



## **Berkshires Arts and Culture Tour of Israel With Rabbis Neil and Liz P.G. Hirsch**

**Included (Main):** 7 nights' accommodation at hotels listed on itinerary  
1 MEJDI Guide for eight days  
7 days private bus transportation, including 1 group airport transfer  
7 additional meals listed as [L, D] in itinerary  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers  
Audio headsets for personal use  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

**Not Included (Main):** International airfare  
Travel insurance-**Recommended**  
Single Supplement Costs - \$905  
Any required COVID mitigation costs  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Group arrival transfer  
Individual airport transfers (arrival and departure, if needed)  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

**Pricing (Main):** 32-35 Paying Participants - \$3,575 Per Person  
29-31 Paying Participants - \$3,675 Per Person  
26-28 Paying Participants - \$3,775 Per Person  
23-25 Paying Participants - \$3,895 Per Person  
20-22 Paying Participants - \$4,050 Per Person





## **Main Trip**

### **Day 1, Saturday, February 11, 2023: Arrival (Guide, No Bus)**

- Arrive into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and transfer on your own to the hotel in Tel Aviv and check in.
- Have a group orientation session.

*Hotel: Artist Hotel (Premium Room)*

### **Day 2, Sunday, February 12, 2023: Jewish Peoplehood and the Foundations of Cultural Zionism (Guide, Bus)**

- After breakfast, meet your guide and travel to 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 with a heavy emphasis on culture and religious diversity.
- Have lunch on your own.
- Then delve into Tel Aviv's artistic cultural Zionist history and Bauhaus architectural style along Bialik Street in central Tel Aviv. Bialik Square and its surrounding buildings have been declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO and are included in the area of Tel-Aviv designated a "White City" for its unique variant of modern international architecture.
  - o Begin at the Rubin Museum, see the residence and work of painter Reuven Rubin. Begin at Beit Ha'ir, the city's preserved historic Town Hall, now a historical museum that tells the story of life in Tel Aviv during its 100 years of existence.
  - o Then continue to the Bialik House and learn about Hayim Nahman Bialik, Israel's national poet.
  - o Begin at Beit Ha'ir, the city's preserved historic Town Hall, now a historical museum that tells the story of life in Tel Aviv during its 100 years of existence.
- 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.
- Return to the hotel, taking time in the evening to explore and find dinner on your own

*Hotel: Artist Hotel (Premium Room) [B]*





## **Day 3, Monday, February 13, 2023: Jaffa** **(Guide, Bus)**

- Take an arts and cultural tour of Jaffa with Sigal Weissbein Rozman, cultural curator, artistic director, actress, poet and performer. Sigal is the former Culture Attache of Israel to The Netherlands, and served as Artistic Director of the Holon Women's Festival and Artistic director of the Sha'ar International Poetry Festival. Sigal will devote special attention to women, LGBT, and Palestinian artists and entrepreneurs.
  - o Do a workshop and/or see a private performance with the Jaffa Theatre – A Stage for Arab Hebrew Culture.
  - o Meet artist and dancer Sahar Azimi in his gallery.
  - o Go inside Maskit, a luxury women clothing shop in the heart of the flea market that was founded in 1945 by Ruth Dayan and became a global phenomenon. Maskit was born out of an ideology to create work opportunities for new immigrants in the field of crafts. After the Six Day War, Arab-Israeli coexistence became one of Maskit's major sources of inspiration. Learn about Ruth's fascinating close friendship with Raymonda Tawil, Yasar Arafat's mother-in-law.
  - o Visit Hilweh Market, a local artisanal store featuring handmade housewares, textiles, jewelry and other contemporary and traditional items from Palestine and the Arab World. Meet Hilweh Market's founder and curator Adrieh Abou Shehadeh.
  - o Visit iota, a lifestyle brand focusing on contemporary interior decoration and accessories. It was founded in 2014 by Tal Zur and Shula Mozes, who shared a vision of preserving the handcraft of crochet and revising its shapes and proportions to create a new aesthetic and uniquely designed pieces. Choosing crochet was both the starting point for the design and the possibility to create social change.
  - o Have lunch on your own along the route.
- Have dinner on your own.
- In the evening, see a dance performance at the Suzanne Dellal Centre or a theatre performance with supertitles (at one of these theatres: Gesher, HaBima, Beit Leissen, or Cameri).

*Hotel:* Artist Hotel (Premium Room) [B]

## **Day 4, Tuesday, February 14, 2023: Tel Aviv Markets and Museum on the Outskirts** **(Guide, Bus)**

- Begin the morning with some shopping time at the Nahalat Binyamin Arts Market.





- Take a foodie tour of the Carmel Shuk Market for lunch.
- In the afternoon, travel to Rishon Lezion and Holon:
  - o Tour the Yaakov Agam Museum, dedicated to the art of the “father of the Kinetic Art movement.”
  - o Explore the Design Museum Holon, one of the world’s leading museums of design and contemporary culture.
  - o Round out the day a visit to the Israeli Museum of Caricature and Comics.
- Return to Tel Aviv and have dinner on your own.

