Welcome to the J Street Education Fund guidebook to your visit to Israel and the Palestinian territory!

**Purpose:** This guidebook was compiled as an aide for J Street supporters visiting the region, in an attempt to empower them to learn about the conflict and the possibility for the resolution.

**Why:** Many J Street supporters visit Israel with their families, synagogues, Federations and on their own throughout the year. While they are in the region they seek to learn more about the conflict and the two-state solution. This guidebook aims to help these supporters navigate existing educational programs.

**How:** This guidebook offers opportunities to zero in on the core issues of the conflict and see the on-the-ground challenges first hand. It is not a comprehensive study of Israel or the conflict, rather, it offers supporters a glimpse into elements most tourists to the region would not have a chance to observe.

**We believe in:**
- offering a broad exposure to different places, voices, stakeholders, and issues on the ground;
- giving voice to unfamiliar narratives; and
- exposing supporters to Israeli counterparts working on the ground.

**Keep in mind:** While we recommend these tours, the viewpoints expressed in the tours aren’t necessarily ours. We are not responsible for what happens on the tours. We are simply recommending organizations with which we are familiar, in the hope that they can help educate our supporters.

**Security:** When visiting, we recommend that you consult with J Street’s Israel team about specific security considerations that may have arisen. J Street is not responsible for any risks an individual may take upon visiting Israel and the Palestinian territory.

**J Street Israel staff:**
- Nadav Tamir: nadav@jstreet.org, +972-50-620-3137
- Eve Lifson: eve@jstreet.org, +972-58-671-7658
Helpful Info

Tour guides:
- Ilan Bloch, director@teachingisrael.com, +972-54-691-1001
  Website: www.teachingisrael.com
- Iftah Burman, iftah.palmah@gmail.com, +972-54-594-9313
  Website: www.melaseminars.com
- Noor Awad, noorawad20@gmail.com, +972-56-926-2944 (Jerusalem + Palestinian territory)
- Riman Barakat, Riman.barakat@gmail.com, +972-54-221-9318 (Jerusalem + Palestinian territory); Website: rimanbarakat.wixsite.com/experience
- Eran Tzidkiyahu - Website: https://erantzidkiyahu.com/about/
- Hava Schwartz, havatour@gmail.com
- Shalom Kleiman, shalom.guide@gmail.com, +972-54-4909191
- Ahmed Muna, info@educationalbookshop.com, +972 (0)2 6283704 / +972 (0)2 6275868
- Alex Stein - Website: http://www.israelwithalex.com/public

Tour operators:
- Isram Israel: contact Joel Rosenfeld, joel@isram.co.il, +972-54-450-8230
- Da’at Travel: contact Assaf Fried, assaf@daattravel.co.il, +972-3-564-6608
- Eshet Tours: contact Elisa Moed, elisa.moed@eshetincoming.com, +972-3-777-5470
- MEJDI Tours: contact Kim Passy Yoseph, kim@mejdirtours.com,

Emergency Numbers:
Police: 100
Ambulance: 101
Fire: 102

Israeli Home Front Command: 104
Call this for information about homeland security procedures in times of war or crisis

IDF: +972-2-5305006
Call this when you are in a dangerous situation in the West Bank. When you see violence which you want to report or to be stopped.

Civil Administration: +972-3-6977957/+972-2-9977001
Call this when stuck at a checkpoint
US Embassy - Tel Aviv Branch Office:
+972-3-519-7475 Monday to Thursday from 2:00 until 4:00 PM and +972-3-519-7575 (after hours and emergencies)

US Embassy in Jerusalem:
+972-2-630-4000, Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
For emergencies outside of normal business hours, call the primary number at +972-2-622-7230.
Sample day trip 1: Hebron

Why Hebron?: Hebron is a place where one can experience the conflict at its most visceral level. In Hebron today, 800 Israeli Jews reside among 220,000 Palestinians, with IDF soldiers maintaining a policy of separation of the populations in the city center. In 1997, Hebron was divided into H1 and H2, where H1 is controlled by the Palestinian Authority and H2 is controlled by the IDF. Walking around this city, one encounters extreme factions in the conflict, and is forced to consider the price of the occupation.

Tour guide: Breaking the Silence offers guided tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills, allowing an unmediated encounter with the reality of military occupation. The tour guides, all former combatants who served in these areas, share from their experiences to help illustrate the Israeli government's policies enacted by the IDF.

Guiding questions:
1. How have Palestinians’ lives been affected by the IDF presence in the city?
2. What is the relationship between the settlers, the IDF and the Palestinians?
3. Is what we see in Hebron unique only to Hebron?
4. How does religion play into the conflict in Hebron?

