



# MEJDI TOURS

## A Multi-perspective Pilgrimage to Israel & Palestine: Jan 3-12, 2022 *Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick MD, Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg*

<b>Includes</b>	9 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following locations, or at similar hotels as necessary: <i>Holy Land (Jerusalem); Nof Ginosar (Galilee); Magtas Hotel, (Jericho); Homestay (Bethlehem); Cinema Hotel (Tel Aviv-Jaffa)</i> 1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 3 days 2 MEJDI-Trained Guides for 5 days 8 days' private group transportation, per itinerary Meals per itinerary with B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, and D=Dinner. 9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 9 Dinners. Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers Water on bus throughout tour Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotel and wait staff Custom tour webpage with online registration, payment, processing Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support Audio headsets on touring days
<b>Not Included</b>	International airfare <b>Travel insurance-REQUIRED</b> Single Supplement-(\$625, as available) Airport transfer to and from hotel at beginning and end of program. Transportation outside of group itinerary Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
<b>Pricing:</b>	25-29 paying participants: \$2,790 30-34 paying participants: \$2,720



## Itinerary

### Day 1: Monday, Jan 3: Gathering Dinner

Arrive at your own pace using guidance from MEJDI's travel services team. Gather with your group at the hotel for a welcome dinner.

*Overnight: Holy Land Hotel or similar, Jerusalem [Dinner included]*

### Day 2: Tuesday, Jan 4: Jerusalem Narratives

Meet your two guides - one Palestinian Arab and one Jewish Israeli - for a short orientation and an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Mount of Olives. Then tour the Old City's Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with your guides. Visit the Temple Mount / Haram al Sharif, and see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. As available, meet with a representative of the Islamic Waqf that oversees the site, and then explore the Muslim Quarter. Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter. Tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to learn its history and its fragile ecumenical peace. Over dinner meet with Rabbi Daniel Roth, as available.

*Overnight: Holy Land Hotel or similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

### Day 3: Wednesday, Jan 5: Geopolitical Jerusalem

Explore Jerusalem's modern geo-political situation. Discuss the rise of early Zionism in the 19th Century as you head toward Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Memorial (guided tour). Following Yad Vashem, visit Ein Karem for a walking tour to learn the different narratives about the War of 1948. Gain an understanding of how 1967 changed Jerusalem and the development of the ABC areas and categories of residency in it as you head back. Then head north for an overnight on the Galilee.

*Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz or similar, Galilee [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

### Day 4: Thursday, Jan 6: Tzfat and the Galilee

In the morning, tour Tzfat / Safed, a city where a number of prominent Jewish rabbis moved when Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, and that later became a hub for Kabbalah, or Jewish mystical traditions, but is also the birthplace of current Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas. From there, visit the Mount of Beatitudes, where Christian pilgrims commemorate Jesus'



# MEJDI TOURS

Sermon on the Mount; Capernaum, hub of Jesus' Galilean ministry; and finish the day with a boat ride with your group on the Galilee.

*Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz or Similar, Galilee [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

### **Day 5: Friday, Jan 7: Nazareth to Jericho (Bus, One Guide)**

On Friday, head to nearby Nazareth, now the city with the highest population in Israel of Palestinian citizens of Israel. Meet with a local resident to discuss life in the city, and the culture of the area today. Then head south through the northern West Bank to Ramallah. In Ramallah, meet with a local speaker from the Palestinian government, an NGO, or a business person. From Ramallah, continue through the Judean Desert to Jericho.

*Overnight: Magtas Hotel or similar, Jericho [Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included]*

### **Day 6: Saturday, Jan 8: Judean Desert, Jordan Valley and Masada**

In the morning, visit the Qasr al Yehud baptismal site at the Jordan River to discuss the Jewish and Christian religious history of the area. Afterward, learn about the Dead Sea Valley environmental challenges before enjoying lunch and free time to float in the Dead Sea, and visit Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Welcome a speaker from Eco-Peace Middle East at dinner.

*Overnight: Magtas Hotel or similar, Jericho [Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included]*

### **Day 7: Sunday, Jan 9: Masada and Hebron**

From Jericho, head south to 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. From Masada, enter the southern part of the West Bank, and drive north to Hebron. Meet with a speaker from local human rights agency (potentially Ecumenical Accompaniment Program (EAPPI), B'tselem, Christian Peacemaker Team, Breaking the Silence, Issa Amro of Youth Against Settlements, or Ayed Abu Eqtaish- DCI Hebron). End the day by debriefing on the bus as you continue north to Bethlehem.

*Overnight: Home Stays or Hotel, Bethlehem [Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner included]*

### **Day 8: Monday, Jan 10: Greater Bethlehem**

On Monday, tour Bethlehem. Include a visit with a speaker from Aida Refugee camp, a close up view of the Separation Wall, and free time in Manger Square, where you may elect to visit the Church of the Nativity. In the afternoon, visit the Palestinian farm "Tent of Nations" and hear



# MEJDI TOURS

their unique story from the family who own the farm. Then hear from a resident of one of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank to hear their perspective. Over dinner hosted by the family of MEJDI founder, Aziz Abu Sarah, welcome speakers from Parents Circle-Family Forum. *Transfer to Tel Aviv for the evening.*

*Overnight: Cinema Hotel or similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

## **Day 9: Tuesday, Jan 11: Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam**

In the morning, head out to the intentionally integrated community of Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam ("Oasis of Peace"). Have a discussion with a village member from Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam about the community's achievements and challenges, and go for a guided tour of the village. From there, visit the less intentionally integrated city of Jaffa, adjacent to Tel Aviv. Finally, in Tel Aviv, meet with a speaker to survey possible ways forward to Israelis and Palestinian. In the evening, celebrate your time together with a special closing dinner on the Mediterranean.

*Overnight: Cinema Hotel or similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast and Dinner included]*

## **Day 10: Wednesday, Jan 12: End of MEJDI Program**

*Breakfast included at hotel. On own for departure transport or to next destination. Optional extensions to Jordan or Egypt possible, or people may explore further on their own.*

*[Breakfast included]*