



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



Visit Biram, Abuna Chacour's childhood village



Meet the "Living Stones" of Israel/Palestine – Trip leader Joan Deming, with Mar Elias students

**October 16-29, 2015
Living Stones Pilgrimage**

**Israel/Palestine Study Tour Sponsored by
Pilgrims of Ibillin**

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

Early-bird Registration Deadline: 10 July 2015
\$500 due with registration; \$1295 due by 1 Sept. 2015
After 10 July, add \$50/person

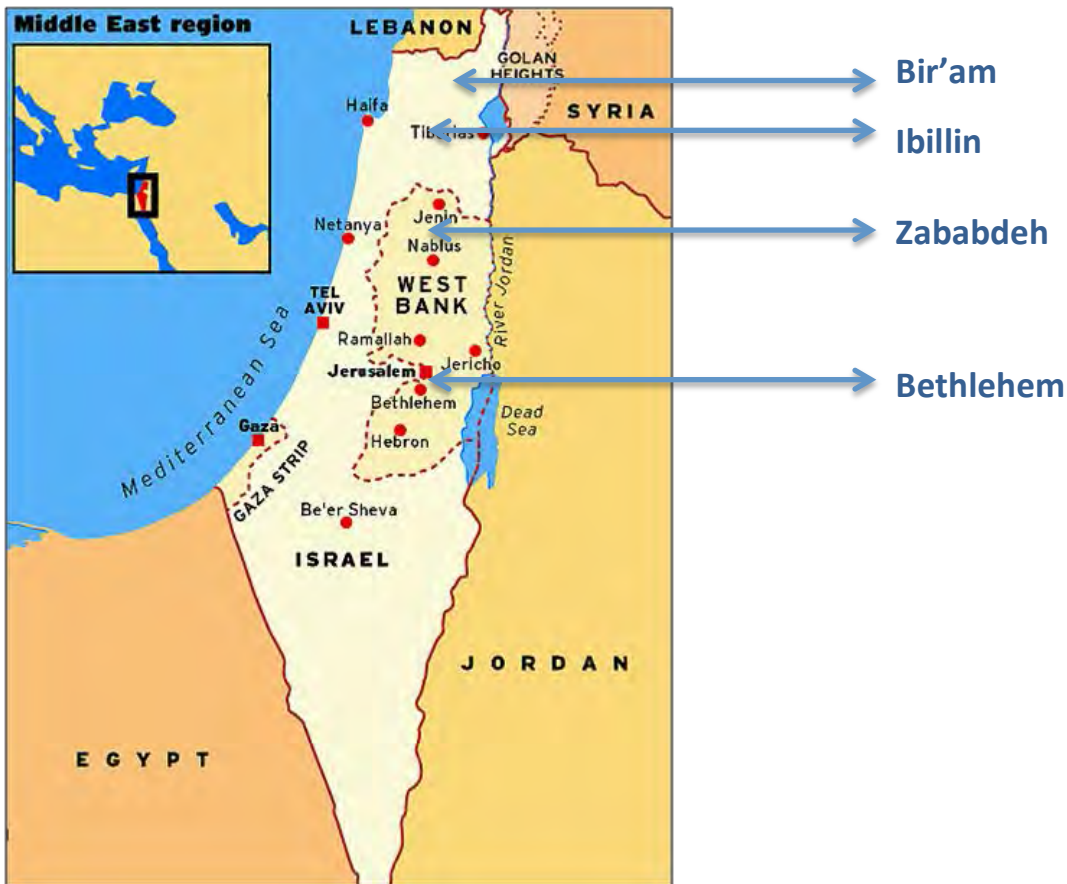


Visit leaders and organizations working for a Just Peace for all God's children -- here in 2014 at Tent of Nations

***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.)

Fri., Oct. 16, Fly from home airport to JFK, New York, to meet group. Fly together from JFK to TLV.

Sat., Oct. 17, Arrive in Tel Aviv late afternoon; travel by bus to Bethlehem. Meet host from Wi’am and check in at Holy Land Hotel. Brief orientation, dinner at the hotel, get some rest!

Oct. 17 – Oct. 23: Stay 6 nights at Holy Land Hotel, Bethlehem; Dinner and breakfast daily at hotel.

