



Visit the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, founded by Abuna Elias Chacour



Usama Nicola, left, our Bethlehem-based Tour Planner & Staff member of Wi'am, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center, and Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, right, our host in Zababdeh



Meet the Living Stones of Israel/Palestine



Group members in Bethlehem, overlooking Wi'am playground, Separation Wall, Aida Refugee Camp, and Gilo Settlement



Boat ride in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee

Living Stones Pilgrimage
Israel/Palestine Study Tour Sponsored by
Pilgrims of Ibillin

May 6-19, 2015

Cost: \$1,795/person program fee, double occupancy (includes hotel, ground transportation, tours, tips, breakfast & dinner daily, most lunches). Does not include cost of airfare*, beverages with meals, 4 lunches, insurance, personal items. Single Supplement, \$300

Leader: Rev. Joan Deming

Pilgrims of Ibillin Executive Director
1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704
608-241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

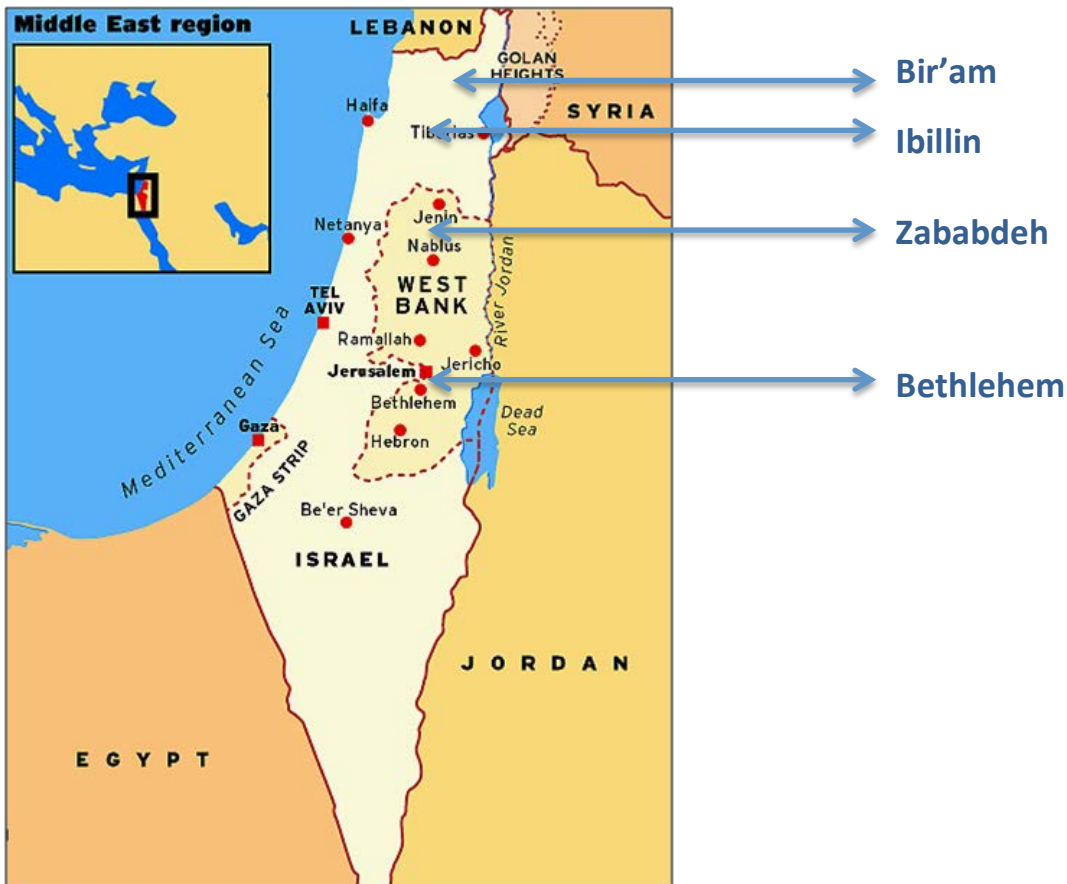
Program Fee:

\$500 due with registration
\$1295 balance due by 1 April 2015

***TRAVEL INFO:** Call our travel agent to make your airline reservation, starting from your home airport, connecting through JFK in New York. The group will fly together from JFK to TLV.

Contact Cindy Walker, Travel Leaders, Burlington, WA: 1-800-827-9645, cindy.walker@travelleaders.com.

We also strongly encourage the purchase of travel insurance. All-inclusive insurance at excellent group rates will be quoted at the time you lock in your airline reservation. Insurance must be paid-for within 10 days of registering, or pre-existing conditions will not be covered.



Goals of the Trip:

This is a study and listening tour! Get to know the “Living Stones” of Israel/Palestine. Meet Pilgrims of Ibillin’s partners in Ibillin, Zababdeh, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Ramle. Hear from leaders and organizations in the West Bank and Israel who are seeking a nonviolent path to peace.

