



## Delegation in Israel for Members of the European Parliament and European Union Officials

October 26-30, 2019

*Itinerary is subject to change and not for distribution.*

### Saturday, October 26, 2019– Day 1

SHALOM! WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport

Transfer to the Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Check into the hotel

**Welcome and Orientation**, with *Daniel Schwammenthal*, Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute and *Benedetta Buttiglione*, EU Policy Advisor, AJC Transatlantic Institute

**Introduction to Israeli Politics and Society**, dinner and discussion with *Dr. Einat Wilf*, Former Member of Knesset (Israel's Parliament), Baye Foundation Adjunct Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

**TEL AVIV** is located in central-west Israel on the coast of the Mediterranean. As the second largest city in Israel (pop. 400,000), Tel Aviv is the country's financial capital and a major performing arts and business center. The city is renowned for its cosmopolitan lifestyle, beaches, bars, restaurants, cafes, shopping, and landmark neighborhoods. According to various travel publications, the city has been praised as one of the world's most creative cities, the best gay city in 2011, one of the world's best beach cities, and home to the most beautiful people in the world. With 2.5 million international visitors annually, Tel Aviv is the fifth-most-visited city in the Middle East & Africa. Founded in 1909 by the Jewish community of Jaffa, an ancient port city, Tel Aviv was the first modern Hebrew city. Tel Aviv and Jaffa officially merged into a single municipality in 1950.

Extra reading:

- [Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel](#)
- [Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Brief Guide to the Perplexed](#)

## Sunday, October 27, 2018– Day 2

Breakfast at the hotel

**Israel as a Democratic Jewish State**, discussion with *Dr. Amichai Magen*, Senior Lecturer, U.S. Associate Professor, M.A. Program in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies Head, Lauder School of Government, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya

**Israel as a Start-Up Nation**, visit Peres Center, including a guided tour

Proceed to the settlement of Pdu'el

**Security and Topography of Area C & The Settlements**, security briefing with *Miri Eisen*, Former International Media Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister

Proceed to the Arab Village of Tyra

**The Arab Israeli Society**, discussion with *Dr. Dalia Fadila*, Founder, Q Schools

**The Iranian Threat**, discussion with *Brig. Gen (ret.) Udi Dekel*, Managing Director, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel Aviv University

**EU-Israel Dialogue**, meeting with *H.E. Emanuel Giaufret*, EU Ambassador to Israel

**Media Reporting in Israel**, discussion with *Haviv Rettig Gur*, Israeli Journalist

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Convening in Jerusalem, the 120-member **KNESSET** is Israel's unicameral parliament. Knesset members (MKs) are typically elected every four years. Unlike many national legislatures, Members of Knesset do not represent a district, but are elected as representatives of a party list. Members of Knesset elect the president and the prime minister, approve the cabinet, and pass all laws. The Knesset is made up of 15 committees such as the Finance Committee, the Committee on the Status of Women, and the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Extra reading:

- [The Times of Israel – Articles by Haviv Rettig Gur](#)

## Monday, October 28, 2019– Day 3

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Proceed to Kerem Shalom Crossing

**Visit the Kerem Shalom Checkpoint** and meet with *Ami Shaked*, Coordinator, Kerem Shalom Crossing

Proceed to Kibbutz Nachal Oz

**Life on a Kibbutz Near the Gaza Border**, visit Kibbutz Nachal Oz, and meet with *Yael Raz Lachyani*, Kibbutz Spokesperson, including lunch

Helicopter flight to the Northern border

**Understanding Israel's Northern Borders**, briefing by *Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel*, Research Fellow and Associate, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, IDC Herzliya

Helicopter flight to Jerusalem

Check into the hotel

**Israeli-Palestinian Relations: The Road Ahead**, speaker to be confirmed

Free evening, dinner on own

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

On the northernmost tip of Israel, the **GOLAN HEIGHTS** has served as the border between Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel since 1967 when Israel gained control of the region. The region accounts for 15% of Israel's water source and is home to several farming and agricultural communities as well as Israel's booming wine industry. At a strategically valuable location and elevation, the Golan has been the subject of several border disputes between Israel and her neighbors.

**JERUSALEM** is the capital of modern Israel. A city holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Jerusalem lies in the Judean hills about 32 km from the Jordan River. In the 1947 UN Partition Plan, Jerusalem was to be an international city administered by the United Nations. After the 1947-1948 War, the city of Jerusalem was split between Transjordan and Israel, with the Old City entirely under Jordanian control. During the 1967 War, Israel gained control of the Old City and annexed it into Israel. All branches of government are located in Jerusalem, including the Knesset (parliament), the Supreme Court, and the residences of the Prime Minister and President. The status of Jerusalem, and especially its holy places, remains a core issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Today, the city's 125 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising both East and West Jerusalem, is populated by over 800,000 residents.

Extra reading:

- [How to Change Reality in Gaza and Shape the Evolution of Hamas: an Interview with Grisha Yakubovich](#)
- [Video: Jerusalem by Drone](#)

## Tuesday, October 29, 2019– Day 4

Breakfast at the hotel

**Israeli Politics and Europe**, speaker to be confirmed; meeting to be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Proceed to the Knesset (Israel's Parliament)

**Parliamentary Affairs in Israel**, speakers to be confirmed

Proceed to Ramallah

**Palestinian Politics and Society**, lunch and discussion with *Elias Zananiri*, Journalist and Political Advisor to the PA, at the restaurant

**Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation**, visit Exalt Technologies, and meet with CEO Tariq Maaya, accompanied, by Avi Nudelman, CEO, Israeli-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Proceed to the Old City

**Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem**

**Geopolitical Tour of Jerusalem**

**Israel and International Law**, dinner and discussion with *Lt. Col. (res.) David Benjamin*, Founder and Director, Security and International Law Specialists (SILS)

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

**RAMALLAH** serves as the administrative center for the Palestinian National Authority, located 10 kilometers north of Jerusalem. Though historically a Christian city, Ramallah's population of 25,500 is now primarily Muslim. Ramallah is home to the Palestinian Prime Minister's office, the Palestinian Authority, and many international NGOs and foreign representative offices. It was also a major site of violence during the First and Second Intifadas.

The **OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM** is divided into four quadrants – the Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Armenian quarters – each of which has a distinctive feel and history. Encompassing less than one square kilometer, the Old City is filled with sites of rich historical and archeological significance for Jews, Christians and Muslims, including the Western Wall, Temple Mount, al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Israel considers all of Jerusalem its national capital, although Israel's jurisdiction over the entire city is contested.

Extra reading:

- [Shimon Peres on Peace, War, and Israel's Future](#)
- [Jerusalem: The Old City](#)

## Wednesday, October 30, 2019 – Day 5

Breakfast at the hotel and checkout

Proceed to Yad Vashem

### Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

**Closing Session and Evaluation**, with *Daniel Schwammenthal*, Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute, and with *Benedetta Buttiglione*, EU Policy Advisor, AJC Transatlantic Institute

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Depart Israel

**YAD VASHEM** is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Established in 1953, Yad Vashem upholds four pillars of remembrance: commemoration, education, research, and documentation. A 4,200 square meter complex, Yad Vashem is home to several memorials, the Holocaust History Museum, archives, an educational institute, outdoor commemorative sites, and a synagogue. As the "pioneer of Holocaust museums worldwide," Yad Vashem tells the story of the Holocaust through testimonies, diaries, artifacts, films, letters, and art. Though primarily a commemoration of individual experiences, it leaves visitors with an understanding of the Holocaust's universal and contemporary implications.

Extra reading:

- [Video: Traffic Stopped for Siren on Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)