



MEJDI TOURS

**Overlake Community Church &
Bellevue Presbyterian Church
January 31 – February 7, 2017
8 Days, 7 Nights – Holy Land Pilgrimage**

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 – Tuesday, January 31: Arrival (1 guide)

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and transfer to Jerusalem for check-in and a welcome dinner with Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and MEJDI Tour Guides.

Hotel: Jerusalem
[D]

Day 2 – Wednesday, February 1: Jerusalem in Conflict (2 guides)

Begin the morning with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Temple Mount. Then, take a full day alternative tour of the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with two guides, one Palestinian and one Jewish. Visits include the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter; touring the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and discussing the many conflicts over the site. The afternoon will be spent traversing the Mount of Olives where Jesus had his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and will include Holy Sites such as Dominus Favit (where Jesus wept) and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Hotel: Jerusalem
[B, L, D]

Day 3 – Thursday, February 2: Jerusalem, Israeli Narrative (2 guides)

With a Jewish and Palestinian guide, explore Jerusalem's political history from an Israeli perspective. Pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust

Museum. Then, take a walking tour of Ein Kerem to learn different narratives about Zionism and Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Following lunch, meet with some Jewish Israeli leaders to learn about their perspective of the current realities affecting communities in the Holy Land. This could include Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth, an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi who teaches on conflict resolution. Have dinner and a informative lecture with Colonel Daniel Tirza, the Israeli officer who designed the route of the separation barrier. Finally, enjoy an optional trip after dinner to see the bustling nightlife of Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem.

Hotel: Jerusalem
[B, L, D]

Day 4 – Friday, February 3: Hebron (2 guides)

Start the day with a devotional at the Garden Tomb led by the group's pastors. Then, cross back into the West Bank and travel to Hebron, to tour the Old City of and the Cave of the Patriarchs. The Ibrahimi Mosque and Synagogue is the burial site of the Patriarch Abraham. Have a light lunch in the city and shop among the souk (local market) in Hebron. Visit a Jewish settlement prior to Shabbat and have a discussion with Israeli settlers. Meet with Defense for Children International (DCI) to learn about the realities affecting Palestinian children who have been affected by military detention. In the evening, enjoy a special dinner with Israeli and Palestinian guest speakers from a reconciliation peacebuilding organization, a program focused on learning the narrative of the "other".

Hotel: Bethlehem
[B, L, D]

Day 5 – Saturday, February 4: Bethlehem, Palestinian Christian Perspective (1 guide)

Begin the day in Bethlehem with a tour of the Church of the Nativity. Walk the Separation Wall and visit Aida Refugee Camp. Head to the Tent of Nations for lunch, a home cooked meal prepared by the Nasser Family and to learn more about their ministry and engagement in peacemaking. Afternoon meet with Sami Awad of Holy Land Trust in the Old City of Bethlehem to further discuss realities and challenges of holistic peace in the land. Savor fresh local cuisine at a Bedouin Tent Restaurant for dinner.

Hotel: Bethlehem
[B, L, D]

Day 6 – Sunday, February 5: Worship in Aboud and Visiting the West Bank (1 guide)

This morning worship with the Palestinian Christian community in Aboud; attend Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox services. Spend time with Father Ibrahim at the Catholic Church for a briefing. Lunch with Abuna Immanuel at the Orthodox Church in Aboud. Afternoon visit to the Palestinian community of Budrus to meet with the village Council and learn about their realities with the building of the separation fence. Return to Bethlehem for dinner at the hotel.

Hotel: Bethlehem
[B, L, D]

Day 7 – Monday, February 6: Compassion & Peace (1 guide)

Morning at Joy School for children with disabilities in Beit Sahour. Drive to the Jordan Valley for lunch and afternoon with Echo Peace. Meet and hear from Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers committed to environmental justice as a means of pursuing reconciliation and a lasting solution to the violence and conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Drive to Tiberius where travelers will have the option of staying in the homes in a Jewish kibbutz.

Hotel: Stay in a kibbutz in Tiberius (maybe Kibbutz Ginnosaur)
[B, L, D]

Day 8 – Tuesday, February 7: Sea of Galilee and Tiberius (1 guide)

Spend the day in reflection and community among the Holy Sites around the Sea of Galilee. Explore Capernaum, home of Peter and site of Jesus' ministry, the Primacy of St. Peter in Tabgha and enjoy a hilltop prayer in the gardens at the Mount of Beatitudes. Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on water and called for Peter to do the same. Consider renewing your baptismal vows in the Jordan River and enjoy a late and leisurely lunch of St. Peter's fish or another local delicacy as a celebratory departure meal.

Departures to the Airport (Flights must depart *no earlier* than 11:00 pm, Tuesday, February 7)

or

Extension Group stays at Kibbutz in Tiberius one more night.
[B, L, D]