



Tour: The Holy Land: A New Way

Dates: May 9 - May 16, 2020

Itinerary:

Day 1, May 9 Sat: Arrival (One Guide, Bus)

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and meet your guide. Head out to Nazareth for check-in, a special welcome dinner, and program overview.

Hotel: Golden Crown or Similar, Nazareth (Dinner included)

Day 2, May 10 Sun: Nazareth and Tzfat (One Guide, Bus)

Tour Nazareth, including a visit to the White Mosque, Basilica of the Annunciation, and a meeting with local peacemakers, to hear about life in the city. Then travel to Tzipori, to tour the ancient synagogue and Kabbalah center, and to discuss Rabbinical and mystical Judaism in Israel from the Roman period to today.

Hotel: Prima Galil or Similar, Tiberias (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 3, May 11 Mon: Around the Galilee (One Guide, Bus)

On day 3, choose between morning free time to explore the lakeside promenade in Tiberias or a 3-hour round-trip bicycle excursion from Kibbutz Maagan to Kibbutz Ein Gev. The guide will remain with the bicycle group. Following the lunch hour, regather in Tiberias and take a group boat ride to Capernaum, site of much of Jesus' Galilee ministry. Then head south along the Jordan Valley, and around Jericho, before ascending through the Judean desert to Jerusalem.

Hotel: Montefiore or Similar, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 4, May 12 Tue: Jerusalem (Religious History) - (Two Guides, Bus)

On day 4, welcome a second guide and begin Mejdí's award-winning dual narrative

approach to exploring the more contentious issues of the Holy Land. From the Mount of Olives, get an overview of Jerusalem's religious history. Then, visit the Noble Sanctuary / Temple Mount, to see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Meet with a local imam for a discussion on Islam and the politics of the site, and then explore the Muslim Quarter. Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter, and meet with a rabbi. Finally, tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to learn about its history and today's delicate ecumenical status quo.

Hotel: Montefiore or Similar, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 5, May 13 Wed: Jerusalem (Israeli Narrative) - (Two Guides, Bus)

Explore Jerusalem's political history from an Israeli perspective. Pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum. Then, take a walking tour of Ein Kerem to learn different narratives about Zionism and Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Following lunch on own in Ein Kerem, focus on more recent Israeli history, including the various waves of Jewish refugees and others who have become part of today's diverse Israelis society, security issues, and more. Finally, enjoy an optional trip after dinner to see the bustling nightlife of Ben Yehuda Street in West Jerusalem.

Hotel: Montefiore or Similar, Jerusalem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 6, May 14 Thr: West Bank – Bethlehem (Palestinian Narrative) - (Two Guides, Bus)

On Thursday, journey south and cross the checkpoint into Bethlehem. Walk the Separation Wall and visit the Banksy Museum before heading into Aida Refugee Camp. Discuss the issue of refugees with your two guides as you drive through Bethlehem for a discussion of the city today. Stop at Church of Nativity before visiting with a Palestinian farmer whose land is surrounded by Israeli settlements, and then with a representative from one of the settlements. Finish the day with dinner and homestay in Bethlehem.

Overnight: Home-Stays in Bethlehem (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 7, May 15 Friday: Jaffa and Tel Aviv (Two Guides, Bus)

For the final full day of your tour, descend back west toward the Mediterranean. Make a stop at Neve Shalom - Wahat al Salaam (Oasis of Peace), an intentionally integrated community with a bilingual school. Continue from there to Tel Aviv and Jaffa for an afternoon tour of these closely linked cities. Enjoy a special closing dinner and conversation with your two guides before bidding them a final farewell for now.

Overnight: Tal or Similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 8, May 16 Saturday: Departure (One Group Transfer to Airport)

In the morning, depart for Ben Gurion airport with group transportation, or on own to your next destination.

End of Tour (Breakfast included)