Suggested schedule:
Depart Tel Aviv: 8:00 AM
Arrive in Tel Aviv: 4:00 PM*

Highlights:
Visit the Cave of the Patriarchs, the grave of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba, Shuhada Street, the wholesale market, the four neighborhoods of Jewish settlement in Hebron, the Tel Rumeida neighborhood, a visit to a Palestinian family in Tel Rumeida, the new settler house on the ‘Path of the Worshippers’ (‘House of Peace’/’Contested House’/’Hot House’).

* schedule and logistics available in full at Breaking the Silence website
Contact info: Benzi Sanders - tel: +972 52 244 2800 // benzi@shovrimshnika.org

Fees: A 120 NIS donation per person is suggested to cover transportation costs and printed materials.

Language: Tours are available in English and Hebrew. Please check the website to find out when they are given.

Further reading:
Former soldiers’ testimonies of IDF service from Breaking the Silence website
B’tselem’s Guide to Hebron City Center
B’tselem’s publication: “Forty Years of Temporary Occupation”
Sample day trip 2: Bethlehem

Why Bethlehem?: Just a short drive from the center of Jerusalem, neighboring Bethlehem is an important site for the Christian world and the Palestinian nation. With a population of about 25,000 people, a visit to Bethlehem will give you a glimpse into the struggles and triumphs of the local population.

Tour guide: Holy Land Trust, through a commitment to the principles of nonviolence, seeks to strengthen and empower the Palestinian community in developing spiritual, pragmatic, and strategic approaches that will allow it to resist all forms of oppression and built a future that makes the Holy Land a global model and pillar of understanding, respect, justice, equality and peaceful coexistence.

Guiding questions:
1. How does the security barrier affect the lives of the people in Bethlehem?
2. What does everyday life look like in the West Bank?
3. How does hearing Palestinian voices change or reinforce your perceptions of the conflict?

Suggested schedule:
8:30am: Meet your guide and bus at Rachel Tomb area – introduction to the area.
9:00am: Geo political tour of Rachel’s Tomb
10:00am: Visit Walled off Hotel for a historical overview
11:00am: Visit Aida Refugee Camp
12:30pm Lunch Break
2:00pm: Visit Cremisan Valley-Area C - Discussion on land confiscation
3:00pm: Visit Al Walaja Village, West of Bethlehem- meet a local family
4:00pm: End the tour at Rachel’s Tomb

Highlights: Visit Bethlehem and the separation barrier, hear personal narratives and engage in group discussions
Contact info: +970 2 27 66002 Fax: +970 2 27 69531 encounter@holylandtrust.org
www.holylandtrust.org

Fees: Inquire for more info. Group rates available.

Language: English

Further reading:
B'tselem's background on the separation barrier
Book: Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine, 2012 by Sami Adwan (Editor), Dan Bar-On (Editor), Eyal Naveh (Editor), Peace Research Institute in the Middle East(Editor)
Sample day trip 3: East Jerusalem

Why East Jerusalem?: In Israel and abroad, Jerusalem is considered a core issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Is Jerusalem united, divided or shared? What is in store for the future of the holy capital city? Explore where West Jerusalem meets East, visiting neighborhoods, building projects, demolitions and vistas of the eternal city.

Tour guide: Ir Amim invites the public on study tours of Jerusalem, which introduce the social and political issues of the city and their importance to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The study tours provide ground-level exposure to East Jerusalem, creating a platform for critically assessing the notion of Jerusalem as the “eternal, undivided capital of Israel” and understanding the city’s fundamental role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The tours evoke an honest look into the complex reality in Jerusalem, offering general information about the city and its tangible implications.

Guiding questions:
1. Where is the border between East and West Jerusalem?
2. How do new neighborhoods in the East, North and South impact the future for this city?
3. What is the official and unofficial relationship between Palestinian residents and the municipality?

Suggested schedule:
Note: Ir Amim offers tours to the public, generally on Fridays
9:30AM - Depart Liberty Bell Park, Jerusalem
1:30PM - Return to Liberty Bell Park, Jerusalem

Highlights: Explore issues including: the separation barrier, relations between the city and its Palestinian residents, Israeli construction in East Jerusalem and city planning.

Contact info: To coordinate a tour please contact studytours@ir-amim.org.il.
**Fees:** Tour participation requires RSVP and is free of charge.

