



MEJDI TOURS

Israel & Palestine Beyond the Headlines: MEJDI Mission 2024

Led by Rabbi Paula Marcus

Dates: September 5 -11, 2024

Included: 6 nights' accommodation at the following hotels (double occupancy), or similar hotel as necessary:

- 3 Nights: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 3 Nights: Arthur Hotel, Jerusalem

2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 5 days

5 days of private bus transportation

Meals listed in the itinerary: 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers

Water on bus throughout tour

Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff

Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not International airfare

included: Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Individual airport transfers to/from the airport

Single Supplement - \$670 per person

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing:

11-13 Paying Participants - \$3,660 per person

8-10 Paying Participants - \$4,000 per person



Itinerary

Day 1: Thursday, September 5 - Arrival (No Guide, No Transportation)

Transfer to your hotel (on your own). Check in, rest, and prepare for the journey ahead.

In the evening, enjoy a **welcome dinner** with your group leader **Rabbi Paula Marcus**.

Hotel: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv (Dinner included)

Day 2: Friday, September 6 - Welcome, Introduction to the Dual Narrative™, and Humanity Beyond the Headlines (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

This morning, meet your **Israeli and Palestinian guides** for introductions, a review of current events and opening of the **Dual Narrative™** conversation you will be part of throughout this trip.

Then, have an **Active Listening Workshop**, as preparation for the challenging discussions ahead. The exercise will focus on recognizing one's own biases, making space for a range of perspectives, and posing questions from a place of genuine curiosity rather than defensiveness.

Visit the **Hostage Square** where you will hear from **family members of those most affected** by the events of **October 7th**.

After lunch, head to south Tel Aviv to view the new **graffiti murals** made to represent the experience of **Israeli children and mothers in captivity**. On your way, drive past the corner of a major intersection where hundreds of thousands gathered weekly for months prior to October 7 in protest of judicial overhaul initiatives. Hear from your guides about the origins of those demonstrations and how they were perceived by different segments of the Israeli public.

This evening, have a **Shabbat dinner** and attend **Shabbat Services** at **Kehilat Sinai**.

Hotel: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv (Breakfast included)

Day 3: Saturday September 7 - Interfaith and Intercommunal Solidarity (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

After attending a **morning service** (optional), travel north to **Akko**, delving further into the reality for **Palestinian citizens of Israel**. Meet a **local resident** for discussion on the Nakba, the development of the city, and dynamics of collaboration and segregation between different communities.



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Visit a **Druze Village** for lunch and discussion on their community, ethic of service to the State of Israel, and experience as a distinct minority within a diverse social fabric.

Return to Tel Aviv-Jaffa for a meeting with **Standing Together**, a grassroots movement mobilizing Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel in pursuit of peace, equality and social justice.

Hotel: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 4: Sunday September 8 - Reflecting on Loss, Pursuing Peace (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet an expert on how the events of October 7th impacted the communities of **foreign workers living in Israel**.

Make your way to Jerusalem for a presentation on how the **Rabbis for Human Rights** organization's day-to-day work has evolved since the start of the war. Discuss how settler violence impacts Palestinians living in Area C.

Hear the perspective of an **Israeli Security Official** on the critical importance of state defense for Israeli-Palestinian relations, and meet an **Israeli combatant** in active duty or reserves.

Return to the hotel for an online conversation and briefing with a former **Gaza resident** on the current situation there.

Close the day with a **facilitated conversation** processing the narratives heard throughout the day.

Hotel: Arthur Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast included)

Day 5: Monday September 9 - Jerusalem & Palestinian Experiences (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

Depart for a walking tour along the **Old City Ramparts**, offering views towards the boundaries of Jerusalem, and subjects for discussion on areas both on and off the map.

Make your way to Bethlehem to meet a **Christian resident** over lunch and visit the offices of **Combatants for Peace**, before returning to East Jerusalem.

Visit the **Educational Bookshop** in **East Jerusalem** for a conversation with a Palestinian cultural figure.



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Close the day with a **facilitated conversation** processing the narratives heard throughout the day.

Hotel: Arthur Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 6: Tuesday September 10 - Healthcare, Bedouins & “the day after” (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

Head south to visit **Bedouin communities** especially affected on October 7, having long contended with the vulnerability of sub-standard infrastructure and resources.

Return to Jerusalem, visit a **medical facility** to discuss the complexities of service to a cross-section of Israeli and Palestinian society during wartime: severe injury, mental health crises, staffing challenges due to military call-ups and political tension.

Hear different visions of “the day after” from leading voices such as **A Land for All** organization, **Gershon Baskin**, a **local politician** or others (*as available*).

Close the program with a **wrap up session** facilitated by your guides and a **farewell group dinner**.

Hotel: Arthur Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 7 - Wednesday September 11 - Departure (No Guide, No Transportation)

Check out and travel to the airport for your flight home OR opt for a private extension tour (by request).

(Breakfast included)