



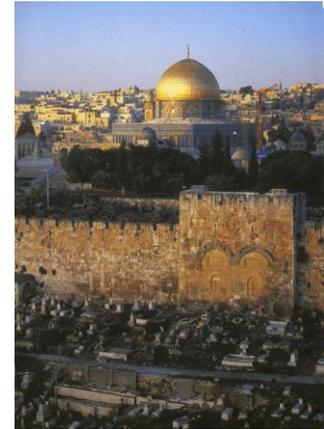
In the Footsteps of Jesus

An Alternative Tour to Palestine & Israel
January 30-February 10, 2015

Alternative (responsible) travel seeks to transform curious tourists into informed pilgrims by engaging the people who live in the land – and the history, culture, and social realities that shape their lives.

As the tour title suggests, many of the first-century conditions that shaped Jesus' life and ministry continue to shape the lives of Palestinians and Israelis today. In addition to exploring the holy stones – the historic places and sites that have defined the three monotheistic faiths – participants will engage the Living Stones: Jews, Muslims and Christians who live in the land.

Experienced tour leaders Jeff & Janet Wright have served as short-term missionaries to Israel/Palestine through the Disciples of Christ/UCC Global Ministries, having traveled there many times. Janet is a licensed clinical social worker. Working near Bethlehem, she and colleagues created an all-Arab training team in EMDR. Jeff is lead pastor of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fort Collins, Colorado. The tour will be accompanied by a professional, local guide.



To facilitate conversation, take advantage of unplanned opportunities and provide a more enriching experience, tour size is limited to around two dozen persons. Participants will: explore the holy sites of Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth (where Jesus was raised); visit the Abrahamic mosque and divided city of Hebron; tour Jericho, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River and more; learn from Global Ministries mission partners (www.globalministries.org); meet and discuss differing perspectives on the current political situation with Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders. Some meetings on the itinerary are subject to change due to speakers' availability and other conditions; substitutions of similar interest and quality are made.

Travel arrangements have been made through the award-winning Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies



(www.sirajcenter.org). Overnight accommodations are clean, comfortable and modest, booked to maximize our contact with the Living Stones and make the tour more affordable. *Past tour participants have rated the tour experience very highly.* Cost of the tour (based on twenty participants and excluding airfare) is \$1900.

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An Alternative Tour to Palestine & Israel

January 30-February 10, 2015

Hosted by Jeff and Janet Wright



www.footstepsofJesustour.org

Conditions on the ground and availability of speakers can dictate changes in the itinerary. Times for group worship & reflections vary each day.

Two of Siraj's awards:



Manger Square Hotel, Bethlehem

Tel: (0)2 277-8888

info@mangersquarehotel.com

Villa Nazareth Hotel, Nazareth

Tel: (0)4 600-0569

info@villa-nazareth.co.il

Golden Walls Hotel, Jerusalem

Tel: (0)2 627-2416

www.goldenwalls.com

Friday, January 30

Depart the U.S.

Saturday, February 31

Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer via motor coach to Bethlehem

After settling in at the Manger Square Hotel (located near the Nativity Church), we will meet for an orientation to the pilgrimage, have lunch at Afteem's, and tour the Nativity Church and Jerome's Cave.

Dinner and overnight at the Manger Square Hotel

Sunday, February 1

Early risers may visit the Manger Church or watch Bethlehem awake around Manger Square.

Breakfast at Manger Square Hotel

Worship

Bus to Jerusalem to tour Al Aqsa Mosque (the Temple Mount). Tour the Old City: Via Doloroso, Church of the Resurrection, Western Wall (Wailing Wall).

Lunch. Mount of Olives, Kidron Valley, Gethsemane and more.

Dinner in a local restaurant, overnight at Manger Square Hotel



Monday, February 2

Breakfast at Manger Square Hotel

Visit Shepherds Fields & the East Jerusalem YMCA Rehabilitation Program in Beit Sahour (a Global Ministries mission partner; www.shepherdsfieldymca.org)

Visit Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem for presentation by the Al Rowwad Cultural & Theatre Society (www.alrowwad-acts.ps)

Lunch on bus during drive to Jerusalem to Rawdat el Zuhur School (a Global Ministries mission partner, www.rawdat.org)

Meeting with B'tselem (www.btselem.org) for a conversation with the staff

Dinner at My Grandfather's House, Bethlehem

At Manger Square Hotel (where we'll overnight), meet with The Parents Circle (www.theparentscircle.com), bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families

Tuesday, February 3

Breakfast at Manger Square Hotel

Drive south to Hebron, tour the old city including the Tomb of the Patriarchs, and meet with the Christian Peacemaker Team (www.cpt.org/work/palestine)

Visit Tent of Nations (www.tentofnations.org) and plant olive trees

Dinner at the Family Tent in Beit Sahour; overnight at Manger Square Hotel

Wednesday, February 4

Breakfast at Manger Square Hotel

A free day ending with dinner at a local restaurant

Enjoy a day of rest, walking/shopping in Bethlehem, or an activity of your choice. Additional, optional day tours will be offered (locations and costs will be sent to pilgrims before the tour date)

Thursday, February 5

Breakfast at Manger Square Hotel

Bus to Jericho. Hike in the Wadi Qelt or tour Jericho (Hisham's Palace). Cable car to lunch on Mt. of Temptation

