

Oct. 15-28, 2019

Living Stones Pilgrimage

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

Cost \$2,095/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. **\$50 Discount if reg. fee is received before 7/1/19**; balance due 9/15/19.

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 10.16.19. Departure near midnight, 10.28.19.**

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.

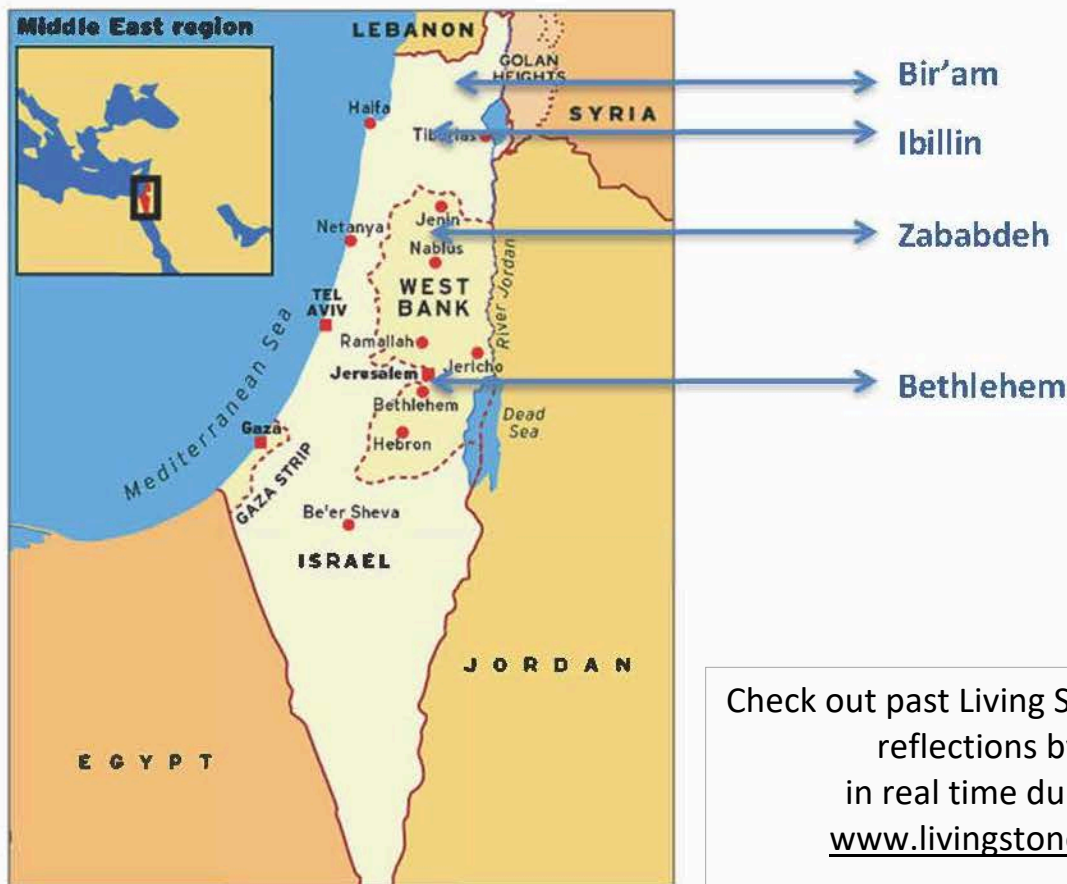
Experience the hospitality of local hosts.

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 - Oct. 15-28, 2019

October 15: Leave USA from home airport; Arrival + one day in Tel Aviv: Wednesday, Oct 16 (by 5:00pm!)

Meet Joan at airport. Group will bus together from airport to Bethlehem. Meet host from Wi'am and check in at Holy Land Hotel, Al Karkfah Street in Bethlehem. Brief orientation, dinner at the hotel, sleep!

Oct 16-23: Stay 7 nights at Holy Land Hotel, Bethlehem; Dinner and breakfast daily at hotel:

Thursday, Oct 17,

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 Community Center there. Lunch at Wi'am and watch the documentary film "Imprisoning a Generation." Visit the Cremisan Valley and Cremisan Winery tour. Quick visit at Hope School, Beit Jala. Group time and Dinner at the hotel.

Friday, Oct 18,

Bus to Shepherds' Fields in Beit Sahour. Visit Dar Al Kalima University College of Arts and Culture. Meet with Rev. Mitri Raheb. Lunch at the International Center of Bethlehem. Walk through the Old City of Bethlehem to Manger Square through Star Street. Visit Church of the Nativity, Free time in Manger Square area before returning to hotel.

Saturday, Oct 19,

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. Visit 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. Travel to the Tent of Nations farm outside Bethlehem; share lunch provided by the Nassar family and meet with family members; tour the farm.

