

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS INTERNATIONAL
Interfaith Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine
27 October – 5 November 2010



A Journey to the Heart:
Inner Paths to Compassion, Connection, and Peace

- **Learn and meditate in places holy to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.**
- **Walk in the steps of our past to discover fuller dimensions of our present.**
- **Honor Place, Celebrate Presence, Become More Fully Alive.**

Guides: Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon, Sheikh Jamal Rahman (The Interfaith Amigos)

Spiritual Directors International Host: Rev. Terry Moran

Local Host: Canon Iyad Qumri, Christian Palestinian Guide

Intention

Together, we will learn about each other's heritage of spiritual companionship. Together we will co-create a pilgrimage community of interfaith compassion, connection, and peace. Together we will discover, grow, and be transformed by the sacred history and current culture of Israel and Palestine. Together we will contribute contemplative gifts of peace to Israel and Palestine with our prayers and presence.

Basic Schedule for the Pilgrimage

Each day begins and ends with group meditation, prayer, and includes time for sharing. With few exceptions, each morning will combine a walking tour and teaching. Most afternoons will be unstructured, allowing time for exploration, rest, sketching, journaling, and usually with a group meditation before dinner. Our schedule will be flexible to accommodate our needs as we journey together in outer and inner realms of the sacred. We will not only grow in awareness of the ancient heritage of spiritual companionship, but also become spiritual companions for each other as fellow pilgrims during each day.

To register for the pilgrimage, visit Spiritual Directors International, www.sdiworld.org

The Focus of Each Day



Wednesday, October 27: Arrival and Grounding

We will meet our host, Iyad Qumri, at the Tel Aviv airport, and travel together to St. George's College in Jerusalem, where we will spend the first seven nights of our journey. Our pilgrimage will begin with a brief walking tour to the nearby Damascus Gate and opening meditation.

Thursday, October 28: Overview, Introductions, and Intentions

Travel to Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane.



Friday, October 29: Releasing Expectations

Travel to Mount Zion, the Room of the Last Supper, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. Noontime Muslim prayer. Evening honoring of Shabbat.



Saturday, October 30: Energies of Birthing

Travel to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. Meet with a Palestinian peace worker. Evening celebration of Muslim spirituality.



Sunday, October 31: Meeting the Dark Places

Travel to Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Museum. Gather for sharing following lunch, with the rest of the afternoon free. Evening celebration of the Christian Sabbath.



Monday, November 1: Into the Light

Journey to the Dead Sea where you will have the option to swim – or really float – and benefit from the healing properties of Dead Sea mud.



Tuesday, November 2: Places of Transformation Travel to the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock, Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb. Meditation at the Western Wall.



Wednesday, November 3: Realities Behind Reality

Travel to Nazareth, where we will spend the final two nights of our pilgrimage. Visit Safed, the city of Jewish mystics.



Thursday, November 4: Core Teachings on the Spiritual Path

Travel to Mount of Beatitudes and Korazim. Final sharing and meditation.

Friday, November 5: Sharing Blessings with the World

Farewells, departures, journey onward.





Guides

Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon, and Sheikh Jamal Rahman have been working together since 9-11-2001. They have become friends who support each other as spiritual companions. By teaching and promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration nationally and internationally, they have become known as the **Interfaith Amigos**. Their first book together, *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and a Sheikh* was published in 2009.

Rabbi Ted Falcon, PhD, a popular teacher of Jewish traditions of meditation and spirituality, explores the frontier of interfaith spirituality. Ordained in 1968 at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Rabbi Ted served in Los Angeles as a congregational and then a campus rabbi until earning a doctorate in Professional Psychology in 1975. He pursued a career in spiritually oriented psychotherapy and, in 1978, founded Makom Ohr Shalom, A Synagogue for Jewish Spirituality. When he moved to Seattle, Washington, USA in 1993, Rabbi Ted and his wife, Ruth Neuwald Falcon, founded Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, where he served as rabbi for sixteen years.

Pastor Don Mackenzie, PhD, recently retired as Minister and Head of Staff at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Seattle. Previously he served congregations in Hanover, New Hampshire and Princeton, New Jersey. Ordained in 1970, he is a graduate of Macalester College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and New York University. His interest in interfaith work began while a student at Macalester and continued while living and teaching in Sidon, Lebanon in the year prior to the Six-Day War in 1967. His country music band, *Life's Other Side*, recorded the sound track for the documentary film *Family Name* and has sung at the Ernest Tubb Midnight Jamboree at the Opry in Nashville.

