



YMCA STUDY TOUR to JERUSALEM

May 9th to May 21st, 2010

Greetings YMCA Friends and Colleagues,

In the spirit of promoting international awareness, peace and tolerance on a global scale, the International Branch of the YMCA of Greater New York is pleased to sponsor the **2010 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem**.

This amazing and inspirational opportunity is open to YMCA volunteers, staff and friends of the movement, who would like to experience the YMCA's work in the "Holy Land" first hand, as well as visit beautiful locations throughout the region.

This will be the *third year* this study tour has offered an opportunity for YMCA staff and volunteers to see the truly wonderful and enlightening work of the YMCA movement on a global scale, and learn about the rich history, religions and cultures of one of the best known and revered regions of the world.

In this packet, you will find answers to most of your questions, but if you would like to know more or want to speak with us in person, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be glad to hear from you!

Program Dates:

May 9th to May 21st, 2010

Leadership:

The trip will be led by former International YMCA Executive Director Alice "Bonnie" Mairs.

Host:

Our "home" YMCA will be the Jerusalem International YMCA Three Arches Hotel, which is very comfortable and is in a very safe part of the city. We will spend several days at Peniel, the Y's beautiful Conference Center on the Sea of Galilee. The East Jerusalem YMCA will also host us during visits to several of its YMCAs.

Program Overview:

The trip program will include:

- Tours of YMCA activities and program sites;
- Visits to historical, socially significant and biblical sites (Jerusalem, Jordan and more);
- Meetings with YMCA members and staff;
- Lectures and discussion with a variety of specialists in many aspects of life in the region;
- Loads of inspiration, life-changing experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

Who:

1. YMCA staff, volunteers, board members, family and friends from across the United States
2. Group Size: **Minimum of 15 participants**

Our Goals:

To enable YMCA trip participants to:

- Gain first-hand knowledge of the amazing work the Jerusalem International YMCA has been doing in the region for 125 years;
- Develop an understanding of the challenges facing this region and explore a model for peace, tolerance and understanding;
- Enjoy all the wonders of Jerusalem as a historical, religious, and modern city.

Program Fee: US\$3,250 (*\$3,700 for a single room*)

Program fees include:

- Round trip airfare from NYC to Jerusalem & ground transfers
- Nine nights at the YMCA hotel in Jerusalem and Galilee
- Professional guide, most meals and entrance fees for the duration of the program

Fees DO NOT include: passport, personal expenses, beverages, medical or trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Payment Schedule:

- Non-refundable deposit - *\$400* with full application is due on **Friday, February 12th, 2010.**
- ***FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS also due FRIDAY, February 12th, 2010.***
- Full balance of payment is due *Friday, March 26th, 2010.* No exceptions will be possible.

Security:

- Security is always a primary concern on YMCA trips. We will not go anywhere that the Jerusalem International YMCA does not feel is safe.

Standard Photo/Graphics Release:

In consideration of the good will, public service and community aids provided by the YMCA of Greater New York, I hereby grant permission to take and publish photographs, video tapes, motion pictures and recording of me for any legitimate purpose including use in the media or in YMCA promotional materials.

I release all rights to such photographs, video tapes, motion pictures and recordings, and I acknowledge that the YMCA will be the sole owner of all rights arising out of their use for all purposes.

I hereby relinquish my option to pursue legal action against the YMCA for the use of any material containing or using, intentionally or unintentionally, the likeness of me. I understand that I shall receive no compensation for their use from any source whatsoever.

Financial Assistance:

Several donors have generously donated funds to be used for scholarships for this amazing opportunity. These funds were donated in memory of William Sword, Sr. The International YMCA will award scholarships to qualified YMCA professionals (Age 30 and younger) with strong international interests and motivations. Financial assistance application material is provided in this packet. *Preference will be give to those who have not yet traveled outside the United States.* Please contact Chad or Imade with any questions. Please note that applications for financial assistance are *due on Friday, February 12th, 2010* to Chad Nico Hiu.

