Early evening briefing and Ross Brann’s Talk #1, followed by a light dinner at the Inbal Hotel (Old City View rooms). D.

Tuesday, May 22: Jerusalem.

After breakfast, Discussion #1.

Depart the hotel by foot. Morning tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Jewish Quarter with its cobblestone alleyways and open archaeological sites. Stop at the Cardo, the main colonnaded street dating back to the sixth century AD.

See the Western Wall and explore the tunnels, which were recently excavated here. We have requested special permission to walk through these tunnels, which expose ancient arches and chambers and several courses of the Western Wall along almost its entire length.

Walk the ramparts of the Ottoman Walls.

Enjoy lunch at Between the Arches restaurant.

Walk along the Via Dolorosa—the Way of the Cross—past the walls of tiny chapels that mark the fourteen stations of the journey of Jesus Christ from the place of his trial to that of his crucifixion and burial, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Proceed to Mount Scopus and Mount of Olives for a magnificent panoramic view of the city of Jerusalem.

Ross’s Talk #2.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at the American Colony Hotel. B, L, D.

Wednesday, May 23: Jerusalem. Early morning visit to the vast forty-acre plaza covering the summit of the biblical Mount Moriah, called the Temple Mount by Jews and Christians, and Haram esh-Sharif by Muslims. In the first century BC, Herod expanded the Temple Mount—identified by some scholars as one of the greatest religious enclosures of the ancient world—and rebuilt the temple into a thing of splendor. That was the temple that Jesus knew. The Romans reduced it to ashes in the summer of 79 AD. The Temple Mount today is a Muslim preserve administered by the Waqf, the Supreme Muslim Religious Council.
On Temple Mount is the large, black-domed El Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest mosque in the Muslim world. Two hundred yards away is the brilliantly golden Dome of the Rock, which we hope to enter.

Although Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran, Mohammed’s “Night Ride” is. Awakened one night by the angel Gabriel, Mohammed was taken by winged horse to El Aqsa Mosque, where he rose to heaven and came face to face with God himself. He received the teachings of Islam and returned home the same night. The tradition evolved that the masjed el-aqsa was none other than Jerusalem and the great rock the spot from which the Prophet ascended. It is clear that the triumphant Arabs of the generation after Mohammed venerated Jerusalem as the city of biblical kings and prophets.

Jewish tradition identifies the rock as the place where Abraham bound and almost sacrificed his son Isaac (Genesis 22). With King David’s conquest of Jerusalem in 1000 BC, the rock became an altar and “a threshing floor” to help ward off the evils of a plague. One generation later, David’s son Solomon built his temple here.

Late morning briefing at the U.S. Consulate.

Lunch at the delightful bookstore Tmol Shilshom.

Afternoon visit to Yad Vashem, the national Holocaust memorial and museum. Created in 1953 by an act of the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, it possesses the largest Holocaust archive in the world. Through its museum, research, and publication departments and its youth education programs, the institute attempts not merely to document the period, but to convey the challenge of understanding the Holocaust, especially to younger generations. The name Yad Vashem, “an everlasting memorial,” comes from the Biblical book of Isaiah.

Late afternoon visit to the offices of the Jerusalem Post for a briefing with David Horovitz, editor of the Jerusalem Post (schedule permitting).

Dinner at a local restaurant B, L, D.

**Thursday, May 24: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast, Ross’s Talk #3.

Spend the day exploring Tel Aviv. Morning sightseeing of Tel Aviv will include the Diaspora Museum. This museum, known as Beit Hatefutsot, uniquely tells the story of the Jewish people from the time they were expelled from their homeland and over 2,500 years of exile. The museum’s special presentations and reconstruction interestingly document the history and tradition of Jewish life in different parts of the world, showing the impressive heritage of these communities, which enabled the continuity of the Jewish people throughout the years of expulsion.

Possible morning briefing at ADVA, a non-partisan citizen advocacy institute, where the group will meet with Shlomo Swirski and talk about ADVA’s work and his 2008 report, *The Cost of Occupation*.

Continue to Jaffa for a lovely lunch. Explore old Jaffa with its restored old lanes lined with galleries and shops. The Visitor Center showcases the long and fascinating history of this part of the city, to which Solomon brought cedar wood from Lebanon to build the temple. The prophet Jonah set off from Jaffa before being swallowed by the whale. And here, too, St. Peter raised Tabitha from the dead.
In the ancient world, Jaffa was an important stop on the Via Maris, the trade route that extended from Egypt to Mesopotamia. Enjoy a walking tour here, stopping at the beautifully preserved Al Mahmoudite mosque with its minaret and two domes.

