

Queer Trip to Israel & The West Bank

February 16-24, 2026

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival & Welcome - Monday, February 16

- **Morning/afternoon arrival** and transfer to accommodations
- *Optional* afternoon walking tour in **Neve Tzedek, Charles Clore Park** and the surroundings for travelers arriving in the morning.
- **Orientation and group welcome dinner**, guide and group leader-led framing of the itinerary and current moment in Israel

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv

MEALS: Breakfast Included

Day 2: Journey from Jaffa - Tuesday, February 17

- **Jaffa Port & Old Town**- Head towards Jaffa/Yafo for a walking tour highlighting the blend of ancient and contemporary, including evidence of Egyptians and Canaanites, an Ottoman Clock Tower, the Arab-Hebrew Theater, Farkash Gallery, and the Hilweh market.
- **White City, Hebrew City** - Pass the Hassan Bek mosque and through HaTahana, the terminal for the old Jaffa-Jerusalem railway. Open a conversation on the evolution of this area over the previous century with focus on the themes of immigration and displacement, entrepreneurship and urban transformation.
- **Carmel Market** - Grab lunch, as you weave through the stalls of a bustling marketplace. Browse the shops along Nahalat Binyamin.
- **Vision and Values** - Meet a panel of LGBTQ+ leaders for an intimate discussion on current trends and impacts on the community since October 2023.

Evening out - Dinner is on your own, followed by a performance (optional)

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv

MEALS: Breakfast Included





CBST - TOUR ITINERARY

Day 3: Perspectives on Belonging - Wednesday, February 18

- **South Tel Aviv** - Walk the neighborhood around the “New” Central Bus Station and Levinsky Street, seeing Tel Aviv through the eyes of foreign workers and asylum seekers, whose communities have made a home in Israel.
- **Tastes of Tel Aviv** - For lunch, enjoy a food tour “hop” between two markets lesser known to tourists, but celebrated by locals. Sample Moroccan flavors, Persian, Turkish and Greek cuisine.
- **Art and Interpretation** - Tour the Tel Aviv Museum of Art with two curators - one Palestinian and one Jewish Israeli - unpacking themes of identity and belonging across its collection, and reflecting on the site’s gravity after October 7.
- **Taking the Streets** - Emerge from the museum onto “Hostage Square,” site of solidarity and vigil for many months, from which the call to “Bring Them Home” boomed across the country and around the world.

OVERNIGHT: *Tel Aviv*

MEALS: *Breakfast and lunch included*

Day 4: Roads North - Thursday, February 19

- **Queering the Bay** - Traverse the neighborhoods of Hadar HaCarmel and Wadi Nisnas for a unique take on the city of Haifa, exploring stories of the LGBTQ community and Palestinian activism in the city center.
- **Galilee Intersections** - Head to the village of Shefa’amr (Shefaram), known for its diverse heritage from Jewish settlement in antiquity to serving as a Crusader administrative center, and as a key town under Ottoman rule. Note how these histories are preserved, and learn from a local resident about coexistence between today’s Muslim, Christian and Druze residents of the Galilee.
- **Gilboa** - Visit the unique Religious Zionist Kibbutz located in a remote region near Jenin, beside the 1967 “Green Line” dividing Israel from the West Bank. Discuss the community’s unique approach to religious education and fault lines within the “national religious” sector emerging in recent years.
- **River Jordan** - Take the highway south, discussing Israeli-Jordanian relations across the nearby border, and environmental challenges impacting the Jordan River and Dead Sea.

OVERNIGHT: *Jericho/Bethlehem*

MEALS: *Breakfast, lunch and dinner included*





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Day 5: The Ascent - Friday, February 20

- **Palace & Sanctuary** - Explore the "Oldest City in the World" reflecting on our current moment within the context of ancient civilizations. See the remarkable "Tree of Life" mosaic within an Umayyad Islamic desert castle and pass the site of a 6th century Jericho synagogue, where a preserved mosaic floor is maintained by local authorities.
- **The Valley** - Meet with longtime activists from Combatants for Peace (and/or others in the region) to discuss their efforts to build solidarity with vulnerable communities.
- **Marketplace** - Ascend to Jerusalem, reach the Mahane Yehuda market for lunchtime exploration of its vast flavors, then take a brief tour through the adjacent neighborhood of Nachlaot, home to traditional religious communities, artists, and activists.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** - After checking into your hotel, join evening services at a local progressive congregation before a group *kiddush*, dinner and singing.

