



MEJDI TOURS



Oseh Shalom

עושה שלום במרומיו...

Oseh Shalom 2026 Israel Trip
with Optional Extension to Galilee or Negev

Dates: June 18-25, 2026 (*Main Trip*)
June 15-18, 2026 (*Pre-Trip Extension*)

Itinerary:

***Possible **pre-tour extension** (3 nights) begins in the afternoon/evening on Monday, June 15 with full day tour activities on June 15 - 17. The extension options are described at the end of this itinerary.*

Day 1: Arrival - Thursday, June 18
[Guide, Transfer only]

- Afternoon/evening arrival and travel to accommodations
- Orientation and group dinner

Travelers arriving earlier in the day may join the pre-tour activities during the day on June 18.

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [D]

Day 2: Tel Aviv, Peoplehood & Promise - Friday, June 19 [Guide, Bus]

- *ANU (fka The Diaspora Museum)* - View contemporary Israel through the framework of peoplehood, conveyed in multimedia exhibits that illustrate Jewish connection across time and space.
- *Carmel Market* - Weave through the stalls of a bustling marketplace winding down in anticipation of Shabbat. Browse the shops along *Nahalat Binyamin* and sample the diverse flavors of an international city.
- *White City, Hebrew City* - Walk past the Hassan Bek mosque and through *HaTahana*, terminal for the old Jaffa-Jerusalem railway turned urban hangout. Tour Neve Tzedek, exploring the birth of Tel Aviv.
- *Shabbat at Gezer* - After free time in the afternoon, head to Kibbutz Gezer to join Kehilat Birkat Shalom for Friday evening services and conversation with its rabbi and community members. Enjoy dinner with the Kibbutz community or back at your accommodations in Jaffa.

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [B, D]

Day 3: Shabbat Perspectives - Saturday, June 20 [Guide, Bus]

Late start, allowing for Shabbat morning worship (as a group or with a local congregation), a beach visit, or other leisure time.

- *South Tel Aviv* - Hear the stories of those who arrived in Israel seeking asylum and refuge. Have lunch with a local entrepreneur, and discuss day-to-day life for communities living on the margin.
- OR**
- *Jaffa Port & Old Town* - “Dual Narrative” exploration of shared society in “mixed” Jewish-Arab neighborhoods of Yaffa-Yafo with representatives from a **bi-national youth movement**.
 - *Mizrahi** - Meet an activist or cultural creator whose familial roots in Arabic-speaking lands informs their perspective on the intersections of race relations in Israel, the Occupation, and Israel’s relationship with its neighbors.
 - *Spend the afternoon visiting venues around Tel Aviv that have been bestowed with new meaning as sites of public mourning, memory, and protest since October 7. Stop at “Hostage Square,” walk the “Kaplan” protest route and view pop-up murals. There may be an opportunity to meet with a family with loved ones directly impacted by the events of October 7 and their aftermath.*

This speaker may be a member of the “Standing Together**” (Omdim B’Yachad) movement, or this conversation may be swapped for a meeting with representatives of that organization.*

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [B, L]

Day 4: The Coastal Plain, Historic Crossroads - Sunday, June 21 **[Guide, Bus]**

- *Mixed Cities Mosaic* - Arrive in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Lod/al-Lyd for a walk through the remnants of a once vibrant Old Town including the St. George’s church. Visit the newly excavated and unveiled “Lod Mosaic” and meet a community representative to better understand the opportunities, challenges and limitations of building ties across a diverse landscape.
- *Open House* - Head to Ramla for lunch, then visit the city’s peace education center inspired by the remarkable story of the meeting between Jewish and Arab families connected to the site, before and after 1948. Hear how Open House activities maintained close relations between neighbors despite the pains of recent years.
- *Hand-in-Hand* - Continue to southern Jerusalem for a visit to the local branch of the **Yad b’Yad** network of bilingual Hebrew-Arabic schools to hear from its leadership and educators about the challenges inherent within this educational framework and the power of language to help building bridges between Israeli and Palestinian communities.
- Arrive in Bethlehem* for the evening, and enjoy dinner hosted by a local family.

**MEJDI Palestinian guide joins you for the evening.*

Overnight: Holy Family Hotel or similar, Bethlehem/Beit Sahour [B, D]

Day 5: Desert of Millenia - Monday, June 22 **[Guide, Bus]**

- *Herod’s Fortress* - After lunch on-the-go, ride the cable car to the top of Masada. Explore the extensive excavations of this vacation spot turned refuge for Jewish rebels following the fall of the Second Temple. Consider how their story figures in Israel’s national mythology: how might your community respond if pushed to the brink?
- *(optional stop) Lowest in the World* - Take a quick float on the salty waters of the Dead Sea, an experience unique to this body of water at 1,300 feet below sea level.

- *Oldest in the World* - Visit the city of Jericho, known for the famous Tel es-Sultan as being continuously inhabited for some 10,000 years. Today it is the largest municipality in the Palestinian Authority near the border with Jordan and lies at the crossroads of two major Israeli highways. Hear the personal stories of local members of the **Combatants for Peace** organization, and about ongoing tensions in the Jordan Valley.