Visit key biblical sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Galilee (including Nazareth), and learn why the Holy Land is known as “the Fifth Gospel.” Share in worship and reflection on all we see and hear.

Experience Palestinian hospitality, including during a home-stay in Zababdeh.

Get to know students and leaders at Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin. Visit with MEEI founder and peace activist Archbishop Elias Chacour (if his schedule permits). With a native of Biram, visit the destroyed village where Abuna Chacour was born and lived until 1948.

Be equipped to give presentations after returning home. Learn to share the story of new friends – Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze – who live with hope and work for peace despite great challenges.

Itinerary

(Note: Minor changes may be made as circumstances require during the pilgrimage.)

Wed., May 6, Fly from home airport to JFK, New York, to meet group. Fly together from JFK to TLV.

Thurs., May 7, Arrive in Tel Aviv late afternoon; travel by bus to Ibillin. Settle into the Mar Elias Guesthouse. Brief orientation, dinner at the Guesthouse, get some rest!

May 7 to 11 Stay four nights in Ibillin. Dinner and Breakfast provided daily at the MEEI Guesthouse. Meet with Abuna Elias Chacour some time during this stay.

Fri., May 8, Visit Mar Elias Gifted Program and/or high school classes. Bus to Nazareth for lunch and historical programs at International Center for Mary. Visit Basilica of the Annunciation; walk through the

souk to visit Al Tufula; meet with Nabila Espanioly, Al Tufula Director and Member of the Knesset.

Sat., May 9, All day in Ibillin. Visit classes in Mar Elias high school or Mariam Bawardi elementary or middle schools. Discussions and lunch with students and teachers. Tour Mar Elias Campus, including Church of the Sermon on the Mount. Explore the village of Ibillin. Dinner, speaker, discussion, rest!

Sun., May 10, Bus to Bir'am, Abuna Chacour's childhood village. Worship in the Bir'am Church. Tour the destroyed village with a guide who is a Bir'am native. Lunch on own in Jish or Capernaum. Bus to the holy sites along the Sea of Galilee: Capernaum, Primacy of Peter, Mount of Beatitudes. Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee in a small boat reminiscent of 1st century fishing boats.

Mon., May 11, Leave Ibillin after breakfast, bus to Jalameh Checkpoint and into the Upper West Bank. Visit the Church of Ten Lepers in Burqin, the Canaan Organic Olive Collective, John the Baptist sites in Sebastia, Jacob's Well Church in Nablus. Late afternoon arrive at St. George's Church in Zababdeh. Meet home-stay families. Dinner, overnight, and breakfast hosted by local families.

Tues., May 12, Talk and local tour, Abuna Firas Khoury Diab, St. George's Melkite Church, Zababdeh. Leave late morning for Ramallah. Visit the Friends' School in Ramallah; meet with Volunteer Elizabeth Todd, school leaders, and a group of amazing students in this International Baccalaureate Program high school. Bus through Qalandia Checkpoint, through Jerusalem, through Bethlehem Checkpoint, and check into The Holy Land Hotel in Bethlehem.

Welcome to Bethlehem! Spend 6 nights at The Holy Land Hotel. Dinner and Breakfast provided here daily.

Wed., May 13, Orientation at Wi'am Center about Wi'am's work and the socio-economic-political situation. Tour Aida Refugee Camp and learn about the separation wall and settlements. Lunch at Wi'am with Aida Camp residents. Tour Shepherd's Field and Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Return to spend free time in Manger Square. Dinner with guest speaker(s).

Thursday, May 14, Visit Old City of Jerusalem with Palestinian guide. Visit the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque if possible. Visit St. Anne's Church and the pools of Bethesda; walk the Via Dolorosa. Stop at the Ecce Homo Convent (2nd Station of the Cross) to see the Roman cistern and street excavations below; visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Enjoy free time in the Old City. Visit the Mt. of Olives, walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations.

Fri., May 15, Visit Bethlehem Bible College and meet with Alex Awad (if available). Tour the International Center of Bethlehem and Dar al Kalima Schools and Youth Empowerment Center. Met with Rev. Mitri Raheb or Rana Khoury from Diyar Consortium, and with members of the girls and women's soccer teams (sponsored in part by Pilgrims). Visit Herodium and Solomon's pools.

Sat., May 16, Travel to Hebron to see the effect of Israeli settlements in the Old City. Visit the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. Walk through (and shop in) the souk. See traditional glass-blowing and ceramic factory in Hebron, and/or visit the last remaining kafiyah factory in the West Bank. Visit Daher's Vineyard, the Tent of Nations, outside Bethlehem. Meet with members of the Nassar family; tour the farm. Possibly help with tree planting.

Sun., May 17, Worship at Christmas Lutheran Church (Pastor Mitri Raheb) in Bethlehem.

Visit the dramatic canyon of Wadi Qelt with a view of St. George's Monastery. Visit Qumran and swim in the Dead Sea.

Mon., May 18, Breakfast, check out of Bethlehem hotel, say good-bye to Usama and other new friends. Visit Fr. Hosam Naoum at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, visit the UN Human Rights-watch organization, OCHA. Lunch in the Old City. During the afternoon we'll spend time as a group reflecting on the tour. Possibly visit Caesarea. Visit Ramle, the Open House. Enjoy our Last Supper at Samir's Restaurant in Ramle. Head to the airport to begin security check before late-night flight back to the US.

Tues., May 19, Fly from Tel Aviv (leaving just after midnight) to JFK airport in New York and on home.

Tour Features and Considerations

Note: This program requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and inclines, at times for significant distances and for 1--2 hours at a time. If you have concerns about your abilities, please consult with tour leader.

TOUR FEE OF \$1795/PERSON includes accommodations based on double occupancy, breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily except 4 lunches, transfers between airports and hotels and travel in a comfortable tour bus, sightseeing and entrance fees, tips and taxes, and honoraria to organizations and speakers. Your airfare will be a separate expense.

PROGRAM FEE PAYMENT: Deposit of \$500, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin, is due immediately to secure registration. Registration deadline: February 1, 2015. Final payment of \$1295 is due April 1, 2015. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. Tour payment can also be made by credit card if 2.6% surcharge is added.

PLEASE NOTE: The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of December 2014, a minimum group size of 20, and are subject to availability and change.

FLIGHT RESERVATIONS: The flight from JFK airport in New York to TLV Ben Gurion Airport and return will cost about \$1250. Your connecting flight from your home airport will be an additional cost and will be quoted within a week of receiving your registration. Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to our travel agency: Travel Leaders in Burlington, WA.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST: Luggage handling at airport and guest houses, single room supplement of \$300, 4 lunches, beverages with meals, passport fees, insurance, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. If participants choose land-only registration, fee does not include arrival or departure transfers other than with the group.

PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS: U.S. citizens need a **passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date**. Get passport applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. No vaccinations are required. Non U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and visa requirements; without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense.

OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional insurance for baggage, health, and trip cancellation is available and strongly recommended; an application is provided at the time of registration. Call Cindy Walker at Travel Leaders for further information (800-827-9645). **Payment must be made to Cindy within 10 days of registration date or pre-existing conditions will not be covered.**

REFUND POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing by April 6, 2015, a \$100 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After April 6, a \$500 cancellation fee will be deducted from your refund due to the special contracts for tour features, commitments to other tour members, and the services rendered on behalf of all tour members. Airline tickets are issued in advance and are nonrefundable. Optional insurance is highly recommended.

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither Pilgrims of Ibillin nor its employees or agents, nor any other person, party, or entity associated with it shall be responsible or liable for any injuries, damages, accidents, expenses, delays, schedule or itinerary changes, damage to person or property, or any other loss or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours, or other services that relate to the travel program or are referred to herein, or that occur during free time the members may have on the tour. Pilgrims of Ibillin reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary whenever changes are warranted or deemed appropriate and withdraw participation of any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the group. In the ever-changing world situation, Pilgrims of Ibillin recommends personal monitoring of news about Israel/Palestine. For the latest country information and travel warning from the US Dept. of State, visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/travel>.

By signing my registration application, I affirm that I have been advised and am aware of the U.S. State Department Travel Warning to Israel and the West Bank.

Reservation Form

“Living Stones” Pilgrimage ~ May 6 – 19, 2015

Sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin: <http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org>

Led by Rev. Joan Deming ~ Pilgrims of Ibillin Executive Director

1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704 ~ 608-241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

To be assured of reservations, please print and complete this form, and mail along with your deposit of \$500 per person to: 1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport):

Name 2 (as it appears on passport):

Passport # _____

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Expiration Date _____

Birthdate 1: _____

Birthdate 2: _____

Passport copies: Please enclose a clear photocopy of the photo/signature page of your passport.

Name 1 (as preferred for name badge):

Name 2 (as preferred for name badge):

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone: _____

Mobile/cell phone: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Preferred home airport for connecting flight to JFK: _____

Room Type: _____ Double Rooming with _____

_____ Single

\$300 single supplement

_____ I would like assistance finding a roommate.
(An attempt to find a roommate will be made. However, it cannot be guaranteed and the single supplement would apply if none is found.)

Enclosed is my check for _____ (\$500/person). Make check payable **to Pilgrims of Ibillin.**

Please charge my credit card as follows (registration fee + 2.6% surcharge):

Credit card information (circle card type): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
Card number _____ Expiration date _____
Signature (Name as it appears on the card): _____
Please charge my deposit of: \$514 x _____ (# of registrations) = \$ _____ (Total Charge)

I have read the Notes and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature(s): _____ **Date** _____