

Resources about Israel and Palestine

These are resources that we have reviewed and found helpful in further understanding the situation in Israel and Palestine. Since every resource might not appeal to all audiences, we have provided our own additional guidance for age and topic appropriateness. Titles with * are those that would be most helpful to read, watch, or listen to prior to your trip.

Books

*[*The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*](#), Sandy Tolan, 2007

A true story of the relationship between an Israeli woman and the Palestinian man who both claim the same house as their own. This book conveys with sensitivity, understanding, and historical context the immense challenges facing a reconciliation between Israel and Palestine.

[*Jerusalem: The Biography*](#), Simon Sebag Montefiore, 2012

A dense and extremely detailed recounting of the entire history of the city of Jerusalem. Very helpful, but time-consuming to read.

[*My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*](#), Ari Shavit, 2015, (some language)

An account that requires some prior understanding of the establishment of the state of Israel in order to fully appreciate the author's experiences and commentary. To his credit, the author, who is Israeli, attempts to give a balanced view of both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives.

[*The Way to the Spring: Life and Death in Palestine*](#), Ben Ehrenreich, 2017, (some language)

The author spends time with families in several areas of the West Bank, providing a realistic and sobering view of modern Palestinian life.

Movies

*[*Lemon Tree*](#) (NOT the same as the book listed above), 2008, 10+ (subject matter, language)

Based on a true story, this movie shows the disparity between Israeli and Palestinian landowners. Despite some unnecessary romance, the movie's overall message promotes understanding.

[*Arranged*](#), 2007

*[*Exodus*](#), 1960, 10+ (violence)

A classic film based on the novel by Leon Uris that provides a sweeping account of the creation of the state of Israel from a distinctively Jewish perspective. Although fictional, many events have historical basis.

[*5 Broken Cameras*](#), 2012, 14+

*[*The Oslo Diaries*](#), 2018, 12+ (subject matter, a little language)

This documentary shows the incredibly inspiring efforts by Israelis and Palestinians that eventually resulted in the Oslo Accords in 1993. Unfortunately, even with so much time dedicated on both sides, by 2000 Oslo was considered a failure.

[*The Real Fauda*](#), 2018, 12+ (language, violence)

The BBC produced this documentary as a behind-the-scenes look at an Israeli spy series, *Fauda*, which is in its third season. Some people acclaim the series for its sympathetic portrayal of Palestinians; however, not all Palestinians would agree. The series itself is too graphic for our tastes; however, this documentary provides a glimpse into the complex situations the series addresses.

[*The Syrian Bride*](#) (2004), 12+ (subject matter, a little language)

Another look at the difficulties facing minority Arab groups living in Israel. In this case, a Druze woman living in the Golan Heights is engaged to be married to a Druze man living in Syria.

[*Two Blue Lines*](#), 2017, 15+ (language, graphic violence in news footage)

This documentary examines the human rights violations towards Palestinians caused by Israel and its settlements. It provides helpful context and history for the Palestinian refugee situation.

*[*With God on Our Side*](#), 2013, 10+

Relying on the Bible, this documentary explores the connection between evangelical Christianity (Biblical Zionism) and the State of Israel. It also serves as a brief overview of Israel/Palestinian history.

Podcasts

*[*BYU Radio Top of Mind*](#), "[*Lemon Tree*](#)," February 1, 2021

An interview with Sandy Tolan, the author of "*The Lemon Tree*" that provides greater context and details for the book.

*[*NPR Fresh Air*](#), "[*Sandy Tolan's. The Lemon Tree*](#)," April 24, 1998

The original news story that prompted Tolan to write his book, providing a basis for the above podcast.

Websites

<https://www.bibleplaces.com>

While the website is fairly basic, it does a great job of providing brief but informative descriptions of many Biblical sites on the tour. It also includes Biblical sites throughout the entire Mediterranean region.