



MEJDI TOURS

CONGREGATION KOL AMI RODFEI SHALOM November 5 - 13, 2018

ITINERARY

Day 1, Monday, November 5, 2018: Welcome to Jerusalem

- Arrive into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and transfer on your own to the hotel in Jerusalem.
- Meet up with your group and guides for an opening program.

Hotel: Jerusalem

Day 2, Tuesday, November 6, 2018: Jerusalem's Old City

- Ascend to the Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif and tour the precinct. An imam from the mosque will explain the importance of the site to Muslims.
- Visit the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza and learn about the current state of affairs to create an egalitarian section.
- Have lunch on your own in the Old City.
- Learn about the Christian "Stations of the Cross" along the Via Dolorosa and the incense-filled halls of the Holy Sepulchre Church, the place identified as both the site of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
- Meet Wissam Razzouk at Razzouk Ink, a 700-year-old Christian family owned tattoo parlor that catered to Christian pilgrims. He has centuries of family stories to tell including his own recent involvement in "Healing Ink," which uses tattooing to help Israeli victims of terrorism and war overcome trauma.
- Return to the hotel and have free time in downtown Jerusalem for dinner on your own.
- In the evening, screen the Combatants for Peace's film *Disturbing the Peace*, followed by a facilitated discussion with Nobel Peace Prize nominees Chen Alon and Sulaiman Khatib.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B]

Day 3, Wednesday, November 7, 2018: Sigd and the YMCA

- Spend the day celebrating Sigd, a holiday of the Ethiopian Jewish community. During Sigd, the Ethiopian Jewish community marks the renewal of the covenant between the Jewish people, God and the Torah. On Sigd, Ethiopian Jews traditional held communal introspection and pray for a return to Zion. Today, since most members of the Ethiopian Jewish community have made

Aliyah, community members travel to Jerusalem and visit the Kotel and the Armon Hanatziv promenade for an annual gathering of the entire Ethiopian community.

- Have a picnic lunch together at the Sigd gathering along the Armon Hanatziv promenade.
- In the afternoon, then have a 1-on-1 session with members of the YMCA Jerusalem Youth Chorus involving discussion, singing, storytelling and more. The YMCA Jerusalem Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program for Israeli and Palestinian high school students in Jerusalem.
- Return to the hotel and have free time in downtown Jerusalem for dinner on your own.
- In the evening, attend a Sigd celebration at Beit Avi Chai.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 4, Thursday, November 8, 2018: Northern West Bank

- Start the morning off by harvesting olives with Palestinian farmers and volunteers from Rabbis for Human Rights and Combatants for Peace in the northern West Bank.
- Have lunch in the field with the farmers and fellow volunteers.
- Visit Rawabi to see the first planned Palestinian city.
- Return to the hotel and have free time in downtown Jerusalem for dinner on your own.
- In the evening, attend a Jerusalem International Oud Festival concert. The Oud Festival promotes cultural diversity while strengthening familiar sounds and protecting endangered sounds.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 5, Friday, November 9, 2018: Women of the Wall, Peace and Justice through Hands-on Arts, and Shabbat in Jerusalem

- Join Women of the Wall for their monthly Rosh Chodesh service at the Kotel. Ask Anat Hoffman to speak with the group afterwards about her work with Women of the Wall and the Israel Religious Action Center of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.
- Travel to the Beit Jala area of the West Bank. Spend the morning with activists from Combatants for Peace making Peace Puppets for their monthly Freedom Marches. These giant puppets are modeled after the Bread and Puppet Theater's puppets.
- Have lunch together in Beit Jala.
- If it is possible to coordinate the tour with a Combatants for Peace Freedom March, the group will join their Israeli and Palestinian activists in supporting breaking the cycle of violence, the frustration, and the despair, to march in support for peace and justice for both people.
 - If there is not a Combatants for Peace Freedom March that day, visit Bethlehem's Walled Off Hotel instead. The Walled Off Hotel was set up and financed by world renowned Street Artist Banksy. See their

museum and art gallery. Visit the hotel's "Wall*Mart" store for supplies, "bespoke stencil tutorials," and guidance about adding your own personal mark on the wall.