*Hotel:* Artist Hotel (Premium Room) [B, L]

**Day 5, Wednesday, February 15, 2023: Jerusalem’s Art Scene and Machane Yehuda Shuk**  
**(Guide, Bus)**

- In the morning, check out of the hotel and ascend to Jerusalem.
- Upon arrival, take a graffiti tour in downtown Jerusalem and/or the Nachlaot neighborhood with Grafitti Tiyul.
- Then sample your way through the hustle and bustle of the Machane Yehudah shuk market (tastings not included). Have lunch on your own.
- In the afternoon, dive deeper into Jerusalem arts scene around the shuk:
  - o First visit the Alliance House, an inclusive, vibrant, innovative, creative professional community in Jerusalem that works together in light of shared values and artistic cooperation. The space features 14 collections of artists working from shared workspaces and encourages original and uncompromising Jerusalem creativity. The building also hosts temporary exhibitions, conferences, classes, lectures, live performances, parties and various events that are open to the general public.
  - o Then visit the Muslala Art Collective in the towering “white elephant” Clal Building across the street. Muslala’s artist hub is a project aiming to create a new vision for the building as an art, culture and sustainable living center. Muslala is community of artists and craftspeople who live and thrive on the rich soil of Jerusalem. Their goal is to nurture and grow a sustainable and flexible community which is sensitive and connective between one and oneself, between one and his community, and between one and the Earth.
- Have dinner at Anna, a high-quality Italian restaurant in the spectacular Ticho House, a historic building that belongs to the Israel Museum. The Dualis Yozma Fund established Anna as a social business that trains and employs youth in distress, providing them with an opportunity to acquire a profession and to change the course of their lives. The Ticho House features the art of Israel's beloved painter, Anna Ticho (1894 -1980) and contemporary art exhibitions.

*Hotel:* Bezalel Hotel, an Atlas Boutique Hotel [B, D]





## **Day 6, Thursday, February 16, 2023: Jerusalem's Old City (Guide, Bus)**

- Enter the Old City at the Dung Gate. 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.
- Explore the newly unearthed Great Bridge Route of the West Wall Tunnels. This route will showcase different rooms and halls that served the people of that time, new and exciting findings, and a first glimpse at a new exposure of the Western Wall.
- Visit the Museum of Psalms to participate in a text study of a selection of Psalms through art. The Museum of Psalms features the Psalms Collection, 150 paintings for each of the Psalms created by Moshe Tzvi Halevi Berger, one painting for each one of the Psalms. *(facilitated by the Museum)*
- After some free time for lunch, shop along the Cardo.
- Continue to the Sandrouni Armenian Ceramics Showroom and meet George Sandrouni
- See the current exhibit on at Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art. Al Ma'mal is a Palestinian non-profit organization founded to promote, instigate, disseminate and create art. Founded in 1997, Al Ma'mal serves as an advocate for contemporary art and a catalyst for the realization of art projects in Jerusalem, inviting artists to the city to develop, produce and present their work to the public.
- Meet Wissam Razzouk at Razzouk Ink (<http://www.razzouktattoo.com>), a 700-year-old Christian family owned tattoo parlor that catered to Christian pilgrims. He has centuries of family stories to tell including his own recent involvement in "Healing Ink," which uses tattooing to help Israeli victims of terrorism and war overcome trauma.
- Enjoy a group dinner with live music at Kikar Hamusica along with a visit to the Museum of Jewish Music.

*Hotel:* Bezalel Hotel (Classic Room) [B, D]

## **Day 7, Friday, February 17, 2023: Musrara (Guide, Bus)**

- Begin the day by at Jerusalem's City Hall. The guides will provide an orientation to the Musrara neighborhood there. Musrara lies along the Seam Line that physically dividing Jerusalem from 1948-1967 and tacitly remaining a buffer between East and West Jerusalem since then. While Musrara is a model of successful neighborhood renewal, it still preserves memories of difficult absorption processes, discrimination, and the first authentic Israeli protest movement, "the Black Panthers."





- Visit the Ma'aleh Film School and screen 2-3 short films produced by their graduates, meet with one of the filmmakers. Ma'aleh films primarily deal with the Israeli experience, Jewish identity and Israeli society and culture. The meeting with the filmmaker encourages broad discussion about the film, the behind the scenes story and reasons for its creation.
- Have lunch together.
- Begin the afternoon with a tour of the Museum of the Seam is a socio-political contemporary art museum.
- Then, take a cell phone photography workshop/walking tour through the Musrara neighborhood with a faculty member from the Naggar Multidisciplinary School of Art and Society.
- Have with a Reform synagogue for Shabbat services.
- Have Shabbat dinner together.

*Hotel:* Bezalel Hotel (Classic Room) [B, L, D]

## **Day 8, Saturday, February 18, 2023: Art and Poetry on Shabbat (Guide, Bus)**

- In the morning, have the option to visit the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- After lunch, use the poetry of Yehuda Amichai as a lens for exploring the neighborhood of Yemin Moshe built in the 1890s by Moses Montefiore in response to the overcrowding in the Old City. When Amichai lived here Yemin Moshe was on the border between Israeli controlled and Jordanian controlled Jerusalem until the Six Day War in 1967.
- At dusk, make havdallah together at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.
- Have final dinner at Mona, a fine dining restaurant situated in the Artists House, a historic building that once housed "The Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts," founded in 1906. For a time the building housed the Bezalel National Museum, precursor of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. When the Israel Museum was opened, the collections of the Bezalel National Museum were transferred to it, where they formed the initial core collection of the Museum. Since 1965, the House has served as home to the Association for Jerusalem Artists. In this capacity, the House has become a dynamic center for exhibitions, displaying unique and varied works of both Israeli and international artists.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport as a group

*Hotel:* N/A [B, L, D]