



In the Footsteps of Jesus

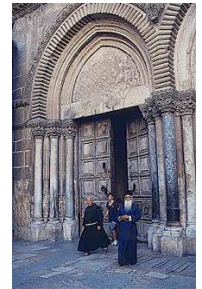
An Alternative Tour to Palestine & Israel
January 25-February 4, 2013

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.

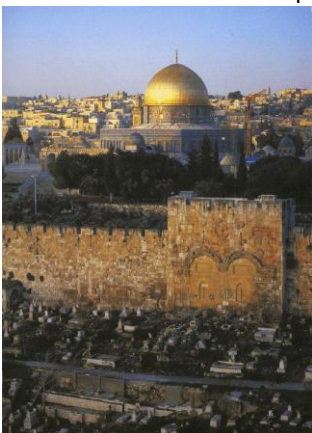
As the tour title suggests, many of the first-century conditions that shaped Jesus' life and ministry continue to shape the lives of Palestinians and Israelis today. In addition to exploring the holy stones – the historic places and sites that have defined our faith – participants will engage the Living 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 mental health therapist. Working near Bethlehem, she and colleagues recently 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 Qumran, 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 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 \$1,760.

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An Alternative Tour to Palestine & Israel

January 25-February 4, 2013

(Draft itinerary)

Hosted by Jeff and Janet Wright



www.footstepsofJesustour.org

Friday, January 25

Depart the U.S. (Turn to the last page to learn about travel arrangements.)

Saturday, January 26

Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer via motor coach to Bethlehem

After settling in at the Casa Nova Palace Hotel (located next to the Nativity Church), we will have a short walk about the old city, an orientation to the tour, and a brief overview of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Dinner and overnight at the Casa Nova Palace Hotel
(www.casanovapalace.com)

Sunday, January 27

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

Breakfast at Casa Nova Palace.

Bus to Jerusalem to tour Al Aqsa Mosque (the Temple Mount), then worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Tour the Old City: Via Doloroso, Church of the Resurrection, Western Wall (Wailing Wall), Mount of Olives, Kidron Valley, Gethsemene and more.

Dinner in a local restaurant

Overnight at Casa Nova Palace

Monday, January 28

Breakfast at Casa Nova Palace.

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

After a falafel and hummus lunch on Manger Square, tour Nativity Church (presumed birthplace of Jesus), Jerome's Cave and more.

Drive to Jerusalem for conversation with the staffs of B'tselem (www.btselem.org) and Combatants for Peace (www.cfpeace.org).

Dinner in a local Bethlehem restaurant.

Overnight at Casa Nova Palace Hotel.



Tuesday, January 29

Breakfast at Casa Nova Palace.

Visit Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, meet with camp leaders at the Al Rowwad Cultural Center (www.alrowwad-acts.ps)

Drive south to Hebron to meet with the Christian Peacemaker Team (www.cpt.org/work/palestine). Tour the old city with Walid Abu Halawa, Director of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (www.hebronrc.org), including the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

After lunch, visit Tent of Nations (www.tentofnations.org) and share in olive tree planting.

Dinner and overnight at Casa Nova Palace.

Wednesday, January 30

Breakfast at Casa Nova Palace.

Bus to Jericho to experience the Judean wilderness and the Jordan Valley. Cable car to lunch on Mt. of Temptation, explore Qumran and swim in the Dead Sea.

Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Nazareth.

Thursday, January 31

Breakfast at Sisters of Nazareth Convent.

Explore first and second century ruins beneath the convent, and tour Nazareth (Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well and more).

Bus to Galilee: Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Church of the Loaves and Fishes and more.

Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth Convent.

Friday, February 01

Breakfast at Sisters of Nazareth Convent.

Bus to Haifa to meet with Melkite Catholic Archbishop Elias Chacour (author of *Blood Brothers*). Visit Caesarea. Travel to East Jerusalem to meet with representatives of Sabeel Ecumenical Theology Center (a Global Ministries partner; www.sabeel.org).

Dinner and overnight at Jerusalem's Golden Walls Hotel (directly across from the Damascus Gate through the old city wall).



Saturday, February 2

Breakfast at Golden Walls Hotel.

Visit Rawdet el Zuhur School (a Global Ministries mission partner, www.rawdat.org).

Travel to Ramallah. 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).

Drive east to Taybeh to meet with Fr. Raed Sahlieh (Latin Catholic Church) and tour the church's House of Parables and the Taybeh Brewery. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at Golden Walls Hotel.

Sunday, February 3

Breakfast at Golden Walls Hotel.

Meet with a politically conservative Jewish voice to hear an Israeli perspective on security and peace. Tour Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum (www.yadvashem.org).

Free time in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Cultural dinner in Beit Sahour as guests of our hosts, the Siraj Center.

Depart for airport, and depart for the U.S. late tonight.

Monday, February 4

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

See information about costs, transportation and registration, and other notes on next page.

Registration form is on last page.



Tour Costs

The cost of the land package, \$1,760, 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 only eighteen persons register for the tour, the price per person is \$1,870; should only sixteen persons register, the price per person will be \$1,960. Should twenty-four persons register, the price per person will be \$1,600. 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 \$150) 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 (\$300, should you choose to room alone), travel insurance, the cost of lunches, bottled water, soft drinks 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 \$1,120 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 \$45/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, and/or *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. Our favorite is Fr. Chacour's book. 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); 223-8465 (home)

**Blessed are the Peacemakers:
In the Footsteps of Jesus**
An Educational Tour to Palestine & Israel
January 25-February 4, 2013



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 \$290).

_____ 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