OVERNIGHT: *Jerusalem*

MEALS: *Breakfast and dinner included*

Day 6: Shabbat in Jerusalem - Saturday, February 21

- **Old City & Beyond** - Walk through Yemin Moshe and enter the Jaffa Gate to explore what lies within the Ottoman walls, passing sites of meaning for Jewish, Armenian, Christian and Muslim communities. Step inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and walk along the Via Dolorosa, discussing ancient history and tensions around recent neighborhood developments.
- **Jewish Quarter** - Make your way past the Hurva Synagogue, see the Roman Cardo below, and arrive at the Western Wall plaza, reflecting on the enduring connection of the Jewish people with Jerusalem.
- **Open House** - Conclude the day with a visit to the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance. Hear about their work in conversation with a community leader and take a few moments for a group Havdalah ritual, marking the end of Shabbat.

OVERNIGHT: *Jerusalem*

MEALS: *Breakfast and lunch included*





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Day 7: Memory & Memorial - Sunday, February 22

- **Remnants** - Just beside the gateway to “New” Jerusalem stand the remains of a Palestinian village depopulated in 1948. Learn about the efforts of a coalition seeking to preserve Lifta’s remaining structures for their history, symbolism and possibility.
- **Viewpoints** - Head towards Sderot, a city just one kilometer from the Gaza border, to explore its complex history and reality of living under threat. Meet with representatives of a local organization that has worked for nearly 20 years to build connections between Israelis and Palestinians across a blockade. Learn human stories of life in Gaza since 2023.
- **The Envelope** - Arrive at Kibbutz Re'im and the Nova Music Festival site to engage with stories of trauma, survival, and collective memory following the events of October 7.
- **On the Margin** - Return north, stopping to meet with members of Bedouin communities deeply affected by the events of October 7. Hear about local achievements and challenges, past and present.

OVERNIGHT: *Jerusalem*

MEALS: *Breakfast and lunch included*

Day 8: Beyond Boundaries - Monday, February 23

- **Holy Mountain** - Ascend as a group to the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary with two guides - one Jewish Israeli and one Palestinian. 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.
- **Terraces** - Enjoy lunch prepared by a local women’s cooperative, then climb the well preserved stone agricultural terraces of Battir. Hear how villagers avoided attack in 1948 and consider how traditional practices of land stewardship constitute a form of resistance.
- **Separation** - Visit Banksy’s Walled Off Hotel and walk along the separation/security barrier between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, interpreting the political messages of its extensive graffiti murals.
- **Breaking the Fast** - Join *iftar* dinner hosted by a local Palestinian family, accompanied by traditional music played on the oud and a meeting with a representative of a leading peace organization.

OVERNIGHT: *Jerusalem*

MEALS: *Breakfast, lunch and dinner included*





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Day 9: Vision & Conclusions - Tuesday, February 24

- **Hand-in-Hand** - Head to southern Jerusalem for a tour of the local branch of the *Yad b'Yad* network of bilingual Hebrew-Arabic schools to hear from its educators about the challenges inherent within this framework and the power of language to build bridges.
- **Dignity & Rights** - Meet with a representative from a leading human rights organization for a discussion or text study on their religious imperative, growing community, and how their priorities have evolved in recent years
- *Spend the afternoon at leisure, taking time to further explore the city on your own (guide will be available to accompany travelers back to the Old City, if requested)*
- **Oasis** - Head to the shared Israeli-Palestinian village of *Wahat al Salaam - Neve Shalom* ("Oasis of Peace) for dinner, reflection, and discussion on prospects for the future.

Transfer to the airport for late night departing flights or return to Jerusalem if extending your stay.

OVERNIGHT: *N/A - tour ends after dinner and airport drop-off*

MEALS: *Breakfast and dinner included*

