



# MEJDI TOURS

## 8-Day, 7-Night Journey through Israel Hevreh of Southern Berkshires' Eighth Grade Class With Rabbi Jodie Gordon and Guide Daniela Geffen April 2023

<b>Included:</b>	7 nights accommodation at hostels listed on itinerary, or similar <sup>1</sup> 1 Licensed Tour Guide for 8 days 8 days private bus transportation per itinerary All entrances, activity and speaker/host fees unless listed under "Not Included" Meals as listed on the itinerary Customary tips for guides, drivers and hotel staff Jerusalem-based 24-7 group support
<b>Not Included:</b>	Flights Travel Insurance - RECOMMENDED Double Room Supplement for adults (double occupancy) = \$225 Single Supplement <sup>2</sup> = \$625 Dinner Supplement at Kikar HaMusica = \$25 Anything not listed under "Included"
<b>Pricing Tier:</b>	\$2,395 x 33-35 paying participants <sup>3</sup> \$2,445 x 30-32 paying participants \$2,495 x 27-29 paying participants \$2,570 x 24-26 paying participants \$2,670 x 21-23 paying participants \$2,770 x 18-20 paying participants

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<sup>1</sup> Dorm rooms of 6-10 youth per room (separate male/female) or double/triple rooms depending on accommodation, including breakfast; double rooms for adults, including breakfast

<sup>2</sup> Single supplement applied instead of double supplement, for adults rooming alone. Single supplement also applies if there is an odd number of adults in the group. Limited number of single supplements available.

<sup>3</sup> Space only guaranteed for up to 16 students & 16 adults (in double rooms); other configurations of more than 32 persons subject to confirmation based on availability/rooming configurations



## Itinerary

### **Pre-Departure, Friday, April 14, 2023: Send Off Shabbat**

- Trip participants and their families will participate in a send-off Shabbat evening service at Hevreh.

### **Departure, Saturday, April 15, 2023: Leave the Berkshires for Israel**

- Meet at Hevreh to take the bus to Newark Airport.
- Depart Newark Airport on United Airlines Flight 84 at 4:20 pm.

### **Day 1, Sunday, April 16, 2023: Tel Aviv**

- Arrive into Ben Gurion Airport at 9:55 am.
- Meet your driver and guide and transfer to Tel Aviv.
- Begin your tour with an opening gathering outside of the Etzel House. The Etzel House is dedicated to the pre-state Zionist paramilitary organization, the Irgun. With seaside views of both Jaffa and Tel Aviv, learn the Arab and Jewish histories of these adjoining cities including an explanation of the birth of Tel Aviv and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in Arab Jaffa and beyond. Briefly see the exhibit inside the Etzel House which tell the Israeli perspective on the 41 Irgun fighters who died in the battle for Jaffa in 1948. The building is one of the very few remaining structures from the Arab neighborhood of Manishiya that was in part destroyed during the 1948 battles.
- Continue on foot to the Carmel Market Shuk for lunch on your own.
- Stroll up Bialik Street to learn about the history of cultural Zionism. Bialik Street is home to Rubin Museum, the former residence of painter Reuven Rubin and Bialik House, the former residence of Israel's national poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. Beit Ha'ir, Tel Aviv's former town hall is at the top of the street.
- Conclude the afternoon with a visit to Meir Park, opened in 1944 and named after the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff. Meir Park is home to a prominent city funded gay community center. Outside of the center, you can find a monument dedicated to the gay victims of the Holocaust and a garden serving as a memorial to 2009 shooting spree at a Tel Aviv LGBT youth club.
- Transfer to your hostel and check in.
- Have dinner on your own at the Sarona Market in the area of a former 19th century German Templar colony. This delectable market is Tel Aviv's newest haven for foodies with approximately 100 specialty food shops and eateries, from cheese shops and butchers to specialty chocolate boutiques, bakeries, produce stores, and more (meal stipend provided by Hevreh).

*Hotel: Spot Hostel, Tel Aviv [Dinner Included]*

### **Day 2, Monday, April 17, 2023: Jaffa**

- Tour the historic port city of Jaffa, highlighting how it has become an incubator for coexistence and shared society.
  - o Visit the Tabeetha School to learn about its history and visit the school's Museum of Coexistence and meet with students and staff.
  - o Have lunch on your own in the Jaffa flea market (meal stipend provided).
  - o Check out the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop.
  - o Visit Physicians for Human Rights-Israel's clinic in Jaffa and learn about the communities they serve.

- Chillax at Gordon Beach, Rabbi Gordon's favorite Tel Avivan beach, and not just because of the name!
- Have an early dinner at Yashka with time to explore the hip Dizengoff Street area.

