

**Seminar in Israel for EU Diplomats and Members of the European Parliament
October 28 – November 1, 2017**

Itinerary is subject to change and not for distribution.

Saturday, October 28, 2017 – Day 1

SHALOM! WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport

Transfer to Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

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

Introduction to Israeli Society and Politics, discussion with *Dr. Amichai Magen*, Head of the Political Development, Institute for Counter Terrorism, Inter Disciplinary College (IDC), Herzliya, over dinner

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 29, 2017 – Day 2

Breakfast at the hotel

Border to Border: Israel and its Neighbors, discussion with *Lt. Col. (res.) Avital Leibovich*, Director, AJC Jerusalem

The Iranian Threat and ISIS – Forecast on the Future in the Middle East, discussion with *Dr. Emily Landau*, Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Arms Control and Regional Security Program, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

Proceed to Kibbutz Nahal Oz

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

Security and Civilian Challenges, with *Col. (res.) Grisha Yakubovich*, former Head of the Civilian Department, Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Israel Ministry of Defense

Proceed to Tel Aviv

Media Reporting in Israel, discussion with *Haviv Rettig*, Journalist and Analyst, *Times of Israel*

Free evening and dinner on own

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Extra reading:

- What Does the West Need to do to Stop Iran from Becoming North Korea? - Featuring Dr. Emily Landau
- How to Change Reality in Gaza and Shape the Evolution of Hamas: an Interview with Grisha Yakubovich
- The Times of Israel – Articles by Haviv Rettig Gur

Monday, October 30, 2017 – Day 3

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Proceed to Ramallah, accompanied by *Amal Albandak*, Palestinian Guide

Meet with Official from the Palestinian Authority

Proceed to Jerusalem

Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

Israel's National Agenda and Foreign Policy, meet with an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Parliamentary Affairs in Israel, visit the Knesset (Israel's Parliament), and meet with Knesset Members from the Coalition and Opposition, including tour

Check into Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Review and Reflection, with *Daniel Schwammenthal*, Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute, and *Benedetta Buttiglione*, EU Policy Advisor, AJC Transatlantic Institute, followed by dinner

Another Perspective on the Israel-Palestinian Conflict, discussion with *Khaled Abu Toameh*, Journalist and TV Producer covering Palestinian and Arab affairs, over dinner

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.

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 km², comprising both East and West Jerusalem, is populated by over 800,000 residents.

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

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 – Day 4

Breakfast at the hotel

Proceed to Kibbutz Ramat Rachel

Helicopter flight to the north of Israel

Strategic Briefing on the Lebanese Border, accompanied by *Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel*, Research Fellow, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, IDC, Herzliya

Helicopter flight to the Syrian Border

Strategic Briefing on the Syrian Border, by *Brig. Gen. (res.) Nitzan Nuriel*

Helicopter flight to Nein Village

Lunch and Informal Discussion, hosted by *Nael Zoabi*, Elementary School Principal

Helicopter flight to Jerusalem

Geopolitical Tour of Jerusalem, with *Col. (res.) Miri Eisin*, former International Media Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister

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

My Truth, meet with organization representative

Free evening and dinner on own

Overnight: Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Extra reading:

- A Trip Along Israel's Tense Northern Border
- "My Truth" - War of Words: Defeating the Distortion of the IDF

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – Day 5

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Israel and the Peace Process - The Road Ahead, discussion with *Dr. Tal Becker*, Principal Deputy Legal Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Proceed to the Old City

Tour the Old City of Jerusalem, including lunch

Proceed to Ben Gurion Airport

Depart Israel

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:

- Exclusive: Shimon Peres on Peace, War and Israel's Future
- Jerusalem: The Old City