



Tentative itinerary* | 3 Credit Winter Session

This sample itinerary is based on presentations and visits from previous [Coexistence in the Middle East](#) (CME) programs. Please note that due to the dynamic character of the Middle East, our intention to focus on the current issues in the region, and the availability of speakers, the following list of topics, visits, and speakers might be updated.* [View Syllabus](#)

Dec. 27 (Sun): Day 1 – Arrival and Registration

Dec. 28 (Mon): Day 2 – Issues and Narratives in a Post Arab Spring Middle East

8:30 Opening session and introduction

9:30 Introduction lecture: *“The issues and the Status Quo: borders, security, refugees, settlements”*

Dr. Gershon Baskin

10:00 Panel *“Two Narratives in One Land; the Zionist and the Palestinian Narratives”* **Andrew Friedman** – Journalist, & **Riman Barakat**, IPCRI Israel Palestine Creative Regional Initiatives

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00 Introduction lecture: *“Arab Spring or Islamic Winter? Challenges and Opportunities”* **Dr. Nir Boms.**

15:00 *“Egypt after the Mubarak Regime and its perspective on the conflict”* **Khaled Diab**, award-winning Egyptian journalist and writer.

16:30 Group dynamic with Madrich **Danny Faifman**, Group Coordinator

Dec. 29 (Tue): Day 3 - Jerusalem: Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths

7:00 Departure

7:30-10:15 Tour of Holy places for Islam, Judaism and Christianity in Jerusalem, led by **Ophir Yarden**, Senior Lecturer at the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel

10:30-11:45 Meeting with **Father Athanasius**, in charge of the Christian status quo in Jerusalem and head of the Christian Information Center

11:45-12:45 Lunch break

13:00-14:30 Meeting with **Rabbi Melchior**, former Minister of Social & Diaspora Affairs and Member of Parliament.

15:00 - 16:30 Meeting with **Kadi Iyad Zahalka**, Muslim judge of the Shar'i Court in Jerusalem

Dec. 30 (Wed): Day 4 – Status Quo and Dimensions: Israel and the West Bank

7:30 Departure

Tour of the “Security Fence”/“Occupation Wall” led by **Col. Reserve Danny Tirza**, IDF's Chief Architect for the Security Fence and former territorial and borders advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

11:30 “*Jewish settlements in the West Bank*”: tour with **Mr. Uri Bank**, Settler from Gush Etzion

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-17:30 Meeting with **Ali Abu Awad**, Palestinian nonviolence activist and pacifist founder of Al Tariq and **Rabbi Hanan Schlessinger**, both creators of "Roots", a group based in the West Bank area of Gush Etzion to promote dialog and eventually trust between Israelis and Palestinians as a path to peace.

Dec. 31 (Thu): Day 5 – Arab Minority in Israel & the Hezbollah threat from Lebanon

7:30 Departure

- Visit to Acre's Al-Jazaar Mosque. Meeting with **Sheikh Samir Assi**, the imam of the mosque, and discussion about *Islam, Islamic movements and the role of religion in the conflict*.
- Meeting with **Adham Jamal**, Deputy Mayor of Acre “*The Arab minority in Israel: problems and challenges*”.
- Visit to Western Galilee Medical Center (WGMC), one of the Israeli hospitals treating Syrian wounded from the Syrian Civil War and first to appoint an Arab Israeli as its director.
- *Discussion about Treatment to Syrian wounded*, **Dr. Ohad Ronen**, Senior Physician-Surgeon
- Tour of the hospital facilities including the bomb-proof 450-bed underground medical facility
- *The hospital as an example of coexistence in the region*, **Tobie Kuritsky**, Head Librarian at WGMC.
- lecture: “*Syrian Civil War* ” **Dr. Nir Boms**.

13:30-14:15 Lunch break

- Meeting with **Eyal Dror**, local resident, and talk about the current situation of the border between Israel and Lebanon.
- “*Life in the kibbutz: past, present and future*”, **Dina Cohen** Kibbutz Amiad resident.
- Overnight stay in Kibbutz Amiad.

Jan. 1 (Fri): Day 6 - Syrian Civil War, the Golan Heights & Holy Sites in the Galilee

7:30 Departure

-“*The Golan Heights and their Military and Strategic Importance & the Syrian civil war*”: Visit to Mount Bental, key site in 1973 Yom Kippur War and Israeli army observation point into Syria led by **Dr. Raja Farag**, educator and a Druze expert
- Meeting with **Cpt. Chris Johns**, Australian UNDOF observer.
- Visit to Local Holy Places: Tabgha (Church of the Multiplication) and St. Petrus Church near the Sea of Galilee. Visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Jan. 2 (Sat): Day 7 – Leisure Day

Jan. 3 (Sun): Day 8 - Israel, Iran, ISIS and the International Community

7:00 Departure.