Afternoon tour of Tel Aviv’s “White City.” This area refers to a collection of 4,000 Bauhaus or International style buildings built in Tel Aviv from the 1930s by German Jewish architects who immigrated to pre-state Israel after the rise of the Nazis. Tel Aviv has the largest number of buildings in this style of any city in the world, and in 2003 UNESCO proclaimed Tel Aviv's White City a World Cultural Heritage site. The citation recognized the unique adaptation of modern international architectural trends to the cultural, climatic, and local traditions of the city.

Stop at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. This station offers an interdisciplinary research center based in Israel and devoted to the study of the modern history and contemporary affairs of Africa and the Middle East. The Center seeks to impart an understanding of Middle Eastern past and present to academic and general audiences, in Israel and abroad. It is part of the School of History and the Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities at Tel Aviv University.

End the day at the Peres Center for Peace. The center is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization founded in 1996 by President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shimon Peres, with the aim of furthering his vision in which people of the Middle East region work together to build peace through socio-economic cooperation and development and people-to-people interaction. The first director general of the Peres Center was Ambassador Uri Savir, who, together with Shimon Peres, established the organization and currently serves as president.

Discussion #2.

Return to Jerusalem and independent dinner. B, L.

**Friday, May 25: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast, Ross’s Talk #4.

Depart the hotel this morning to drive to east Jerusalem and the campus of Al Quds University. The University, the only Arab University in Jerusalem, provides higher education and community services within the Jerusalem area and to the neighboring towns, villages, and refugee camps in the West Bank. It was founded in 1984, but its official constitution was written in 1993 when Mohammed Nusseibeh, its first chancellor and chancellor of the College of Science and Technology, announced its formation. We will meet with Sari Nusseibeh, who has visited Cornell and knows Ross.

Go to Ramallah in the West Bank, where Ross will arrange a visit with Palestinians.

Lunch at a local winery.

Continue on to Bethlehem. Even from a distance, Bethlehem is easily identified by the minarets and church steeples that struggle for control of its skyline. Manger Square is Bethlehem’s central plaza and the entrance to the Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto thought to be the birthplace of Jesus. This is the oldest standing church in the country. When the Persians invaded in 614, they destroyed every Christian church and monastery except the Nativity.

Discussion #3.
Enjoy dinner tonight at Olive and Fish. B, L, D.

**Saturday, May 26: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast, **Discussion #4.**

Morning visit to the Israel Museum led by a museum curator. This spectacular museum has recently re-opened after an extensive renovation. The director, Mr. Snyder, has emphasized the commonalities of cultures and tried to place Jewish history and practices in a broader and clearer context. One example is a new display that focuses on the Byzantine era. On one side is a restored synagogue; next to it are a church and the prayer niche of a mosque. Roughly contemporary structures, they are placed in a way that highlights both their distinctiveness and their commonality.

The archaeological section is superb, with a restored sarcophagus that is assumed to be Herod's and a second sarcophagus of a family member.

Also part of the museum is the Shrine of the Book, which is the home of exceptional archaeological finds: the Dead Sea Scrolls and other rare ancient manuscripts. The dome covers a structure that is two-thirds below the ground and is reflected in a pool of water that surrounds it. The striking juxtaposition of the white dome and black basalt wall, precise and opposing geometrical shapes, creates a monumental effect.

Group lunch.

Return to the hotel.

A good portion of the afternoon is open for independent exploration.

Dinner at a local restaurant. B, L, D

**Sunday, May 27: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast, Ross’s **Talk #5.**

Spend the morning with a representative from Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”), which focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ir Amim seeks to render Jerusalem a more viable and equitable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it. Ir Amim envisions a city that ensures the dignity and welfare of all its residents and that safeguards their holy places, as well as their historical and cultural heritages—today, as well as in the future. Ir Amim also aspires to a sustainable political future for Jerusalem, achievable only through a negotiated process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Danny Schniederman, a Cornellian and attorney, will lead our tour of Jerusalem, providing a thorough introduction to Israeli policy in Jerusalem since 1967 and its socio-economic and political implications. This includes discussion of the municipal boundaries, Israeli development in East Jerusalem, the separation barrier and its effects on the city, political trends, and the relationship between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian population, as well as recent developments.

Group lunch.

Visit Givat Haviva Institute, where Jews and Arabs live and work together.
Discussion #5.  B, L

Monday, May 28: Jerusalem. In the morning, meet with a representative of the Yesha Council at a community in the Palestinian Territory, not deep within it, but in it.

Lunch at leisure.

Afternoon of independent exploration.

Farewell dinner. B, D.

Tuesday, May 29: Return home. Drive to the Tel Aviv airport for your flight back to the U.S. B.