

Updated Oct 2021

Itinerary Jerusalem Connections Travel Course 2022

Day 0: May 10: Tuesday
Depart for Israel from Ottawa

Day 1: May 11: Wednesday
Arrive in Tel Aviv Israel

Hotel: Tel Aviv Grand Beach Hotel

No guide

Bus to hotel only

- Meet Talk N Save at Airport
- Bus to Hotel
- **Lunch: box lunch (courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)**
- Check in hotel
- Free time
- Group dinner at hotel included
- Orientation

Day 2: May 12: Thursday
Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv Grand Beach Hotel

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9 – 10:30 Palmach Museum
- 11:30-1:00 Museum of the Diaspora: short guided tour plus time for self tour
- **1:00-2:00 Late lunch on own in Jaffa**
- 2:00 – 3:30 short walking tour Jaffo (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.
- 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 in Yaffo at Old Man and the Sea (or Abrace) courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre**

Day 3: May 13: Friday
Tel Aviv – Kiryat Gat – Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv Grand Beach Hotel

Guide

Bus

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9-10 am morning lecture arranged by Dr Butler: Daniel Jonas, LGBTQ+ in hotel meeting room
- Visit Kfar Beita Ethiopian Village (2 hour visit including presentation, visit, one workshop: personal story or Ethiopian dance or building traditional ecological mud building
- Lunch included
- Evening program 7 pm: Shabbat picnic dinner & program on beach arranged by Professor Butler (courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)

DAY 4: MAY 14: Saturday,

Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv Grand Beach Hotel

No bus / No guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Free day explore the city (Jewish areas will be closed, Arab and secular areas open)
- 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 -Nava Rosen meeting room in hotel

DAY 5: May 15: Sunday

Tel Aviv - Maresha – Tel Aviv

Hotel: Tel Aviv Grand Beach Hotel

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9:00-10:30 am Lecture at Tel Aviv University: Professor Arik Runitzky on Muslim Minority in Israel arranged by Prof Butler
- Box Lunch included
- Archeological Dig for a Day at Tel Maresha
- If time permits: Bell caves, Crusader Church
- Avshalom Cave
- Dinner on your own

Day 6: May 16: Monday

Tel Aviv – Jerusalem

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Check out Tel Aviv hotel
- 9:30-11:00 Morning lecture TAU university before we leave Tel Aviv arranged by Prof Butler Dr Meir Litvak Arab and Muslim responses to the Shoah & the Naqba
- Visit Hassan Bek Mosque Jaffa Tel Aviv
- Lunch on own in Jaffa
- 1:30 Depart for Jerusalem
- Stop for view of city (Mount of Olives), guide mini lecture on history of Jerusalem quick
- stop at Western wall
- Check in hotel
- Group lecture on history of Jerusalem hotel meeting room arranged by Dr Butler
- Dinner at hotel included

Day 7: May 17: Tuesday

Jerusalem (change in itinerary)

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

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)

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
- Stop at Machane Yehuda
- Dinner on your own

Day 8: May 18: Wednesday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 8:00 am Holy Sepulcher (must begin day)
- Via Dolorosa
- Mount of Olives and Gethsemane
- Bethesda Pools
- Tomb of the Virgin Mary
- Lunch on your own in old city

- David's tomb and Cenacle (Upper Room)
- Jewish Quarter Jerusalem
- Burnt House (use as rest during day)
- **Dinner: Joy Restaurant (courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)**

Day 9: May 19: Thursday (Lag B'Omer)

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

Bus

Guide

Special: Closed shoes

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- **8:30-9:30** guest lecture arranged by Prof Butler Benny Porat need room in hotel
- Davidson Archeological Centre
- Kotel tunnels
- **Lunch on your own old city**
- Israel museum (3 hours for visit)
- **Pre-Dinner lecture: 6:00-7:00 pm** guest lecture arranged by Prof Butler Renee Melamed meeting room
- **Dinner on your own**
- **Evening Program: Tower of David Light show (courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre)**
- **Optional: Join Prof Butler for Lag B'omer bonfires & celebrations**

Day 10: May 20: Friday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- **9:00-10:30 am** guest lecture Shulamit S. Magnus arranged by Prof Butler hotel meeting room
- Yad Vashem
- **Lunch on your own at Museum**
- **Shabbat of a Lifetime dinner courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies**

Day 11: May 21: Saturday

Jerusalem

Hotel: Jerusalem Caesar Jerusalem

No bus/ No Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

Special: Shabbat in Jerusalem: Free day.

