CMEP’s Annual Holy Land Journey
September 30, 2017 – October 9, 2017
10 Days, 9 Nights

Journey to Holy Land as part of this multiple perspective pilgrimage. Facilitated by two guides, one Israeli and one Palestinian, experience the sacred places, cosmopolitan cities, small villages and scenic landscapes of this diverse region through the eyes of its residents. Begin the journey worshiping with a local congregation, continue with the religious histories of Jerusalem, then travel into the villages of the West Bank and end on the shores of the Mediterranean. Rooted in Christian pilgrimage, this journey offers travelers the opportunity to meet local leaders, artists and activists, learn about contrasting national narratives, and explore future prospects for justice, security, and peace in the Holy Land. With a unique approach that accesses contemporary issues through personal storytelling, relationship-building, and facilitated discussion, this journey features a diverse array of guides and speakers – Israeli and Palestinian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim, conservative, moderate and progressive. With time for spiritual reflection, discussion and fun, join us for this unique journey that celebrates the hospitality and vibrant cultures of the Holy Land while exploring the complex issues facing Israelis and Palestinians.

Day 1: Arrival
Saturday, September 30
Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and transfer to Jerusalem for check-in and a welcome dinner with MEJDI Tour Guides.
Hotel: Jerusalem
Day 2: Jerusalem
Sunday, October 1
Begin the morning by attending an Arabic/English worship service in Jerusalem. Then, take an alternative tour of the Old City’s Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with two guides, one Arab and one Jewish. Visit the hotly contested Temple Mount, to see the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Meet with a local imam for a discussion on Islam and the politics of the site, and then explore the Muslim Quarter. Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter, and meet with a rabbi. Finally, tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to learn about its many sectarian conflicts.

Hotel: Jerusalem

Day 3: Jerusalem
Monday, October 2
Start the day with a 90 minute OCHA briefing on the humanitarian situation. Spend the rest of the morning considering Jerusalem’s religious history from the Mt. of Olives. Following lunch, pay a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum.

Hotel: Jerusalem

Day 4: Jerusalem/Bethlehem
Tuesday, October 3
Begin your day with devotions at the Garden Tomb. Then take a political tour of East Jerusalem with a local NGO. Journey south in the afternoon and cross the checkpoint into Bethlehem. Meet with a local Palestinian church leader for conversation about life in Bethlehem.

Hotel: Bethlehem

Day 5: Bethlehem
Wednesday, October 4
Spend the morning with Palestinian Christians at Bethlehem Bible College. Learn about peace making over lunch at Wi’am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. In the afternoon visit Aida refugee camp and the Palestinian village of Wadi Foquin to witness the impact of nearby Israeli settlements on Palestinians daily lives.

Day 6: Hebron
Thursday, October 5
Visit Shuhada Street and see the work done by USAID for Palestinian shopkeepers. Next visit the Abraham Mosque and Synagogue and then have lunch with a local Palestinian family. In the afternoon visit the Palestinian village of Susiya to better understand how a lack of approved building permits has led to an ongoing threat of home demolitions. End the day with dinner and a special lecture from the Parent’s Circle-Families Forum.

Hotel: Bethlehem
**Day 7: Bethlehem**  
**Friday, October 6**
Begin your day with a tour of the Church of the Nativity. Then walk the Separation Wall and tour the Cremisan Valley. Meet with Palestinians to understand the impact of the proposed route of the wall on the local families and faith community. Visit the Tent of Nations to see the land and hear the story of this farming family. Continue the conversation over a simple Palestinian dinner.
*Hotel: Bethlehem*

**Day 8: Dead Sea and Jericho**  
**Saturday, October 7**
Travel to the Dead Sea for a dip in the mineral-rich waters. Next visit the archeological and holy sites in Jericho. End the day meeting with Friends of the Earth Middle East and hear about their joint Arab-Jewish environmental initiatives.
*Hotel: Jericho or FOME Guest House*

**Day 9: Holy Sites of Galilee**  
**Sunday, October 8**
Travel North to Galilee. Have lunch at St. Peter’s Restaurant followed by a visit to Tabgha, the place of the miracle of loaves and fishes. Visit Capernaum, said to have once been the home of St. Peter and the location of the famous healing of the paralytic lowered through the roof to reach Jesus. Take a sail on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on water and called for Peter to do the same. Enjoy a hilltop prayer in the gardens at the Mount of Beatitudes.
*Hotel: Galilee*

**Day 10: Jaffa and Tel Aviv**  
**Monday, October 9**
Travel to Tel Aviv in the morning to meet with an Israeli NGO such as Gisha. Then take a walking tour of the historic port city of Jaffa and shop in the artists’ colony before relaxing with free time in Tel Aviv. In the evening transfer to the airport to fly home.