

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.

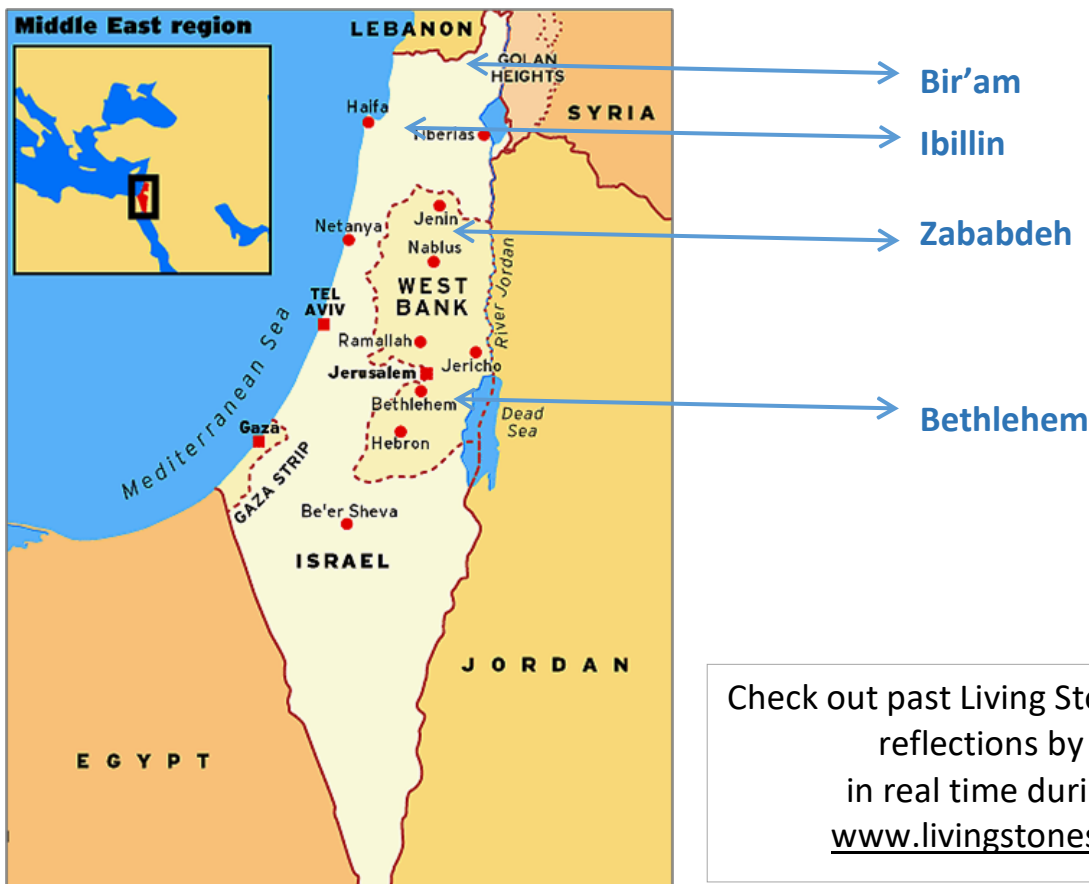
Experience the hospitality of local hosts.

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

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

Mon., May 13, Fly from home, headed to Tel Aviv. Arrival will be +1 day due to 7-10 hour time change.

Tues., May 14, arrive at the TLV airport by late afternoon. (We will help later airport arrivals arrange transportation to Ibillin, at own expense.) Bus together from airport to Ibillin and meet hosts at the Guesthouse on the campus of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions.

