



YMCA STUDY TOUR to JERUSALEM

May 1st to May 11th, 2008

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 2008 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 and breath-taking locations throughout the region.

This is 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 most well 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 1st – May 11th, 2008

Leadership:

The trip will be led by one YMCA of Greater New York staff member and volunteer Alice "Bonnie" Mairs.

Host:

Norris Lineweaver, Secretary General of the Jerusalem International YMCA, will be our host. Our "home" YMCA will be the Jerusalem International YMCA. Its Three Arches Hotel is very comfortable and is in a very safe part of the city. We will spend several days at Peniel, the YMCA'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;
- Meetings with YMCA members and staff;
- Lectures and discussion with a variety of specialists in many aspects of life in the region; and
- 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 21 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 Fees: US\$2950 (\$3300 for a single room)

Program fees include:

- Round trip airfare from NYC to Jerusalem & air 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, tips, etc.

Payment Schedule:

- Non-refundable deposit - \$250 with full application is due on **Wednesday, March 12th, 2008.**
- ***IF APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:*** full application material is due by March 3rd, 2008.
- Full balance of payment is due April 1st, 2008. 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. Currently tourism is a booming industry in the area.
- All participants will be urged to take trip cancellation insurance.

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 \$2,000 scholarships to qualifying YMCA professionals (Age 30 and below) with strong international interests and motivations. Financial assistance application material is provided in this packet. Please contact Chad with any questions. Please note that applications for financial assistance are due on Monday, March 3rd, 2008 to Chad Nico Hiu.

Contact Info:

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

Bonnie Mairs
Volunteer
International YMCA
212.666.4736
bonnie1673@earthlink.net



REGISTRATION FORM

2008 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): _____ (\$2,950 per person)
___ Double room - Willing to share with any other participant of the same gender (\$2,950 per person)
___ Single room - \$350 additional cost (\$3,300 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 April 1st - full refund less the \$250 deposit
• April 1st - 15th - all recoverable fees at the time of cancellation will be refunded (less the \$250 deposit)
• After April 15th - 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 \$250 made out to the YMCA International Branch is attached. I will send the balance (\$2700 double, \$3050 single) by April 1st, 2008.
___ By credit card. Please charge my card \$250 now and the balance on April 1st, 2008.

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 – 2006 YMCA STUDY TOUR TO JERUSALEM

Written by Bonnie Mairs, 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 YMCS 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.

YMCA Study Tour – May 2008

Tentative Itinerary as of February 13, 2008

- Thu. May 1 - 18:00 Depart JFK on flight IB6250
- Fri. May 2 - 07:10 Arrive Madrid
08:35 Depart Madrid on IB6990
15:25 Arrive Tel Aviv
Transfer to JIY by Coach
19:30 View the City from the Y Tower
20:00 Dinner and Overnight at JIY.
- Sat. May 3 - 07:30 Gathering in the Chapel
08:00 Breakfast
08:30 Depart for the Mt. Of Olives and view of Jerusalem. Walking tour in the Old City. Visiting sites including the Way of the Cross, The Wailing Wall, & the holy Sepulcher. Lunch in the Old City.
16:00 Return to JIY
19:00 Dinner at JIY followed by Discussion and Dialogue Seminar (Panel of three speakers).
Overnight at JIY
- Sun. May 4 - 07:15 Gathering
07:30 Breakfast
10:00 Church Service in 2 locations (St. Andrews church and St James)
11:30 Depart for Yad Vashem and Ein Karem. Lunch en route.
12:30 Lunch at Ein Karem
13:30 Driving tour around Old and New Jerusalem
16:00 Back to Hotel. Rest and free time
19:30 Dinner with “Friends” at Nafoura restaurant in Jerusalem with guest speaker Palestinian Christian
Overnight at JIY
- Mon. May 5 - 07:00 Early breakfast
08:15 Tour of the YMCA Building
09:15 Meet with and Y staff
10:00 Bus to East Jerusalem YMCA
Visiting Jericho, Beth Sahour, Bethlehem. Lunch in Bethlehem and Dinner with the East Jerusalem YMCA. Program hosted by the East Jerusalem YMCA
18:00 Dinner with East Jerusalem YMCA at Azzahra hotel
20:00 Back to 3 Arches Hotel
21:30 Arab-Jewish Folklore Show at the JIY. Overnight at JIY
- Tue. May 6 - 07:00 Breakfast
07:30 Depart for the Massada (visit), Dead Sea and Swim, view Qumran Caves. Lunch en Route
Drive up the Jordan Valley
16:00 Visit Baptismal Site
18:30 Worship Service in the Harte Chapel at Peniel YMCA
19:30 Barbecue Dinner at Peniel
Overnight at YMCA Paniel-by-Galilee
- Wed. May 7 - 06:00 View Sunrise over the Lake
07:00 Breakfast
07:45 Sightseeing around the Sea of Galilee visiting sights relating to the Ministry of Jesus.

12:30 Sail from Capernaum to the Eastern Shore
13:00 **Lunch at Kibbutz Ein Gev on the Sea.**
14:30 Depart for Paniel for rest and swim
19:00 Dinner and Overnight at Paniel

Thu. May 8 - 07:30 Breakfast
08:30 Depart for Eilaboon, Visit the Outreach Y-Program and meet with Samer
10:00 Depart for Nazareth Visit Basilica of Annunciation.
12:00 Nazareth Village and Lunch.
15:30 Meet Nazareth YMCA board
20:00 Dinner with some Nazareth Y Board Members upon possibility.
Overnight at Paniel.

Fri. May 9 - 08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Depart to Jerusalem via Haifa, and the Coastal Road.
13:00 Lunch en route. - Afternoon - Free time
19:00 Dinner at the JIY
20:00 Home Hospitality. Overnight at JIY.

Sat. May 10- 07:30 Breakfast
08:30 Depart for Ramallah YMCA . Lunch at Al Nabaa
13:00 Afternoon free
18:30 Dinner at the JIY

Sun. May 11- 02:30 Depart for Airport
06:45 Flight to Madrid on IB3751
11:00 Arrive Madrid
1300 Depart to New York on IB 6251
1301 Arrive JFK – Back home

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change

Price includes:

- Accommodation in Hotels as follows:
Jerusalem 6 nights 3 ARCHES
Tiberias 3 nights YMCA-Paniel
- Most meals
- Escort of well experienced licensed guides throughout the tour.
- Transportation in air-conditioned Bus.
- Entrance fees to all places visited.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – Supervisor Reference Sheet

2008 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem

Deadline: March 3, 2008

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 2008 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 1st to May 11th, 2008. I understand that the full amount of scholarship available per participant is US\$2000. 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 2008 YMCA Study Tour to Jerusalem?

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