



LIVING STONES PILGRIMAGE TO PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 1 - 12 OR 14, 2026



INFORMATION
PACKET &
APPLICATION



**Optional extension to Jordan:
Petra & the Dead Sea*





Living Stones Pilgrimage

November 1-14, 2026 - Optional Jordan Add-On: \$3,100 (or \$2,600 with a \$500 Early Bird Discount if deposit paid by July 31, 2026)

November 1-12, 2026 - without Jordan: \$2,600 (or \$2,100 with a \$500 Early Bird Discount if deposit paid by July 31, 2026)

[The following are not included in the Pilgrimage fee: Flights, visas, passport fees, travel insurance, excess baggage, and items of a personal nature. Fee does not include airport transfers other than when with the group.]

Pilgrims U.S. Coordinators - Rev. Gail Doering and Essrea Cherin, Executive Director

Pilgrimage Overview

A unique tour of witness and pilgrimage in the service of peace in the region a third of humanity call "The Holy Land"

This tour may very well be a once in a lifetime opportunity - Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour (also known as Abuna Chacour) will accompany the group to the Holy Sites in the Galilee and to his village of B'iram. This is an unprecedented chance to hear directly from 3-time Noble Prize Nominee, and author of the acclaimed, *Blood Brothers*, about the significance of these sites and their unique meaning from the perspective of a Palestinian Christian whose ancestors trace to the time of Jesus.

Father Chacour says, *"We invite visitors to see the ruins of holy sites but also engage with the 'living stones', the people that live and make homes there."*

With this as inspiration, since 1995 Pilgrims of Ibillin has taken nearly 400 individuals on pilgrimages to Israel and Palestine. Led by Pilgrims staff, board members, and local partners in the West Bank and the Galilee, we visit Christians, Muslims, and Jews who are working creatively to plant and nourish the seeds of a "Just Peace". Our tours include visits to important holy sites and explore social, cultural, historical, and theological perspectives that help us make sense of current realities that fill headlines and news reports particularly in the past three years.



We consider our trips an escape from traditional Holy Land trips and present alternative viewpoints that you might not otherwise be exposed to, from those working for peace and justice. The trip will encourage deep thinking, open minds, curiosity, and sensitivity to people living in this region.

During the tour we will visit many holy sites with the accompaniment of a beloved Biblical scholar, Fr. Chacour. And, in the West Bank, our guide will introduce us to a wide range of Christians, Jews, and Muslims working tirelessly for a just peace for all.

If you are curious, enjoy learning about culture, history, religion, politics, human and environmental rights, and want to meet and engage with the people who live where you travel - this trip is for you!

Overnight accommodations are clean, comfortable, and modest, near areas we can explore and meet locals and also keep costs within reach.

We will stay at a hotel near Manger Square in Bethlehem and in Ibillin at the Mar Elias Educational Institution (MEEI) Guest House. When in Jordan we will stay at a hotel in Wadi Musa (Petra) and the Dead Sea Marriott Resort.

Itinerary: November 1 - 12 or 14, 2026 (optional Jordan add-on)

Be aware that conditions on the ground may dictate changes

Please Note: For those adding Jordan you will fly into Tel Aviv and return from Amman airports.

Day 1 — Sunday, November 1, 2026 — Fly to Tel Aviv

Day 2 — Monday, November 2 — Arrival — Travel to Bethlehem

- Arrive and check-in to Guest House
- Dinner and Welcome

Day 3 - Tuesday, November 3 — Bethlehem

- Visit Dheheisha Refugee Camp
- Church of Nativity
- Riwaya Museum
- Separation Wall
- Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center for orientation BBQ Dinner



Day 4 — Wednesday, November 4 — Bethlehem

- Breakfast at Guesthouse
- Tour Aida Refugee Camp
- Al-Rowad Center
- Hope School
- Tent of Nations
- Dinner and Debrief at Guesthouse

