

Activity Ideas for Congregational Tours to Israel and the Occupied Territories

Note: These groups are recommended for the tours they provide, but that listing does not imply any endorsement of the political positions or activities of the listed organizations.

B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, offers tours of the separation barrier in the Jerusalem area and other activities to increase awareness of human rights issues in Israel and the occupied territories. For more information, email mail@btselem.org or call 011-972-2-673-5599. Website: <http://www.btselem.org/English/>

Bustan, a partnership of Jewish and Arab eco-builders, architects, academics, and farmers who promote social and environmental justice in Israel and the occupied territories, offers tours and invites participation in their activities and events. For more information, email info@bustan.org or call 011-972-523-711-800. Website: <http://www.bustan.org/>

Breaking the Silence, a group of discharged soldiers who believe that service in the occupied territories has distorted and harmed the moral values on which they were raised, offers educational talks and tours of Jewish Hebron. For more information, contact Mikhael Manekin, Administrative Director, at mikhael@shovrimstika.org. Website: www.shovrimstika.org/index_e.asp

Coalition of Women for Peace, a group of nine Israeli and Palestinian women's organizations working for peace and justice for the region, offers "Reality Tours" along the length of the Separation Wall in Jerusalem, Qalqilia and other locations. For more information, call 011-972-505-682-795. Website: http://coalitionofwomen.org/home/english/activities/reality_tours

Combatants for Peace, a group of former Israeli and Palestinian combatants who have come together to work non-violently for the establishment of a Palestinian State, alongside the State of Israel, organizes lectures and tours. For more information, contact Suleiman Al Hamri, Palestinian International Foreign Affairs Coordinator at ssafil9@yahoo.com or call 011-972-599-211-363. Website: <http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/>

Geneva Initiative, a joint Israeli-Palestinian effort that suggests a detailed two-state model for a peace agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, offers tours to Jerusalem focused on the Geneva Accord, borders, and the current political situation. For more information, email noa@heskem.org.il or call 011-972-3-693-8302. Website: www.geneva-accord.org/

Ir Amim, For an Equitable and Stable Jerusalem with an Agreed Political Future, offers "Jerusalem Study Tours" that take a comprehensive look at Jerusalem as a city shared by two peoples and three religions. For more information, email studytours@ir-amim.org.il or call 011-972-2-622-2858. Website: <http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/>

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions offers “Alternative Tours” arranged upon request according to several categories of interest: Jerusalem: Circles of Conflict, Prospects of Peace; The Jerusalem/West Bank Interface; Journeys into Palestinian society; Gaza; Journeys into Israeli society; '48 Palestinian society, history, geography; The Golan. For more information, email info@icahd.org or call 011 972-2-624-5560.

Website: <http://www.icahd.org/eng/>

Shuafat Refugee Camp Women’s Center in metropolitan Jerusalem offers tours of the Refugee Camp and the Women’s Center. For more information, email Jihad Abu Zneid, President at jihad_242@yahoo.com or call 011-972-54-730-1049.

Read about the camp: <http://www.ir-amim.org.il/Eng/?CategoryID=212> or <http://btvshalom.org/resources/israel2007/snapshot2.shtml>

Kibbutz Metzcer, which has worked with the neighboring Israeli Palestinian village of Meiser and is now working with the neighboring Palestinian village of Qafin to create an organic spices and olive oil cooperative, welcomes tour groups. For more information, contact Dov Avital , Kibbutz Secretary at avital_@metzcer.org.il Read about the Kibbutz: <http://btvshalom.org/resources/israel2007/strength2.shtml>

Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam, a village jointly established by Jewish and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel that is engaged in educational work for peace, equality and understanding between the two peoples, welcomes visits from groups and individuals, and offers workshops, lectures, and customized programs. For more information email rita@nswas.org or call 011-972-2-991-5621 ext. 101.

Website: <http://nswas.org/rubrique143.html>

Shalom Achhav (Peace Now), the largest and oldest extra-parliamentary peace movement in Israel, sponsors activities and tours. For more information, email info@peacenow.org.il or call 202-728-1895 (DC)/011-972-3-602-3300 (Israel).

Website: <http://www.peacenow.org/shalom/getinvolved.asp?rid=0&cid=111>

Rabbis for Human Rights, an Israeli rabbinic organization comprised of Reform, Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis and students concerned with giving voice to the Jewish tradition of human rights, offers tours and activities. For more information, email info@rhr.israel.net or call 011-972-2-648-2757.

Website: <http://rhr.israel.net/>