



MEJDI TOURS

Georgetown University: Interfaith Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

December 28, 2018 - January 7, 2019

Itinerary:

Day 0: Thursday, December 27 - Departure

- Flight options from a Washington, DC area airport and JFK in NY.

Day 1: Friday, December 28 - Arrival

- Meet your Jordanian guide and driver.
- Group transfer to the hotel.
- Reconvene for a welcome, orientation, and interfaith Muslim and Jewish evening prayer ritual.
- On the way to dinner, stroll along Rainbow and Mango Streets in the hip and historic Jabal Amman area near the center of downtown Amman. Have a welcome dinner overlooking downtown Amman at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's Wild Jordan Center

Hotel: Grand Hyatt, Amman [Dinner Included]

Day 2: Saturday, December 29 - Jordan

- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Rabbi Rachel Gartner.
- Spend the morning with Jesuit Relief Service, touring a refugee camp, and learning about their work supporting urban refugees in Amman, Amman's Citadel, and Roman Theater led by the group's tour guide.
- Have a reflection session led by a clergy member from the Office of Campus Ministry.
- Possible/unconfirmed: In the evening, VIP reception for the group.

Hotel: Grand Hyatt, Amman [Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included]

Day 3: Sunday, December 30 - Amman and Ramallah

- Check out after breakfast.
- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Fr. Mark Bosco.
- Travel to Mt. Nebo, the site mentioned in the Bible as the place where Moses viewed the

Promised Land. Father Mark Bosco will lead Sunday Mass at this holy site for the Feast of the Holy Family. Then Imam Yahya Hendi and Rabbi Rachel Gartner will lead an interfaith text study on Moses as reflected in the Torah and Quran.

- Cross the border into Israel/Palestine at the Allenby Bridge with VIP border services.
- Visit the Baptism site at Qasr al Yahud (The Jews' Castle or Palace) on the banks of the Jordan River. Christian tradition associates Qasr al Yahud with the site of Jesus's baptism by Matthew. In Jewish tradition, this is considered the location where Joshua led the Israelites into the land known by many names: The Land of Canaan, the Holy Land, the Promised Land, the biblical Land of Israel, and the ancient Land of Palestine.
- Stop to see the Nabi Musa Shrine dedicated to Moses.
- Then travel north to the 6th century CE St. George Church in the Palestinian village of Jifna.
- Continue to Ramallah to check into the hotel and have dinner with Sam Bahour, a prominent Palestinian businessman.

Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Ramallah (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 4: Monday, December 31 - Nablus Area

- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Imam Yahya Hendi.
- Visit Jacob's Well (John 3:4, 4:5-6, Genesis 18:33). Joseph's Tomb, and the Samaritan community of Mount Gerizim in the Nablus region.
- Have lunch.
- Visit the tombs of prophets and biblical figures including Jonah and Joshua in the Palestinian village of Kifl Haris.
- Drive through the Israeli settlement of Ariel on the way back to Ramallah.
- Return to the hotel in Ramallah and have a reflection session led by a clergy member from the Office of Campus Ministry. Have dinner with Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian legislator, women's rights activist, and scholar.

Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Ramallah (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 5, Tuesday, January 1 - Bethlehem

- Check out after breakfast. . Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Fr. Mark Bosco.
- Travel to Bethlehem. 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.
- Then tour the campus of Bethlehem University, the only Catholic University in the West Bank, and meet faculty and students. Students from the University's Institute for Hotel Management and Tourism will serve the group's lunch as part of their hand-on training

toward their degree program. If time permits, visit the Bethlehem Museum for Heritage and Culture, dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the role Palestinian Christians play in preserving Palestine's heritage, identity, and culture.

- See the separation barrier up close and discuss both its impact on Israelis and Palestinians and the images you see painted on the wall.
- Visit the Walled Off Hotel, set up and financed by world renowned Street Artist Banksy, to see their museum and art gallery.
- Meet Dr. Mitri Raheb, President of Diyar Consortium and of Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem, as well as the president of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, and in the leadership of Kairos Palestine.
- Be treated to traditional, home-cooked Palestinian food in the homes of local families.

Hotel: Jacir Palace Hotel, Bethlehem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 6: Wednesday, January 2 - Hebron, Settlement, and Jerusalem

- Check out after breakfast
 - Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Rabbi Rachel Gartner.
 - Travel 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 able, a representative of Breaking the Silence will join the group along with Issa Amro, a Palestinian activist and co-founder of Youth Against Settlements. Then meet an Israeli Jewish settler who lives in Hebron.
 - Have lunch in Hebron.
 - Then meet with settler peacemaker involved in the Abrahamic Reunion movement
- Ascend to Jerusalem and check into the hotel. Meet Rabbi Michael Melchior is an internationally renowned Jewish leader, thinker and peace activist and his interfaith partners After dinner at the hotel, end the evening with a reflection session led by a clergy member from the Office of Campus Ministry.

