



# MEJDI TOURS

## 2023 MEJDI Tours - Scheduled Departures Israel & Palestine Dual Narrative™ Multi-Day Tour (Optional Extensions p. 4)

- Dates:** January 27 - Feb 3  
March 10 - 17  
April 14 - 21  
May 12 - 19  
June 16 - 23  
September 1 - 8  
October 13 - 20  
November 10 - 17  
Dec 29 - Jan 5 2024
- Tour Cost:** \$2,425 Per Person // \$515 Single Supplement
- Included:** 7 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar; Gilgal Hotel (Tel Aviv), Royal Court (Ramallah), Holyland Hotel (Jerusalem)  
2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 6 days  
5 days of private bus transportation  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
- Not Included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance-**REQUIRED**  
Single Supplement Costs  
Covid testings of any kind  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Individual/Group airport transfers (arrival and departure)  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Friday, Arrival - Introduction to the Dual Narrative™ - Tel Aviv (No Bus, No Guides)**

Transfer to your hotel (on your own). Check-in and rest / get ready for your journey starting tomorrow.

*Hotel: Tel Aviv*

### **Day 2: Saturday, Starting the Journey through the Narratives (Bus, 2 Guides)**

**Meet your Israeli and Palestinian guides**, who introduce themselves and explain the exciting **Dual Narrative™ perspectives** you will hear on the trip.

Learn the dual histories of the Arab and Jewish cities, including an explanation of the birth of **Tel Aviv** and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in **Arab Jaffa**.

Explore the 4000 years old history of the area and its transformation through time. In the evening, enjoy a **welcome dinner** with your fellow travelers and guides.

*Hotel: Tel Aviv (B, D)*

### **Day 3: Sunday, From Tel Aviv to Ramallah - History from Different Angles (Bus, 2 Guides)**

Begin the morning visiting the **Diaspora Museum** to discuss the history and current state of the Jewish people around the world; legacy, culture and personal stories.

Then, head to **Ramallah** and meet a **local activist and Chef** for a **food tour in Old Ramallah** and hear about local food, restaurants, and her personal story. Later visit the **Arafat Tomb and Museum**. After dinner meet with a **Palestinian Business man** to discuss political and economical challenges in Palestine.

*Hotel: Ramallah (B, L, D)*

### **Day 4: Monday, Bethlehem and Settlements (Bus, 2 Guides)**

Travel to **Bethlehem**, to visit the **Church of the Nativity, Manger Square**, and the old city of Bethlehem. There, meet with a **local peacebuilding NGO rep** in Bethlehem.

Afterwards, see the colorful and **controversial graffiti** on the **Separation Wall**, and visit the **Banksy Museum**. After lunch, head towards one of the settlements in the region, to meet with a **representative of the Jewish settlement movement** and hear their perspective.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (B)*

### **Day 5: Tuesday, Three Religions – One City (No Bus, 2 Guides)**

Begin the morning with an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the **Mount of Olives**. Then, take a full-day alternative tour of the **Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites** and neighborhoods with your two guides, one Arab and one Jewish.

Start by visiting the **Dome of the Rock** and the **Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount**; learn **Islamic and Jewish traditions** about the site, as well as local legends and stories. Continue to the **Western Wall**, to learn about how it became a worship place, and the debates over the site following the 1967 War. After lunch, walk part of the **Via Dolorosa** towards the **Holy Sepulcher**, where you will learn about the ancient church, its history of disputes and ownership claims, and the modern Christian community in Jerusalem. Hear stories from members of The **Parents Circle/Families Forum**, a grassroots organization of Palestinian and Israeli families who have each lost immediate family members in the conflict.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (B)*

#### **Day 6 – Wednesday, Holocaust Memorial (Bus, 2 Guides)**

Start the day by heading **Yad Vashem** to learn about the history of the **holocaust** and its impact on the Jewish community and Israel today. Tour **Mt. Hertzl** and the **The Ethiopian memorial**. Then have lunch on your own at **shuk Machane Yehuda**. Take a free afternoon before regrouping and engaging in a discussion with a **local religious leader from Jerusalem**.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (B)*