**Language:** English

**Further reading:**
Ir Amim article on “Jerusalem as a Political Issue”
Sample day trip 4: Inequality in the Southern Hebron Hills

**Why visit the Southern Hebron Hills?** The South Hebron Hills region is one of the most rural areas in the West Bank, with most of its Palestinian residents poor, living in temporary structures and subsisting on farming and grazing of flocks. This tour highlights the difficult situation in the region and the complex relationship between Palestinians, settlers, and the IDF which results in, among other things, dispossession and the annexation of land.

**Tour guide:** Breaking the Silence offers guided tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills, allowing an unmediated encounter with the reality of military occupation. The tour guides, all former combatants who served in these areas, share from their experiences to help illustrate the Israeli government’s policies enacted by the IDF.

**Guiding questions:**
1. Who are the various stakeholders in the Southern Hebron Hills (army, settlers, farmers, Palestinian Authority, humanitarian aid workers)?
2. How is the situation in this region similar and different from other parts of the West Bank?
3. How do building permits and demolition orders impact the development of this region?

**Suggested schedule:**
Depart Tel Aviv: 8:00 AM
Arrive in Tel Aviv: 4:00 PM*

**Highlights:**
- The view from Lucifer Farm eastward to the villages of Jinbah, Griten, and the firing range of the IDF Keriot base, and westward to Jewish and Palestinian Susya
- The view from the Avigail outpost to the village of A-Twaneh, the Maon Farms outpost, the agricultural lands of the village of Harubeh, and the connecting roads between Hirbet Tubeh and the A-Twaneh school
- A visit in the Nawajah family home in the village of Susya and a discussion with a member of the family
Schedule and logistical information available in full at Breaking the Silence's website

Contact info: Benzi Sanders - tel: +972 052 244 2800 // benzi@shovrimshtika.org

Fees: A 120 NIS donation per person is suggested to cover transportation costs and printed materials.

Language: English (Tours fill up quickly, so try to book well in advance)

Further reading:
B'tselem's guide to the South Hebron Hills
In the line of fire: Life in the southern Hebron Hills: A tour of Firing Zone 918 offers a glimpse of the harassment by settlers and soldiers, and of locals' sense of helplessness.
By Chaim Levinson, Haaretz, Oct. 5, 2013
Sample day trip 5: Environmental tour of the Jordan Valley

Why visit the Jordan Valley?: One of the most famous rivers in the world, the Lower Jordan River, is situated in Israel, but is hardly visited today. Aside from the fact that today, the river is a border between Israel and Jordan it remains mostly off-limits to the public eye. Diversion and pollution of its waters threaten its mere existence, yet, there remains an important story of cultural and natural heritage that the river can still tell today.

Tour guide: EcoPeace Middle East (formerly Friends of the Earth Middle East) is a unique organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. Eco Peace’s primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. In so doing, they seek to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region. EcoPeace is very concerned for the plight of the Lower Jordan River and seeks to raise awareness not only of the River’s environmental demise, but to highlight its past glory and heritage.

Guiding questions:

1. How does the environment influence the relations between the parties in the region, and vise-versa?
2. What is being done on the local, regional and international levels to mitigate environmental neglect and improve conditions in the region?
3. How are the lives of the residents and wildlife of the Jordan Valley region affected by misuse of the region’s natural resources?

Suggested schedule: EcoPeace does not have set dates for this tour, but is able to accommodate groups or individuals for tours.

Highlights:

- View of the large Degania dam at the mouth of the Lake begins the story of the demise of the River
- Peace Island, situated at the junction of the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers, where Pinchas Rotenberg built a hydro-electric power plant in the 1930’s, utilizing the
force of the mighty Jordan River waters and supplying electricity to north Jordan as well as to Mandate Palestine

- Three Bridges site: a 2,000 year old Roman bridge, its arches just as impressive today as then, an Ottoman Railway bridge that was part of the Haifa – Damascus Train route, and a more recent British Mandate bridge

*for more info and suggested "Neighbors Paths" see the EcoPeace website

**Contact info:** Email: info@ecopeaceme.org

**Fees:** One half-day tour cost around $150.

**Language:** English

**Further reading:**
Good Neighbors Project description
EcoPeace resources on Save the Jordan River initiative
Sample day trip 6: Settlement Watch, Peace Now

**Why Settlement Watch?:** As one of the core issues toward the resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, settlements are a hot and constantly changing topic. Settlement growth poses a threat to the prospects of a negotiated agreement, yet it continues. On this tour, you will get a chance to see settlements up close and gain a better understanding of the procedures in place to build and take down settlements.