Hotel: Mamila Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 7: Thursday, January 3 - Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif, and Silwan/City of David

- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Fr. Mark Bosco.
- Enter Jerusalem's Old City and ascend to the Temple Mount/Al-Haram al Sharif to tour the precinct with Professor Mustafa Abu Sway, Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Ghazali's Work at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and at Al-Quds University.
- Then visit the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza and learn about the current state of affairs to create an egalitarian section with Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. She also serves as Chair of the Board of Women of the Wall whose central mission is to

achieve the social and legal recognition of our right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall.

- Walk through the Arab Shuk.
- Leave the Old City and have lunch the Notre Dame Complex with Father Earmon Kelly, Vice Charge of the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center & Magdala and a leading Christian voice for interfaith understanding.
- End the day with a tour the "City of David" archaeological site with an archaeologist from the organization Emek Shaveh who will also introduce the group to the site surrounding East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan.
- After dinner at the hotel, 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.

Hotel: Mamila Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 8: Friday, January 4 - Mount Zion and Old City of Jerusalem

- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Imam Yahya Hendi reflecting on Jum'ah prayers.
- Visit Mount Zion with a representative of the Jerusalem Intercultural Center. Mount Zion is a holy site to Jews, Muslims, and Christians that is associated with both King David's Tomb and the Jesus Last Supper.
- Have free time in the Old City while Muslim travelers have the opportunity to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque for the Friday Juma prayers.
- Learn about the Christian "Stations of the Cross" along the Via Dolorosa.
- Enter the incense-filled halls of the Holy Sepulchre Church, the place identified as both the site of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus. Return to the hotel for a reflection session led by a clergy member from the Office of Campus Ministry and then prepare for Shabbat.
- Spend Shabbat evening with unique congregations in Jerusalem.
- Be hosted by Israeli families for Shabbat dinner.

Hotel: Mamila Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 9: Saturday, January 5 - Mount of Olives

- Check out after breakfast.
- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Rabbi Rachel Gartner.
- Visit the Chapel of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives, part of a larger complex consisting first of a Christian church and monastery, then an Islamic mosque. It is located on a site Christians traditionally believe to be the earthly spot where Jesus ascended into Heaven forty days after his resurrection. It houses a slab of stone believed to contain one of his footprints. The grounds also contain a burial crypt near the chapel that is revered

by three separate monotheistic religions, although opinion differs on the occupant. Jews believe it contains the 7th-century BCE prophetess Huldah, Christians believe it to be the tomb of the 5th-century saint Pelagia of Antioch; while Muslims maintain that the 8th-century Sufi mystic and Wali, Rabi'a al-Adawiya is buried there. Enter the Garden of Gethsemane where according to the gospels, Jesus and his disciples are said to have prayed the night before Jesus's crucifixion.

- Drive north to the holy city of Tiberias, check into the hotel, and have dinner.

Hotel: Ramot Nofesh Resort (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 10: Sunday, January 6 - Galilee, Feast of the Epiphany

- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Fr. Mark Bosco along the Sea of Galilee. Join a Sunday morning mass service.
- Visit Tabgha, site of the Christian miracle of the loaves and fish, Continue on to Capernaum, village of Jesus and home of Saint Peter. Have time for reflection in the beautiful gardens atop the Mount of Beatitudes.
- Walk the narrow stone lanes of the picturesque town of Tzfat (Safed) in Upper Galilee, a center of Kabbalah and one of the four Jewish holy cities. Visit its many synagogues and art galleries as well as the Cave Of Shem and Ever, one of the oldest historic sites in Tzfat with significance to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
- Before dinner at the hotel, have a reflection session led by a clergy member from the Office of Campus Ministry.

Hotel: Ramot Nofesh Resort (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Included)

Day 11: Monday, January 7 - Nazareth, Departure

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- Begin the day with a brief morning inspiration led by Imam Yahya Hendi.
- Continue on to Nazareth and be joined by Sheikh Ghassan Manasra, the Director of the peace organization Anwar al Salaam (Lights of Peace) Society. Anwar al Salaam fosters dialogue within Islam and dialogue with other faith and community groups. Visit the city's White Mosque and the Basilica of the Annunciation, where according to Roman Catholic tradition, the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus.
- Have a farewell dinner together at your hotel and depart for the airport in Tel Aviv for your flight home.