#### **Day 7 - Thursday, Masada, Dead Sea and Jordan River (Bus, 2 Guides)**

Start the day at the fortress of **Masada**: built by Herod the Great as a refuge, the site was later used by rebels during the Jewish Revolt, and became an Israeli national symbol and site for military ceremonies. Afterward, learn about the **Dead Sea Valley environmental challenges**, and enjoy free time to float on the **Dead Sea**. Then, head back to your hotel to rest and freshen up before leaving for dinner. Enjoy a traditional **home-cooked meal** with a **local Palestinian family**, and traditional songs from a **joint Palestinian-Israeli musical group**.

*Hotel: Jerusalem (B, L, D)*

#### **Day 8 - Departure (No Bus, No Guide)**

Check out of your hotel and transfer on your own to the airport.

(B)



# MEJDI TOURS

## 2023 Optional Extensions

1. **Post-Trip Jordan Extension Tour (4 days after)**
2. **Pre-Trip Northern Israel Extension Tour (2 days prior) - page. 7**

### 2023 POST-TRIP JORDAN EXTENSION TOUR



Explore the wild beauty of the Arabian Peninsula, with MEJDI's add-on to Petra, Wadi Rum, and Jerash. The perfect combination of relaxation, education, and adventure, with only a few extra days you can:

- Experience traditional Arabian desert life in the valleys of Wadi Rum. Share coffee with bedouins, see camels in their natural habitat, and view rock inscriptions (ancient and modern) left by local tribes.
- In a MEJDI exclusive, you will have an opportunity to give back and help bring positive change to the Middle East, by meeting with Syrian refugees in Jerash. Learn first-hand about the conflict in Syria, ask questions, and hear how the war has taken a toll on countries like Lebanon and Jordan, and on everyday Syrian families.
- Check off your bucket-list the impressive and monumental ruins of Jerash, the best-preserved Roman city in the Arab Middle East following the destruction of Palmyra.
- Put on your cowboy hat (or fedora), and explore the ancient Nabatean city of Petra! Walk through wind-swept sandstone valleys with stunning rock striations, and

discover the echoing chambers of ancient tombs. The more adventurous can ride a horse or a donkey through the valleys of this famous “Indiana Jones” filming site.

**Dates:** Feb 3-6  
March 17-20  
April 21-24  
May 19-22  
June 23-26  
September 8-11  
October 20-23  
November 17-20  
Jan 5-8, 2024

**Extension Cost:** **\$990 Per Person // \$175 Single Supplement - Min 5 pax**

**Included:** 3 nights’ accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar; Mazayen Camp (Wadi Rum), Oscar Hotel (Petra), Mena Tyche (Amman)  
1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 3 days  
4 days of private bus transportation  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 4 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches and 3 Dinners  
Water on the bus throughout the tour  
Collective Visa and Departure Fees  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>2</sup>  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

**Not Included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance- **REQUIRED**  
Single Supplement Costs  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Individual/Group airport transfers (arrival and departure)  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Day 1: Crossing to Jordan - Wadi Rum**

Drive to the Allenby Bridge border for crossing into Jordan. Make your way south to explore the lunar-like landscape of **Wadi Rum**, where T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) stayed with Bedouin friends and allies during World War I. Discover epic sand dunes and rose-tinted mountains where Bedouin tribes still make camp.

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

*Hotel: Wadi Rum Camp (B, L, D)*

### **Day 2: Petra**

Make your way to **Petra**, located just a few steps from this UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend a full day exploring **Petra**, the legendary city of the Nabataean people. Hidden in deep canyons south of the Dead Sea, this remarkable site was founded more than 2,400 years ago. Enter the ancient city through its primary entrance, known as the Siq, a narrow chasm between naturally sculpted cliffs. This passageway, which could have been easily defended against attack by an invading army, ends at the glorious sight of the world-famous Treasury. Go on a guided visit of the expansive site, where hundreds of monuments were rediscovered only in 1812. Then enjoy time on your own to explore the Royal Tombs or the Monastery.