**Tour guide:** Peace Now is the largest and most veteran movement in Israel for public pressure for peace. Its current mission is to ensure that Israelis embrace the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: two states and the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Peace Now views a Palestinian state as an Israeli interest, that will help maintain Israel's Jewish and Democratic character. Peace Now represents the public that shares its views and influences the center by creating a public debate on peace-related issues. It does so through protests, lectures, tours, seminars and through both traditional and new media. In the early 1990s, Peace Now established its Settlement Watch department, after identifying settlements as one of the largest obstacles to the two states solution, taking upon itself to track, analyze and expose any developments in the settlements. Today, Peace Now is considered a highly accurate and reliable source of information regarding developments in the settlements.

**Guiding questions:**

- How did settlements come to be?
- Who are the settlers?
- How are the settlements influencing the lives of the Palestinian people?
- Consider the (perceived) difference between settlement blocs and disparate settlements.
- How are settlements influencing a future agreement? What kind of territorial compromise will Israel have to make to make peace?
- Why and how is there a difference between settlements in Israeli and international law?
**Suggested schedule:** Peace Now offers tours to the West Bank for the general public that allow participants to see for themselves the impact of settlements on the two state solution. Tour dates and locations vary based on the developments on the ground.

**Highlights:** During Peace Now’s Settlement Watch tours participants are exposed to information regarding the settlements enterprise, see their proximity to and impact on the Palestinian population and become aware of the reality behind the green line.

**Contact info:** For more information regarding tours and other Peace Now activities email: info@peacenow.org.il

**Cost:** Free; donations encouraged

**Language:** English and Hebrew

English tours are determined based on availability of Peace Now staff

**Further reading:**
[Peace Now website](#)
[Settlements and the Netanyahu Government](#)
Sample day trip 7: Silwan - Political Archeology and Judaization in East Jerusalem

Why Silwan?: Silwan is a Palestinian neighborhood located next to the Dung Gate of the Old City. For years, it has been a site of tension between Palestinian residents and Jewish ideological settlers. Silwan is an important case study to understand the role Jewish indigeneity is playing in political discourse and how archeology is being politicized to aid in the “Judaization” of East Jerusalem and impeding peace processes.

Tour guide: Emek Shaveh is an Israeli NGO working to defend cultural heritage rights and protect ancient sites as public assets. We view heritage sites as resources for building bridges and object to the exploitation of ancient sites to further national and political agendas.

Silwan/City of David highlights: Emek Shaveh’s tour in the village of Silwan/City of David is a geopolitical-archaeological tour which takes in the cultural wealth of the site as well as the role of the archaeological park in the settlement enterprise in Jerusalem. The archaeological discoveries at the site date from Jerusalem’s earliest periods and constitute a major source of political friction. The tour is approximately two-hours long and involves walking through archaeological sites and the streets of the village.

Contact info: Talya Ezrahi: +972(0)54-5981865, email: talya@alt-arch.org
Yonathan Mizrachi: +972(0)54-5667299, email: yonathan@alt-arch.org

Cost: They ask for a donation of 50 NIS per person for partial cover of costs. Large groups are asked to pay between 500-600 NIS, depending on the size of the group.
For your convenience, we have included a section that outlines other educational opportunities in Israel and the Palestinian territory that are provided by several of our partner organizations on the ground and like-minded tour operators. Please see the following brief overview of the services they can offer you during your stay in the region.
Breaking Bread Journeys – a Palestinian-Israeli tourism venture

Breaking Bread Journeys is an experiential tourism venture offering engaging cross-cultural and cross-border programs throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories. This co-existence tour initiative is a joint venture between Christina Samara, a Palestinian from East Jerusalem and owner of Samara Tourist and Travel Agency, and an Israeli, Elisa Moed, founder of Israel-based Travelujah.

The two women were introduced in 2010 by the Office of the Quartet Rep Tony Blair, and with an initial grant from USAID, created the initiative in 2013. They believe that tourism can offer a path to peace and has an important role in furthering dialogue, cultural understanding and economic development. Their objective is to offer tourists a unique insider opportunity with daily “Breaking Bread” experiences with locals from different backgrounds where they can enjoy a balanced touristic experience, something that is not currently available in the tourism market.

Breaking Bread Journeys offers fully inclusive multi day tours that include classical sites as well as very special Palestinian and Israeli cultural and culinary experiences as well as many seldom seen places of high interest. All the tours are custom designed to serve the needs and interests of their clients and include full itinerary planning (airport transfers, hotels, tour guide, breaking bread experiences, sites of interest).

All tour experiences include opportunities for small groups to engage directly with people in local communities. These include experiences for traditional faith-based groups, as well as small groups of seasoned and well-educated travelers and others who are keen to learn and enjoy local traditional cuisine, art, and music and, of course, break bread with the people of the land, including Jewish, Christian, Moslem and other families and communities throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Watch A six minute segment featuring Breaking Bread Journeys can be seen on PBS Newshour (.56 mark).