8:00 Visit to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

“Israel, ISIS, Iran, and the International Community”, **Dr. Nir Boms**.

“Regional Analysis After the Arab Spring”, **Ayellet Yehiav**, Senior advisor to the Director of the MFA’s Center for Political Research

“Iran’s Nuclear Project and the Threat to Israel, the Middle East and the World” **Tal Gat**, dept. for Non-Proliferation at the MFA.

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

14:15-15:30 Discussion with **Keith Mines**, Political Counsellor, US Embassy in Israel.

15:45 – 17:00 Video Conference: *“An emerging state and the fight against ISIS”*, **Hejar Berenji** Kurdish media activist from Eastern Kurdistan and **Sozvin Yusef**, Syrian Kurdish activist

Jan. 4 (Mon): Day 9 - History and Different Perspectives about the Future

8:00 Departure to Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum.

11:00 *“Lessons learned: Modern Genocides, Incitement, and Education”*, **Dr. Nir Boms**.

12:30--13:30 Lunch break

“Internal perspectives on Palestinian politics”:

- **13:30-14:30 Elias Zananiri**, Journalist, Deputy Head of PLO Committee for Engagement with Israeli society

- **14:30-15:30 Bassem Eid**, Founder of The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group

16:00–17:30 Panel: *“Internal perspectives on Israeli politics”*, **Dor Ben-David**, Chairman of the Likud Party’s Young Guard; **Matan Schwartz**, Chairperson at Yesh Atid Party Chapter at Hebrew U; and **Nofar Gafni**, Labor Party.

Jan. 5 (Tue): Day 10 – Hamas, the Gaza Strip and the Surrounding Israeli Towns

7:30 Departure

8:00–9:00 Lecture: *“What went wrong; Lessons learned”*, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**.

9:00-9:30 Skype call from Gaza with **Hazem Balousha**, Palestinian journalist based in Gaza City and founder of the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development (PICD).

11:00-11:45 Meeting with **Alon Schuster**, Mayor of Sha’ar Hanegev Regional Council, situated just kilometers away from the Gaza border.

12:30-14:00 Visit to the IDF Coordination and Liaison Administration for Gaza in Erez Crossing, only land crossing for the movement of people between the Gaza Strip and Israel and the West Bank

14:30-15:15 Lunch break

15:30-16:30 Visit to Sapir College, meeting with **Dr. Ruth Eitan** and students.

16:45-17:30 Visit to the city of Sderot, an ongoing target of Qassam rockets since 2001: Visit to the police station and point of view to the Gaza Strip.

Jan. 6 (Wed): Day 11 - Peace with Jordan, Masada & the Dead Sea

Departure

- Ascent to the fortress constructed by Herod on Masada. Observation of the sunrise over the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea and Jordan(Optional). "*The Jewish–Roman War: the Beginnings of the Jewish Diaspora*": tour of the fortress and archeological site. **Sigal Dotan**, Tour Guide.

-Camel ride in the Judean Desert. (Optional)

-Viewing of the border with Jordan, and discussion about Israel-Jordan relations and peace treaty

-Descent to the lowest point on Earth and a swim in the Dead Sea.

Jan. 7 (Thu): Day 12 - Examples of Dialogue and Coexistence Projects

8:30-12:30 "*Dissidents, Social Media and New Revolutions in the Middle East*", **Dr. Nir Boms**.

11:30 - 12:30 Video Conference: Panel with Middle East's dissidents - **Rami Saud**, director of Success 21 Youth Network (Jordan) and **Salim Abdellahelhadj**, blogger and political activists (Algeria).

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 Meeting with **Moira Aljilani** and **Rami Alhanan**, Palestinian and Israeli members of the Parents Circle - Families Forum (PCFF), a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis. **Room 211**

15:15–16:30 – "*Possible evolutions and solutions: Between Peace Process and Conflict Resolution*", **Dr. Gershon Baskin**

16:30- 17:00 Closing Session: Final remarks and commencement ceremony

Jan. 8 (Fri): Day 13 - Leisure Day

Jan. 9 (Sat): Day 14 - Leisure Day

Jan. 10 (Sun): Day 15 - Departures

*We are in constant contact with national security authorities and check in with local authorities before visiting places and we change our programs accordingly when necessary. Due to insurance and security restrictions, until now, only one of our field trips has been to the West Bank, in Area C, which is under Israeli management and security. Many participants have organized visits to other areas of the West Bank at their sole responsibility during free time.

In order to overcome these limitations and include as many perspectives as possible, we have brought Palestinian and Israeli guest speakers from the West Bank to present their points of view in the classroom and organized Skype calls with Gaza and other countries in the Middle East.