

Updated July 7, 2022

Itinerary Jerusalem Connections Travel Course May 2-23

Day 0: May 02: Tuesday

Depart for Israel from Ottawa

Day 1: May 03: Wednesday

Arrive in Tel Aviv Israel

Hotel: Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (Night 1 Tel Aviv)

No guide

Bus to hotel only

- Meet Talk N Save at Airport
- Bus to Hotel
- [Stop for Falafel lunch \(courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre\)](#)
- Check in hotel
- Free time
- [Group dinner at hotel included](#)
- Orientation

Day 2: May 04: Thursday

Tel Aviv

Hotel: Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (Night 2 Tel Aviv)

Bus

Guide

[Special: May require modest dress today if we enter mosque, church, synagogue etc.](#)

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 8:30 departure
- 9 – 10:30 Palmach Museum (5 min bus to Anu Museum)
- 11:00-1:00 Anu Museum of the Jewish People short guided tour plus time for self tour
- 1:00-2:00 [Late lunch on own in old Jaffa](#)
- 2:00 – 3:30 short walking tour Jaffa (archeology, Ottoman / British / French colonial history, religious and cultural communities: Mahmoudiya mosque, St Peter's Church, House of Simon the Tanner, Jews of Libya Synagogue) includes free time to explore during this time. Check out flea market, Jaffa food culture.
- 3:30-4:30 wander around on your own & buy snacks and supplies for shabbat.
- Short guided Bus tour of Tel Aviv as we return to hotel: highlight history of city, religious/cultural areas & communities
- Free time until dinner
- [Group Welcome dinner Old Man and the Sea courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre](#)

Day 3: May 05: Friday

Tel Aviv

Hotel: Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (Night 3 Tel Aviv)

Guide

Bus

Special: Wear fully closed shoes or you will not be permitted into the site. Dig is underground and you will be on your knees. Sifting is outside.

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 8:30 departure for TAU
- 9:00-10:30 am Lecture at Tel Aviv University: Muslim Minority in Israel arranged by Prof Butler
- Depart for Tel Maresha (1 hour bus)
- Box Lunch included
- Archeological Dig for a Day at Tel Maresha (digging & sifting)
- Bell caves & Crusader Church
- Depart for Hotel (1 hour bus)
- free time
- Evening program 7:30 pm: Meet in hotel lobby. Shabbat picnic dinner & program on beach arranged by Professor Butler (courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)

DAY 4: MAY 06: Saturday,

Tel Aviv

Hotel: Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (Night 4 Tel Aviv)

No bus / No guide

Special: Free day explore the city (most Jewish areas will be closed, Arab and secular areas open)

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Lunch on your own
- Dinner on your own
- Evening: Course resumes: 8:15 pm meet Dr Butler on beach for Havdalah sundown 9 pm – 10 pm: Lecture at hotel on religion, gender and military in Israel

DAY 5: May 07: Sunday

Hotel: Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (Night 5 Tel Aviv)

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 8:30 depart for TAU
- 9-10 am morning lecture arranged by Dr Butler: TAU Holocaust in Israeli life and Nakba Dr Meir Litvak
- 10:30 depart for Kfar Beita (1 hour bus)

- 11:30 – 3:30 Beta Israel Ethiopian cultural centre 2 hour visit including presentation, one workshop (Ethiopian dance, oral history or mud building) followed by included Lunch
- Return to Tel Aviv
- Free time
- Dinner on your own

Day 6: May 08: Monday

Tel Aviv – south

Hotel: Masada Youth Hostel (Night 1)

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

Special: Camel ride, wear long pants and shoes that won't fall off.

- Check out Tel Aviv hotel 8:30 am
- Drive to BGU (2 hour bus)
- 11:00 -12:00 BGU lecture on migration
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch with BGU students
- 1:30-2:30Lecture BGU lecture on Bedouin women
- 3:00 Bus to Kfar Hanokdim (1 hour bus)
- 4:00 – 7:00 Camel Ride at Kfar Hanokdim, lecture on Bedouin culture
- Dinner included (Bedouin festive meal)
- Bedouin Drum Circle Workshop
- 7:00 depart Bus to Masada (1 hour)
- 8:00 Check in Masada Youth hostel

Day 7: May 09: Tuesday

Masada-Dead Sea-Jerusalem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Night 1 Jerusalem)