For more information, contact Christina Samara at +972-54-237-5288 or Elisa Moed at +972-52-744-4033; Email: christina@breakingbreadjourneys.com or elisa@breakingbreadjourneys.com; Website: www.breakingbreadjourneys.com
Regarding Israel in Cooperation with Kenes Tours

Joe Perlov and Rabbi Shimon Felix, two veteran educators who have brought thousands of people from North America and Europe to Israel for meaningful, in-depth, and exciting experiences, are now working together to create tailor-made Israel trips for students, communities, synagogues, church groups, professional groups and families.

**Conflict in Context:** The Changing Map of Israel – This program uses a map of Israel and the Middle East – constructed together with the participants during the program – to focus on the history, competing narratives, and contemporary political, social, cultural, and security issues facing Israel and her neighbors. Presented jointly by Joe and Rabbi Shimon, this interactive, discussion-based session, offering centrist as well as right and left wing positions, is recommended for students of all levels as an introduction to or summary of an understanding of the area. Topics covered include: - Israel and her neighbors – an ancient, evolving area - The Zionist project - The West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights – a history - The peace process -Two state/one state – partition plans over the years - Homeland: Who is indigenous to the Land of Israel, and what does that mean?
Recommended time: an hour and a half to two hours.

**Negev Narratives:** Israel’s Western Negev Desert and the Gaza Strip - Engaging with Critical Moments on Israel’s Southern Border There are numerous narratives to be explored in the Western Negev: Biblical, Political, Demographic, Military and Hi-Tech. This half-day to full-day tour can include visits to: - Kibbutz Nir-Am, where the first terror tunnel appeared in the July, 2014 war. We visit the overlook of the northern strip including the area of Beit Hannun and Seja’iya, where the most difficult battles took place. Kibbutz Nir-Am is across the road from Sderot. - The Maon Synagogue, dating back to the middle of the 6th century, with one of two ancient floor mosaics found in the Western Negev region. - Kibbutz Gevulot, the first of three outposts in the Negev in 1943, where we can have lunch in an authentic Kibbutz dining room. - The Kerem Shalom Crossing on the southern border, where hundreds of trailer trucks daily serve as Gaza’s lifeline. View the Egyptian border and fence, with Egyptian-flagged outposts, and discover a forgotten city.
buried in the desert, mute testimony to the price of peace. - The Iron Brigade memorial, commemorating soldiers who fell in the Six Day War, relocated from Yamit in the Sinai after Israel ceded it to Egypt. - Kibbutz Be’erot Yitzchak – original site and memorial. Learn about the 1948 War of Independence and changing Israeli attitudes to that period. - Netiv Ha’asara - hear personal stories of living under the threat of rocket fire for fifteen years. We view a beautiful wall mural for peace, facing Gaza and sending a message of Peace and Hope for a better future.

The Arab Israeli Sector: a day in Shfar’am, Kfar Karah, Um el Fahem, and Ilajoun This interaction with Israel’s Arab citizens can include: - A visit to the historic Muslim, Christian, Druze Galilee town of Shfar’am, where we meet local educators and leaders, visit mosques, churches, and private homes, discuss Israeli Arab citizenship, and the complexities of religious and secular Israeli-Palestinian identities. - A visit to the Bridge Over the Wadi Arab-Jewish School in Kfar Karah, one of a number of bi-lingual Hand in Hand schools in Israel, and the only one located in an Israeli Arab village. We meet educators, parents, and students, and learn about Arab–Jewish coexistence; its challenges and possibilities. - Um el-Fahem - We visit the homes of residents, all of whom are citizens of Israel, where we get a taste of Arab culture and cuisine, and hear first-hand from them about their thoughts, feelings, frustrations, and dreams. We discuss and debate what it means to be a non-Jewish citizen of the Jewish State, and dialogue about the future of Israel, its citizens, and the region. - The Umm el Fahem art gallery, where we can meet with its director. - A local mosque, where we meet an Imam for a basic introduction to Islam. - We climb (by foot or bus) to the very top of this hill-top city, for a beautiful scenic and strategic overview of the area – on a clear day you can see all of central Israel and over the Green Line into the Palestinian Authority. - A guided tour of Ilajoun, an Arab village destroyed in 1948, whose residents were forced to start their lives again from scratch in nearby Um El Fahem. This tour is led by a son of original Ilajoun residents evacuated in ‘48, who now lives in Um El Fahem.