Sun., Oct. 18, Worship at Christmas Lutheran Church (Pastor Mitri Raheb) in Bethlehem. Walk to Manger Square and eat lunch there. Tour Church of the Nativity, Shepherd’s Field, and the Herodion. Guest speaker (Alex Awad or Grace Al-Zoughbi?) and dinner at our hotel.

Mon., Oct. 19, Orientation at Wi'am Center about Wi'am's work and the socio-economic-political situation, and learn about the separation wall and settlements. Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit the Seraj Library and Al Rowwad Center there. Lunch at Wi'am. Visit the Tent of Nations outside Bethlehem; meet with Nassar family, tour the farm, and possibly help with olive tree planting.

Tues., Oct. 20, Travel to Hebron to see the effect of Israeli settlements in the Old City. Visit the Ibrahim 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 kafiya factory in the West Bank. Lunch at Christian Peacemaker Team office and meet with CPT volunteer. Visit the dramatic canyon of Wadi Qelt with a view of St. George's Monastery. Descend below sea level, visit Qumran (site of Dead Sea Scrolls discovery), and swim in the Dead Sea.

Wed., Oct 21, Visit Old City of Jerusalem with Palestinian Christian 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.

Thurs., Oct. 22, Bus into Jerusalem to meet with Fr. Hosam Naoum at St. George's Cathedral, and the UN Human Rights-watch organization, OCHA. Lunch in the Old City. Cross the Qalandia Checkpoint to visit the Friends' School in Ramallah; lunch and meet with volunteers, school leaders, and students in this International Baccalaureate Program high school. Return to Jerusalem to meet with Dalia Landau about The Open House.

Friday, Oct. 23, Check out of Holy Land Hotel. Tour the International Center of Bethlehem and Dar al Kalima Schools and Youth Empowerment Center. Meet 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). Lunch at the Lutheran International Center. Say good-bye to Bethlehem and bus to Nablus to visit Jacob's Well Church. Late afternoon arrive at St. George's Church in Zababdeh. Meet home-stay families. Dinner, overnight, and breakfast hosted by local families.

Sat., Oct 24, Breakfast with host families. Talk and local tour, Abuna Firas Khoury Diab, St. George's Melkite Church, Zababdeh. Lunch at Sebastia with visit to John the Baptist sites and Roman Ruins. Visit the Church of Ten Lepers in Burqin and the Canaan Organic Olive Collective. Say good-bye to Usama, leave the West Bank at the Jalameh Checkpoint, bus to Ibillin. Settle into the Guesthouse and enjoy a welcome dinner at MEEI.

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

Sun., Oct. 25, 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. Dinner at MEEI.

Mon., Oct. 26, Visit Mar Elias high school for orientation to MEEI and visit English 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. Dinner at MEEI

Tues., Oct. 27, Plant olive trees on Mar Elias grounds. Visit classes in Mariam Bawardi elementary or middle schools. Discussions and lunch with students and teachers. Bus to Sepphoris, site of Herod Antipas's Galilean capital and likely place where Joseph and Jesus would have worked. Return to Ibillin, tour Mar Elias Campus, including Church of the Sermon on the Mount. Dinner, speaker, discussion, rest!

Wed., Oct. 28, Breakfast at Mar Elias, spend time together reflecting on what this tour has meant to each and how to begin sharing back home. Load the bus, visit Elijah holy site on Mt. Carmel and scenic overlook from Haifa. Lunch at Stella Maris. Drive to Caesarea to explore the Roman ruins and site from which Paul was sent to Rome. Enjoy our Last Supper at Samir's Restaurant in Ramle. Head to the airport to begin security check-in.

Thurs., Oct. 29, 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 the 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.

PAYMENT: Deposit of \$500, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin, is due immediately to secure registration. Early-bird registration deadline: July 10, 2015. After July 10, add \$50 to total due. Final payment of \$1295 is due Sept. 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 agent: Cindy Walker at Travel Leaders in Burlington, WA. Airfare Payment due date: July 10, 2015.

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 through our travel agent. 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 September 15, 2015, a \$100 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After September 15, 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 ~ October 16-29, 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.

Registrations must be received by July 10, 2015. After that date, add \$50/person late fee.

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** _____