

Oct. 16-29, 2017 Living Stones Pilgrimage



Israel/Palestine Study Tour Sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin

Cost: \$1,950/person program fee, double occupancy.
Single Supplement, \$300

\$50 Discount for registrations received by June 30.

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.

Leader: Rev. Joan Deming

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

Register early to assure your spot in this unique tour.

\$500 due with registration (\$450 if by 6/30/17),
balance due one month before departure.

Full information and itinerary available at
<http://www.pilgrimsfibillin.org/living-stones-pilgrimage/>

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

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

**We also strongly encourage the purchase of
comprehensive travel insurance**, also from our travel
agent. (Insurance must be paid-for within 10 days of
registering, 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.

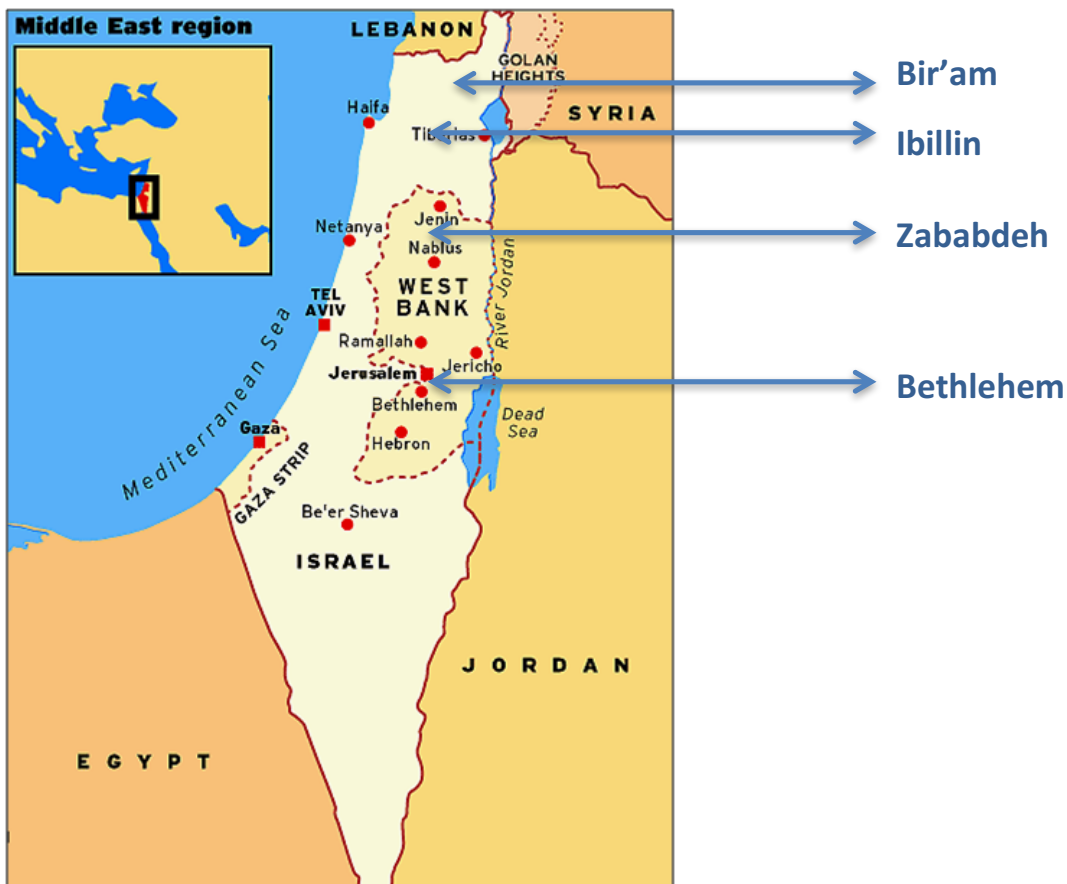
Experience Palestinian hospitality, including during a
home-stay in Zababdeh.

Get to know students and leaders at the 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. 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, 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*



Check out past Living Stones Pilgrimage blogs: reflections by participants in real time during their tours: www.livingstonespilgrimage.org

Itinerary

(Note: Flexibility is important! The following events will be included as possible, but the order might change.)

Monday, Oct 16, Fly from home airport to TLV (Ben Gurion Airport), to meet group. Schedule arrival for 10/17.

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

Tue., Oct 17, Arrive in Tel Aviv late afternoon (Please schedule arrival between 2:00 and 6:00pm.) Arrivals at other times will receive help arranging transportation, but travel to Bethlehem at own expense.

Meet the group in the airport and travel by bus to Bethlehem. Meet host from Wi'am and check in at Holy Land Hotel, al Karkfah Street, Bethlehem. Brief orientation, dinner at the hotel, get some rest!

Wed., Oct 18, 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. Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit the Seraj Library and Al Rowwad Center there. Lunch at Wi'am. Visit Hope School in Beit Jala. Visit the Cremisan Valley and Cremisan Winery. Group time, dinner at the hotel.

Thur., Oct 19, Visit Old City of Jerusalem with Palestinian Christian guide. Guided tour of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque (if possible). Walk the Via Dolorosa. Including a stop at the Western Wall; visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Lunch on your own in the heart of the Old City. Visit the Mt. of Olives, walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations. Meet with Dalia Landau, Jewish subject of *The Lemon Tree*, at Tantur. Dinner and Group time at the hotel.

