



MEJDI TOURS

Congregation Beth Elohim's Multigenerational Israel & Palestine Mission

Date: October 18-23, 2026

Included: 5 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar

- 2 Nights: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv (Renovated Rooms)
- 3 Nights: Ambassador Hotel, East Jerusalem

2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 2 days
1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 3 day
5 days of private bus transportation
Meals listed in the itinerary: 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
Water on bus throughout tour
Audio headsets for daily use
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
US-based and local customer service representatives

Not included: International airfare
Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Single Supplement - \$775
Individual airport transfers to/from the airport
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing: \$2,950 USD per person in a double room

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability



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Itinerary

Day 0, Saturday, Oct 17: Departure

Day 1, Sunday, Oct 18: Welcome & Introductions (1 Guide, Group Transfer)

Transfer to your hotel. Check in, rest, and prepare for the journey ahead.

In the afternoon (3-4pm), meet your guide and go over the trip program together.

Then, gather for a **panel discussion**; speakers from organizations *such as Rabbis for Human Rights, Land for All, Combatants for Peace, Breaking the Silence*, and potentially other local voices representing civil society, peacebuilding, or minority communities.

End the day with a private **Welcome Dinner**.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (Dinner included)

Day 2, Monday, Oct 19: Humanity Beyond the Headlines (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

Begin your morning with a short stroll along the beach promenade next to the **Etzel Museum** (near Charles Clore Park) to set the stage for **Tel Aviv's early Zionist history**. Hear about the founding of the city, the transition from Jaffa to Tel Aviv, and the contrasting narratives tied to this coastal space.

Walk into the nearby **First Station**—a renovated Ottoman-era railway terminal that once connected Jaffa to Jerusalem—then continue into the charming neighborhood of **Neve Tzedek**, one of the first Jewish communities built outside of Jaffa's walls. Wander its quaint streets and explore the evolution of Jewish urban life in pre-state Israel.

Follow your guide through the **Mesila Park**, a linear green space built on the former train tracks that once linked Jerusalem and Jaffa, toward the vibrant and diverse **Levinsky Market**. Along the way, hear how each of these neighborhoods reflects the mosaic of Tel Aviv's identities—Sephardic, Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, immigrant, refugee—and how these stories continue to shape the city.



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Enjoy lunch on your own at the market—try bourekas, Persian rice dishes, or Yemenite soups from the family-run eateries tucked into Levinsky's corners.

Then, take a guided tour of **Jaffa** with **a Palestinian Political Activist**, exploring the history, identity, and current social status of Palestinian citizens of Israel, including reflections on the Nakba.

Afterward, visit the headquarters of **Standing Together** at their **"Purple House."** Meet with activists from this grassroots movement of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel working jointly for peace, equality, and social justice. Learn how solidarity organizing in Tel Aviv connects to broader efforts for shared society.

End the day with an inspiring lecture and dinner with **a local expert** for a discussion about Israeli society, identity, and the meaning of Jewish peoplehood in the 21st century.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (Breakfast included)

Day 3, Tuesday, Oct 20: Southern Israel and the Gaza Strip (1 Guide, Private Transportation)

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and begin the day in **Sderot**, a city just one kilometer from the Gaza border, to explore its complex history and experience firsthand the reality of life under threat. From there, head up to a **Gaza border lookout point** for broader geopolitical context and a chance to discuss the ongoing conflict and its impact on daily life in the region.

Continue to **Kibbutz Re'im/Kfar Azza** and the **Nova Music Festival site**, where you'll engage with stories of trauma, survival, and collective memory following the events of October 7.

Travel to **Jerusalem** and check in to your accommodations. En route, engage in a **guided discussion** reflecting on the current realities in **Gaza**.

Meet online **with a Gazan** to discuss the reality in Gaza.

Have a **group processing session** to close out the day.

Hotel: East Jerusalem (Breakfast and Lunch included)



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Day 4, Wednesday Oct 21: Borders, Belief, and Belonging (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

Begin the day in **Hebron** for a meeting with **Breaking the Silence** and later to **Mesafer Yata** where you will meet with local residents and continue the discussion about borders, checkpoints, settlements and the current heated conflicts in the area.