The Burma Road: Jerusalem, Israel, and American Jewry – This two-to-four-hour tour takes participants along the Burma Road, emphasizing three critical moments in the early Zionist narrative: the volunteers from abroad who came to help Israel in her most difficult hour; the centrality of Jerusalem to the new state; and the story of the abandoned Arab villages of 1948. We visit the memorial to the fallen Machal soldiers (volunteers from the Diaspora) who fought in Israel’s War of Independence, and discuss the unique relationship between the Diaspora and the State of Israel and witness the price that was paid for independence. We retrace the steps of one of the important battles for Jerusalem and take a short hike through the Jerusalem hills, while viewing the ruins of Bet Sussin, an abandoned Arab village. Additionally, we can visit the 9/11 memorial, the largest memorial
outside of America to the victims of that terror attack, and further discuss the alliance between the US and Israel. We can also visit Lifta, an abandoned but still-standing Arab village evacuated in 1948, and the thriving Israeli Arab town of Abu Gosh.

Jerusalem’s Hebrew Heroes and Hidden Gems - This two to four hour tour goes beyond the usual major destinations in Jerusalem to uncover some exceptional, often overlooked gems. It focuses on several beautiful historic sites, and introduces us to outstanding individuals who, through their bravery, creativity, and sacrifice, made a real difference to the history of Israel and the Jewish people.

Whose Wall is it anyway? We look at the issue of the ownership of the Western Wall and other sacred spaces. Are they synagogues? Historical sites? Archaeological digs? National Monuments? Should they be separated by gender, like Orthodox synagogues, or open to various modes of religious expression, and what about the aesthetics of these much-visited tourist sites/architectural wonders? This session can be done as a two-hour tour in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, or as an indoor discussion.

Contact info:  
shimon.felix@gmail.com  
joe@regardingisrael.com
MachsomWatch

On an illuminating tour to places you don’t usually frequent, and encounters with people you don’t usually meet, you will:

- observe the two distinctive ways of life in the West Bank – of the Palestinians and of the Israeli settlers in Samaria;
- appreciate the current significance of the 1967 border (Green Line);
- view the Separation Barrier and changes in its route;
- visit a checkpoint that is one of the 66 “agricultural gates” separating farmers from their land;
- travel on two types of roads: those open to all and those only for Israelis;
- meet with Palestinians in their villages;
- observe Israeli settlements and their impact on the landscape;
- get a sense of what’s required of the soldiers serving in the West Bank.

Your tour guides are members of MachsomWatch.

Please note:

1. All zones and roads are under the control of the IDF.
2. Upon registration, participants will be provided with a detailed schedule. Other materials, such as maps will be distributed en route.
3. To cover transportation costs, we would appreciate a donation of 50 NIS.

See the dates of upcoming tours in English here.

All tours are approximately 7 hours long – from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tours leave from a central location in Tel Aviv.

To register, please send an e-mail to toursmw@gmail.com

For further information, call: +972-(0)55-664-1797
MEJDI delivers exclusive access, authentic traveler experiences, and itineraries reflecting a diversity of narratives across complex terrain. The innovative MEJDI approach features Palestinian and Jewish Israeli tour guides working together to present a broad range of perspectives.

Honoring Clients and Communities
Founded on the belief that tourism should be a vehicle for a more positive and interconnected world, MEJDI’s socially responsible business model promises respectful engagement between visitors and host communities, fair wages for all vendors, and opportunities for the transmission of local heritage, culture, and perspective.

Weekly “Dual Narrative Tour” in Jerusalem
Every Monday – mejditours.com/day-tours
Featured by National Geographic and TED, this multi-narrative Jerusalem experience is presented by one Jewish Israeli and one Palestinian guide in tandem. Visit major sites and pass through small alleyways. Do the two guides relate differently to the city’s thousands of years of history? What is the reality today? Understand deep religious and national ties to Jerusalem, consider recent tensions, and ponder the future.

MEJDI Day Tour Itineraries
MEJDI experiences are now available to individual travelers, private groups, and as components within itineraries operated by other tourism providers. The MEJDI team works closely with group leaders to customize itineraries reflecting their values, goals, and interests. Some of the most popular tours include:

Jerusalem of Many Angles: Life in a United/Divided City
Begin the day just south of the Old City, touring the neighborhood of Silwan with a local Palestinian resident before visiting the “City of David,” an Israeli national park embedded in a majority-Palestinian residential area. Walk though the Old City past the Western Wall to the Muslim Quarter for lunch and coffee with a local resident, before continuing through the Damascus Gate into “Downtown” East Jerusalem. Discuss key landmarks, stopping at a local bus station to discuss issues of transit equity and mobility, and meet the owners of a now famous bookshop. Finally, drive towards Maale Adumim/Azariyeh to explore issues
facing Jerusalem’s peripheral neighborhoods. Enjoy a home-cooked traditional dinner with a local family.

