



# MEJDI TOURS

**The Tour You Haven't Taken: Ten Days in Israel and Palestine**

**April 1 – April 10, 2019**

**with**

**The Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center**

**and**

**Rabbi Caryn Broitman**

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1, Monday, April 1, 2019: Arrival**

- Arrive into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport on your own.
- Transfer on your own from the airport to the hotel in Tel Aviv.
- In the evening meet up with up with your two guides, one Israeli and one Palestinian, and your fellow travelers for an opening program.

*Hotel: Cinema Hotel, Tel Aviv*

### **Day 2, Tuesday, April 2, 2019: Tel Aviv**

- Begin your tour at Meir Park, opened in 1944 and named after the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff. Meir Park is home to a prominent city funded gay community center. Outside of the center, you can find a monument dedicated to the gay victims of the Holocaust and a garden serving as a memorial to 2009 shooting spree at a Tel Aviv LGBT youth club.
- Meet Mickey Gitzin, Executive Director of the New Israel Fund in Israel and Tel Aviv-Jaffa City Council Member in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. He is also the Mayor's advisor for global development and innovation. Prior to joining NIF, Mickey was the founding director of "Israel Hofsheet" (Be Free Israel), a leading grassroots organization fighting for separation of religion and state in Israel.
- Then check out the hustle and bustle of the Carmel Shuk Market, meeting vendors, savoring the best of local produce, and grabbing some lunch on your own.

- Get a tour of the Center for Contemporary Arts, a well-established art space showing groundbreaking time-based art from Israel and beyond.
- Enjoy some time to peruse the weekly Nahalat Binyamin Art Market.
- Stroll down Bialik Street, home to Rubin Museum, the former residence of painter Reuven Rubin and Bialik House, the former residence of Israel's national poet Chaim Nachman Bialik.
- Visit Beit Ha'ir, the recently renovated historical Town Hall of Tel Aviv that forms part of the Bialik Complex – a center of Hebrew and Israeli culture that comprises a pivotal chapter in the history and cultural life of the city. The Bialik Square and its surrounding buildings, including Beit Ha'ir, have been declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO and are included in the area of Tel-Aviv designated a "White City" for its unique variant of modern international architecture.
- Have an early dinner on your own at the Sarona indoor culinary market located in a former 19th century German Templar colony that later served as an important venue for political and strategically decision-making by the early government of the fledgling State of Israel. This delectable foodies' market has approximately 100 specialty food shops and eateries, from cheese shops and butchers to specialty chocolate boutiques, bakeries, produce stores, and more.

*Hotel: Cinema Hotel, Tel Aviv [Breakfast included]*

### **Day 3, Wednesday, April 3, 2019: Jisr az Zarqa, Ein Hawd/Ein Hod, Kfar Tikva, and Haifa**

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast head north along the coast.
- Visit the Arab fishermen's village of Jisr az Zarqa. Through a young leaders project, youths in the community have learned English and trained as local guides who will take you around their hometown. They will share insights from their life experiences, culture, and community's history, and show you the village's mosque. Be treated to a home cooked Arab lunch.
- Continue up the coast to the village of Ein Hawd/Ein Hod. This village is one of the approximately 400 Palestinian Arab villages that were evacuated during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The village of Ein Hawd was renamed Ein Hod and established as a Jewish artist colony, the only artists' village in Israel, and one of few of its kind in the whole world. Meanwhile, several Arabs from the original community returned to the village lands after being released from an Israeli prisoner of war camp, refused to leave the area and settled on the village lands. They established a new village that, after much struggle, eventually got recognized as Ein Hawd.

- Tour some of the galleries and studios in Ein Hod and hear about the history of Ein Hawd/Ein Hod.
- Visit the Tulip Winery, a socially responsible winery located on a mountainside in Kfar Tikva (Village of Hope), a small pastoral settlement whose population consists of people with special needs.
- End the day in Haifa and check into the hotel.
- Have a free evening for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Bay Club Hotel, Haifa [Breakfast and Lunch included]*

#### **Day 4, Thursday, April 4, 2019: The Cultural Diversity of the North**

- Briefly stop at the beautiful Baha'i Gardens in Haifa to learn about Baha'i faith.
- Visit an authentic Ethiopian style house built of mud and straw in Kibbutz Evron. Yonie Skiba will introduce the group to Jewish Ethiopian tradition and cuisine over a buna (coffee) ceremony and some injara.
- Then visit the Druze village of Hurfeish, with its museum of Druze culture and its mountaintop holy place, Nebi Sabalan. Nebi Sabalan (perhaps referring to Zebulon, one of the sons of Jacob) is one of the most important Druze religious sites in Israel. The site offers a beautiful vista of the western Galilee. At Sambusak Ha'arazim, watch locals produce crispy sambusak bread rich with olive oil on a tabun. Have lunch here.
- After lunch, stop at Kibbutz Sasa for a factory tour and five-flavor tasting of Buza Ice Cream, a local Galilean ice cream produced from the finest products, 100% natural and based on Italian experience. Buza, the Arabic word for icecream, is owned and operated by Alaa Sweetat, a local Muslim and Adam Ziv, a Jew from Kibbutz Sasa. The first Buza store is located in the center of Jewish – Arab town of Maalot-Tarshicha in the Western Galilee. It all begun with a dream of delicious coexistence.
- Have a free evening for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Bay Club Hotel, Haifa [Breakfast, buna/injara, Lunch, and ice cream included]*

#### **Day 5, Friday, April 5, 2019: Lower Galilee**

- Check out after breakfast.
- Begin the day by meeting Aliza Erez from Women Waging Peace to learn about this movement. The group will hand deliver their contributions to the "Creating our Peace Quilt – Piece for Peace" Women's Peace Quilt.

