



# MEJDI TOURS

## **A Multi-perspective Pilgrimage to Israel & Palestine: June 6 - 15, 2023** ***Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick MD, Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg***

- Includes** 9 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following locations, or at similar hotels as necessary: *2 nights Holy Land HB; 2 Nof Ginosar HB; 2 Magtas Hotel, Jericho HB; 1 homestay HB; 2 Cinema Hotel, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, BB.*  
1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 3 days  
2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 5 days  
8 days' private group transportation, per itinerary  
Meals per itinerary with B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, and D=Dinner. 9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 9 Dinners.  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
Water on bus throughout tour  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotel and wait staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support  
Audio headsets on touring days
- Not Included** International airfare  
Medical insurance (covering care for COVID) - REQUIRED BY ISRAEL  
Travel insurance - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED  
Single Supplement-(\$750)  
Airport transfer to and from hotel at beginning and end of program.  
Transportation outside of group itinerary  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** *26-28 paying participants: \$2,995 (single supplement = \$750)*

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<sup>1</sup> All specifically named hotels, activities, and speakers subject to confirmation based on availability. Comparable alternatives offered as needed.



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Tuesday, June 6: Gathering Dinner (No Bus, No Guide)**

Arrive at your own pace using guidance from MEJDI's travel services team. Gather with your group at the hotel for a **welcome dinner**.

*Overnight: Holy Land Hotel or similar, Jerusalem [D]*

### **Day 2: Wednesday, June 7: Jerusalem Narratives (Bus, Two Guides)**

**Meet your two guides** - one Palestinian Arab and one Jewish Israeli - for a short **orientation** and an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the **Mount of Olives**. Then tour the **Old City's** Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with your guides. Visit the **Temple Mount / Haram al Sharif**, and see the **Dome of the Rock** and **al-Aqsa Mosque**. As available, **meet with a representative of the Islamic Waqf** that oversees the site, and then explore the **Muslim Quarter**. Next, visit the **Western Wall** and **Jewish Quarter**. Tour the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** to learn its history and its fragile ecumenical peace. Over dinner meet with **Rabbi Daniel Roth**, as available.

*Overnight: Holy Land Hotel or similar, Jerusalem [B, D]*

### **Day 3: Thursday, June 8: Geopolitical Jerusalem (Bus, Two Guides)**

Explore Jerusalem's modern **geo-political situation**. Discuss the rise of early **Zionism** in the 19th Century as you head toward **Yad Vashem**, the Israeli **Holocaust Memorial** (guided tour). Following Yad Vashem, visit **Ein Karem** for a walking tour to learn the different narratives about the War of 1948. Gain an understanding of how 1967 changed Jerusalem and the development of the ABC areas and categories of residency in it as you head back. Then head north for an overnight on the **Galilee**.

*Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz or similar, Galilee [B, D]*

### **Day 4: Friday, June 9: Tzfat and the Galilee (Bus, One Guide)**

In the morning, tour **Tsfat / Safed**, a city where a number of prominent Jewish rabbis moved when Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, and that later became a hub for **Kabbalah**, or **Jewish mystical traditions**, but is also the birthplace of current Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas. From there, visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Christian pilgrims commemorate Jesus' Sermon on the Mount; **Capernaum**, hub of Jesus' Galilean ministry; and finish the day with a **boat ride** with your group on the Galilee.

*Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz or Similar, Galilee [B, D]*



## **Day 5: Saturday, June 10: Nazareth to Jericho (Bus, One Guide)**

On Friday, head to nearby **Nazareth**, now the city with the highest population in Israel of Palestinian citizens of Israel. **Meet with a local resident** to discuss life in the city, and the culture of the area today. Then head south through the northern West Bank to **Ramallah**. In Ramallah, **meet with a local speaker** from the Palestinian government, an NGO, or a business person. From Ramallah, continue through the **Judean Desert** to **Jericho**.

*Overnight: Magtas Hotel or similar, Jericho [B, L, D]*

## **Day 6: Sunday, June 11: Judean Desert, Jordan Valley and Masada (Bus, One Guide)**

In the morning, visit the **Qasr al Yehud** baptismal site at the Jordan River to discuss the Jewish and Christian religious history of the area. Afterward, learn about the **Dead Sea Valley environmental challenges** before enjoying lunch and free time to float in the Dead Sea, and visit **Qumran**, site of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**. Welcome a speaker from **Ecopeace** Middle East at dinner.

*Overnight: Magtas Hotel or similar, Jericho [B, L D]*

## **Day 7: Monday, June 12: Masada and Hebron (Bus, Both Guides)**

From Jericho, head south to 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. From Masada, enter the southern part of the West Bank, and drive north to **Hebron**. **Meet with a speaker from local human rights agency** (potentially Ecumenical Accompaniment Program (EAPPI), B'tselem, Christian Peacemaker Team, Breaking the Silence, Issa Amro of Youth Against Settlements, or Ayed Abu Eqtaish-DCI Hebron). End the day by **debriefing** on the bus as you continue north to **Bethlehem**.

*Overnight: Home Stays or Hotel, Bethlehem [B, L, D]*

## **Day 8: Tuesday, June 13: Greater Bethlehem (Bus, Both Guides)**

On Monday, tour **Bethlehem**. Include a visit with a **speaker from Aida Refugee camp**, a close up view of the **Separation Wall**, and free time in **Manger Square**, where you may elect to visit the **Church of the Nativity**. In the afternoon, visit the Palestinian farm "**Tent of Nations**" and hear their unique story from the family who own the farm. Then hear from a resident of one of the **Israeli settlements** in the West Bank to hear their perspective.



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Over **dinner hosted by the family of MEJDI founder, Aziz Abu Sarah**, welcome speakers from **Parents Circle-Family Forum**. *Transfer to Tel Aviv for the evening.*

*Overnight: Cinema Hotel or similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [B, D]*

## **Day 9: Wednesday, June 14: Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam (Bus, Both Guides)**

In the morning, head out to the intentionally integrated community of **Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam ("Oasis of Peace")**. Have a **discussion with a village member** from Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam about the community's achievements and challenges, and go for a guided tour of the village. From there, visit the less intentionally integrated city of **Jaffa**, adjacent to **Tel Aviv**. Finally, in Tel Aviv, **meet with a speaker** to survey possible ways forward to Israelis and Palestinian. In the evening, celebrate your time together with a **special closing dinner** on the Mediterranean.

*Overnight: Cinema Hotel or similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [B, D]*

## **Day 10: Thursday, June 15: End of MEJDI Program**

*Breakfast included at the hotel. On your own for departure transport or to your next destination. Optional extensions to Jordan or Egypt possible, or people may explore further on their own.*