

May 13-26, 2019

Living Stones Pilgrimage

Israel/Palestine Study Tour Meet the Peacemakers of Israel & Palestine with Pilgrims of Ibillin

Cost: \$1,995/person program fee, double occupancy.
Single Supplement, \$300
Fee includes hotels, ground transportation, tours, tips,
breakfast & dinner daily, most lunches.
Does not include cost of airfare*, beverages with meals,
4 lunches, travel insurance, personal items.

Led by Rev. Joan Deming Pilgrimage Coordinator

Call or email with questions:
Joan: 608-241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

Register early to assure your spot in this unique tour.
\$500 due with registration (**\$450 if received before
2/28/2019**); balance due 4/15/19.

Find Information on Pilgrims of Ibillin and many of the
places we'll visit: <http://www.pilgrimsOfIbillin.org/>



***TRAVEL INFO:** Call our travel agent to make independent airline reservations. **Important: your arrival must be between 10am and 6pm on 5.14.19. Departure near midnight, 5.25.19.**

Contact Debbie Havrilak, TravelLeaders, WA State

[800.622.3342](tel:800.622.3342), debbie.havrilak@travellleaders.com

We also urge the purchase of comprehensive travel insurance, also from our travel agent. (Insurance must be paid within 10 days of reserving flight for pre-existing conditions to 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 peace-building partners in Ibillin, Zababdeh, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Ramle. Hear from leaders of organizations on both sides of the Green Line that seek a nonviolent path to a just peace.

Visit key biblical sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Galilee (including Nazareth), and learn why the Holy Land is known as "the Fifth Gospel." Share reflections and insights in worship and group conversations.

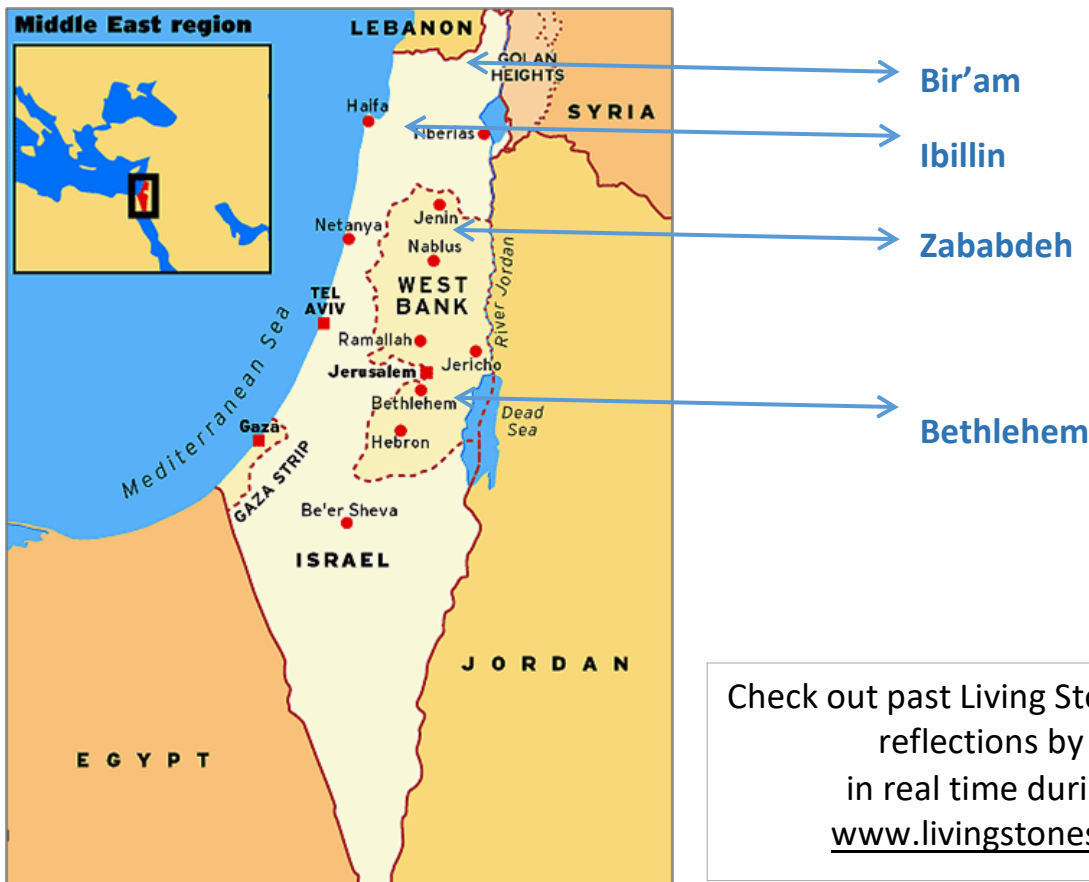
Experience the hospitality of local hosts.

