



MEJDI TOURS

Holy Land Pilgrimage with St. George's Episcopal Church February 14 - February 23, 2020 Itinerary

Day 1: Friday, February 14, Jerusalem (Airport Transfer from Ben Gurion Airport)

- Early Arrival at Ben Gurion airport and take a group transfer to Jerusalem.
 - Group transfer time will be announced later.
- If there is time, drive up to the Mount of Olives to get an iconic view of the Old City.
- Check into hotel within walking distance of the Old City and enjoy a welcome dinner with your MEJDI Tour Guide.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Dinner included)

Day 2: Saturday, February 15, Jerusalem, Old City (No Bus, 1 Guide)

- Start the day with a walk to the Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane.
- Visit Church of All Nations, Church of Dominus Flevit, and Church of Pater Noster.
- Once back in the Old City, take a tour of Church of St. Anne and visit the aqueducts adjacent to the church, which are connected to one of Jesus's miracles.
- After lunch, follow the Via Dolorosa and tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the traditional location of Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.
- In the afternoon, walk to Mount Zion, the Upper Room/Cenacle, the Tomb of David, the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, and the Church of the Dormition, the traditional location of Mary's passing into eternity.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 3: Sunday, February 16, Jerusalem, Old City (No Bus, 1 Guide)

- Begin the morning with a visit to the hotly contested Temple Mount to see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque.
- Meet with a Muslim representative for a discussion on Islam and then explore the Muslim Quarter.
- Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter.
- There take a tour underground of the Western Wall with the Western Wall Heritage Foundation.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 4: Monday, February 17, Bethlehem (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Journey south to Bethlehem for a tour of the Church of the Nativity.
- Walk the Separation Wall and then head to Shepherd's Field to savor fresh local cuisine at a Bedouin tent, followed by a visit to a locally made fair-trade wood shop.
- In the afternoon, go to the Tent of Nations to hear about the story of a local Palestinian Christian family.
- In the evening, take some free time to explore the Old City or rest at your guesthouse.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

Day 5: Tuesday, February 18, Jerusalem, Jericho, and Jordan River (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Attend Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist at St. George's Cathedral Church and meet with one of the staff there.
- Then take a bus to Jericho.
- There, march around biblical Jericho, view the Mount of Temptation from a distance, and stop at Zacchaeus tree for a picture.
- Visit the traditional location of Jesus's baptism by John at Bethany beyond the Jordan/Al-Maghtas. Those who want may renew their baptismal vows.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 6: Wednesday, February 19, Dead Sea (Masada, Ein Gedi, and Dead Sea) (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Open the morning with jaw-dropping views of the Dead Sea atop Masada, the Jewish stronghold that witnessed the last stand of the First Jewish War.
- Then pay a visit to Ein Gedi National Park, the place where David hid from King Saul.
- Then get ready to float as you dive into the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth.

Hotel: National Hotel, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 7: Thursday, February 20, Samaria and Mount Gerizim (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Take a bus ride through biblical Samaria on your way toward the Galilee.
- Stop at Jacob's Well, which lies in a Greek Orthodox Church.
- Then have lunch and take a walking tour in Nablus, a town well-known for producing soap and producing the best Knafeh around (a traditional Arab dessert).
- Afterward, head to Mount Gerizim. There meet with a Samaritan priest and take a tour of a synagogue where animal sacrifice still takes place each Passover.
- In the evening, check into your hotel in the Galilee and relax over dinner.

Hotel: St. Margaret's Guest house, Nazareth (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

Day 8: Friday, February 21, Galilee (Capernaum, Tabgha, Magdala, Cana) (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Begin the day at Capernaum, Jesus's base in Galilee where Peter's house is also located.
- Visit Tabgha, the location of Jesus's multiplication of bread and Jesus's appearance to his disciples after his resurrection.
- For lunch, eat St. Peter's fish along the Sea of Galilee.
- Afterward, go to Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene and the site of a very rare first-century synagogue.
- End the day with a stop at Cana, the village where Jesus turned water into wine. There, enjoy some of the local wine yourself.

Hotel: St. Margaret's Guest house, Nazareth (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

Day 9: Saturday, February 22, Galilee (Nazareth and Lod) (Bus, 1 Guide)

- Spend the day in the village where Jesus lived most of his life. Start at the Mount of Precipice, followed by the Basilica of the Annunciation and Church of St. Joseph. At the Basilica, gaze at the many international murals of the Virgin Mary.
- Then go back in time with a visit to Nazareth Village, where you can begin to imagine what life was like in the first century.
- Have lunch with a Palestinian Christian and learn about the status of the church in the boyhood home of Jesus.
- In the afternoon, take a bus to the Church of St. George in Lod. There visit the tomb of St. George and meet with a representative from the church.
- In Tel Aviv, enjoy your last night in Israel before returning home.

Hotel: Tel Aviv (Hotel TBD) (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included)

Day 10: Sunday, February 23, Departure (Group Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport, No Guide)

- After breakfast, depart for Ben Gurion Airport for international flight back to the United States.

(Breakfast included)