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 22: Sunday **Jerusalem -Bethlehem-Masada**

Hotel: Masada Youth Hostel

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 9:00-10:30 guest lecture Alan Baker arranged by Prof Butler hotel meeting room
- Check out of hotel
- 11:30-12:30 tour of Knesset (we are hoping to meet with one of the Arab Israeli MPs, Prof Butler is arranging this, if we can't we may skip for a different lecture on political / constitutional scene)
- Departure for Bethlehem
- Group lunch included
- Rachel's Tomb
- Church of the Nativity
- Banksy hotel
- Cave (if time permits)
- Departure for Masada
- Dinner at Hostel included
- Check in Masada Youth Hostel

Day 13: May 23: Monday **Masada & Qmran**

Hotel: Masada Youth Hostel

Bus

Guide

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

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

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

- 4 am morning climb (register for box breakfast, 90 mins+ climb)
- 8 am non-climbers take cable car explore
- Qmran
- Lunch included Kalia Beach (indoor air conditioned)
- Swim at Kalia Beach (Dead Sea)
- Dinner at Youth Hostel (included)

Days 14: Tuesday, May 24

Masada to Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva Negev to Kfar Hanokdim to Masada

Hotel: Kfar Hanokdim Oasis / Bedouin

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- 10 am BGU Lecture Conversion Institute
- 11 am Coffee break
- 11:30-12:30 BGU Lecture: Bedouin women
- 12:30 – 2 pm Lunch and chat with BGU students arranged by Prof Butler
- 2:00-3:00 pm BGU lecture Professor Dani Kranz
- 5 pm Camel Ride at Kfar Hanokdim
- Dinner included (Bedouin festive meal)
- Bedouin Drum Circle Workshop
- Bedouin tent sleeping arrangements (bedding provided)

Day 15: Wednesday, May 25

Northern Tour: Kfar Hanokdim to Caesarea, Bahai Gardens

Hotel: Kibbutz Nof Ginosar

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Check out hotel
- 8:00-11:30 Drive north to Galilee
- 11:30 – 12:30 Yardenit
- Lunch on your own
- 1:30-2:30 Capernaum
- 15:00-16:00 Mt Beatitudes
- 16:00-18:00 Mount Bental Lookout Golan heights (overlooks Syria, UN observation post)
- 18:30 check in kibbutz hotel
- 19:30 dinner at hotel included

Day 16: Thursday, May 26

Northern tour

Hotel: Akko youth Hostel

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- Check out hotel
- 9:00 – 11:00 Safed
- 11-12:00 drive to Nazareth
- Nazareth regular tour, Church of Annunciation, Mosque, time to explore on own in Nazareth
- Lunch on own
- 15:00: Akko: Old city, Crusader Fort & market

- Check in Acco Youth Hostel
- Farewell group dinner courtesy of Zelikovitz Centre

Day 17, Friday, May 27

Northern Tour:

Hotel: NONE

Bus

Guide

Breakfast at hotel (included)

- **Bahai Temple and Gardens**
- **Usafia lecture and Lunch included**
- **Caesarea**
- **Transfer to Tel Aviv**
 - **end of day 4 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 By14 Hotel Tel Aviv or make your own travel arrangements.

Day 18-22: Friday May 27-Tuesday May 31 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 Grand Beach 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 Grand Beach 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 Grand Beach 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 Grand Beach Hotel 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!