**Back to the Land: Sustainability in the West Bank**

Begin the day with an overview of the historic region just south of Jerusalem. Hear from a Jewish resident about their community’s ties to the land before visiting a Palestinian farmer who runs summer programs bringing Bethlehem area youth into the outdoors. Continue west to a town situated along the “Green Line,” with an unlikely story of survival in 1948. Walk along agricultural terraces and enjoy lunch beside the lush foliage and gardens. Just down the road, meet the representative of a village known for its baladi produce, and discuss their work with Israeli activists to bring organic fruits and veggies to market. Conclude with dinner at a famous farm-to-table restaurant with a view, beer tasting, and Q&A with a leading Palestinian activist in the field of eco-agriculture and sustainability. Does their work fit within a broader national struggle?

**Crossroads: Perspectives on the Historic Center**

The plains between the Mediterranean coastline and Jerusalem foothills hold the remains of Palestinian villages, evidence of Jewish life from the Talmudic period, monuments to thousands of years of civilization, and Jewish and Arab communities living as neighbors. Begin the day with two MEJDI guides – one Palestinian and one Jewish Israeli – on a short hike to a spectacular viewpoint. Discuss the place of ancient history and civilization in the Israeli and Palestinian narratives of belonging to the land. At the base of Avalon Canada Park, learn about the unusual circumstances of the Israeli-Jordanian armistice line and how this area changed in 1967. After lunch prepared by local residents in the Old City of Lod, enjoy a tour featuring Muslim, Jewish, and Christian heritage. Despite decades of neglect, this neighborhood is undergoing transformation. Hear residents discuss their varying approaches to building the city’s future. Conclude at the bi-national village of “Oasis of Peace” with a presentation on the challenges and successes of this unique community model.

For MEJDI Day Tour inquiries, pricing, and reservations, contact:
Kim Passy Yoseph, email: kim@mejiditours.com, cell: 052-332-7879
Givat Haviva is a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. It is dedicated to promoting mutual responsibility, civic equality and cooperation between divided groups in Israel as the foundation for building a shared future and shared society – critical elements of a sustainable and thriving Israeli democracy. To this end, the Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva serves as a catalyst in activating divided communities to work together towards achieving their common goals, while engaging in a process of interaction, support and empowerment.

Customized seminars run by our professional facilitators focusing on the geo-politics and diversity of the region - history, politics, identity, everyday life and culture. Issues are brought to life through the famous Green-Line Tour.

Topics covered
- Who are the Arab citizens of Israel?
- Who are the Palestinians?
- What is the relationship between the Arab citizens of Israel and the Palestinians?
- What is the relationship between Arab citizens of Israel and the Jewish majority?
- What is the Green Line and what is the security fence

Arab Citizens of Israel - a complex identity
Understanding Arab society narratives through personal stories and from academic perspectives.
- Informal encounters with Arab youth via panel discussion
- Formal talk by a Givat Haviva representative on how the issue of identity is reflected in their work

To create a customized program, contact the Manager of Educational Seminars
Email: Seminars@givathaviva.org.il | Office: 04-6309382 Cell: 054-5715719
Combatants for Peace

Combatants For Peace (CFP) is a binational movement founded in 2005 by Palestinians and Israelis who had taken an active part in the cycle of violence, and are now working together to break it. Combatants for Peace is committed to nonviolent activism.

Bethlehem Area Tour

- Does the separation wall actually provide security?
- Why did the State of Israel invest more than 1 million dollars in one resident of the village of Wallaje?
- What relation is there between present day "Gush Etzion " and and the historic "Gush Etzion"?

Come see the reality of the occupation for yourself, just 20 minutes from Jerusalem. Hear how the local villagers cope with the situation and what Combatants for Peace activists do on the ground.

The Jerusalem-Bethlehem group invites you to participate in one of its monthly tours to broaden your understanding of issues such as the Separation Barrier, the settlements and outposts in the area, and how all these factors affect the daily lives of the Palestinian population.

At the end of the tour C an open discussion is held with Israeli and Palestinian members of CFP.

Nablus Area Tour - The tour aims to show the reality of life in the vicinity of Route 5 on the West Bank. Route 5 is the highway heading east from TelAviv and into the West Bank, where it becomes the main access road to the settlement of Ariel,its satellite settlements and the settlements [villages?] of the rural area of Nablus.

The tour’s focus is understanding how the network of settlements in this area, in
combination with the policies of the military administration affect the daily lives of the Palestinians in this area in terms of development, and access to water and agricultural land.