Staff Contact Info:

Chad Nico Hiu
Program Director
International YMCA
212.875.4328
chiu@ymcanyc.org

Bonnie Mairs
Volunteer/Trip Leader
International YMCA
212.666.4736
bonnie1673@earthlink.net

Imade Idusuyi
Program Assistant
International YMCA
212.727.8800 ext. 4316
itracy@ymcanyc.org



REGISTRATION FORM

2010 YMCA STUDY TOUR to JERUSALEM

Please PRINT or TYPE your name exactly as it appears in your passport.

Mail with deposit to Chad Nico Hiu, International YMCA, 5 West 63rd St. - 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10023 Phone: 212.875.4328 Email: chiu@ymcanyc.org

Family name: _____ First name: _____
 Middle name: _____ Name-tag name: _____
 Home Street address: _____ Apt: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Passport #: _____
 Phone – Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____ Fax: _____ Citizenship: _____

Home YMCA: _____
 YMCA address: _____
 Position at YMCA: _____ # of years in position: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone – Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____

Accommodation Options: *(Please check one option)*

- Double room** – Sharing with *(name of person)*: _____ **(\$3,250 per person)**
 Double room – Willing to share with any other participant of the same gender **(\$3,250 per person)**
 Single room – \$450 additional cost **(\$3,700 per person)**

Trip Conditions:

I understand that this trip includes roundtrip coach airfare from NYC, hotels and meals, in-country transportation, tour guide and entrance fees. It *does not* cover personal items, alcoholic beverages, tips or other incidentals. I certify that I am in good health and able to handle the stress associated with this trip. I understand that I must provide my own health insurance and that I have the option of purchasing medical/trip cancellation insurance (brochure to be provided) through the YMCA.

Cancellation Policy:

Notice of cancellations must be done in writing (via email or fax) and submitted to chiu@ymcanyc.org or faxed attn: Chad to 212.724.2344. You will receive a confirmation via email or phone once your cancellation has been received. Refund amounts schedule is as follows:

- Prior to February 12 - full refund less the \$400 deposit
- February 12 to March 26 – all recoverable fees at the time of cancellation will be refunded (less the \$400 deposit)
- After March 26 – no refund will be issued

Indemnity Agreement/Release Waiver:

I hereby indemnify, defend and hold harmless the YMCA of Greater New York and its branches, officers, directors, partners, agents and employees from and against any and all demands, claims causes of action, damages to persons or property, losses and liabilities, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from any act taken or committed by any party hereto pursuant to my election to become a member of the YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem, including any and all representations, or eligibility requirements made to or imposed by any governmental department or agency of any country. I HAVE CAREFULLY READ, I UNDERSTAND, AND AS AN INDUCEMENT TO THE YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK TO ALLOW MYSELF TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS DELEGATION, I AGREE TO THE FOREGOING.

Payment Options: *(check one option)*

- By **personal check**. My check for \$400 made out to 'International YMCA' is attached. I will send the balance (\$2850 double, \$3300 single) by March 26th, 2010.
 By **credit card**. Please charge my card \$300 now and the balance on March 26th, 2010.

Credit card company/type: _____ Name of holder: _____
 Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Printed Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
 Billing address: _____

I agree to all information provided in this application packet – Participant Signature: _____

TRIP REPORT – 2008 YMCA STUDY TOUR TO JERUSALEM

Written by Bonnie Mairs, Volunteer Trip Leader/Executive Director Emeritus – International Branch YMCA

Can you imagine spending 11 days in Jerusalem and the Holy Land learning about the work of the YMCAs in the area? Nineteen lucky people did just that in May 2006. We had a remarkable experience. Rizek Abusharr, former Director of the Jerusalem International YMCA, arranged our program with the wonderful help of the YMCAs in East and West Jerusalem. Highlights of the study tour included:

- Looking over the golden city of Jerusalem at sunset from the tower of the Jerusalem International Y, the most beautiful Y in the world,
- Walking from the Mount of Olives down to the Garden of Gethsemane and then up the Via Dolorosa, winding through tiny streets and an Arab market place, past the Wailing Wall, sacred to Jews, and the Dome of the Rock, sacred to Muslims, to the Church of the Holy Sepulture, sacred to Christians,
- Passing through checkpoints and newly walled-off areas as we visited YMCAs in the West Bank. The walls are 20 foot high concrete slabs that are designed to prevent suicide bombers but they also cut many people off from their schools, fields and places of work
- Seeing the co-existence activities West Jerusalem Y in action; talking with students at the YMCA vocational school in Jericho; learning about the Bethlehem Y's rehabilitation programs and work with children affected by the Intifada; visiting the Nazareth Y and an outreach center in Northern Israel,
- Touring the new Ramallah YMCA, now under construction, with its architect. It will have 3 swimming pools and many outreach programs for youth of that city.
- Exploring Masada, high on a mountain, where Jews defended themselves against the Romans, and the Dead Sea, so salty that we swam on it rather than in it,
- Struggling to understand the many opinions and different histories behind the tensions and the pain in the area,
- Relaxing at Peniel, the Y's beautiful retreat center on the Sea of Galilee,
- Attending religious services and visiting the homes of Y members of different faiths in Jerusalem, and
- Feeling very proud of the Ys in the Holy Land. Very dedicated volunteers and staff are providing wonderful services under tremendously difficult situations.

Our group included: Y retirees Vince and Phyllis, Hazel Coates from Omaha and her 16 year old granddaughter, George and Joann Nichols from Seattle: CEOs Marion Bolton and her husband Dave from Albuquerque, Greg du Sablon from Yonkers, NY, and Julie Watkins, Director of Snow Mountain Ranch and her husband Les; plus International Branch Board member Scarlett Pildes; Jennifer Hurwitz from California, and Jane Malless from Indianapolis. In addition four young staff under 30 added their special perspective: Dan Garber from New York City, Heather Dougherty from Salem, Oregon; Kaleen Bailey from the Armed Service Y in Anchorage; and Sebastian Bailey of Yonkers, NY. They were selected to receive trip scholarships funded by money given in memory of William Sword, Sr., former chair of the YMCA Retirement Fund.

Harold Smith, former President of the YMCA Retirement Fund, and I were to be trip leaders but unfortunately Harold was unable to travel. We sang and shouted "We miss you, Harold" to him from several places, and we hope he heard us.

If you, your YMCA or your retired Y directors' group is looking for a memorable experience, one you won't forget, in the Holy Land, plan to join the 2008 trip.

TENTATIVE Itinerary May 9-21 (as of December 4th, 2009)

Sunday May 9 - Travel Day

6:00 pm Flight IB6250 from New York JFK @ 1800-

Monday, May 10 – Arrival

7:10 a.m. Arrive Madrid at 0710

9:50 a.m. Depart Madrid on Iberia 3754 at 1005

2:40 p.m. Arrive Tel Aviv at 1510. Transfer to Jerusalem.
Meet your driver, Transfer to your hotel

6:30 p.m. Orientation in the lobby. Enjoy the view from the JIY tower.

8 p.m. **Dinner and Welcome in the JIY board room with the new General Secretary. Overnight at the JIY**

Tuesday, May 11 – Jerusalem

8 a.m. Breakfast

Depart for the Mount of Olives and view of Jerusalem.

All day walking tour of the four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem, including:
• **the Wailing Wall, Via Dolorosa , the Church of the Holy Sepulcher**

Lunch in the Old City

4 p.m. Return to the JIY

7:30 p.m. Dinner at Nafoura restaurant in Jerusalem.
Guest speaker: **Dr. Bernard Sabella**, Director of Department Service for Palestinian refugees

Overnight at JIY

Wednesday, May 12 – Nazareth and Tiberias

7 a.m. Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Depart for the Galilee.
Drive via the Coastal Road and visit the remains of Herod's ancient Roman city of Caesarea.

1 p.m. Visit Nazareth village, a reconstructed farm and Galilean village, as it was 2,000 years ago.

Lunch at Nazareth village, in the atmosphere of first century hospitality!
Visit Church of the Annunciation and see the grotto built in the third century.

4:30 p.m. Arrive at Peniel for check-in.