This afternoon have a short **tour between East & West Jerusalem**, offering panoramic views of Jerusalem's diverse neighborhoods and prompting conversation about the city's visible and invisible boundaries—those both on and off the map.

Then have a **conversation with a member of the Muna family** of the **Educational Bookstore** in Jerusalem.

Return to the **hotel for rest time**, journaling, or small group conversation.

Hotel: East Jerusalem (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 5, Thursday, Oct 22: Palestinian Experiences and “The Day After” (2 Guides, Private Transportation)

Travel to **Ramallah** for an immersive “**day in the life**” experience with a local resident. Meet several community members and hear personal stories that reflect the lived reality of those navigating the current conflict. Meet with speakers such as Sam Bahour to discuss life in Ramallah.

Return to Jerusalem for a **multi-narrative tour of Jerusalem's Old City**, guided by both Israeli and Palestinian voices. Explore the Armenian, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Quarters, while unpacking the spiritual, historical, and political dimensions that make this space sacred—and contested—for so many. Visit key sites like the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the **Western Wall**, and a view of the **Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount** area, while engaging with the complex layers of memory and identity held within these stones.

Meet with **religious leaders** to discuss **interfaith work** in the city. .

Wrap up the program with a **facilitated reflection session** led by your guides, followed by a **farewell group dinner**.

Hotel: East Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)



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Day 6, Friday, Oct 23- Departure

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

(Breakfast included)



Pre-Tour Itinerary

Day 0.1: Wednesday, October 14 – Arrival & Welcome to Jerusalem

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and transfer to your hotel in Jerusalem. Check in, relax, and take in your first views of the city.

Hotel: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem (or similar)

Meals Included: None

Day 0.2: Thursday, October 15 – Jewish Heritage in the Old City & Memory at Yad Vashem

Begin your day with a **Jewish heritage walking tour** of Jerusalem's Old City. With your MEJDI guide, explore:

- **The Jewish Quarter**, including the **Hurva Synagogue**, **Cardo**, and rooftops overlooking the Temple Mount
- **The Western Wall**, where you'll have time for reflection or prayer
- Overview of the **Temple Mount** from a Jewish historical and spiritual perspective

Lunch on your own in the Old City or nearby Mamilla.

Then, visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, for a guided experience focused on historical memory, loss, and resilience. Time permitting, walk briefly through Mt. Herzl, Israel's national cemetery.

Hotel: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem (or similar)

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 0.3: Friday, October 16 – Masada & the Dead Sea

Depart early for a full-day desert adventure. Drive east through the Judean Desert to the iconic **Masada fortress**, where you'll take a cable car up for a guided exploration of Herod's mountain palace and the last stand of Jewish rebels during the Roman siege.



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Continue to a **Dead Sea resort** for lunch and a chance to float in the salty, mineral-rich waters. Showers and changing facilities provided.

Return to Jerusalem by late afternoon.

Evening: Shabbat experience—either at the Western Wall or through a group Shabbat dinner with local hosts.

Hotel: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 0.4: Saturday, October 17 – Shabbat Options: Reflection or Northern Discovery

You'll have the choice to spend the day resting and exploring Jerusalem at your own pace, **or** join an optional **full-day guided tour to the Galilee**—a region rich with natural beauty, interfaith history, and cultural depth.

Option 1: Jerusalem at Leisure

Enjoy a relaxed morning. Possibilities include: Attend **Shabbat services** at a local synagogue, Visit the **Israel Museum**, including the Shrine of the Book and the Model of Second Temple Jerusalem, Stroll through **Yemin Moshe, the First Station**, or unwind in a nearby park.

Option 2: Full-Day Excursion – Galilee Day Tour

Leave early for a journey north to explore key sites of religious and cultural significance. Visit **Nazareth**, tour the **Basilica of the Annunciation** and explore local Arab-Jewish **coexistence** in Israel's largest Arab city.

Continue to the **Sea of Galilee**, stopping at Capernaum or Tabgha and enjoy lunch with a view of the water.

Return to Jerusalem in the early evening.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch