



**MEJDI TOURS**



**CHURCHES FOR  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE**

- Tour:** **Denver Episcopal Group Holy Land Pilgrimage and Learning Tour**
- Dates:** **May 7 - May 17, 2022**
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) as listed in itinerary, or similar as necessary  
2 MEJDI-Trained Guides - one Jewish Israeli and one Christian or Muslim Palestinian - for 4 days, and 1 guide for 6 days.  
Preference that one guide be a Christian guide for at least a portion of the tour.  
9 days of private group transportation, per the itinerary  
Meals listed: 10 breakfasts (B), 7 lunches (L), 7 dinners (D)  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers  
Audio headsets on touring days  
Water on bus throughout tour  
Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotel and wait staff  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
- Not included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance-**REQUIRED**  
Single Supplement-\$1,020 (limited availability)  
Meals not included in the itinerary  
Arrival and departure airport transfers  
Transportation outside of group itinerary  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing** 20-22 Paying Participants: \$3,595 per paying participant  
17-19 Paying Participants: \$3,740 per paying participant



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## Itinerary

*Each stop at Christian pilgrimage site includes a special prayer by one of the participants.*

### Day 1, Sat May 7: Arrival

- **Arrive at Ben Gurion airport** and transfer to Jerusalem on your own by taxi, train, or shuttle using guidance provided ahead by Mejdi travel services. Gather for a **welcome dinner** at the guesthouse **with your MEJDI Tour Guide** and **group leaders**, and an **overview of the touring program**.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [D]*

### Day 2, Sun May 8: Jerusalem, City of Faiths

- Begin the day with **morning prayer** (led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain).
- Following **Holy Eucharist at St George's Cathedral**, have a **group lunch**, with the **local bishop** as available. In the afternoon, ascend the **Mount of Olives** by bus, including an overview of East Jerusalem, its history, demographics, and current issues. From a vantage point above the Old City, engage in a **discussion of Jerusalem's deep connection to three faiths**. Then descend by foot, with stops at **Dominus Flevit** and **Gethsemane**. From there, follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** for a thorough tour of the historic church and a discussion of Christian communities in the Holy Land.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, L, D]*

### Day 3, Mon May 9: Jerusalem (Israeli Narrative)

- On Monday, begin the **Dual Narrative** portion of your touring program, with **morning prayer** (led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain).
- Meet the second of your two guides and head out for a visit to the **Western Wall** to discuss its history and importance to Jews as a place of prayer.
- From the Western Wall, survey important events over centuries of the Jewish people in diaspora as you head toward **Yad Vashem**, the **Israeli Holocaust Memorial**. Following a sobering tour of Yad Vashem, have a **conversation with an Israeli soldier at Mt. Hertzl**, and take a walking tour of **Ein Kerem** to learn different narratives about **Zionism** and **Israel's 1948 War of Independence**.
- Finally, discuss the diversity of Jerusalem's Jewish communities and neighborhoods, as you head to the city center for a time to explore West Jerusalem's cafes and restaurants for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, L]*



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#### Day 4, Tue May 10: Bethlehem (Palestinian Narrative)

- On Tuesday, begin the day early with **morning prayer** led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, and then visit the **Noble Sanctuary / Temple Mount**, touring the site that houses the **Dome of the Rock** and **al-Aqsa Mosque**, and **meeting with an imam** or representative from the Waqf for a discussion.
- From there, journey south to **Bethlehem**. Cross the checkpoint, and walk the **Separation Wall** for a dual narrative conversation on its history and effects.
- Visit **Aida Refugee Camp**, and meet with a resident from the camp.
- Continue to discuss the question of refugees and other issues as you head through Bethlehem to **Shepherd's Field** for a special lunch at the Bedouin-style Tent Restaurant, with a **local CMEP representative** as guest.
- After lunch, take a tour of the **Church of the Nativity**, and enjoy some free time in **Nativity Square** before ending the day with a visit with a local minister over coffee - at the family home if possible. Then return to Jerusalem for dinner at the hotel. At dinner, welcome **Rabbi Daniel Roth** for a presentation on religion and peace-building.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, L, D]*