Fri., Oct 20, Travel just outside Bethlehem to Herodion Palace and to Beit Sahour to see the Shepherds' Fields. Return to the International Center of Bethlehem (Christmas Lutheran Church) to meet with Rev. Mitri Raheb or another representative of the Diyar Consortium. Lunch on the ICB Terrace. Tour the ICB. Walk to Manger Square through Star Street and visit Church of the Nativity. Return to our hotel for a guest speaker. Dinner at the hotel.

Sat., Oct 21, Travel to Hebron to see the effect of Israeli settlements in the Old City on the people. Meet with Christian Peacemaker Team volunteers at their office and hear about their work. Walk through (and shop in) the souk. Visit the Abrahamic Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. Visit one of the Hebron glass/ceramics factories. Travel to the Tent of Nations farm outside Bethlehem; meet with Nassar family, tour the farm, and help with olive harvest. Back at the hotel, meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle/Bereaved Families.

Sun., Oct 22, Free time before 10:30am worship at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. After church, bus down below sea level; lunch and visit Qumran (site of Dead Sea Scrolls discovery). Float/swim in the Dead Sea. On the drive back to Bethlehem stop for a sunset visit at the dramatic Wadi Qelt, overlooking St. George's Monastery.

Mon., Oct 23, Check out of Holy Land Hotel, say goodbye to Bethlehem hosts. Bus into Jerusalem to meet with Fr. Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral. Visit the UN Human Rights-watch organization, OCHA for their briefing on the effects of the Occupation. Cross the Qalandia Checkpoint to have lunch, then meet with Defense for Children-Palestine to hear about their work on behalf of Palestinian children arrested and held in Israeli prisons. Travel north to Nablus; visit Jacob's Well Church. Continue north to Zababdeh to meet Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, our host at St. George's Melkite Catholic Church. Dinner and overnight with local host families.

Tues., Oct 24, Breakfast with host families. Talk with Abuna Firas in the Church in Zababdeh. Travel to Sebastia, visit the Basilica of John the Baptist, ancient amphitheater, and pre-Roman ruins. Lunch in Sebastia. Visit the Canaan Olive Collective and the Church of Ten Lepers in Burqin; say good-bye to Usama. Leave the West Bank at the Jalameh Checkpoint. Bus to Ibillin, settle into the Mar Elias Guesthouse, and enjoy a welcome dinner.

Stay four nights in Ibillin. Dinner and Breakfast provided daily at the MEEI Guesthouse.

Wed., Oct 25, Visit Mar Elias high school for orientation to MEEI and visit English classes for small-group discussion with students. Tour the Mar Elias Campus including the Church of the Sermon on the Mount (with beautiful icons and stained glass windows) and the Auditorium (with its Reconciliation mural). Lunch and discussions with students and teachers. 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.

Thur., Oct 26, Visit Elementary or Middle School Classes after breakfast. 11:00 Bus to Nazareth, visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and the first century excavations beneath the Sisters of Nazareth Monastery. Walk through the souk; visit the Liwan Cultural Café. Visit Al Tufula Center for Women and Children to meet with founder Nabila Espanioly.

Fri., Oct 27, 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. Traditional Palestinian picnic lunch, in Biram. Bus to the 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 a small boat reminiscent of 1st century fishing boats. Return to Ibillin, tour Mar Elias Campus, including Church of the Sermon on the Mount. Dinner, speaker, discussion, rest!

Sat., Oct 28, Move out of the MEEI Guesthouse after breakfast (load the bus for later departure). Return to the Church of the Sermon on the Mount for final group discussion/closing worship. Our journey back to the airport will include stops in Haifa and Jaffa. We'll go to Ramle to enjoy our Last Supper 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 and 1am on Sunday. (However, we can arrange for an overnight resting place, if departures are at 5 or 6am instead.)

Sun., Oct 29 Fly home from Tel Aviv.

Tour Features and Considerations

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

PROGRAM FEE OF \$1950/person includes accommodations in comfortable hotel/guesthouse settings based on double occupancy; breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily except 4 lunches; one overnight homestay; 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. **Discount of \$50 is available, if signed registration form and \$450 deposit payment are received by June 30, 2017.**

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 Sept 1. Final payment of \$1450 is also due Sept. 15. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. If paying by credit card, please add a 2.6% surcharge. **PLEASE NOTE:** The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of December 2016, a minimum group size of 15, and are subject to availability and change.

FLIGHT RESERVATIONS. Arrange through our travel agent for individual airline reservations from your home airport to Tel Aviv and return. Make your plans so as to arrive in Tel Aviv on Oct 17 before 6:00pm. Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to our travel agent: Cindy Walker at Travel Leaders in Burlington, WA. 1-800-827-9645, cindy.walker@travellleaders.com.

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/>. You will receive your visa at passport control in Tel Aviv. 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.

OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: Insurance for baggage, health, and trip cancellation is available through our travel agent and is **strongly recommended.** Call Cindy Walker at Travel Leaders in Seattle for information (800-827-9645), or email her: cindy.walker@travellleaders.com. **Payment must be made to Travel Leaders within 10 days of registration, or pre-existing conditions will not be covered.**

REFUND POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing before Sept 15, 2017, a \$200 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. From Sept 15 on, 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 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 ~ Oct 16-29, 2017

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 registration deposit to: 1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704.

Registrations must be received by Sept 1, 2017. After that date, check with the tour leader.

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 each person’s 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: _____

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; or \$450/person if before 6/30/17). 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** _____