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

Special: Masada: extra water, rugged shoes hiking/archeological site

Dead sea swim: do not shave day before or today: bathing suit, towel, soap for post swim, water shoes, extra drinking water.

hiking/rugged shoes for archeological sites

- 4 am morning climb for climbers (register for box breakfast, 90 mins+ climb)
- 8 am first cable car non-climbers take cable car explore
- 10:30 am non-climbers descend by cable car & Check out Masada Youth Hostel
- Depart for Qmran (45 min bus)

- Visit Qmran Archeological site
- Depart to Dead Sea (15 mins bus)
- Kalia Beach Swim
- [Lunch courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre](#)
- Depart for Jerusalem (45 min bus)
- Stop view of old city for quick Shechekiyanu
- Check in Jerusalem Hotel
- [Dinner included at hotel](#)

Day 8: May 10: Wednesday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Night 2 Jerusalem)

Bus

Guide

[Special: modest dress needed in old city during morning until museum](#)

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9:00-10:00 am [lecture Women of the Wall](#)
- 10:30 depart for old city
- Stop and view old city city (at Mount of Olives): [lecture on site \(30 mins\) on history of Jerusalem as city](#)
- Western Wall
- [Lunch on your old city](#)
- Jewish Quarter Jerusalem
- 2-5 pm Israel Museum tour with Professor Butler or on your own
- Departure for hotel
- [Dinner on your own](#)
- [Evening Program: Sound and Light Show Tower of David Sound and Light courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre](#)

Day 9: May 11: Thursday (Lag B'Omer)

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Night 3 Jerusalem)

Bus

Guide

[Special: Lag B'Omer tonight, hiking/rugged shoes for archeological site](#)

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9:00-10:00 am [guest lecture Religion and Israeli Law](#)
- 10:30-1:30 Yad Vashem tour with Prof Butler and time on your own [Lunch on your own at museum](#)
- 1:30-2:30 [lecture how the museum tells the story of the Shoah and uses the evidence in the collection](#)
- Depart for old city
- Davidson Archeological Centre

- Burnt House (rest, watch film)
- Kotel Tunnels
- Dinner on your own (make sure to shop for groceries for shabbat)
- Optional: Join Prof Butler for Lag B'omer bonfires & celebrations (bus included)

Day 10: May 12: Friday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (night 4)

Bus

Guide

Special: Modest Dress all day. Pick up snacks and water for shabbat.

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 8:00 am Holy Sepulcher (must begin day)
- Via Dolorosa
- Mount of Olives and Gethsemane
- Lunch on your own in old city
- Pool of Bethesda: [Lecture on early Christianity](#)
- David's tomb and Cenacle (Upper Room)
- Tomb of the Virgin Mary
- Return to hotel
- [Shabbat of a Lifetime dinner courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies](#)

Day 11: May 13: Saturday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Jerusalem night 5)

No bus/ No Guide

Special: [Shabbat in Jerusalem: Free day.](#)

Breakfast at hotel (included)

[Lunch on your own](#)

[Dinner on your own](#)

Some museums and sites are open (including the Israel Museum and the Museum for Islamic art, Botanical Gardens, Park of Olives, all Muslim and Christian religious sites), others such as Yad Vashem are closed. Most restaurants and shops in Jewish areas are closed, some are open in the old city in the Shouk and almost everything is open East Jerusalem. Shops and restaurants start to open again 9 pm on Saturday evening. There is no public transport but taxis / ubers are available.

Day 12: May 14: Sunday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Jerusalem night 6)

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

Special: Al Haram Ash Sharif/Temple Mount: Modest dress, do not carry any prayer book that is not Muslim

City of David: water shoes & shorts for tunnel (water up to knee or thigh depending on water levels and your height, avoid if claustrophobic)

Temple Sifting Project: hiking/rugged shoes for archeological site

- 7:30 am Temple Mount (Har HaBayit) / Al Haram Ash Sharif (The Noble Sanctuary) line up to enter
- City of David (water tunnel and archeological site)
- **Lunch on your own**
- Temple Sifting Project (Emek Tzurim) and academic lecture about history of site & politics of archeology of site with Professor Gabriel Barkai
- **Pre-dinner lecture at hotel LGBTQ+ Israel and Palestine**
- **Dinner at Joy courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)**

Day 13: May 15: Monday

Jerusalem - Bethlehem

Hotel: Caesar Jerusalem (Jerusalem night 7)

