



MEJDI TOURS

**Bellevue Presbyterian & Overlake Christian Church
November 3-10, 2018
8 Days, 7 Nights – Holy Land Pilgrimage**

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Saturday, November 3, 2018: Arrival (1 guide)

- Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and transfer to Jerusalem for check-in and a welcome dinner with Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Director of Advocacy and Government Engagement and MEJDI Tour Guide.

Hotel: St. George Landmark Hotel, Jerusalem [D]

Day 2 – Sunday, November 4, 2018 – 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 the Palestinian activist community of Nabi Saleh. Perhaps see if Selwa Dubais (from The Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling, WCLAC) might join the afternoon meeting.
- Return to Jerusalem for dinner at the hotel.

Hotel: St. George Landmark Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L, D]

Day 3 – Monday, November 5, 2018 – 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. Other Old City sites include St. Anne's church where Jesus healed the man who had been lame at the Pool of Bethesda and Ecce Homo, at the beginning of the path of the Via Dolorosa.
- 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 Falvit (where Jesus wept) and the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Finally, enjoy a dinner celebration with the family of Aziz Abu Sarah in the Palestinian town of Al Lazarea.

Hotel: St. George Landmark Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L, D]

Day 4 – Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – 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. Have lunch with a renowned Israeli expert on Jerusalem, Danny Seidemann.
- And have an afternoon driving/walking tour of Jerusalem with Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions (ICAHD).
- Finally, enjoy an optional trip to see the bustling nightlife of Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem and have dinner on own.

Hotel: St. George Landmark Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 5 – Wednesday, November 7, 2018 – 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.
- In the afternoon, visit with the Palestinian peace activist Issa Amro and learn about their efforts as a part of Youth Against Settlements.

Hotel: Jacier Palace Hotel, Bethlehem [B, L, D]

Day 6 – Thursday, November 8, 2018 – Bethlehem, Palestinian Christian Perspective (1 guide)

- Begin the day in Bethlehem with a tour of the Church of the Nativity.
- Walk the Separation Wall.
- Have a midmorning visit with Settler Bob at Efrat settlement.
- Head to the Tent of Nations for lunch, a home cooked meal prepared by the Palestinian Christian Nasser Family and to learn more about their ministry and engagement in peacemaking.
- Afternoon meet with Palestinian Christian 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: Jacier Palace Hotel, Bethlehem [B, L, D]

Day 7 – Friday, November 9, 2018 – Compassion & Peace (1 guide)

- Morning at Joy School for children with disabilities in Beit Sahour.
- Drive to Nablus and have lunch there in the heart of the city.
- Meet with student activists in Nablus to learn about Palestinian efforts toward a just peace.
- In the afternoon, have a visit at the church and take a drink of water from the well there dating back to the time of Jacob.
- Stop by Rafidiah for the Palestinian traditional desert of Knaffeh.
- Drive to Tiberius where travelers will have the option of staying in the homes in a Jewish kibbutz.

Hotel: Ohalo Kibbutz Hotel [B, L, D]

Day 8 – Saturday, November 10, 2018 - 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)

(B, L)