

47th Annual International SPR Conference

Jerusalem, Israel

June 22-25, 2016

Gary Diamond, Local Host

Dear Membership,

While for some of you the weather may still be cold, and the summer still feels far off, here in Israel the almond trees are already in full bloom and we are preparing for your arrival! The June conference is less than 120 days away (but who is counting?).

As you can see on the conference webpage (www.sprconference.com), we have listed a number of lodging options, day tours and sights to see in Jerusalem. Here are some recommendations for restaurants to whet your appetites:

Dining



Mantra Restaurant and Wine Bar (<http://www.mantrajerusalem.com/>)

Mona (<http://monarest.co.il/mona/en/>)

Chakra (<http://www.chakra-rest.com/en/>)



Recommended restaurants in the “Tachana” – a beautiful converted outdoor culture and entertainment center include:

HaMiznon (<http://www.hamiznon.co.il/>)

Adom

For more casual/light food, we recommend a number of restaurants in the “Mahane Yehuda” open air market:

Azura
Yudale

For breakfast, pastries and bread try...
“Kadosh” on ShlomTzion Street.

Another nice café is “Café Yehoshua” just across from the Prime Minister’s house.



Lodging

We have added another lower cost option for lodging. Aside from the Abraham Hostel already listed on the site, we also recommend “Hostel Beit Ben Yehuda”, which offers not only single and double rooms, but dormitory type lodgings for people who want to share. Prices range from:

Single \$100.00-\$120.00; Double \$120-\$140; Triple \$140-\$160; to Quad \$160-\$200.

Sightseeing

For those who can take an extra day or two before or after the conference, we highly recommend spending some time in Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is only 50 minutes from Jerusalem and sits on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. To quote Lonely Planet, “[Israel](#)'s second-largest city – modern, vibrant and cosmopolitan – is one of the country's greatest assets, a sun-bronzed strip of coastline where coffee and culinary innovation are the local obsessions, where residents speak every language under the sun, and where life is lived outdoors and to the fullest. The Unesco-listed Bauhaus-era buildings that give the place its popular title of 'White City' are a major draw, as is the historic port of Jaffa (Yafo), which has a fascinating Arab heritage. But the city's real attraction is the local lifestyle. Visitors tend to get into the Tel Aviv swing of things straight away, flitting between contemporary art galleries and chic cafes one day, artisan boutiques and blissfully balmy beaches the next. A few days here is fun, but a week can be a revelation – don't miss it.” The beaches are wonderful and the nightlife incomparable. During the summer, clubs and restaurants are full until 5:00 in the morning, earning Tel Aviv the reputation of the “City that Never Sleeps”. Don't miss it!!

Important! Important! Important!

Jerusalem is one of the most visited cities in the world. Hotel rooms are already filling up fast and airline prices increase (not linearly!) as the summer approaches. For those of you hoping to book the rooms in the hotels we reserved for the conference, I highly recommend that you make your booking before March 21st. After that date, the likelihood of getting your first or second choice diminishes. Also, please do not wait to book your flight. All flights arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport which is 25 minutes East of Tel Aviv and approximately 40 minutes West of Jerusalem. The sooner you book, the cheaper your flight will be. By the end of March, flights to Israel become less available and much more expensive.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Jerusalem and don't hesitate to write if you have any questions (gdiamond@bgu.ac.il).

Gary, Hadas, Gaby, Orya, Sigal, Sharon, Dana and Yona

