



# MEJDI TOURS

## **13 Day, 12 Night Interfaith Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities**

**January 6-18, 2016 (with Pre-Departure Dialogue Intensive in Minnesota on January 4, 2016)**

Join in a groundbreaking interfaith pilgrimage and dialogue intensive in Israel and Palestine, the birthplace of three religions and two national groups. We will practice the art of dialogue as we travel through the land, learning about each other's sacred sites and rituals and sharing our reflections on these experiences. Using the same dialogue skills, we will encounter and process the multiple national and political perspectives that animate Palestinian and Israeli societies.

With a unique approach that accesses contemporary issues through personal storytelling and relationship building, the tour features a diverse array of guides and speakers—Israeli and Palestinian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim, conservative, moderate and progressive. Beginning with the rich religious history of Jerusalem, journeying deep into West Bank villages, and ending in Nazareth, this tour offers you the opportunity to meet local religious leaders, politicians, scholars, peacemakers, and activists, learn about contrasting national narratives, and explore future prospects for justice, security, and peace in the region.

Join us for this unique pilgrimage that explores the complex issues facing Palestine and Israel, through the eyes of many of its residents and through our own shared experience.

**Mon, Jan 4: Pre-Departure Dialogue Intensive in Minnesota – 9 AM-5 PM.**

**Tues, Jan 5: Depart**

**Day 1, Wed, Jan 6: Arrive and Orientation Session**

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (D)

**Day 2, Thurs Jan 7: Jerusalem's Modern History**

- Tour Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum.
- Continue to the new Herzl Museum at Mt. Herzl for learn about Herzl's Zionist vision.
- Then visit Mount Herzl's Leaders of the Nation Cemetery and Military Cemetery.
- Next visit Ein Kerem for a Palestinian perspective on the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, displacement, and ongoing struggles. See Christian holy sites there.
- Free time in Ein Kerem for an early dinner your own.
- Conflict resolution/peace-building speaker in the evening.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B)

**Day 3, Fri, Jan 8: Jerusalem's Old City**

- Tour the four quarters of the Old City including: The Western Wall and underground tunnel excavations, Arab Shuk market, Cardo, Christian Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Tower of David, and an Armenian church.
- Jum'a prayer for Muslims at Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- Attend Egalitarian Shabbat services, followed by dinner and a dialogue session at the hotel.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B, D)

**Day 4, Sat, Jan 9: Interfaith Religious Peace-Builders**

- Attend Modern Orthodox Shabbat morning services, followed by a progressive Orthodox speaker from the congregation and lunch hosted by congregants.
- Meet with a Palestinian religious leader in the afternoon.
- Dialogue/processing session.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B, L)

**Day 5, Sun, Jan 10: Interfaith Religious Peace-Builders**

- Attend church services at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City.
- At the Mount of Olives, meet interreligious peace-builders from the Jerusalem Peacemakers and visit the Jewish cemetery and Christian holy sites.
- Free time for dinner on your own at First Station.
- Meet bereaved Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders from Parents Circle-Families Forum.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B)

**Day 6, Mon, Jan 11: Political: Women of the Wall and Settlement Expansion in East Jerusalem**

- Attend Women of the Wall's monthly service at the Western Wall and meet their leaders.
- Ascend to the Temple Mount to the Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock for a tour of the precinct (Q&A with a local Muslim imam).
- Tour the "City of David" archaeological site and visit surrounding East Jerusalem Palestinian village of Silwan. Meet local residents and learn with an Israeli archaeological activist.
- Visit the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah with Rabbis for Human Rights. Meet Palestinian residents dealing with evictions and displacement by Israeli settlers.
- Dialogue session.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B)

**Day 7, Tues, Jan 12: Politicians**

- At the Knesset, meet with an Israeli official.
- In Ramallah, meet with Mustafa Barghouti, a Palestinian physician, activist, and politician who serves as General Secretary of the Palestine National Initiative.
- Dialogue/processing session.
- Have dinner as a group; then, check out the best of Palestinian nightlife.

*Hotel:* Ramallah (B, D)

**Day 8, Wed, Jan 13: Ramallah**

- Meet with a Palestinian peace and dialogue leader.
- Tour the Mahmoud Darwish Museum.
- Visit Palestinian village of Budrus. Meet a community organizer from the Palestinian Popular Committees Against the Wall and Settlements.
- Have dinner with Palestinian host families in Bethlehem area.

*Hotel:* Bethlehem (B, D)

**Day 9, Thurs, Jan 14: Bethlehem and Hebron**

- Visit the Church of the Nativity and a refugee camp accompanied by a Palestinian Lutheran Church leader.
- Tour Hebron. Visit both the Jewish and Muslim holy shrines at the Cave of the Patriarchs and meet settlers, local Palestinian residents, and a faith-based peace observation team.
- Dialogue/processing session.
- Have dinner with Palestinian host families in Bethlehem area.

*Hotel:* Bethlehem (home stays available) (B, D)

**Day 10, Fri, Jan 15: Peace-Builders from Tent of Nations, Holy Land Trust & the Roots Project**

- Visit the Tent of Nations. Meet Palestinian peace-builders there while planting trees.
- Meet both settler and Palestinian peace-building leaders from the Roots Project and Holy Land Trust.
- Attend egalitarian Shabbat services in Jerusalem, followed by dinner and a dialogue/processing session.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B, L, D)

**Day 11, Sat, Jan 16: Jerusalem**

- Attend Conservative (Masorti) egalitarian Shabbat morning services, followed by lunch hosted by congregants.
- Meet with interreligious peace-building/dialogue leader.
- Dialogue/processing session.

*Hotel:* Jerusalem (B, L)

**Day 12, Sun, Jan 17: Nazareth**

- Visit the Palestinian village of Barta'a, a Palestinian town that straddles the Green Line. Meet a Palestinian leader from coexistence-focused organization Givat Haviva.
- Attend church services at the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.
- Have dinner with a representative of the peace organization Anwar al Salaam Society.

*Hotel:* Nazareth (B, D)

**Day 13, Mon, Jan 18: Nazareth, Druze Village & Nes Ammim**

- Dialogue session.
- Visit the White Mosque and the Arab Institute for Holocaust Research and Education.
- Have lunch in the home of Druze family in Bayt Jann.
- Visit Nes Ammim, a community founded by European Christians committed to interfaith dialogue.
- Return to Ben Gurion Airport.

(B, L)