Sheikh Jamal Rahman, MA is co-founder and Muslim Sufi Minister at Interfaith Community Church in Seattle and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon and the University of California, Berkeley. Jamal has a passion for interfaith work and travels often, presenting at retreats and workshops. His books include *The Fragrance of Faith – the Enlightened Heart of Islam* and *Out of Darkness into Light – Spiritual Guidance in the Quran With Reflections from Jewish and Christian Sources* (a Spiritual Directors International imprint book).

Hosts



Rev. Terry Moran serves as the chair of the Coordinating Council of Spiritual Directors International. He has been a member of Spiritual Directors International for more than twelve years and collaborated in the translation of the *Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Spiritual Direction* into Spanish. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, and French. Terry brings to the pilgrimage experience with people from a large variety of circumstances, cultures, spiritual and religious traditions, having given retreats and courses in more than thirty countries.



Canon Iyad Qumri, an Arab, Palestinian, and Christian, is licensed as a Guide by the State of Israel's Ministry of Tourism. He is fluent in Arabic, English, and Hebrew; and has become one of the most knowledgeable guides in the area. His wife Simone and sons Sami and Rami contribute to his ministry. According to one client, "there is no one better equipped to assist in planning a pilgrimage to this area."

Frequently Asked Questions

Will pilgrims engage in combined worship? No. Each spiritual group will present itself and its beliefs and spiritual practices but will not be expected to engage in combined worship activities. Opportunities to observe others in worship will be provided as part of the process of learning about each other. Each person will be free to participate at his or her level of comfort. Spiritual Directors International is an increasingly diverse spiritual learning community. A list of local worship opportunities will be made available, however offsite worship is the individual's responsibility. During the pilgrimage, we will share sacred time together designed to deepen our own faith and learn about others.

Do I need to be a member of Spiritual Directors International to join the pilgrimage? No. You do not need to be a member of Spiritual Directors International to join the pilgrimage. You must, however, be accompanied by a member. Spouses, partners, and friends are welcome on the pilgrimage journey! For more Frequently Asked Questions, visit the Web site, www.sdiworld.org

Accommodations



St. George's College in Jerusalem

Accommodations at St. George's College include single (surcharge) and double rooms with private baths. St. George's College is a Continuing Education Center of the Anglican Communion. Since 1962, clergy and laity from 92 countries and 96 faith traditions have participated in programs of peace, reconciliation, and continuing education. Spiritual Directors International is proud to be collaborating with St. George's College.



Sisters of Nazareth Convent is a historic French monastery situated next to the Basilica of the Annunciation. The Sisters of Nazareth have been welcoming pilgrims for decades, providing hospitality for seekers in single (surcharge) and double rooms. The mission of Spiritual Directors International includes raising awareness of local spirituality centers. We are delighted to support the Sisters of Nazareth ministry with our presence.

Testimonials from former Spiritual Directors International pilgrims

"The pilgrimage experience was more than I could have hoped for. I loved holding each day in prayer and providing listening space for each person who wanted to share significant moments..."

"It was a very meaningful time both because of what was planned and because of the many spontaneous and beautiful unfoldings that happened along the way."

"A significant experience was to witness the depth of community among so many different people coming together as ONE - a model for a world of peace, balance, and harmony."

"That I saw with the eyes of my heart a world larger and greater than the space in which I live."

For more testimonials and a video about what to expect on a Spiritual Directors International pilgrimage, visit www.sdiworld.org.

Registration

Registration for the Interfaith Pilgrimage is limited to 42 pilgrims. Your place in the pilgrimage will be reserved when all of the following items are received by the Spiritual Directors International office:

- Pilgrimage Registration Form with complete payment
- Terms and Conditions Form
- Medical Information Form and Authorization
- Travel Information Form

For the past two pilgrimages, a waitlist was created when the pilgrimage was full. Register early.

Costs

USD\$1,995.00 per person plus a non-refundable registration fee of USD\$500.00 based on double occupancy and includes local transportation, accommodation, three daily meals, tips, and site entry fees. Single supplement is available for an additional USD\$400.00; there are a limited number of single rooms. If you do not have a roommate or your roommate cancels prior to departure, we will, if possible, assign one to you. If we are unable to find a roommate you will be responsible for the additional single supplement charge. Costs do not include international travel, passports, visas, travel insurance, extras beyond standard menu, excess baggage, telephone calls, fuel surcharges, laundry, etc.

Need more information?

In a spirit of tending the holy by using less paper for communications, you will find answers to many questions online. To register, use the secure online registration form on the [Spiritual Directors International Web site](http://www.sdiworld.org). If you need other assistance, please contact Sue Espinosa, events@sdiworld.org.