



MEJDI TOURS

June 15 - June 23, 2019

Day 1, Saturday, June 15, 2019: Arrival

- Arrive into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and transfer on your own to the hotel in Jerusalem and check in. Transfer instructions and options will be provided.
- For those who arrive early enough, opt in to a welcome dinner (for an additional cost) at [Mona](#), a fine dining restaurant situated in the Artists House, a dynamic center for exhibitions, displaying unique and varied works of both Israeli and international artists.

Hotel: [Arthur Hotel](#), Jerusalem¹ (an Atlas Hotel, Israel's premier boutique hotel chain)

Day 2, Sunday, June 16, 2019: Modern Jerusalem

- After breakfast, receive an official welcome from a representative of the Ministry of Culture at the hotel.
- Visit the [Ma'aleh Film School](#), screen 2-3 short films produced by their graduates, meet with one of the filmmakers.
- Have free time for lunch in the [Machane Yehuda Shuk](#). Spend the afternoon and evening with Michal Vaknin, the Artistic Director of the [Mekudeshet Festival](#), a multi-disciplinary arts festival of originally commissioned works that reclaims Jerusalem's sacredness and reimagines it as a force for expanding common ground, pluralism and creativity. Michal will lead the group on an exploration of Jerusalem's cutting edge artistic scene ending with a site specific performance at the Jerusalem Nature Museum.

Hotel: [Arthur Hotel](#), Jerusalem² [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Day 3, Monday, June 17, 2019: Yemin Moshe and Jerusalem's Old City

- Use the poetry of Yehuda Amichai as a lens for exploring the neighborhood of Yemin Moshe built in the 1890s by Moses Montefiore.
- Depart for Jerusalem's Old City.

¹ All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.

² All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.

- Enter through the New Gate and visit the [Sandrouni Armenian Ceramics Showroom](#) and meet George Sandrouni.
- See the current exhibit at [Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art](#).
- Meet Wissam Razzouk at [Razzouk Ink](#), a 700-year-old Coptic Christian family owned tattoo parlor. He has centuries of family stories including his involvement in “Healing Ink” which uses tattooing to help Israeli victims of terrorism and war overcome trauma.
- See the historical photos in [Elia Photography](#), a legendary Armenian family owned photography shop that began using photography to document the history of the Old City of Jerusalem in 1924.
- Weave through the shops and alleyways of the Arab *shuk* having lunch on your own along the way.
- End the tour of the Old City at the Kotel (Western Wall) plaza.
- Have dinner on your own at [First Station](#).-
- See a show at the [Khan Theatre](#). The Khan Theatre is the only producing repertoire-theatre in Jerusalem today and is considered to be one of the leading in the country.
- Have an optional discussion about the performance in the hotel lounge at the end of the evening.

Hotel: [Arthur Hotel](#), Jerusalem [Breakfast included]

Day 4, Tuesday, June 18, 2019: Tel El Ful, Ella Valley, and Tel Aviv

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- Spend the morning visiting the East Jerusalem's forgotten palace, Tel El Ful, covered by the very popular [Israel Story Podcast episode “King of The Hill”](#). One of the Israel Story podcasters will guide the group through the location describing the myths, history, Jordanian royals, Arab families, and Israeli generals associated with the site.
- Then have lunch and do a tour and tasting at the [Ella Valley Vineyards and Winery](#).
- Spend the afternoon at the [Vertigo Eco-Arts Village](#) where the group will participate in a movement workshop and observe a rehearsal or performance.
- Continue to Tel Aviv and check into the hotel.
- Have a night off with suggested evening options including a jazz performance at [Beit Haamudim](#).

Hotel: [Fabric Hotel](#), Tel Aviv³ [Breakfast and Lunch provided] (The newest Atlas Hotel, Israel’s premier boutique hotel chain)

³ All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.