- Ascend to Jerusalem.
- Sample your way through the pre-Shabbat hustle and bustle of the Machane Yehudah shuk market. Have lunch on your own.
- Check into your hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- Attend an egalitarian Shabbat service. Then, be hosted by Jewish families for a Shabbat dinner.

*Hotel: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

### **Day 6, Saturday, April 6, 2019: Shabbat in Jerusalem (No Bus)**

- Enjoy a free morning with the option to attend Shabbat morning services at either Shira Hadasha or Kol Hanesama.
- Have a Shabbat lunch together at the hotel.
- In the afternoon, meet Professor Ed Greenstein, Head of the Institute for Jewish Biblical Interpretation and the Meiser Chair in Biblical Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He also serves as Chair of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies.
- Then stroll through the picturesque neighborhoods of Mishkenot Sha'ananim and Yemin Moshe, the first settlements outside the Jewish quarter of the Old City, followed by a musical Havdallah with Nava Tehila and Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagen.
- Have a free evening.

*Hotel: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]*

### **Day 7, Sunday, April 7, 2019: Old City of Jerusalem**

- Enter the Old City and visit the Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif for a tour the precinct.
- Next, visit the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza and learn about the current state of affairs to create an egalitarian section.
- Then, head into the hidden strata of the Western Wall (revealed through underground tunnels), which tell the story of ancient Jerusalem and of generations of longing for it. Hear a Palestinian perspective on the tunnel project.
- Have some hummus and falafel at Ziyad Abu Shukri for a light lunch.
- Eat strudel on the roof of the Austrian Hospice.

- Learn about the Christian “Stations of the Cross” along the Via Dolorosa and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, identified as the place of both the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
- Weave through the shops and alleyways of the Arab shuk (market) and taste some authentic Middle Eastern food such as basbousa, ma’amoul, sefiha, old- time Jerusalem bagels, mutabak, halva, and tahini.
- At the end of the tour, 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.
- Have a free evening.

*Hotel: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch, and food samples included]*

### **Day 8, Monday, April 8, 2019: Bethlehem, Hebron, and Settlements**

- Travel into the West Bank.
- Tour the separation barrier and discuss its impact on Israelis and Palestinians.
- Continue to Hebron’s Old Town. Walk down Shuahada Street. Visit the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. Receive a copy of a Breaking the Silence report that covers Hebron. Meet a settler representative.
- Tour the Israeli settlement of Efrat in the Gush Etzion region of the West Bank. Meet Fivel Glasser, a resident of Efrat and Director of Nesiya, an organization that inspires young people from diverse backgrounds to enrich Jewish life for themselves and others.
- Have an early pescetarian or vegetarian dinner with traditional, home- cooked food and music at the home of a local family in Bethany.
- Check into the hotel in Taybeh.

*Hotel: Taybeh Golden Hotel [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

### **Day 9, Tuesday, April 9, 2019: Birzeit and Taybeh**

- Travel to Birzeit to see the stunning architecture and exhibits at the new Palestinian Museum in Birzeit.
- After lunch, tour Birzeit Brewery and sample their varieties of Shepherds Beer.
- NOTE: Due to change in operation with Palestinian Circus, this afternoon activity will be replaced and travelers will be notified prior to departure.

- Return to the hotel, and have the option to take a tour of the Taybeh Winery and Brewery.
- After a pescetarian or vegetarian dinner, meet Palestinian and Israeli representatives of Combatants for Peace, an egalitarian, bi-national, grassroots organization of former combatants, people who had taken an active role in the conflict, whom have now laid down their weapons on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces.

*Hotel: Taybeh Golden Hotel [Breakfast, Lunch, beer/wine, and Dinner included]*

### **Day 10, Wednesday, April 10, 2019: Jaffa**

- Check out after breakfast and travel to Jaffa.
- Tour the historic port city of Jaffa, highlighting how it has become an incubator for coexistence.
- Visit the Bustan Yafa Bilingual (Hebrew, Arabic) Kindergarten that operates in the spirit of the Waldorf method and meet with its director.
- Visit to a human rights NGO in Jaffa and learn about the communities they serve from one of their staff members.
- Check out the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop [have the opportunity to go in].
- Stop at the Tabeetha School to learn about its history and visit the school's Museum of Coexistence if it is open. Continue to the antiques, trendy hip shops, and funky kitsch packed into the Jaffa Flea Market.
- Wander through the Old Town and stop at the Arab-Hebrew Theater, Wishing Bridge, and Farkash Gallery.
- Have a closing group session in Jaffa's Old Town.
- End the tour with an early pescetarian or vegetarian dinner at a Jaffa home with Alia Dassuki. Her 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 departure

*[Breakfast and Dinner included]*