Bus

Guide

Special: Modest dress while in Bethlehem

Breakfast at hotel (included) / box breakfast for climbers included

- **9:00-10:30 guest lecture Israel and International Law**
- **11:30-12:30 tour of Knesset (meet Arab Israeli MPs)**
- 1 pm Departure for Bethlehem
- **Group lunch included in Bethlehem**
- Rachel's Tomb
- Bethlehem tour: Church of the Nativity, Banksy hotel, Cave (if time permits)
- Return to hotel Jerusalem
- **Dinner on your own**

Day 14: Tuesday, May 16

Northern Tour: Jerusalem – Nazareth – Kibbutz Degania

Hotel: Degania B

Bus

Guide

Special: hiking/rugged shoes for archeological site, modest dress for church and mosque

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Checkout hotel
- Bus to Caesarea
- Caesarea
- Bus to Nazareth
- Nazareth tour, Church of Annunciation, Mosque
- Lunch on your own time to explore on own
- Nazareth bus to Kibbutz Degania B
- Check in Degania
- Dinner included at kibbutz

Day 15: Wednesday, May 17: Degania B– Capernaum – Mt Beatitudes – Yardenit Baptism site– Golan Heights UN Lookout

Hotel: Degania B

Bus

Guide

Special: May need modest dress for church at Mt. Beatitudes, hiking/rugged shoes for archeological site

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- lecture on Kibbutz movement today or May 18
- Capernaum & Mount Beatitudes (bus 1 hour)
- Capernaum
- Mount of Beatitudes
- Lunch on own
- 3:00 Depart for Yardenit
- 3:30-5:00-Yardenit
- Mount Bental
- Dinner at kibbutz included

Day 16: Thursday, May 18

Northern tour: Akko- Safed

Hotel: Akko Youth Hostel

Bus

Guide

Special: modest dress for Safed synagogues on group tour

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Check out Degania
- 9:00 am - depart for Zafed
- pm tour with group and free time to explore

- Lunch on your own
- Depart for Rosh Hanikra
- Akko Crusader fort, market, tunnels
- Farewell Dinner courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

Day 17, Friday, May 19

Northern Tour: Akko – Bahai Gardens -Isfiya -Tel Aviv

Hotel: NONE

Bus

Guide

Special: modest dress for shrine and mosque, may be needed in Isfiya area

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Check out hotel
- 8:30 am Depart for Bahai Gardens (1 hour)
- 9:30 am -11:30pm Bahai Shrine and Gardens (walk down with Bahai representative to see shrine, view film)
- 11:30 Depart for Usfiya (bus 30 mins)
- 12:00 pm Usfiya Druze lecture and Lunch included
- Explore bazaar and area
- Transfer to Tel Aviv
 - end of day approx. 5 pm Friday May 27, drop off Tel Aviv Central bus station, original Tel Aviv hotel

Course is over. Enjoy your explorations!

Transfer to Tel Aviv by bus with group: Drop off at Central Bus Station (if requested in advance) and Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv or make your own travel arrangements.

Day 18-22: Friday May 19-Tuesday May 23 Free time, no hotels or services provided.

Special: Students MUST advise if leaving the country (including flight info) AND must leave contact information for their arrangements if staying in country (hotel name). This extension period is included to allow us lower costs for return flights and is an opportunity for you to travel and continue your studies / research before returning home. Our travel agent can assist you in booking the Tel Aviv Hotel but there are many more affordable options (hostels, Airbnb etc) as well. Students tend to get to know each other as we prepare for the course and many figure out what they will do once they speak to other students while traveling: travel to Petra, Greece etc., stay in Jerusalem or see parts of the country you haven't seen yet. Note that this is high tourist season and the later you book the fewer choices you have. Professor Butler will be staying at the Tel Aviv Hotel if help is needed.

Talk n Save group cell phone contract is good until we leave the country as a group. You may extend that contract if you are staying longer. It will not work in other countries.

Day 22: Return to Ottawa on Group flight or make your own arrangements home.

Transfer to Tel Aviv Airport: from Hotel in Tel Aviv (included if traveling on group air) or make your own way to airport (public transport or Sherut/taxi/Uber/Lyft) to meet group to move through customs as a group 3 hours prior to departure. This is a long process!

Meeting time Hotel Grand Beach Transfer to Ben Gurion airport: TBD

Meeting time Ben Gurion Airport pre-flight screening: TBD

Group flight from Tel Aviv airport

See you again at the course reunion at Professor Butler's house later this summer!