Day 5, Wednesday, June 19, 2019: Jaffa and South Tel Aviv

- Take a walking tour of Jaffa through the lens of music with a member of the multi-ethnic hip-hop group [System Ali](#).
- Have lunch on your own.
Do a workshop and/or see a private performance with the [Jaffa Theatre – A Stage for Arab-Hebrew Culture](#).
In the evening, see a dance performance at the [Suzanne Dellal Centre](#) or a theatre performance with supertitles (at one of these theatres: [Gesher](#), [HaBima](#), [Beit Lessin](#), or [Cameri](#)). Deborah will choose the best of the summer season offerings.
Have an optional discussion about the performance in the hotel bar at the end of the evening.

Hotel: [Fabric Hotel](#), Tel Aviv⁴ [Breakfast provided]

Day 6, Thursday, June 20, 2019: Ein Hod, Haifa, and Tel Aviv

- After breakfast head north to [Ein Hod](#), the only artists' village in Israel, and one of few of its kind in the whole world. Tour the village's galleries and studios.
- Have lunch in Ein Hod.
- In the afternoon, continue to the coastal city of Haifa to learn rhythm and harmony, peacemaking and reconciliation, through a group activity with an interfaith [Peace Drums Project](#) between Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth.
- Return to Tel Aviv and have dinner on your own.
- In the evening, see a dance performance at the [Suzanne Dellal Centre](#) or a theatre performance with supertitles (at one of these theatres: [Gesher](#), [HaBima](#), [Beit Lessin](#), or [Cameri](#)).
- Have an optional discussion about the performance in the hotel bar at the end of the evening.

Hotel: [Fabric Hotel](#), Tel Aviv⁵ [Breakfast and Lunch provided]

Day 7, Friday, June 21, 2019: Tel Aviv

- Spend the morning on a [Behind the Scenes Tour of Tel Aviv led by Drag Queens](#). We will discover the fascinating history of the drag queen, as we visit and support the work of a bustling gay youth center in the heart of an enchanting public garden. The tour revenue helps [Israeli Gay Youth](#) counselor training and local events for young men and women struggling to find their identities.
- Have lunch on your own in the [Carmel Shuk Market](#).
- Have time to browse through the [Nahalat Binyamin Art Market](#).

⁴ All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.

⁵ All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.

- In the late afternoon, join a group of beachside drummers at Banana Beach who have gathered every Friday for the last 20+ years to welcome in Shabbat with rhythm, music, and dancing.
- Join [Kehilat HaLev](#) for Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner.

Hotel: [Fabric Hotel](#), Tel Aviv [Breakfast and Dinner provided]

Day 8, Saturday, June 22, 2019: Central Tel Aviv

- After breakfast, delve into Tel Aviv's artistic cultural Zionist history and Bauhaus architectural style along Bialik Street in central Tel Aviv. Bialik Square and its surrounding buildings 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.
 - Begin at [Beit Ha'ir](#), the city's preserved historic Town Hall, now a historical museum that tells the story of life in Tel Aviv during its 100 years of existence.
 - Have lunch as a group.
 - Then continue to the [Bialik House](#) and learn about Hayim Nahman Bialik, Israel's national poet.
 - See painter Reuven Rubin's residence and work at the [Rubin Museum](#).
- Have free time for dinner on your own.
- In the evening, see a dance performance at the [Suzanne Dellal Centre](#) or a theatre performance with supertitles (at one of these theatres: [Gesher](#), [HaBima](#), [Beit Lessin](#), or [Cameri](#)).
- Have an optional discussion about the performance in the hotel bar at the end of the evening.

Hotel: [Fabric Hotel](#), Tel Aviv⁶ [Breakfast and Lunch provided]

Day 9, Sunday, June 23, 2019: North Tel Aviv

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast and store your luggage.
- In the morning, visit the [Rimon School for Jazz and Contemporary Music](#) to enjoy a showcase of performances by Israel's next generation of music artists.
- Lunch on own at the [Saron Market](#).
- After lunch, observe a rehearsal of the all-orthodox-female [Nehara Dance Group](#) melds movement and religion together.
- Have a final group discussion session together along the beach in Tel Aviv.

[Breakfast provided]

⁶ All hotels listed are subject to change but will maintain a similar quality and location. A final hotel list will be provided upon tour confirmation.