Visit Elisha's Spring, experience the Judean wilderness and the Jordan Valley

Visit the traditional baptismal site and swim in the Dead Sea

Drive to Nazareth

Dinner and overnight at Villa Nazareth, Nazareth

Friday, February 6

Breakfast at Villa Nazareth Hotel

Bus to I'billin to meet with Melkite Catholic Archbishop Elias Chacour (author of *Blood Brothers*)

Lunch at Stella Mares Guest House, visit the Canaanite altar below the church
Drive to the Galilee: Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Church of Loaves and Fishes and more
Dinner and overnight at Villa Nazareth Hotel

Saturday, February 7

Breakfast at Villa Nazareth Hotel
Explore first and second century ruins beneath the Sisters of Nazareth Convent
Tour Nazareth (Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well and more).
After lunch, travel to East Jerusalem to meet with the Sabeel Ecumenical Theology Center (a Global Ministries partner; www.sabeel.org)
Dinner and overnight at Jerusalem's Golden Walls Hotel (across from the Damascus Gate through the old city wall)

Sunday, February 8

Breakfast at Golden Walls Hotel
Worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church
Meet with a politically conservative Jewish voice to gain another Israeli perspective on security and peace
Lunch in the Armenian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem
Tour Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum (www.yadvashem.org)
Dinner and overnight at Golden Walls Hotel

Monday, February 9

Breakfast at Golden Walls Hotel
Travel to Ramallah to meet with Jean Zaru (author of *Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks*) in the meeting house of the Friends International Center (a Global Ministries partner; www.ramallahquakers.org)
After lunch on the street near the meeting house, meet with Sam Bahour, a Palestinian activist and businessman
Enjoy a cultural dinner (with debka dancing) in Beit Sahour as guests of our hosts, the Siraj Center.
Depart for airport, then depart for the U.S. late tonight

Tuesday, February 10

Arrive in the U.S. early a.m. to meet connecting flights to your final destination.



Tour Costs

The cost of the land package, \$1,900, is inclusive of ground transportation in Israel and Palestine, double occupancy accommodations, tips, entrance fees, guides, breakfasts and dinners. Cost of the land package is based on a minimum of twenty persons. Should less than twenty register (though it's never happened on our tours), the price per person will increase. A deposit of \$200 is required with trip registration. Final payment is due sixty days prior to departure. **The registration deadline is September 30.**

Participants will book and pay for their own roundtrip air transportation from their originating cities to Tel Aviv. Those who wish to travel with the group will depart out of Newark to Tel Aviv on United Airlines. Flight numbers will be announced soon. Others may want to make their arrangements on another airline. If your flight arrives more than an hour past the group's arrival time, there will be an extra charge (typically \$120) to be picked up at the airport and brought to Bethlehem. *Should you need help booking your ticket, please call us.*

Participants are responsible for passport application fees, a single room supplement (\$350, should you choose to room alone), travel insurance, the cost of lunches, bottled water and other beverages and souvenirs.

Partial refunds are available if, for health or another reason judged serious by the tour hosts and the Siraj Center, you must cancel.

Notes

- Persons who have health problems or trouble walking are discouraged from participating in this tour. The tour is physically demanding and, at times, requires strenuous walks over uneven surfaces.
- Currently, roundtrip airfare from Newark is running around \$1,100 for economy class. Again, participants are responsible for booking their own travel. With ample time to book, we will notify participants of the Newark departing and Tel Aviv departing flight numbers and times, for those who wish to travel with the group.
- A Tour Tips & Info brochure (info about what to pack, food, money exchange, etc.), along with occasional Tour Updates, will be sent as participants register.
- We suggest that you consider purchasing trip insurance. While we don't recommend any particular company, we have found policies around \$100/person that provide medical insurance, medical evacuation and trip interruption. Check with your own insurance carrier to discover what may be covered. A good comparative source for the various carriers is www.insuremytrip.com. If you are thinking about purchasing trip insurance, *please read the plan's coverage carefully*, including provisions for exclusions (such as travel to Palestine), limitations, and the length of the period during which you are allowed to enroll after you complete your "In the Footsteps" trip registration.

Books

Introduce yourself to some of the issues we'll be exploring by reading *Blood Brothers* by Fr. Chacour, *I Am a Palestinian Christian* by Mitri Raheb, *Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks* by Jean Zaru, or *The General's Son* by Miko Peled. Our favorites are Fr. Chacour's and Miko Peled's books. Once your registration is received, regular Tour Updates will be sent.

For more information, you may contact the Wrights directly:

Jeff Wright, 6522 Royal Country Down Drive, Windsor, CO 80550
970/223-1230 (office); 217-3065 (cell); wright@frii.com

**Blessed are the Peacemakers:
In the Footsteps of Jesus**
An Educational Tour to Palestine & Israel
January 30-February 10, 2015



Registration Form

One form per person

Contact Information

Name (**as on passport**): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Passport Number: _____ Date of birth: ____/____/____

Originating Airport: _____ (three-letter code: _____)

Emergency Contact Information

Please name *two* contacts in case of an emergency:

#1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Other (E-mail/cell) _____

#2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Other (E-mail/cell) _____

Confirmation

_____ Please add my name to the tour; enclosed is my \$200 deposit (Make deposit payable to Jeff Wright; on memo line, write *Pilgrimage*).

_____ Attached is a copy of my passport; _____ I will send when I receive it.

_____ I do not have any physical or dietary restrictions.

_____ I request a single room (supplement is \$350).

_____ I do have physical and/or dietary restrictions. Please explain:

Complete and send the form with a check for \$200 per person to:
Jeff Wright, 6522 Royal Country Down Drive, Windsor, CO 80550; wright@frii.com