Day 5 — Thursday, November 5 — Jerusalem

- Breakfast at Guesthouse
- Tour Al Aqsa Mosque Compound and Solomon's Stables
- Western Wall
- Church of Holy Sepulchre
- Mt of Olives - Garden of Gethsemane
- Meet with ICAHD / Silwan
- Dinner and Debrief at Guesthouse



**Day 6 — Friday, November 6 —
Jericho**

- Breakfast at Guesthouse
- Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin Community
- Lunch in Jericho - Mt of Temptation
- Hisham’s Palace
- St George Monastery
- Dinner and Debrief at Guesthouse



**Day 7 — Saturday, November 7
— Hebron**



- Breakfast at Guesthouse
- Morning visit to Wadi Foquin
- Travel to Hebron to visit Abraham Mosque/
Tomb of the Patriarchs
- Walk through Souq (market), Shouhada St.
- Meet with Community Peacemaker Team and
lunch
- Visit Kaffiyeh factory and glass/ceramics
factory
- Dinner and Debrief at Guesthouse

**Day 8 — Sunday, November 8 —
Ramallah**

- Breakfast at Guesthouse
- Worship at Evangelical Lutheran Church of
Hope
- Visit Sam Bahour
- Arafat Museum
- Seraj Library and Cultural Center
- Travel to Ibillin
- Dinner and Debrief at Mar Elias Guesthouse



Day 9 — Monday, November 9 — Ibillin

- Breakfast at MEEI Guesthouse
- Tour Mar Elias Educational Institutions Campus and Schools
- Lunch with Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour
- Meet with Principal Elias AG and English students
- Tour Old I'billin and meet with Assad Daoud - Antiquities Expert
- Dinner at MEEI Guesthouse with Archbishop Elias Chacour and discussion

Day 10 — Tuesday, November 10 — Galilee



- Breakfast at MEEI Guesthouse
- With Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour: Tour his ancestral destroyed village of Bi'ram
- Sea of Galilee
- Visit sites important in Jesus' ministry including Migdal - Primacy of Peter, Capernum, Mount of Beatitudes

- Dinner and Debrief at MEEI Guesthouse

Day 11 — Wednesday, November 11 — Nazareth

- Breakfast at MEEI Guesthouse
- With Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour: Sepphoris Archeologic Park or Sisters of Mercy Monastery/ruins
- Basilica of the Annunciation
- St. Joseph's Church
- Mary International Center and Lunch
- Walk through Nazareth's souk
- Dinner in Nazareth
- Debrief at MEEI Guesthouse



Day 12 — Thursday, November 12 — Tel Aviv — Departure

- Breakfast at MEEI Guesthouse
- Closing Ceremony
- Travel to Ben Gurion Airport for those departing (flights depart 3pm or later)
- For those continuing on to Jordan - see next page

Optional Add-on - Two Days in Jordan

Day 12 — Thursday, November 12 — Travel to Jordan

- Travel to Wadi Musa (Petra), Jordan
- Check in and Dinner at Guesthouse

Day 13 — Friday, November 13 — Petra

- Spend day exploring Petra
- Drive to Dead Sea Resort for Dinner and Overnight

Day 14 — Saturday, November 14 — Departure

- Return to Amman Airport to return to the US



Tour Coordinators

Reverend Gail Doering, on the Board of Pilgrims of Ibillin 2021-2025, Gail is a member of the Presbyterian clergy. In addition to half a dozen visits to the Holy Land, she spent a 3 month sabbatical in Israel, studying the theology of hope and how it is maintained in the face of conflict, oppression, and occupation.



Essrea Cherin, Executive Director of Pilgrims of Ibillin and the co-founder of the Boulder-Nablus Sister City Project. She is a conflict resolution and restorative processes professional and has worked in the Middle East for over 20 years beginning with Abraham's Path - establishing a hiking trail to retrace Abraham's footsteps.



Both have led groups to the region multiple times.

Detailed Information

Cost of the Pilgrimage

With Petra and Dead Sea Optional Add-On (November 1 - 14, 2026) - \$3,100 (or Early Bird rate by July 31, 2026: \$2,600) double occupancy with \$500 single room additional supplement. Price includes 7 nights in Bethlehem hotel, 3 nights in the Mar Elias Guest House in Ibillin, Israel, 1 night at Petra Guest House, and 1 night at the Dead Sea Marriott Resort and a transfer to the Amman airport.