- Return to Jerusalem to celebrate Shabbat with an egalitarian congregation.
- Have Shabbat dinner together.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B, L, D]

Day 6, Saturday, November 10, 2018: Bethlehem and the Gush Etzion Region (just the Palestinian guide)

- Travel to the Bethlehem area of the West Bank. Visit Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, originally commissioned in 327 by Constantine the Great and his mother Helena over the site that is still traditionally considered to be located over the cave that marks the birthplace of Jesus.
- Travel to the Tent of Nations and Dahers' Vineyard on the land owned by the Nassar family. The family seeks to bring people from all over the world together to build bridges of understanding, connecting people to each other, and to the land to which we all belong. Over a rustic home cooked lunch, the Nassar family will share their personal stories with the group.
- Travel north to Beit Jala for a theatre performance from members of Combatants for Peace. Their theatre group employs a technique known as forum theatre that was first developed by the Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal as part of the approach he named Theatre of the Oppressed. The group re-enact actual scenes from their own lives in front of an audience, who are then encouraged to stop being spectators and become 'spect-actors' - participating in the action.
- Return to Jerusalem and enjoy a free evening and dinner on your own.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 7, Sunday, November 11, 2018: Hebron Region

- Travel into the West Bank to Hebron's Old Town. Walk down Shuahada Street. Visit the Women in Hebron Cooperative shop. See the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. If available, a representative of Breaking the Silence will join the group.
- Sample some Hebron "street food" with a falafel lunch in the center of the Old Town.
- In the afternoon, meet with Hadassah Froman, an Orthodox Jewish peacemaker from the West Bank settlement of Tekoa and involved in the Abrahamic Reunion movement. She was the wife of the late Rabbi Menachem Froman, a pioneer in Jewish-Muslim peacemaking in the West Bank settlements.
- Return to the hotel and hear from two representatives from the Parents Circle-Families Forum, an organization of bereaved Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones to the conflict and who have come together to work for peace. [If available, Bassam Aramin will be one of the speakers.]
- Enjoy a free evening and dinner on your own.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 8, Monday, November 12, 2018: Jerusalem Organizations

- Visit the Max Rayne Hand-In-Hand Bilingual School in Jerusalem.
- Grab a quick lunch on your own along Yafo Street.
- Visit the Jerusalem African Community Center, a community-based organization led jointly by Israeli and African activists that promotes quality of life and overall well-being for African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Jerusalem.
- In the peacework shared working space for organizations and individuals who are positive influences on the coexistence of Israeli and Palestinian community in Jerusalem, have an interactive program with Israeli and Palestinian youth from Kids4Peace: A Grassroots Interfaith Youth Movement.
- Return to the hotel and have dinner on your own.

Hotel: Jerusalem [B]

Day 9, Tuesday, November 13, 2018: Coexistence

- Have a final group processing session after breakfast.
- Check out of the hotel head to Jaffa.
- Spend the afternoon on a walking tour of the historic port city of Jaffa highlighting how it has become an incubator for coexistence.
 - Stop at Physicians for Human Rights-Israel at their Jaffa clinic and learn about the communities they serve [don't go in].
 - Check out the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop [go in].
 - See what's on display at the Jaffa Art Salon where Israeli and Palestinian artists work together under one roof [go in].
 - Have lunch on your own in Jaffa's Old Town.
 - Stop at two multiethnic/multilingual theaters, the Elmina Theater - Multicultural Theater for Children and Youth and the Arab-Hebrew Theater [don't go in].
 - See the Wishing Bridge in the center of the Old Town.
 - See the Tabeetha School, founded by Jane Walker-Arnott, a mid-19th century young Scotswoman who came to Jaffa on a Christian Mission, who found a lack of educational opportunities for girls under Turkish rule. The school remains supported by the Church of Scotland and continues to provide education for youngsters of all faiths. Visit the school's Museum of Coexistence, if it is open at the time of the tour.
- Have a farewell dinner in the home of Alia Dassuki. Alia's catering business is an outgrowth of her participation in the Arous El Bahr program that provides Arab women of Jaffa with tools and resources needed to advance financially and socially.
- Group transfer to the airport for those who are interested.

[B, D]

