



Jessica Philip:

I have spent the past 5 months traveling the world and my experience visiting the Bedouin village has been one of my most memorable experiences yet! Prior to my invitation to visit this community, I had never heard of the Bedouin people, so I was eager for the opportunity to learn who they were and experience their way of living today.

When my group first arrived, we were greeted with a very warm welcome by our host families. A dinner was prepared for us and we had the chance to taste various meats, vegetables, pitas and hummus. By far some of the most delicious food I have had during my recent travels!

On our first day here our host brought us on a tour of the village and nearby sites. I enjoyed seeing remnants of old homes, a historic mosque, and of course meeting various people along the way! One of our stops along the tour included a brief meeting with the local school Principal as well as a visit to one of the school English classes. I loved having the chance to speak to the kids and offer words of encouragement to them. They all appeared so enthusiastic to have visitors and they enjoyed practicing their English!

Our next stop of the tour included a stop at a local restaurant for a traditional lunch and tea and then a visit with one of the community leaders. Our meeting with him was very informative, as he addressed historical and political information that I was not familiar with. We continued with our tour of more of the village and then had the chance that afternoon to see students working on their studies at the Bedouin afterschool program. Our day ended with a dinner served at another host family's home.

The following days here were similar in that every family extended the utmost hospitality. When our volunteer group was not working, we had the chance to visit with a few families within the community. Everyone was so kind and generous, welcoming us into their homes and offering us tea, cookies and cakes. Even though we could not always communicate due to our language differences, a warm smile is universal.

I highly recommend others to visit the Bedouin communities. They are a people group with so much history and unique culture. My visit here is one that will always be remembered.

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