The tour will conclude with a meeting and Q&A with a Palestinian member of CFP

**Jordan Valley Tour** - Remote and largely hidden from public view, the Jordan Valley is home to some of the most disadvantaged communities in the West Bank. Despite ongoing displacement and settlement efforts, about 90% of the Jordan Valley’s inhabitants are Palestinian.

The Jordan Valley (and North Dead Sea) constitutes about 30% of the West Bank on its eastern side, covering 400,000 acres.

During the tour we’ll learn about the culture and way of life of the Palestinian communities in the area, and learn about the obstacles they face, such as home demolitions, limited access to water and the effects of the new settlements.

**Qalqilya area Tour** - This tour focuses on the area along route 55 going east from the Palestinian city of Qalaqilya, is located near the Green Line. We will learn about the difficulties the Palestinian communities in this area face, such as accessing their fields, located behind the Separation Barrier, and will hear about the realities of living close by the settlements.

Contact info: office@cfpeace.org
Abraham Tours operate tours across Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, and Egypt designed for the independent traveler seeking to experience the true spirit and atmosphere of the region, going beyond the regular tourist trail.

Abraham Tours and Abraham Hostels is focused on catering to all the needs of independent and budget travelers. Because of our lengthy experience operating in the region, and our amazing network of tours, shuttles, hostels and partners, we’ll be able to help you with every facet of your trip.

Our list of extensive services includes;

- **Tours** throughout Israel, Jordan, the West Bank (Palestinian Territories) and Egypt.
- **Hostels in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Nazareth!**
- **Travel Desks** in each hostel location providing extensive advice on travel in the region, booking accommodation or tours, where to eat/drink, phone and sim card rental or purchase.
- **Free Travel Lectures** about traveling in the region, local language, culture and cuisine.
- Transport options like **Car Rental**, or booking **private vans and transport**, or shuttle services.

Contact info: +972 (0)2 566 0045, email info@abrahamtours.com
Green Olive Tours

Green Olive Tours is a social enterprise tour agency providing tours that are informative and analytical, covering the history, culture, and political geography of Palestine (West Bank) and Israel. The tours provide benefit to the indigenous population through the hiring and training of tour guides, overnight stays with families & small guest houses, and encouraging visitors to purchase local crafts directly from producers and Fair Trade outlets.

The wide range of itineraries include interaction with Palestinians and Israelis, and visit areas that embody the history and current status of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem, and between Israel’s Jewish, Palestinian-Arab, and Bedouin citizens. The complex mosaic of religions, nationalities, and political viewpoints in the Holy Land are explored in depth.

Many of the tours also visit the sites of historical, cultural and religious interest, placing them within the context of the ongoing analysis provided by the guide.

Green Olive Tours aims to provide our guests with:

- A cultural, historical and political understanding of Palestine & Israel.
- Visits to cultural, historical and religious sites.
- An experience of the political facts on the ground.
- Interaction with Palestinians and Israelis.
- Analysis and commentary based on:
  - Human Rights
  - Cultural self determination
  - The right to political self determination
  - The right to live in safety
  - The right to political freedom
  - The right to a home
Jerusalem & the West Bank
The tours in the Occupied Territories visit the Separation Barrier, and travel the roads and tunnels that connect to Jewish settlements. Some tours arrange visits with residents of the territories, both Israeli and Palestinian, that help develop an understanding of the complexities of the relationships. A wide range of information about social, cultural and historical issues are provided that help to link together the sites visited and your previous knowledge about the region into a coherent perspective on the situation. The tours provide a unique opportunity to learn about Palestinian culture, gain first-hand, in-depth knowledge of the situation on the ground, and hear critical analysis from knowledgeable Palestinian and Israeli guides.

Israel
Tours inside Israel (West of the Green Line) takes you on a journey of discovery through the peeled back layers of history from the Negev desert to the hills of the Galilee. Almost every part of Israel was transformed after 1948 as the country developed and absorbed millions of Jewish immigrants, at the expense of the former Palestinian residents who became refugees. Green Olive Tours provides information about the destroyed Palestinian villages, the plight of the Bedouin, and examines on the ground the relationship between Israel’s Jewish and non-Jewish citizens.

Private Tours
Private tours can be arranged for individuals or groups to almost any part of Israel and the West Bank. They can be custom designed and can include visits with Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists, business leaders, or government officials. Specialized tours can also be arranged for businesspeople or diplomats visiting the region.

Contact info: In Israel/Palestine: Office: 03-721-9540, Outside Israel/Palestine: Office: +972-3-721-9540, USA 1-612-276-2077