Get to know students and leaders at the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin. Visit with MEEI founder and peace activist Archbishop Elias Chacour. 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. Prepare to share the story of new friends – Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze – who live with hope and work for peace despite great challenges.



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



Itinerary, Living Stones Pilgrimage – May 13-26, 2019

(Note: Flexibility is important! We plan to include the following events, but if changes are necessary, expect something else interesting as replacement activities.)

Mon.-Tues, May 13-14: Leave USA from home airport; Arrival +1 day in Tel Aviv: Tuesday, May 14 (by 5:00pm!) Meet Joan and group at the airport. Bus together to Ibillin and meet hosts at the Guesthouse on the campus of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI). Brief orientation, dinner, get some sleep!

May 14-17: Stay 3 nights in Guesthouse at Mar Elias, including a meeting with Abuna Elias Chacour

Wednesday, May 15: After breakfast, visit Mar Elias High School and meet with Key MEEI leaders to learn about the school. Meet with high school students for small-group conversations. Tour campus including Church of the Sermon on the Mount and the Auditorium with its Reconciliation Mural.

Lunch at the Guesthouse with Mar Elias teachers and students. Bus to the destroyed village of Saffuriya, to meet British journalist Jonathan Cook for a walking orientation and briefing about Israel's history over the last century. Bus back to Ibillin for dinner and a visit with Abuna Elias Chacour.

Thursday, May 16: Bus to Bir'am, Abuna Chacour's childhood village and tour it with a Biram native, Toomi Magzal. Enjoy picnic lunch of manaesh, fruit and veggies. Several Mar Elias students may join us for this day. Visit holy sites along the Sea of Galilee: Capernaum, Primacy of Peter, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha. Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee in small boats reminiscent of 1st century fishing boats. Return to Ibillin for dinner and Group time.

May 17: Stay overnight with host families in Zababdeh

Friday, May 17: After breakfast at MEEI, load the bus to go directly to Nazareth, visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation. 10:30: Guided tour of the first century excavations beneath the Sisters of Nazareth Monastery. Enjoy lunch at Liwan Cultural Café and meet with Sally Azzam, Liwan co-founder. Visit Al Tufula Center for Women and

Children to meet with founder Nabila Espanioly, and then go straight to the Jalame checkpoint to cross into the West Bank. After entering the West Bank, visit the Church of Ten Lepers in Burqin and then continue to Zababdeh to meet Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, our host at St. George's Melkite Catholic Church. Dinner and overnight with local host families.

May 18-25: Travel to Bethlehem, Stay 7 nights in The Holy Land Hotel on Al Karkfah Street

Saturday, 18 May: After breakfast with host families, gather at St. George's Church in Zababdeh a walking tour of Zababdeh with Fr. Firas. Mid-morning, travel to Sebastia, visit the Basilica of John the Baptist, ancient amphitheater, and pre-Roman ruins. Enjoy lunch and time to shop at Samaria Restaurant in Sebastia.

Bus to Nablus to visit Jacob's Well Church, stop in Huwara Village for Knafeh, and drive to Bethlehem by late afternoon. Check into Holy Land Hotel; dinner and group time.

Sunday, 19 May: Breakfast at the Hotel and free time. 10:00 bus old city of Bethlehem. 10:30 attend worship at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. 12:00: lunch at International Center, (next to church). Return to hotel to change into hiking clothes for optional hike from Beit Jala through the agricultural land of Wadi El-Makhour valley (a beautiful natural area) to Battir village with its ancient agricultural terraces (declared a UNESCO World Heritage site). Those who elect not to hike will have the afternoon free. Dinner at the Hotel and group time.

Monday, 20 May: Orientation at Wi'am Center about Wi'am's work and the socio-economic-political situation, prospects for peace, and the separation wall and settlements. 10:30: Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit the Seraj Library and Al Rowwad Center there. Noon Lunch back at Wi'am and watch the documentary film "imprisoning a Generation." Bus to the Cremisan Valley and visit the Cremisan Winery. During return trip to Bethlehem, stop for a brief visit at Hope School to meet the director and a resident student. 18:00: Meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle / Bereaved Families Forum. Dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday 21 May: After an early breakfast, bus to Jerusalem. Visit the Mt. of Olives, walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations. At 10am enjoy a guided tour of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque with Aouni Bazbaz. After leaving the Al Aqsa compound, begin walk on the Via Dolorosa. Stop at St. Anne's Church and Pools of Bethesda. 12:30: Lunch at ECCE HOMO Convent on Via Dolorosa. Continue Via Dolorosa walk, including a stop at the Western Wall, and a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Leave the Old City by 16:00 to meet with Dalia Landau, Jewish subject of The Lemon Tree, at Tantur at 17:00. Dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday 22 May: Bus again to Jerusalem to meet with Father Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. 10:00: Attend briefing by United Nations OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories). Possible visit to Jesus' baptism site, lunch at Qumran and visit Dead Sea Scrolls site, then float in the Dead Sea. Visit Wadi Qelt desert overlook, Good Samaritan view of St. George's Monastery and the road from Jerusalem down to Jericho. Dinner and Group time at the hotel.