Sunday, Oct 20,

Breakfast at the Hotel and free time. Worship at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Lunch at Afteem or another

Bethlehem Restaurant. Hike from Beit Jala through the agricultural land of Wadi El-Makhour valley and beautiful natural area to Battir village with ancient agricultural terraces that have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Non-hikers will have a free afternoon. Back at the hotel, meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle/Bereaved Families.

Monday, Oct 21,

Bus to Jerusalem and meet our Christian guide. Visit the Mt. of Olives, walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations. Cross to the Old City, enter Lion's Gate for guided tour of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque with Aouni Bazbaz. Lunch at ECCE HOMO Convent on Via Dolorosa; enjoy the rooftop view of the Old City. Continue Via Dolorosa walk, including a stop at the Western Wall; visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Meet at Tantur Ecumenical Center with Dalia Landau, Jewish subject of [The Lemon Tree](#).

Tuesday, Oct 22,

Leave Bethlehem, bus to Jericho. Stop at the Greek Orthodox Monastery, which includes remains of the famous sycamore tree. Visit overlook to Mount of Temptation Orthodox Monastery. Visit the Baptism Site on Jordan River, thought to be site of Jesus' baptism. Quick stop at St. Geronimos Monastery in Jordan Valley. Lunch and visit at Qumran, site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found; then float 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.

Wednesday, Oct 23,

Breakfast and check out of the Holy Land Hotel. Bus into East Jerusalem, visit with Father Hosam Naoum at St. George's Anglican Church. Mid-morning, walk to OCHA, the UN Human Rights-watch organization, for official briefing on the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Cross the Qalandia Checkpoint to Ramallah and have Lunch of falafel or shawarma. Meet with Ayed Abu Eqtaish from Defense for Children International-Palestine to hear about DCI's work on behalf of Palestinian children arrested and held in Israeli prisons. Travel north to Nablus; stop to enjoy knafeh and tea/coffee. Visit Jacob's Well Church. Continue north to Zababdeh to meet Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, our host at St. George's Melkite Catholic Church. Meet host families and disperse to their homes for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, Oct 24,

Breakfast with host families; reconvene at Parish House. Talk with Abuna Firas, help with olive picking. Bus to Sebastia, visit the Basilica of John the Baptist, ancient amphitheater, and pre-Roman ruins and have lunch. Visit the Church of Ten Lepers in Burqin. Visit Canaan Fair Trade Olive Collective to see the olive press in action and hear about Canaan. Say good-bye to Usama. Leave the West Bank through the Jalameh Checkpoint. Bus to Ibillin, settle into the Mar Elias Guesthouse, and enjoy a welcome dinner and group discussion time.

Stay 3 nights in Ibillin. Dinner and Breakfast provided daily at the MEEI Guesthouse:

Friday, Oct 25,

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

Saturday, Oct 26,

Visit Mar Elias high school for orientation to MEEI and visit English classes for small-group discussion with students. Mid-morning, bus to Nazareth. Visit Al Tufula Center for Women and Children to meet with founder Nabila Espanioly. Walk from Mary's Well to the Liwan Cultural Café for lunch and to meet with co-founder, Sally Azzam. Visit the Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation and St. Joseph's Church. Possible visit to Sisters of Nazareth excavations of first-century church and home beneath their convent. Mid-afternoon, 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.

Sunday, Oct 27,

08:00: Breakfast at MEEI. Check out of rooms and load bus; tour Church of the Sermon on the Mount, share closing worship (include communion) and end-of-tour group sharing time in sanctuary. Have lunch in Haifa and visit Bahai Gardens and Stella Maris. Bus to Ramle for special last dinner together at Samir's Restaurant. Return to airport by 8pm.

Monday, Oct 28, Fly home from Tel Aviv. *(Arrange your flight to leave just before midnight on 10/27 or v. early 10/28.)*

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 \$2,095/person includes accommodations in comfortable 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 paid by June 30, 2019 will receive a \$50 discount. Therefore, registrations paid before 7/1/19 = \$450/person.)

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 July 1, 2019. Final payment of \$1595 is due September 1, 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 Oct 16 before 5:00pm, and plan your flight home to leave Tel Aviv just before midnight on Oct 27 or in the wee hours of Oct 28. (Leaving later will require spending a night in the airport or paying extra for private hotel & 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@travelleaders.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 will 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 Sept 1, 2019, a \$200 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After Sept 1, 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 ~ Oct 15-28, 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 your place in this tour, please print and complete this form,
and mail along with your registration deposit to: 1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704.

Registrations due by June 30, 2019. After July 1, 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 registration fee, if received by 6/30/19. Balance of \$1,595 due by 9/1/19.)

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 _____