
Americans for Peace Now Israel Study Tour
April 25 – 30, 2015

Itinerary

Saturday, April 25

7:00 PM Reception with Peace Now lay leaders and other guests
Location: Dan Panorama

Sunday, April 26

9:00 – 10:00 AM Bird's-eye view with **Dan Rothem**, Cartographer and expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rothem is a Senior Research Consultant for The S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, based full-time in Israel. His expertise is devising and presenting solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's core problems.

Location: Dan Panorama

11:30 Depart for Jerusalem

12:30 – 1:30 PM *Lunch at Philadelphia Restaurant*

Location: 9 Zahra Street, East Jerusalem

1:45 – 4:00 PM East Jerusalem Tour with **Hagit Ofran**, the director of Peace Now's Settlement Watch project. Widely recognized as Israel's foremost expert on settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, her reporting and analysis on settlement construction and planning trends are considered the primary resources on the topic. Hagit runs the blog Eyes on the Ground in East Jerusalem, and writes regularly for the Huffington Post.

4:15 – 6:30 PM Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem – *4,000 Years of History* with **Yona Leshets**, certified tour guide and former IT executive.

7:00 PM Dinner in Jerusalem with historian, author, and journalist **Gershom Gorenberg**. A native of St. Louis, Gorenberg is a veteran journalist, an author of five books and a Senior Correspondent for the *American Prospect* magazine. He is also the co-editor of *South Jerusalem*, a distinguished blog offering commentary on Israeli politics and culture.

Location: Kafit at the Givat Ram Botanical Gardens

Monday, April 27

- 10:00 - 11:30 AM Meeting with author **A.B. Yehoshua**, one of Israel's leading novelists, a longtime resident of Haifa and professor at Haifa University, who has written extensively about Jewish-Arab relations in Israel and is a long-time activist in Israel's peace movement.
- Location: Dan Panorama*
- 11:30 AM Depart for Haifa (lunch on the bus)
- 12:45 - 1:30 PM Visit to Haifa's Baha'i Gardens
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM Meeting with **Ayman Odeh**, the Chairman of the newly-formed Joint Arab List. A lawyer by trade, Odeh is the Secretary General of Israel's Hadash Party, former member of Haifa's City Council, and a columnist for the Hadash-affiliated Arabic language daily Al-Ittihad.
- 2:30 – 6:00 PM Meetings with leaders of Haifa-based Jewish-Arab women's organization, focusing on women's empowerment and peace advocacy
- 7:00 PM Dinner in Haifa
Location: Douzan restaurant, Sderot Ben Gurion 35, German Colony, Haifa

Tuesday, April 28

- 9:00 AM Depart for Hebron, West Bank
- 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM Tour Hebron and the neighboring settlement of Kiryat Arba with **Lior Amihai** of Peace Now's Settlement Watch Project. Lior is the Deputy Director of Settlement Watch, the only group comprehensively monitoring the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. A Political Science and Sociology graduate of the City University of London, Lior was awarded the Olive Tree Scholarship, and was the Israeli Program Director at Seeds of Peace.
- 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM Meeting with Mayor of Efrat, **Oded Ravivi**
- 1:30 PM – 2:15 PM Meeting with Palestinian Hebron activist Issa Amro, coordinator of local anti-occupation group Youth Against Settlements.
- 3:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

(Free evening in Tel Aviv)

Wednesday, April 29

- 8:00 AM (note early start) Depart for West Bank

- 9:30 – 11:00 AM Tour of the new West Bank town of Rawabi. Meeting with Rawabi founder, entrepreneur **Bashar al-Masri**, a Palestinian-American businessman whose vision of a planned Palestinian city that will serve as a cornerstone of a new, modern, viable Palestinian society, is now materializing in Rawabi.
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Tour of Jilazoun Refugee Camp near the West Bank city of Ramallah
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Over lunch, a Round-table discussion with Palestinian politicians and activists:
- Pollster and political science Professor **Khalil Shikaki**, widely considered as the most prominent scholar and analyst of Palestinian politics.
 - Businessman and blogger **Sam Bahour**
 - **Bassem al-Tamimi**, leader and organizer of “popular resistance” protests against Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank.

Location: Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR), Ramallah

- 3:00 – 4:30 PM Meeting with Chief Palestinian negotiator **Saeb Erekat**. Erekat has been Chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel on behalf of the PLO since 1995, after serving on the Palestinian team that negotiated the 1993 Oslo Accord. He was a professor of Political Science at Al-Najah University in Nablus and served as a chief editorial writer for the Palestinian daily al-Quds.

Location: Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR)

- 7:00 PM Over dinner, meeting with Ambassador **Michael Ratney**, US Consul General in Jerusalem. Before assuming his duties in Jerusalem in 2012, Ratney was Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Media and prior to that, he established and served as the first Director of the Office of International Media Engagement at the State Department. He served as Spokesman for the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar, as well as tours in Mexico City, Baghdad, Beirut, Casablanca, and Washington, DC. (*Amb. Ratney will arrive around 7:15 PM*)

Location: Tmol Shilshom restaurant, 5 Salomon St., Jerusalem

Thursday, April 30

- 8:30 AM (*note early start*) Meeting with **Scott Lasensky**, Senior Advisor to Daniel Shapiro, US Ambassador to Israel. Scott Lasensky is one of America's leading experts on Israeli-Palestinian relations. He is the co-author of "Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East," and the author of "The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace."

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

- 10:30 AM Meeting with journalist **Lili Galili**, an expert on minority groups in Israel, a former Haaretz writer and currently a contributor to i24.com, a Tel Aviv-based multilingual multimedia news service.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting with strategic affairs expert **Yossi Alpher**. Alpher is the author of Peace Now's weekly analysis of strategic affairs, *Hard Questions, Tough Answers*. Alpher served for 12 years in Israel's Mossad. While serving as the director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, Alpher coordinated and coedited the JCSS research project on options for a Palestinian settlement, and produced "The Alpher Plan" for an Israeli-Palestinian territorial settlement. Since 1992 he has coordinated several track II dialogues between Israelis and Arabs. During the 2000 Camp David Summit) Alpher served as Special Adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Barak, concentrating on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Location: Peace Now office, 27-B Miriam Ha-Hashmona'it St., Tel-Aviv

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting with Peace Now activists and staff

Location: Peace Now office, 27-B Miriam Ha-Hashmona'it St., Tel-Aviv

7:00 PM

Over dinner, debrief and farewell

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv