



Itinerary

The Round Table format is unique in that it is designed to promote conversation around a topic rather than simply a presentation of a paper as is typical for many conference venues. Therefore the number of participants is limited to 20 -25 per round table. Because the structure is designed to allow for conversation and to promote a sense of community among the participants, attendees gather together for meals and cultural excursions in addition to the structured academic time. In an effort to establish a cohesive collective, Round Table attendees will participate in one topic area only.

Conference Theme

Moving Toward Engagement for Inclusion
in Challenging Contexts

Topic 1: Sharing research, scholarship and practices in international education for vulnerable children

DISES Goal - To foster the dissemination of knowledge in international special needs education to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.

Topic 2: Offering examples of international collaborations in education for vulnerable children

DISES Goal - To foster and strengthen collaborative partnerships in international special needs education to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.

Topic 3: Discussing international policies and advocating for human rights for vulnerable children and their families

DISES Goal - To promote advocacy for human rights of all vulnerable children.

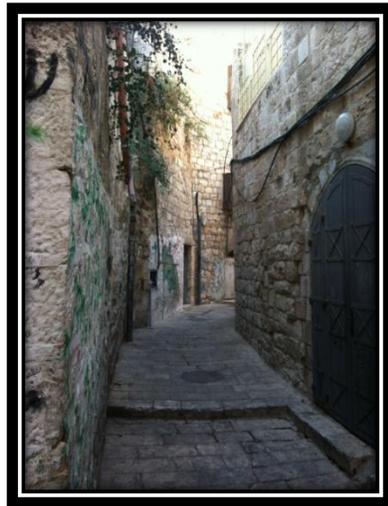
August 2nd

Noon Participants will meet at the hotel Beit Shmuel

Check into hotel

<http://www.beitshmuel.com/en-us/>

1:00



Guided walking tour of old Jerusalem:

Starting at Jaffa Gate as the multicultural emblem, the tour will proceed to the Armenian Quarter through to the edge of Jewish Quarter and onto roofs.

Then we'll visit the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem which is identified as the place both of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth. The church has long been a major pilgrimage center for Christians all around the world.



We will travel through the last stages of Via Dolorosa...



[More information on the Via Delorosa](#) – the road that Jesus walked after his sentencing from Pontius Pilot



...and make our way through Muslim Mameluk buildings.

The Mamluk period (1250 – 1517) of Jerusalem included the construction of elaborate facades on which most of the decorative elements are concentrated. The entrances are recessed with high stone benches on either side.

And finally we will arrive at the Western Wall the relatively small western segment of the remaining wall of the Temple Mount – the holiest place for Jews but also valued by Christians and Muslims as a Holy Space.

(Remember to bring a cover for bare shoulders!)



Visit the Austrian Hospice for a rest and then a short walk to the Damascus Gate and to the restaurant for dinner.

6:30



Opening dinner at Azzahra Restaurant which has achieved a renowned reputation in Jerusalem. Although it is most popular for its Middle Eastern cuisine, other Mediterranean dishes provide options to taste all flavors under one roof. This is the only restaurant in Jerusalem that serves an original thin crust brick oven Italian pizza, which has garnered a great following in the city.

8:30: Special Education in Jerusalem

A conversation with local educators

August 3rd

7:30 Breakfast

8:30 Round Table presentation and discussions

Selected presenters are given 20 - 30minutes (strictly enforced) to share their work with the Round Table participants. Afterwards, 20 – 30 minutes are devoted to discussion on the topic. All participants are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.

10:30 Break for tea

10:45 Round Table presentation and discussions

12:45 Lunch

2:00 Guided tour of surrounding area: Our tour bus will begin at our hotel and provide an opportunity to view of Jerusalem from the south.



First stop is Abu Tor, a charming blend of Middle Eastern cultures, on a hill only a few hundred yards east of the Old City and the Kotel (Western Wall). Founded in the mid-1800s, it is centrally located south of Yemin Moshe and east of the old railroad station. The residents include both Jews and Arabs. Abu Tor's hills provide dramatic views of Mount Zion and the Old City. Some of the most beautiful Jerusalem real estate can be found here on tree-lined streets and paths overlooking the Hinnom Valley with a view of the Temple Mount.

Next we'll stop at the promenade where according to Jewish legend; God showed Abraham where one day his descendants would build their holy city. At the center, is the Old City with the Dome of the Rock glinting in the sun. Beyond stretches the expanse of modern Jerusalem, a forest of white buildings and red cranes with the hills of Judea looming behind. Immediately below are several of the scattered Arab villages around the outskirts of Jerusalem, and dense groves of the Jerusalem pines that Naomi Shemer immortalized in "Jerusalem of Gold."





Our next stop is to Yemin Moshe one of the most interesting places to visit in Jerusalem. The Montefiore Windmill is the iconic landmark of Yemin Moshe. The original windmill was constructed by Montefiore with the intention of providing a source of income for residents of the neighborhood. In reality, this never came to fruition due to a lack of wind, however nonetheless this unique structure which is highly visible from around Jerusalem is somewhat of a landmark. The best way to explore Yemin Moshe is to stroll around the narrow cobbled streets.

Finally our tour will travel through the interesting neighborhoods of Nahlaot to Mahaneh Yehuda – the vegetable market!



A stroll through the markets of Jerusalem is an amazing display of colors and smells and characters!



6:30



Dinner at Sima's

Sima is a classic steakiya (steak house). The menu is based in the nostalgia for Iraqi Jewish food of yester years. The culinary experience at Sima begins with a table full of colorful and delicious salads and progresses through a series of courses. Definitely a group food fest that everyone will enjoy.

August 4th

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Round Table presentation and discussions Selected presenters are given 20 - 30minutes (strictly enforced) to share their work with the Round Table participants. Afterwards, 20 – 30 minutes are devoted to discussion on the topic. All participants are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.
- 10:30 Break for tea
- 10:45 Round Table presentation and discussions
- 12:45 Lunch
- 1:30 Travel to Bethlehem <http://www.bethlehem-city.org/en>
- 3:00 Check into hotel Manger square hotel Bethlehem – Palestine
<http://www.mangersquarehotel.com>
- 6:00



Ewaan Restaurant

An amazing hidden restaurant in an old beautiful Arab house next to Bethlehem university. International and Palestinian cuisine, fresh ingredients, good selection of wines, nargila (water pipe) and friendly staff. The owner couple is full of hospitality and very welcoming.

- 8:30 Special Education in Bethlehem: a conversation with local educators

August 5th

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Round Table presentations and discussions Selected presenters are given 20 - 30minutes (strictly enforced) to share their work with the Round Table participants. Afterwards, 20 – 30 minutes are devoted to discussion on the topic. All participants are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.
- 10:30 Break for tea**
- 10:45 Round table presentations and discussions**
- 12:45 Lunch

2:00

Visit the oldest Saba Monastery in the desert of Judah / Bethlehem / 5th Century AD monastery, the largest in the Judean desert.



The walled complex is built on the southern cliffs of the Kidron creek. It was established by Saint Sabas, and named after him. The monastery started as a place of seclusion of few monks in the caves, led by Mar Saba.

6:30

Dinner at the Jacir Palace Hotel where European cuisine is served in the garden restaurant.



August 6th

7:30 Breakfast

8:30 Round Table presentations and discussions

Selected presenters are given 20 - 30minutes (strictly enforced) to share their work with the Round Table participants. Afterwards, 20 – 30 minutes are devoted to discussion on the topic. All participants are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.

10:30 Break for tea

10:45 Round table presentations and discussions

12:45 Lunch

2:00 Meeting with Edward Said Music conservatory and be introduced to the Music intervention with children who are blind or are visually impaired. An extraordinary intervention and successful stories.

<http://ncm.birzeit.edu/en>

3:00 Guided tour of Bethlehem visiting the newly inaugurated **Museum of Old Bethlehem**, a treasure trove of costumes, furniture, and household objects that allow you to picture 19th-century Bethlehem. There are some wonderful old black and white photographs of the town. For those looking for a unique gift from the Holy Land, the **Arab Women's Union** sells beautiful traditional embroidery here.



Visiting the International Nativity Museum
http://www.salesianbethlehem.com/welcome/international_nativity_museum

Bethlehem's **Church of the Nativity** is the town's most famous sight. Said to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, a church has sat here continuously since Byzantine Emperor Constantine built a chapel on this spot in the 4th century AD. This was superseded by a 6th-century basilica commissioned by Emperor Justinian, which was again built over by the Crusaders in the 12th century.



Next door to the Church of the Nativity is **St Catherine's Church**, built by the Franciscans, over an earlier church, in 1881.



A flight of steps in the south aisle leads down to the northern part of the cave system underneath. To the left is the **Chapel of the Holy Innocents**, commemorating Herod's massacre of the children of Bethlehem, while straight ahead is **St Joseph's Chapel**. To the right are the **Chapel of St Eusebius**, the tombs of St Paula and her daughter Eustochium, and the **tomb of St. Jerome** who is heavily connected to the church and said to have written the Vulgate (Latin translation of the bible) while living in a cave here. On the rear wall is the stone bench on which the remains of St. Jerome rested until they were taken to Rome for burial in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore.

This **cave-chapel** is said to be the site of where the Holy Family hid before their flight into Egypt. According to the legend, a drop of Mary's blood fell on the floor of the cave and whitened the stone. Many people believe that a visit here aids fertility, and so, the tiny 5-m by 10-m grotto is a favored pilgrimage destination for women who have trouble conceiving.



6:30



Closing banquet

BARBRA Restaurant at the top of the Biet Jala Mountain – run by a disabled man in a wheelchair and great testimony for the whole region of being a successful story in spite the disability. It is a fancy restaurant with "The Best View In Town"

Visit the following link for those who are interested to know more about Palestine.
(<http://archive.thisweekinpalestine.com/details.php?id=3483&ed=197&edid=197>)

August 7th

7:30 Breakfast

9:00 Return transportation to Jerusalem or begin your travel around Israel...