*Hotel:* Spot Hostel, Tel Aviv (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

### **Day 3, Tuesday, April 18, 2023: Caesarea, Kfar Kedem, and the Afula-Gilboa Region**

- Check out after breakfast and visit the ANU Museum: The Museum of the Jewish People (formerly known as the Diaspora Museum). The museum presents and displays the unique and ongoing 4,000 year-old story of the Jewish people – past, present and future.
- Continue north to Caesarea and have lunch in the Caesarea port or a different option nearby.
- Tour the ancient Herodian port city of Caesarea, whose extensive sandstone ruins overlook the peaceful blue waters of the Mediterranean. There, see the theater, hippodrome, and learn about the area's Crusader history and the old Bosnian Muslim community that lived there.
- Continue to the Afula Crowns' Beit Eshkol Community Center.
  - There, meet Rabbi Mori Lidar, to talk about the formation of a new Reform community on the mostly secular kibbutz of Beit HaShita.
  - Then, volunteer with a local youth organization called the "Sandwich Club" that makes 200 sandwiches each night to distribute to school children in need.
  - Have dinner with the Israeli teens from the Sandwich Club.
- Check into your rooms.

*Hotel:* Mizra Holiday Village (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

### **Day 4, Wednesday, April 19, 2023: Gilboa and Galilee [bus, guide]**

- Spend the morning at the Beit Alfa Absorption Center. There the group will meet Ethiopian immigrants, hear their aliyah story, and participate in a traditional *BUNA* coffee ceremony.
- Spend the afternoon at Kfar Kedem, a site that will transport you back to the biblical roots of your heritage with hands-on experiences. Follow in the shepherds' footsteps, savor the flavors they tasted, inhale the aromas they smelled. Ride donkeys through the Galilee hills, shear sheep, spin wool into cloth, milk goats to make fresh cheese, and spread that cheese on pita that you'll bake yourselves. Have lunch there.
- Return to Afula and visit the city's old shuk market. A representative of the Tarbut artist movement will talk about how they worked with the local vendors in the shuk to transform the market as a hub for art and artists. This will also be an opportunity to learn about Home in the Valley, a LGBTQ organization that organized the first ever Pride celebration in Afula in 2019.
- Drive to the village of Taibe and have a joint activity with an Arab teen leadership group where a light traditional dinner will be served.

*Hotel:* Mizra Holiday Village (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

**Day 5, Thursday, April 20, 2023: Jerusalem's Old City and Ben Yehuda Street**

- Check out after breakfast and ascend to Jerusalem heading straight to the Old City.
- Enter the Old City through the Dung Gate to begin an exploration of the three major religious traditions and their stories about what makes this place holy to these faith traditions.
- Visit the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza and have time to personal reflection or prayer.
- Learn more about the First and Second Jewish Temples using virtual reality technology.
- Take a tour of the Western Wall Tunnels. This is the only way to reach the segments of the Wall hidden from view, and to touch the original and special stones that tell the story of the Jewish nation. Visitors to the Western Wall Tunnels walk through ancient and fascinating subterranean spaces with exquisite archeological findings, such as large stone arches, water pits, an ancient water aqueduct that ends at the Strouthion Pool, and more.
- After a group lunch at Abu Shukri, learn about the Christian "Stations of the Cross" along the Via Dolorosa and the incense-filled halls of the Holy Sepulchre Church, the place identified as both the site of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
- Weave through the shops and alleyways of the Arab *shuk* (market) in the Old City, where you can have some free time to practice your haggling skills.
- In the evening, go to Ben Yehuda Street's pedestrian shopping district. Visit the Museum of Jewish Music and then have free time to shop and eat on your own. Parents have dinner at Kikar Musica together.

*Hotel:* Post Hostel, Jerusalem (<http://theposthostel.com>) (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

**Day 6, Friday, April 21, 2023: Jerusalem**

- Pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum.
- Have lunch at Iza Pziza, a goat cheese farm located in Moshav Tal Shazar.
- Go on a short hike in the Jerusalem Hills in the afternoon.
- At dusk, experience how Jerusalem transforms into a day of rest with the coming of Shabbat.
- Join with the Reform community of Kol Haneshama for Shabbat evening services.
- Have Shabbat dinner.

*Hotel:* Post Hostel, Jerusalem (<http://theposthostel.com>) (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

**Day 7, Saturday, April 22, 2023: Masada and Dead Sea [bus, guide]**

- Travel south to the mountaintop fortress of Masada. There, take in breathtaking views of the Judean Desert, explore the archaeological park, and learn the dramatic story of Masada's role in the Great Revolt.
- Take a dip in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- End Shabbat with a group processing session followed by Havdallah at Hebrew Union College.
- Have a group dinner in a private room at the historic Jerusalem YMCA building.
- Spend the evening hanging out at First Station (take taxis back to the hostel).

*Hotel:* Post Hostel, Jerusalem (<http://theposthostel.com>) (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)



## **Day 8, Sunday, April 23, 2023: Modern Jerusalem and Departure**

- Check out of the hostel after breakfast.
- Spend the morning on a graffiti tour\* downtown Jerusalem and the Nachlaot neighborhood.
- Experience the hustle and bustle of the Machane Yehudah Shuk market for lunch (meal stipend provided by Hevreh).
- Head south to Beit Guvrin to participate in a hands-on archaeological experience that combines excavating, sifting, pottery examination, and exploration of an extensive archaeological cave system.
- Transfer to the airport for United Airlines, Flight 91 at 11:25 pm to Newark Airport.

*Hotel: N/A (Breakfast and Lunch Included)*

## **Arrival, Monday, April 24, 2023: Return Home**

- Arrive into Newark Airport at 4:15 am.
- Bus transfer back to the Berkshires.