 2: Seoul: Traditional to Contemporary

Witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Gyeongbokgung Palace before visiting the Bukchon Hanok Village, a well-preserved area with traditional Korean homes. Stroll along Insadong, a vibrant neighborhood known for traditional tea houses, art galleries, and antique shops. Head to Namsan Seoul Tower for panoramic views of the city and meet with a local journalist or academic for an overview of Korean history and current affairs.

Itinerary, continued

Day 3: High Tech Hub

Visit Dongdaemun Design Plaza, an architectural marvel and hub for fashion and design. Tour the headquarters of a leading tech company and meet with an executive to learn how government policies and incentives encourage business development. Enjoy a tour at Dongdaemun Night Market to taste local street food.



Day 4: The DMZ

Ride to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) for insight into the history of the Korean Peninsula and architecture of the ongoing impasse between the North and South. Return to Seoul in the evening for a workshop with a leading performance or visual artist exploring themes of Korean identity, peace and conflict.

Day 5: Districts & Design

Explore the neighborhood of Gangnam, tracing the development of an upscale district complete with luxury boutiques and international brands. See the famous library at the Stafiield Coex Mall and stop next door at Bongeunsa Temple, a historic Buddhist shrine in the midst of the bustling city. Travel to the Songdo Convensia Convention Center to observe its futuristic design and take in panoramic views of the area.

Day 6: Hot Springs

Travel this morning to Daejeon and relax at its natural hot springs and spa with scenic views. Visit the Daejeon Museum of Art with a curator illustrating both the commonalities and distinct features of contemporary and traditional Korean art. Later, visit the Expo Science Park, a vast green space with walking trails and gardens.

Day 7: Strolling Sejong

Walk around Lake Park, a serene oasis in the heart of Sejong City featuring unique sculpture art. Visit the Yeongi Mun Gate at the entrance to the city and take a stroll along the Damyang River. Take the afternoon to rest and explore on your own.

Day 8: Fortress and Temple

Continue to Busan to visit the Beomeosa Temple, a historic Buddhist site nestled in the mountains. Hike or take the cable car to Geumjeongsanseong Fortress for panoramic views of the area and meet a local entrepreneur to hear how they successfully launched small businesses on a competitive landscape.

Day 9: Tradition and Culture

In Gamcheon Culture Village, known for its vibrant and colorful houses, explore narrow streets filled with art installations, murals, and cafes. Visit the stunning seaside Haedong Yonggungsa Temple perched on the cliffs overlooking the East Sea and head to Haeundae Beach for lunch and a scenic ride on the Haeundae Beach train.

Day 10: Innovation

Travel to Daegu Technopark, a hub for technological innovation and research. Participate in a seminar covering recent advancements in fields such as robotics, information technology, and smart manufacturing and visit the 3D Printing Hub. Finish the day with a walk along Suseong Lake and gather the group for a festive farewell dinner.



Optional trip extension to explore the caves of Jeju Island or summit an extinct volcano at Hallasan National Park.



MEJDI TOURS

Global Leader in Socially Conscious Travel.

MEJDI Blue-Red Divide, Washington DC

An in-depth look behind the curtain of American politics in **the nation's capital** led by two guides - one conservative, one liberal. See iconic sites, explore the complex legacies of important national figures and revisit key moments in history. Through conversations with leading experts, unpack contemporary issues with respect for multiple perspectives, and gain a more intimate understanding of Washington from the people who call it home.

CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Each program is designed in collaboration with faculty.

- Meet government officials on Capitol Hill
- Enjoy a live performance at a leading center for the arts
- Take an insider's tour at the Smithsonian
- Visit development practitioners serving an under resourced neighborhood
- Sample the city's diverse local cuisine



Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Washington

Explore the National Mall with two guides - on liberal and one conservative - setting the stage for your multi-narrative exploration of history and current events. Tour the Capitol Visitor Center and meet a congressional leader to discuss recent initiatives aimed at bridging the city's "Red-Blue Divide." Stand outside the White House discussing the transfer of power under a two party system and ascend the Washington Monument for a bird's eye view of the Potomac. Consider different perspectives on Thomas Jefferson while standing beside his memorial site, and recall the vision of America's founders. In the evening, hear from a George Washington University expert on shifting public opinion.



Itinerary, continued

Day 2: Histories of Service

Begin the day at Fort Stevens Field, where remnants of the Civil War recall strife of generations past and point to the risks of political polarization. Visit with students at Howard University to better understand the contributions of historically black colleges for African American advancement in Washington before continuing on to the Lincoln Memorial to discuss the legacy of an incomparable leader. Pass the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, reflecting on the loss of US service members, and recall the "I have a dream speech" beneath the towering Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Visit the Arlington National Cemetery in the afternoon to reflect on the "ultimate sacrifice" and changing role of the military in American life. In the evening, enjoy live jazz in a nearby park.



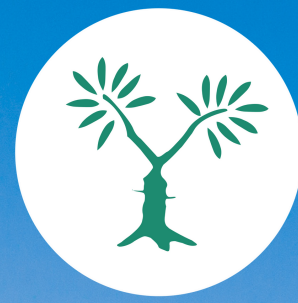
Day 3: The Neighborhoods

Begin the morning in conversation with the leadership of an organization advancing equitable economic development solutions for under-resourced communities in the District of Columbia. Head to one such neighborhood, Anacostia, making a brief visit to the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site to learn how a man born to slavery spent his life fighting for justice as a leading abolitionist voice. Tour the campus of a faith-driven youth development NGO and stop by the renowned Busboys and Poets cafe. Later, walk around the impressive Georgetown campus, hearing of the famous figures who once lived nearby and enjoying a snack at the locals' favorite pastry shops. Take in dinner and a live show at Atlas Performing Arts Center, which strives to strengthen the bonds of DC's communities through the arts.

Day 4: Science, Industry and Opportunity

Start the day browsing top exhibits at the Smithsonian with a head curator, exploring the intersections between scientific advancement and diplomacy. Depart the city to the diverse Virginian suburbs and visit the NRA Museum to review the history of firearms use and advocacy in the US, hearing the strong commitments on different sides of the national debate on gun control. Conclude your tour in conversation with small business owners from first and second generation American families, discussing multiple perspectives on immigration, opportunity and their dreams for the future.

Pre-stay or post-stays can be arranged for those arriving early or staying later.



MEJDI TOURS

Peacebuilders who accidentally became travel entrepreneurs...



Scott Cooper Aziz Abu Sarah

MEJDI was founded by two peacebuilding practitioners, Aziz Abu Sarah and Scott Cooper. After working for many years on social change programs all over the world, Aziz and Scott discovered that travel was one of the most powerful and untapped resources for building a better planet. MEJDI's deep roots in social change work inspires our mission: "We exist to create a more peaceful and interconnected world through travel."

MEJDI is one of the first global tour companies to be B Corp Certified (in 2014, years before B Corp was widely known outside of sustainability circles). For us, this meant opting for a transparent way to show that we mean what we say, and that our actions speak louder than words: We pay local vendors fair wages, prioritize small locally owned vendors in destinations, treat our partners and staff with dignity and respect, and use travel to create a more inclusive reality for all of the hard working people who bring our tours to life.

An estimated 1 billion people travel every year. MEJDI Tours sees this as 1 billion opportunities to make a difference. MEJDI Tours is dedicated to opening hearts and expanding minds, inviting clients to become cultural explorers while engaging and supporting the global communities we serve.