



Journey to Israel/Palestine: Into the Heart of the Middle East

With Ricky Fishman and Roxanna Kopp Smith

October 14- 24, 2023

Day 1: Arrival (Saturday, October 14) (Welcome drink & Dinner)

Land at Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) in the afternoon and head to Tel Aviv.

Enjoy a drink/cocktail upon arrival and settle-in.

Join your guide and facilitators Dr. Ricky Fishman and Roxanna Kopp Smith for an orientation meeting and a welcome dinner nearby.

(Overnight Tel Aviv)

Day 2: Tel Aviv Overview (Sunday, October 15) (Breakfast & Lunch)

7:00am Breakfast.

8:00am Israeli Historian Speaker w/Q&A

9:30am Walking tour Tel Aviv & Jaffa to see the architecture and main sites.

Lunch, then tour continues till around 4 pm.

End of day and time free to explore.

7:00pm Dinner reservation (cost not included)

(Overnight Tel Aviv)

Day 3: Jerusalem Old City (Monday, October 16) (Breakfast & Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast.

9:00am Check out and drive to Jerusalem

10:00am Upon arrival we will enjoy a guided dynamic City Tour of Old Jerusalem. The Old City is an amazing small site when you consider all the significant sites it contains. It is around one square kilometer. We will wander the walled city, visit Jaffa Gate, David Street, the Christian and Armenian Quarters, the Dome of the Rock and of course a stop at the the Tower of David, including its museum, but let's get out there today to stretch our legs, take in what we can, and get a little oriented to this amazing city.

12:30pm Lunch in Old City and City Tour continues .

3:00pm Exchange with Women in Black-

4:30pm Check into hotel.

Dinner and evening are free

(Overnight: Jerusalem)

Day 4: East & West Jerusalem (Tuesday, October 17) **(Breakfast & Lunch)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Meet the ladies of **Sunbula**, a Fair Trade organization that supports Palestinian craft producers –women’s groups, artisan cooperatives and disabled people’s organizations. By promoting traditional handicrafts locally and internationally, they support economic self-help efforts of those living in difficult conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

11:00am Yad Vashem Museum visit. While a somber experience, it is routinely rated as one of the top most important things to do in Israel. This incredibly moving experience gives us glimpses into the history of this area, opens up conversations about our world in present times, and casts a vision for the world we want to create in the future.

2:30pm Lunch provided before afternoon free to reflect, explore and wander the streets of Jerusalem.

7:00pm **KING DAVID: THE NEW LIGHT SHOW AT THE TOWER OF DAVID**
(Overnight Jerusalem)

Day 5: Bethlehem (Wednesday, October 18) **(Breakfast & Lunch)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Transfer to Bethlehem/Church of Nativity/City tour/Visit the Wall/Banksy Store/Refugee Camp.

12:30pm Lunch together as a group (included)

2:30pm Enjoy a brief lecture about the History of the Nations and States of Israel and Palestine by a representative from the Alternative Information Centre (AIC).

Afterwards we will enjoy time to support fair trade products and local artisans (Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans (BFTA) is a non-profit Interfaith Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization established in 2009 and registered by the World Fair Trade Organization in 2012.)

6:00pm Reservation for dinner (not included) and see a show at Ibdaa cultural center.

(Overnight Bethlehem)

Day 6: Hebron (Thursday, October 19) **(Breakfast & Lunch)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Drive to Hebron for dual narrative tour and visits.

12:30pm Lunch in Hebron, meet with a local NGO Breaking the Silence.

4:00pm Free afternoon and dinner on your own

(Overnight Bethlehem)

Day 7: Settlements (Friday, October 20) **(Breakfast & Lunch)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00 Full day Settlement excursion and exchange with local community.

Lunch included then we will drive to Jerusalem in the late afternoon for Shabbat.

6:00 Shabbat hospitality in Jerusalem then return to Bethlehem.

(Overnight Bethlehem)

Day 8: (Saturday, October 21) Dead Sea **(Breakfast & Dinner)**

8:00am Breakfast
9:00am Check out of Bethlehem and depart for Dead Sea.
9:30-11 On our way meet with the staff of the Parents Circle to learn about their peace building efforts for families all impacted by conflict and loss. https://www.theparentscircle.org/en/about_eng/
1:00pm Arrive at Dead Sea for a lunch reservation.

3:00pm Check in hotel and enjoy time to soak, swim and rest.
7:00pm Dinner together at the resort. Join our evening discussion circle after.
(Overnight: David Dead Sea)

Day 9: (Sunday, October 22) **(Breakfast & Dinner)**

7:00am Breakfast
8:00am Experience the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Masada we will have both the option to hike it as well as to take up the gondola. Afternoon is free to enjoy the Dead Sea and Resort's amenities.
7:00pm Dinner
(Overnight: David Dead Sea)

Day 10: Wrap Up (Monday, October 23) **(Breakfast & Dinner)**

8:00am Breakfast
9:00am Leave for Tel Aviv and visit a local olive farm on the way. We will enjoy a little free time for lunch and personal exploration upon arrival.
5:00pm Wrap up meeting at TBD meeting room location
7:00pm Farewell Dinner
(Overnight Tel Aviv)

Day 11: Salam! Shalom! (Tuesday, October 24th) **(Breakfast)**

8:00am Breakfast
11:00am Check out of hotel and I group transfer to airport, or enjoy the day and taxi in the evening on your own.

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