Thursday, 23 May, After an early breakfast, travel to Hebron to see the effect of Israeli settlements in the Old City on the people. Visit the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. Meet with Christian Peacemaker Team volunteers at their office and hear about their work. Walk through (and shop in) the souk. Visit one of the Hebron glass/ceramics factories. Bus to the Tent of Nations farm outside Bethlehem for lunch there; meet with Nassar family, tour the farm.

Friday, 24 May, Breakfast at the Hotel, then Bus to Shepherds' Fields in Beit Sahour. 10:00 visit to Dar Al Kalima University College of Arts and Culture and meet with Rev. Mitri Raheb. Lunch at Afteem Restaurant in Manger Square. With Usama as our guide, walk through the old City of Bethlehem, ending at Church of the Nativity. Return to our hotel for group time and dinner.

Saturday, May 25, Check out of the Holy Land Hotel after breakfast. Visit Visit Mazin Qumsieh and Natural history museum (part of Bethlehem University). Gather at Wi'am garden for lunch, closing worship and to take time to reflect on our time together and look toward how we will share our stories back at home.

Travel to Ramle, late afternoon, for our closing dinner at the very special Samir's Restaurant there. Head to the airport to begin security check-in 3 hours before first scheduled flight out. (Ideally we will depart on flights leaving between 11pm on Saturday 5/25 and 1 am on Sunday 5/26. Note that choosing a flight after 1am on the 26th requires staying overnight in the airport or paying extra for a hotel and transportation back to the airport.)

Sunday, May 26, Arrive home from Tel Aviv.

Tour Features and Considerations

Note: This is an active trip that requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and steep hills, at times for a mile or two and for 1-2 hours at a time. Concerned about stamina or abilities? Please consult with tour leader.

PROGRAM FEE OF \$1995/person includes accommodations in hotel/guesthouse settings based on double occupancy; breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily except 4 lunches; group transfers between airports and hotels; 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. **(Registrations received by February 28 receive a \$50 discount. After 3/1, contact tour leader about discount availability.)**

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

TO GUARANTEE A SPOT IN THE GROUP, register by Feb. 28, 2019. Final payment of \$1495 is due April 15, 2019. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. If paying by credit card, please add a 2.6% surcharge. **NOTE:** The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of September 2018, a minimum group size of 15 and are subject to availability and change.

FLIGHT RESERVATIONS: Arrange through our travel agent, Debbie Havrilak, for individual airline reservations from your home airport to Tel Aviv and return. Make your plans so you will arrive in Tel Aviv on May 14 before 5:00pm, and plan your flight home to leave Tel Aviv near midnight on May 25 or in the wee hours of May 26. (Leaving later, i.e. after 4am on 5/26, will require spending a night in the airport or paying extra for private hotel and transportation.)

Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to our travel agent: Debbie Havrilak at Travel Leaders in Washington State. [800.622.3342](tel:800.622.3342), debbie.havrilak@travellleaders.com.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: Insurance covering baggage, health, and trip cancellation is available through Debbie Havrilak and is **strongly recommended**. Payment must be made to Travel Leaders within 10 days of booking your airfare, or pre-existing conditions may not be covered.

PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS: U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months after their date of return to the US. Get passport applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>. You will receive your visa at passport control in Tel Aviv. You do not need to apply for it in advance. No vaccinations are required. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for knowing their own passport and visa requirements; without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense. **Provide a photocopy of your passport to the tour leader before the trip begins.**

REFUND POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing by April 15, 2019, a \$200 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After April 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 at the time you make your reservation and are nonrefundable. **Optional travel 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 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>.

Note: 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 13-26, 2019

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

Led by Rev. Joan Deming ~ Pilgrims of Ibillin Pilgrimage Coordinator
1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704 ~ 608-235-1046 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

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

Registrations must be received by April 15, 2019. After that date, check with tour leader.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____
Passport # _____
Expiration Date _____
Birth Date _____
Name 1 (as preferred for nametag): _____
Home phone _____
Cell phone _____
Email _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____
Passport # _____
Expiration Date _____
Birth Date _____
Name 2 (as preferred for nametag): _____
Home phone _____
Cell phone _____
Email _____

Passport copies: Please enclose a clear photocopy or pdf of the photo/signature page of each person’s passport.

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred home airport: _____

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. Payment by check, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin.
(\$450/person if received by 2/28/19. After that date, please confirm with tour leader)

If credit card payment is preferred, please authorize payment of registration fee + 2.6% surcharge per person:

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: \$_____ 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 _____