7:30 p.m. Barbecue Dinner /Overnight at YMCA Peniel-by-Galilee

Thursday, May 13 - The Galilee, a land of Miracles plus a Jewish context

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m. **With Rabbi Marc Rosenstein**, Director of the Shorashim Seminar Center for Coexistence and Values Education

9:45 a.m. Visit sights relating to the Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee

- Mount of Beatitudes – a Franciscan church built in 1938, higher up on the hill from the Sermon on the Mount
- Tabgha -- Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fishes, the site of the Sermon on the Mount
- Capernaum – archeological remains from "the town of Jesus" and in some way the cradle of Christianity

Lunch en route

Visit the Baptismal site at the point at which the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight at Paniel in Tiberias

Friday, Mat 14–	To Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
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8 a.m.	Through Sheik Hussein crossing cross to Jordan. Visit Jerash. Continue to Medaba and Mount Nebo . back to Amman for overnight
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Saturday, May 15	Petra – World wonder
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Full day Petra

Sunday, May 16	Back from Jordan
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7:30 a.m.	Early Breakfast
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8:15 a.m.	To Jerusalem via King Hussein Bridge.
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Via the Jordan River Valley to the Dead Sea and view Qumran caves, site of discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Qumran was the home of a Jewish sect, commonly thought to be the Essenes, from approximately 134 BC until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD

Continue to your hotel in Jerusalem

Monday, May 17	YMCA Programs – After Mass , Moslem context
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09-11:00	Masses at different Churches with local congregations
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Trip to Hebron. Visit Allbrahimi Mosque and the old city.

Dinner with SPEAKER: **Mr. Mustafa Abu Sway**, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies and Director of the Islamic Research Center at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem

Tuesday, May 18 –	YMCA East Jerusalem programs in the West Bank
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8:30 a.m.	Meet JIY Program Staff
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9:30 a.m.	Depart to visit the East Jerusalem YMCA.
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Visit their program departments --

- Vocational training center in Jericho – the city of Jericho is believed to be one of the [oldest continuously-inhabited cities in the world](#)
- Beit Sahour – Visit Shepherd's Field, where the Angel pronounced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Including Lunch(
- Bethlehem - Tour the Church of the Nativity, the oldest church in the Holy Land still in use, commemorating the birthplace of Jesus

7:30 p.m.	Dinner with families of the YMCA East Jerusalem
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Wednesday, May 19 – West Jerusalem and different faces in the City

8 a.m. Breakfast.

9:00 a.m. Depart for Yad Vashem, the memorial to the murdered Six Million. Meet your guide

11:30 a.m. Visit the charming village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist.

Light lunch at Cafeteria

3:30 p.m. Visit the Israel Museum:

- **Shrine of the Book - Hundreds of ancient scrolls written on parchment were found in the mountain caves of Qumran. These scrolls, some of which are the earliest known texts from the Hebrew Bible, are housed in this shrine.**
- **Model of first century Jerusalem**

5:30 - 7 p.m. Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel at the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI). ***Two Peoples, Two Stories, One Land***, by Ophir Yarden, veteran tour guide and educator for inter-religious groups

Wednesday, May 19 – Free day

Free day (may include meeting and visit to the main Synagogue)

7:30 p.m. Concluding dinner, in the JIY board room

Thursday, May 20 – Free day

Free day

Friday May 21 – Departure

Leave hotel at 02:15 . Departure flight at 0615

TLV MAD 21MAY IB3751 0610 - 1030

MAD JFK 21MAY IB6251 1355 - 1605

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – Supervisor Reference Sheet 2010 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem

Deadline: February 12th, 2010

Give this page to your supervisor and request they submit the form directly to:

*Chad Nico Hiu
International YMCA
Fax: 212.724.2344
Email: chiu@ymcanyc.org*

I believe this applicant is worthy of receiving a scholarship to participate in the 2010 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem. He/she has my support and, if selected, will be free and able to participate in the entire trip from May 9th to May 21st, 2010. I understand that the full amount of scholarship available per participant may vary. Our YMCA and/or the applicant will be responsible to pay the balance. I will see to it that this applicant has many opportunities to share the experience and tell the story of their adventure throughout our YMCA and the community we serve.

Name (please print): _____ Title: _____
Daytime phone: _____ Email: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please tell us why you are recommending this staff member:

Why do you feel this applicant would benefit from the experience of participating in the 2009 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem?

Is there any other information you would like to share about the applicant?