*Hotel: Petra (B, L, D)*

### **Day 3: Jerash/Amman**

This morning, travel north on the historic King's Highway and visit one of the best-preserved cities of the Roman Empire, **Jerash**, called the "Pompeii of the Middle East." Step back in time as you explore the colonnaded streets, visiting the South Theater, the Temple of Artemis, and the ornate Nymphaeum. Later, continue on to Jordan's capital, **Amman**, a modern and culturally diverse city steeped in an ancient past. Meet with a **Local Refugee**. Enjoy some time to explore this fascinating city before gathering for a **farewell dinner**.

*Hotel: Amman (B, L, D)*

### **Day 4: Departure**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*(B)*



# MEJDI TOURS

## 2023 PRE-TRIP NORTHERN ISRAEL EXTENSION TOUR



Arrive early to get an additional glimpse of the Israeli/Palestinian terrain. This pre-tour extension will expose you to the beauty, the religious history and the geopolitics of this land.

- Begin your tour in the picturesque lakeside town of Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee/Lake Kinneret where you'll learn about the Jewish and Christian histories of the area.
- Continue up into the Golan Heights to learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at Mount Bental, overlooking the Valley of Tears.
- Travel to Nazareth for a tour of the White Mosque and Church of the Annunciation. Then make a quick stop to view the Bahai Gardens in Haifa on your way to a local Druze family for lunch. Spend the afternoon in Herod's port city of Caesarea Maritima where you'll tour the ruins, learn about the area's old Bosnian Muslim community and Crusader history, and enjoy the ocean breezes along the beach. End the tour at your hotel in Tel Aviv, where you will meet up with your fellow travelers to begin the full Dual-Narrative Tour.

**Dates:**                    January 25-27  
                                  March 8-10  
                                  April 12-14  
                                  May 10-12

June 14-16  
August 30-September 1  
October 11-13  
November 8-10  
December 27-29

**Extension Cost:**     **\$900 Per Person // \$175 Single Supplement - Min 5 pax**

**Included:**           2 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotel or similar; Colony (Haifa) and Daria (Galilee)  
1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 2 days  
2 days of private transportation  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch and 1 Dinner  
Bottled Water available throughout the tour  
Entrances and sites  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

**Not Included:**       International airfare  
Travel insurance-**REQUIRED**  
Single Supplement Costs  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Individual/Group airport transfers (arrival and departure)  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Arrival**

Arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport and transfer to your hotel in Haifa. Transfers are not included but can be arranged for an additional fee. Check-in and rest / get ready for your journey starting tomorrow.

*Hotel: Colony, Haifa*

### **Day 2: Galilee and Golan Heights (Guide/Driver)**

Begin your tour in the picturesque lakeside town of **Tiberias** on the **Sea of Galilee/Lake Kinneret**. Learn about the Jewish and Christian histories of the area, and visit the graves of the famous rabbis buried there. Stop by the **Mount of Beatitudes** for a tour then continue north into the **Golan Heights**, to learn about the conflicts between Israel and Syria, see some of the minefields and depopulated villages, and have coffee next to the bunkers at **Mount Bental**, overlooking the **Valley of Tears**. Return to **Galilee** for the evening.

*Hotel: Daria, Galilee (B, D)*

**Day 3: Nazareth and Caesarea Maritima (Guide/Driver)**

Travel to **Nazareth** for a tour of the **White Mosque** and **Church of the Annunciation**.

Then, make a quick stop to view the **Bahai Gardens** in Haifa, on your way to a **local Druze family** for lunch. Continuing south, spend the afternoon in Herod's port city of **Caesarea Maritima**. There, tour the ruins, learn about the area's old Bosnian Muslim community and Crusader history, and enjoy the ocean breezes along the beach.

End the day at your hotel in **Tel Aviv**, where you will meet up with your fellow travelers.

*(B, L)*