#### Day 5, Wed May 11: Hebron / West Bank

- Begin the day with **morning prayer** (led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain)
- Start with Eucharist at the **Garden Tomb**, with a reserved room and supplies. Rev. Blanchard will preside.
- Cross back into the West Bank and travel to **Hebron**, to tour the **Cave of the Patriarchs** and the **Old City**.
- Have **lunch at a family home** in Hebron.
- Meet with **Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT)** members, and **visit a Jewish settlement** to have a **discussion with Israeli settlers**.
- In the evening, enjoy a **special dinner** with Israeli and Palestinian guest speakers from the **Parent's Circle-Families Forum**.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, L, D]*

#### Day 6, Thr May 12: Ramallah

- Begin the day with **morning prayer**, led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard.
- Visit with **Sabeel** in **Beit Hanina**, either on the way to **Ramallah**, or on return.
- In Ramallah, meet with a **Palestinian government official** - specifically with Hanan Ashrawi, as available; and make an additional **visit with an NGO civil society leader**: Depending on availability, Sahar Francis of Addameer, an institution offering support for Palestinian prisoners and torture victims; Salwa Duaibis of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling to learn about Palestinian prisoners and their families; Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American business man; Ahmad Shami,



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businessman and environmentalist; or Mustafa Barghouti, Palestinian physician, activist, and politician.

- **Group lunch** in Ramallah (TBD)
- Visit the **Riwaq**, Ramallah's City Center, to learn about the preservation of Palestinian architecture.
- Close the day with a **home-cooked meal** and **live music** by 2-3 **Israeli-Palestinian musicians**, hosted at the home of the Abu Sarah family in Bethany.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, L, D]*

#### **Day 7, Fri May 13: Welcoming the Sabbath**

- On the 7th day of your tour, take a day for rest and renewal. You might choose to visit the Israel Museum (on your own), explore the Arab and/or Jewish marketplaces, take some time to visit the souvenir shops in the Old City, or observe the many Muslims and Jews visiting the Old City's holy sites for special Friday prayers.
- In the evening, regather and head out with your **Jewish guide** for a **Shabbat meal** and blessings in a Jewish home or homes - Rabbi Joshua Weisman as available. **Bid farewell to your Jewish guide** from here.

*Hotel: St. Andrews Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [B, D]*

#### **Day 8, Sat May 14: Jordan Valley to Nazareth**

- Begin the day with **morning prayer**, led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain.
- After check-out, descend from Jerusalem into the **Judean Desert** until reaching **Qumran**, at the northern end of the **Dead Sea**. Take a brief tour of Qumran and the nearby site of **Qasr al Yahud** - site where the baptism of Jesus is recalled, as well as the crossing of the Israelites into Canaan.
- Then head north along the **Jordan Valley to Nazareth**.
- Following a break for lunch, explore the modern city of Nazareth, visiting the **Basilica of the Annunciation, White Mosque, and St. Gabriel's Orthodox Church**
- Check into your hotel in time to explore Nazareth's many cafes and restaurants for dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Legacy Nazareth or Similar, Nazareth [B, L]*

#### **Day 9, Sun May 15: Nazareth and the Galilee**

- On Sunday morning, join Nazareth's **Christ Anglican Church community** for 10 am Holy Eucharist in Arabic and English.
- Following the service, visit with the Christ Church School and meet with the Vicar of Christ Church, the Rev. Nael Abou Rahmoud.
- Following lunch, head out with your guide to ascend Mount Tabor for a time at the Church of the Transfiguration.



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- Continue to **Capernaum**, center for much of Jesus' Galilean ministry. Enjoy a time of prayer on the **Mt of Beatitudes** before returning to Nazareth ahead of dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Legacy Nazareth or Similar, Nazareth [B, L]*

#### **Day 10, Mon May 16: Caesarea, Jaffa and Tel Aviv**

- Begin your final full day with **morning prayer**, led by the Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain. Then head to the seaside site of **Caesarea Maritima** for a tour of the ancient Herodian city and its more recent history.
- Then head south to Tel Aviv, and make a stop at **Rabin Square** for a discussion Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, his memory today, and prospects for future peace.
- In the afternoon, check into your hotel for a break, and be sure to make arrangements individually via your hotel's guest services for a taxi to the airport at time needed tomorrow. Head out late afternoon for a walking tour of Jaffa and a **special farewell dinner** to celebrate your time together, and to **bid farewell** to your guide and driver.

*Hotel: Metropolitan or Similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [B, D]*

#### **Day 11, Tue May 17: Departure**

*End of tour program [B]*