Without Petra and Dead Sea (November 1 - 12, 2026) - \$2,600 (or Early Bird rate by July 31, 2026: \$2,100) double occupancy with \$400 single room additional supplement. Price includes 7 nights in Bethlehem hotel, 3 nights in the Mar Elias Guest House in Ibillin, Israel, and a transfer to the Tel Aviv airport.

Prices also includes meals, tips, entry fees, and honorariums for speakers.

Prices do not include airfare and travel insurance which is required. See more on this below.

Payment

Deposit of \$500, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin, is due immediately to secure participation; space is limited. Payment with credit card at this link or payment with check can be sent to tour coordinator Essrea Cherin at 4500 19th Street, #435, Boulder, CO 80304. Pay deposit no later than July 31, 2026 to receive an **Early Bird discount of \$500 off**. After July 31 the cost increases to \$3,100 with Jordan and \$2,600 without the Jordan add-on.

Final payment is due no later than Friday, September 18, 2026.



Not included

Flights, visas, passport fees, travel insurance, excess baggage, and items of a personal nature. Fee does not include airport transfers other than when with the group. If unable to travel with the group, there's an additional fee of \$150 for airport transport.

Space is limited and to guarantee your spot in the group, register soon with **\$500 deposit**. Final payment is due by Friday, September 18, 2026.

To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. If paying with credit card ([at this webpage](#)), please add a 2.6% surcharge (you'll see this option on the payment form). After September 18 a \$300 late fee will be applied.

Flight Reservations

Arrange for a refundable flight through our Travel Agent Christina Boyer at All Aboard Travel at christina@allaboardtravelhillsdale.com or **(517) 437-4844** for individual airline reservations from your home airport to Tel Aviv and return from either Tel Aviv or Amman depending on which option you select.

Or, alternatively, if making your own plans please **arrive at Tel Aviv airport on November 1 before 5 pm local time and plan your return flight after 1pm on November 12 or after noon on November 14** (depending on whether you take the extra two days in Jordan or depart from Tel Aviv). Leaving later will require potential additional hotel and transportation expense and we can help arrange that for you.

Christina is familiar with our tour and the need for these specific times.

Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Insurance covering baggage, health, and trip cancellation is highly recommended and is available through Christina at All Aboard Travel or if you arrange your own flight we also suggest TravellInsurance.com.

A flight with refundable airfare is strongly advised as is travel insurance given the uncertainties that come along with travel to this particular region.

Passports and Visas

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months after their date of return to the US. Passport applications are available at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

Israel Visa: The Israel Population and Immigration Authority (PIBA) has launched an electronic travel authorization (ETA) program that began on June 1, 2024. The new system, known as **ETA-IL**, requires tourists and business travelers from visa-exempt countries (such as the United States) to submit a travel authorization form **online prior to travel**.

Upon arrival at the Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv) Airport, you will receive a visa (typically 3 months) on a slip of paper — **DO NOT LOSE** this paper (I generally paper clip it to my passport), you will need it to exit the country.

Jordan Visa: if you intend to stay on for Petra and the Dead Sea - your visa to enter Jordan will be taken care of as part of the Pilgrimage fee.

Provide a photocopy of your passport to the tour coordinator before the trip begins. We will be watching Israel's travel requirements closely and will relay information as needed.

Refund Policy

If cancellation is received in writing before October 16, 2026, a \$200 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or land service payments. After October 16, 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.

If circumstances in-country require that we cancel or postpone the trip, your deposit and payments will be refunded in full, or applied to the next trip - according to your preference.

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, meals, accommodation, 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 warnings from the US Dept. of State, visit: [http:// www.travel.state.gov/travel](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel).

By signing my registration application (page 17), I affirm that I have been advised and am aware of the U.S. State Department Travel Warning to Israel and the West Bank.