Arrive in Jerusalem in the evening - after a short orientation in the city center, find dinner on your own.

Overnight: Montefiore Hotel [B, L]

Day 6: Golden Jerusalem - Tuesday, June 23 **[Two Guides, Public Transit & Touring by foot]**

Start or end the day with a panoramic view from a key promenade i.e. Mt. of Olives or southern Jerusalem (Haas).

- *Jewish Quarter* - Notice evidence of Jerusalem's contested past dotting the stone walls of the Old City as you enter through the Zion Gate. Make your way past the Hurva Synagogue, the Roman Cardo beneath your feet, and onto the Western Wall plaza, reflecting on the enduring connection of the Jewish people and some Jews' claim to an "eternal capital" here.
- *Holy Mountain* - Ascend as a group to the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary with your two guides: one Palestinian, one Jewish Israeli. Remember Jewish Temples of previous millennia and come to understand Islamic attachment to *Al Aqsa*. Stroll the vast plaza surrounding the Dome of the Rock, calling attention to underlying national and political sensitivities that make this remarkably tranquil site so volatile.
- *City of David* / Silwan* - Look out from within the City of David towards Al Aqsa and a surrounding Palestinian neighborhood, learning about the ongoing excavations of earlier civilizations beneath your feet. Meet a representative from **Emek Shaveh**, an Israeli NGO guarding against the politicization of archeology both at this site and around the country.

**Optional walk through the City of David National Park archaeological site: "Walk underground in the waters of the Siloam tunnel, touch the ancient buildings and be part of a magical, mysterious journey to the heart of Jerusalem."*

Overnight: Montefiore Hotel [B]

Day 7: Over the Line: Jerusalem Periphery - Wednesday, June 24 **[Guide, Bus]**

- *Seam Line* - Head to Salah a-Din Street in downtown East Jerusalem to browse the Educational Bookshop. Hear from management about Palestinian life in the city, and initiatives to promote local literary culture.
- *West Bank, Ezion Bloc* - Driving south towards Bethlehem and its surroundings, hear from your guide about competing claims to a region of great significance in both Jewish and Christian traditions. See the disjointed infrastructure of occupied, or disputed territory, up close and review events leading to the complex lived reality here. Discuss the politics of painted murals along the separation/security barrier before visits to Manger Square and the Church of Nativity.
- Meet a representative from an organization(s) such as the **Parents Circle - Bereaved Parents Forum or Land for All** working to advance equality between Israelis and Palestinians, before free time for dinner on your own in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Montefiore Hotel [B]

Day 8: Conclusions - Thursday, June 25 **[Guide, Public Transit & Touring by foot]**

Spend some time in the late morning or afternoon volunteering with an organization supporting underserved communities i.e. JLM Food Rescuers or similar.

- *B-Mitzvah Milestone* - Return to the Old City's Western Wall in the morning for a group service at Ezrat Yisrael (Robinson's Arch viewpoint), an egalitarian prayer space. Travelers who have recently become B-Mitzvah may take part in the ritual and will be celebrated for their achievement.
- *Markets* - Browse the marketplaces of the Old City's four quarters before heading west again to Mahane Yehuda. Build an appetite with light tastes from the market's diverse Jewish cuisines, then take time to find lunch on your own.

After some leisure time in the afternoon, gather for a closing group dinner before transferring to the airport for late night departing flights.

**Post-stay accommodation available for those wishing to keep their room for the day or spend additional nights in Jerusalem.*

Overnight: N/A [B, D]*

Pre Tour Extension:

There will be two possible options for a pre-tour extension (3 nights) that would begin in the afternoon/evening on Monday, August 4 with full day tour activities on August 5-7. Travelers will indicate their interest in an extension and preference for either Option A or Option B below during the registration process. The final itinerary will be determined accordingly, subject to security considerations.

Estimated costs for either extension: ~\$1,200 - \$1,850 per person depending on group size (minimum 6 persons up to 14 persons in the group).

(Option A - South) **Pre-tour extension** itinerary will focus in the Negev-Arava region, including visits to sites and communities such as a the **Gaza envelope**, a **Bedouin municipality**, **the Ramon Crater**, **the Arava Institute on the Kibbutz Ketura campus**, **the Lotan Eco-Park**, and others.

(Option B - North) **Pre-tour extension** itinerary will focus in the Galilee region, including visits to sites and communities such as the predominantly Yeminite Jewish community of **Rosh HaAyin**, **Tzfata**, the Jewish-Arab women's cooperative **Sindyanna of Galilee**, **Kibbutz Hannaton**, a **Druze village**, the **Hula Valley**, and others.

Possible additions for families with younger children:

> ***Bike or paddle boat rental*** and ride through *Ganei Yehoshua, HaYarkon Park* (Day 2 or Day 3)

> *The Israeli* ***Childhood Museum*** (Jaffa) (Day 3)

> *Neot Kedumim: Biblical Landscape Reserve* allows visitors to see and feel life as it was lived 3,000 years ago (Day 4)

> *Jerusalem* ***Time Elevator*** (Day 6)

> *Bloomfield* ***Science Museum*** (Day 8)