May 14-18: Stay 4 nights in Guesthouse at Mar Elias, including a meeting with Abuna Elias Chacour

Key Visits and Experiences in Ibillin, Haifa, Nazareth, and the Galilee Region:

In Ibillin:

- Visit Mar Elias High School and Mariam Bawardi grade school English classes and Learning Center
- Interact with students on campus – enjoy their excitement and welcome
- Meet with key MEEI leaders: Abuna Elias Chacour, Emil Haloun, Elias Abu Ghanima, English teachers, Guesthouse hosts
- Tour campus including Church of the Sermon on the Mount and the Auditorium with its Reconciliation Mural

Biram and the Sea of Galilee Holy Sites:

- Visit Abuna Chacour's home village of Biram with a native of the village (Toomi Magzal)
- Tabgha – Church of the Loaves and Fishes, Primacy of Peter (also at Tabgha), Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes
- Boat ride on Sea of Galilee (in small boats, reminiscent of first century fishing boats)

Nazareth Areas:

- Near Nazareth, visit the destroyed village of Saffuriya with British journalist Jonathan Cook to learn the history of the village, now Zippori moshav, including the little-known Byzantine and Crusader era Church of St. Anne
- In Nazareth, visit Al Tufula Center for Women and Children, and leader, Nabila Espanioly

- Visit and have lunch at the Liwan Cultural Café in Old City of Nazareth
- Visit Sisters of Nazareth Convent and excavations of first century home and church
- Visit Annunciation Churches (Greek Orthodox and Latin Catholic Basilica)

May 18: Travel from Ibillin through the West Bank to Bethlehem

- Cross from Israel into the West Bank at the Jalameh checkpoint
- Meet with Abuna Firas Khoury Diab from Zababdeh; hear his stories of the “Living Stones” of Palestine
- Visit Burqin: the Church of the Ten Lepers; Canaan Fair Trade Olive Collective
- Sebastia: Have lunch at Samaria Restaurant and visit the ancient Roman and biblical archeological sites
- Nablus: Visit the Jacob’s Well Church and enjoy a break for knafeh

May 18-25: Arrive in Bethlehem, Stay 7 nights in [The Holy Land Hotel](#) on Al Karkfah Street

Key Visits and Experiences in the Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah Area:

- Worship on Sunday morning with the congregation of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem
- Visit and meet with leaders of four of Pilgrims of Ibillin’s Peace-building Partners: Wi’am (Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center), Seraj Library in Aida Camp, Hope Secondary School, and Diyar Consortium (Lutheran educational and cultural schools, and sports and youth empowerment programs)
- Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit Al Rowwad Center
- Meet with Father Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem
- Attend briefing by United Nations OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories)
- Visit the Ramallah offices of Defense for Children International
- Tour Jerusalem and Bethlehem holy sites with Christian guides
- In the Old City of Jerusalem, get a guided tour of Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem; then walk the Via Dolorosa, and visit the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Meet at the Tantur Ecumenical Center with Dalia Landau, co-founder of the Open House (another Peace-building Partner of Pilgrims of Ibillin)

Hebron and the area South of Bethlehem:

- Visit Hebron: Ibrahimi Mosque/Synagogue and souk, walk Shuhada Street, visit Christian Peacemaker Teams
- Visit the Tent of Nations, Nassar family farm
- Visit the Cremisan winery; observe nearby expansion of settlements and Wall, and the village of Al Walajeh
- Meet with representatives of the Parents’ Circle / Bereaved Families Forum
- Jericho, possible visit to Jesus’ baptism site, Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls site, float in the Dead Sea
- Wadi Qelt desert overlook, Good Samaritan view of St. George’s Monastery and the road from Jerusalem down to Jericho

Hike in the beautiful Al Makhroul Valley (or free day)

- With Usama, Optional three-mile hike through the beautiful Al Makhroul Valley from Beit Jala to Battir
- Those who don’t choose to hike will have a free half-day in Bethlehem, with optional activities suggested

Saturday, May 25, Check out of the Holy Land Hotel after breakfast, gather in the Wi’am garden for closing worship and to take time to reflect on our pilgrimage 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 1am 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 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 received by February 28 receive a \$50 discount.)

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 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 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 _____
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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 before 2/28/19)

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 _____