

Israel and Palestine: A Sampling of Custom Program Activities



Agriculture/Sustainable Development

- Day trip to a family farm
- Learn about the harvest of local produce (fig, olives, grapes, etc. and participate if in season)
- Visit the old market in Bethlehem and talk with local farmers
- Visit a farming village in the West Bank still using irrigation systems from Roman times
- Learn about rural economics and agricultural production
- Take an urban agriculture workshop from a female led non-profit and learn how to develop and incorporate an in-house hydroponic system

Arts and Culture

- Tour Dar al-Kalima Arts University
- Participate in cultural exchange with students and faculty in various art departments at Dar al-Kalima University
- Hear from one of the largest collectors of Palestinian art about cultural preservation
- Visit museums of Palestinian art and history
- Discuss tangible and intangible components of Palestinian culture with an archeologist and ceramics expert

- Tour an NGO working to preserve Palestinian cultural heritage
- Meet with an artist association working to create community and improve art in Arab society
- Visit a theater that uses Forum Theater to promote active dialogue and commitment for change
- Attend a theater performance or concert
- Meet basket weavers, learn about their lives and work, and take a basketry workshop
- View and discuss the street art on the separation wall
- Meet with an artist collective using contemporary art to tell stories of Gaza to people beyond their borders
- Visit a Keffiyeh factory - learn about the traditional scarf, a national symbol - and the factory's efforts to continue producing textiles in Palestine
- Watch a Dabke performance (traditional dance) or take a Dabke class

Education

- Visit to primary or secondary schools
- Meet with the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Dar al-Kalima University
- Visit to Dar al-Kalima University
- Meet with university students and dialogue with university faculty in a specific discipline

Environment

- Presentation related to environmental issues
- Meet with local environmental activists and government officials
- Visit the Jordan Valley and discuss environmental activism with local NGO representative
- Discuss water activism - visit a Jordan River reclamation and rehabilitation project
- Meet with a multinational, interfaith organization committed to preserving the environment

Food and Culinary Arts

- Meet with faculty and students of a culinary program in the West Bank
- Discuss the difference in cuisines from various parts of Palestine with a local expert
- Meet with a local research organization focused on sustainable food production
- Visit a sesame press and learn about its history and products
- Take a class on traditional spices of the region and make za'atar
- Visit a refugee camp with an urban rooftop garden project
- Partake in a traditionally Palestinian meal of Zarb cooked local produce
- Taste oil made from different varieties of olives, learn about the cultural role of the olive tree, traditional olive cultivation and olive oil production

Globalization and Trade

- Presentation on the Palestinian Economy
- Visit a female led, non-profit organization which promotes 'business for peace' and fair trade

- Opportunity to purchase local goods directly from producers
- Learn about the formal versus informal economy
- Visit a glass factory creating traditional ceramics and hand-blown glass products

Holy Sites and History

- Walking tour of Bethlehem's Old City: Manger Square, Church of the Nativity and the Milk Grotto
- Visit Shepherds' Fields in Beit Sahour
- Tour the Old City in Hebron
- Visit Jericho to view monasteries, ancient ruins, and archeological sites
- Walk the Via Dolorosa and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Visit the Western Wall
- Visit Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock / Al-Aqsa Mosque
- Visit the Ibrahimi Mosque / Tomb of the Patriarchs
- Guided tour: Walk down the Palm Sunday Road / Via Dolorosa, stopping at Dominus Flevit Chapel, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Church of All Nations
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Visit the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth

Human Rights

- Dialogue with a collective of families who have lost loved ones in the conflict and are working toward reconciliation
- Meet with and religious groups focused on addressing human rights violations in the region
- Tour a large hospital working to provide specialty health services to those not served elsewhere
- Visit with groups involved in women's rights
- Visit with groups involved with land issues
- Visit a refugee camp in Palestine and meet with an organization providing services there

Politics and History

- Overview of current political and economic situation
- Visit the Separation Wall - view and discuss street art and political graffiti
- Visit Hebron to learn about the history of the claims to the land and the current situation
- Meet with a leader of a Jewish Settlement
- Visit a Palestinian refugee camp and learn about their history
- Meet with representative from one of the political parties in the Joint List, a political alliance of Arab Israelis
- Visit Yad Vashem - the memorial to the holocaust

Religion/Faith

- Learn about contextual Palestinian Theology

- Meet with a Mufti in Bethlehem to discuss Islam and moderation
- Attend a Shabat service at a Jerusalem synagogue and have dinner in a Jewish family's home
- Learn about shared and contested narratives surrounding Hebron and sacred places
- Meet with an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians
- Attend Sunday service at a Lutheran church, a Catholic Mass, or an Orthodox Divine Liturgy

Women's Movements

- Meet with grassroots women's organizations in urban or rural contexts
- Meet with academics working on gender issues
- Meet with a non-profit organization focused on the empowerment of women, continuing education programs, awareness raising, and the preservation of Palestinian culture
- Visit an organization working to strengthen the role of women as business leaders
- Meet with a female film-makers and hear about her work
- Visit a feminist organization in Israel working for gender justice

Other Options

- Urban or rural homestay
- Visit an artisan market – time for handicraft and other shopping
- Visit to the Dead Sea
- Hiking trips in various national parks