This pilgrimage is demanding. It includes long walks over often uneven ground and cobblestone, climbing long and steep staircases, and long days. Be sure you are fit and able. Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call if you have questions.

Before Travel

- Participants will have an opportunity to meet and engage with the tour coordinators and each other in a Zoom meeting or two to get to know each other, receive travel guidance, and to answer any questions you may have prior to departure.
- In addition we will send out a packing list and travel instructions you may need.
- Travelers will be encouraged to prepare by reading Archbishop Elias Chacour's Blood Brothers (we will travel with the author throughout the Galilee). We will also provide a comprehensive list of resources you may wish to explore prior to departure.

What to Expect During Trip

- We will have active and full days with some free-time built in. That will be the best opportunity for shopping if you wish to purchase treasures from Palestine.
- We will have debriefings at the culmination of each day whenever possible and these offer an opportunity to process the day in community while also imparting important schedule details for the following day.

Comments from Previous Pilgrimage Participants

“I highly recommend a Pilgrims of Ibillin tour! It gives a better understanding of a situation that is not well covered in our usual newsfeeds. For a better understanding of the individuals and communities involved and the ‘peacemaker’ groups. This pilgrimage is a mix of seeing important historical and biblical places, and meeting people who live there today.”

“There is a universal need for American Christians to gain a broader perspective on Israel and Palestine, and a number of good and worthy agencies that can do so very well. Specifically, I appreciate Pilgrims of Ibillin’s connection to the Mar Elias Educational Institution and the unique and powerful witness of Father Elias Chacour. Pilgrims of Ibillin is to be commended as well for their excellent networking among other agents of peace and justice.”

“I was very impressed with the organization of the trip, as well as the flexibility needed when arrangements changed. I especially appreciated the personal caring and efforts of both US and Palestinian personnel.”

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to e-mail trip coordinators: Rev. Gail Doering - reverendgdo@gmail.com or Essrea Cherin - essrea@pilgrimsofibilin.org if you have questions.



Reservation for Living Stones Pilgrimage to Palestine & Israel

[You may register online at this link](#) or complete the form below and return to pilgrimage coordinators:

Please select the option you are choosing:

November 1 - 12, 2026 - No Jordan Add-on

November 1 - 14, 2026 - With Jordan Add-on

To be assured of your place on this tour, please print and complete this form, and mail along with your registration deposit of \$500 check to Pilgrims of Ibillin ([or credit card at this link](#) and if using a credit card please check the box to cover the transaction fees)

Mail to: **Essrea Cherin 4500 19th Street, #435, Boulder, CO 80304**

Registrations and complete fees are due no later than Friday, September 18, 2026

1st Traveler

Name 1 (as it appears on passport) _____

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Birth Date _____

Preferred name for name tag _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Travel History? Have you traveled to Israel and/or Palestine before? If yes, when?

Why are you interested in this Pilgrimage?

Do you have any medical considerations, allergies, or food preferences (requests)?

2nd Traveler

Name 2 (as it appears on passport) _____

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Birth Date _____

Name as preferred for name tag _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Travel History? Have you traveled to Israel and/or Palestine before? If yes, when?

Why are you interested in this Pilgrimage?

Do you have any medical considerations, allergies, or food preferences (requests)?

*** If there are more than two travelers in your group please copy this page to continue adding as needed**

All Travelers

Passport copies

Please enclose a clear photocopy or email a .jpg of the signature page of each traveler's passport

Home Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Preferred airport: _____



Room Type, select one:

Double— If you choose Double - please indicate if you have a preferred roommate: _____ (we do our best to honor your request although cannot guarantee)

Single (\$500 with Jordan or \$400 without Jordan, added for single supplement)

I have read the Considerations for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein. By signing, I affirm that I have been advised and am aware of the U.S. State Department Travel Warning to Israel and the West Bank.

Print name, Signature, and Date

Traveler # 1 _____

Traveler #2 _____

Date _____

Emergency Contact

Please provide contact information for at least one emergency contact at home:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail _____

*Thank you for completing this application!
We are so excited for you to join this journey of a lifetime with us!*