

# Journey to Palestine/Israel

## Into the Heart of the Middle East

March 10-22, 2012

Few places on the planet have stirred hearts and minds, passions and conflicts, more than The Holy Land. Home to the world's three great monotheistic religions, the land teems with history. Pilgrims from around the world have travelled here for millennia visiting the sacred sites and taking in the natural beauty of this ancient land. But since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, the region has been mired in continual conflict. The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza by Israel since 1967 has been one of the longest in modern history and is one of the central points of contention in the Middle East and beyond.

This Spring, Ricky Fishman, Director of Integral Expeditions, and Jerry Dekker, Political Scientist and Professor of Humanities, will lead a program to explore this fascinating and complex world. It is their belief that only through direct contact with those actively engaged in this historic struggle can one begin to understand the reality that is Palestine/Israel. Based in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, the group will visit Jewish settlers, Palestinian refugees, Israeli peace activists, and Christian Arabs, the latter often forgotten, but very much a part of this grand canvas. Visits to historic sites such as the Wailing Wall, Yad Vashem, the Holy Mount (Haram as Sharif), and the Church of the Nativity, will be explored within their historical, cultural, and geopolitical contexts. The goal of the program is to gain a deep understanding of this rich, powerful, and vitally important part of the world.

We hope you decide to join us for this transformative journey.

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

#### Bethlehem:

- Visit to Church of the Nativity and visit to Palestinian refugee camp.
- Presentation on current state of affairs with Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement.
- Visit Jericho and the Dead Sea.

#### Hebron:

- Visit with Jewish settlers, Palestinian refugees, and Tomb of the Patriarch Abraham.

#### Jerusalem:

- Tour with Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and meet with Rabbis for Human Rights.
- Visit the Old City, including The Holy Mount (Haram as Shareef and the Western Wall).
- Meet with Knesset member.
- Visit Yad Vashem with Tamar Avraham, an Israeli peace activist.

#### Nazareth:

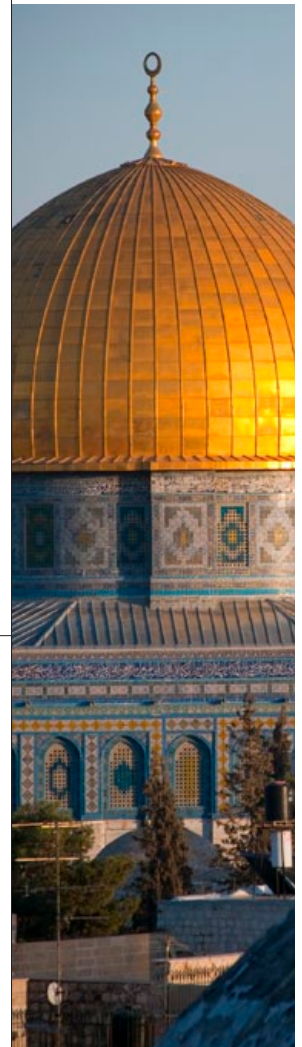
- Visit the Church of the Annunciation and meet with a local Arab association.
- Drive to Acre (Akko) and then Haifa to visit the Baha'i Gardens and Mount Carmel.

#### Tel Aviv and Jaffa:

- Tour the cities and meet with Zochorot, an Israeli Peace and Justice Organization.

### COST OF PROGRAM: US \$2295

(Based upon double occupancy and excludes airfare)



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## TO REGISTER:

Please send application and deposit to:

Integral Expeditions/Ricky Fishman

1623 Scenic Avenue | Berkeley, CA 94709

For questions regarding the program contact Ricky Fishman at 510.387.7881 or [ricky@rickyfishman.com](mailto:ricky@rickyfishman.com)

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## TOUR LEADERS

**Ricky Fishman**, Director of Integral Expeditions, has been leading educational tours since 1989 and has led programs to Nepal, Burma, Mexico, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, and Peru. As a Professor of Humanities at New College of California for over twenty years, he specialized in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine as well as Global and Cultural Studies and has led many educational travel programs with Jerry Dekker. His first journey through the Middle East was taken as an intrepid teenager traveling overland from Istanbul to Afghanistan.

**Jerry Dekker**, a Professor of Political Science has taught Humanities and Cultural Studies in the USA, Iran, China, Denmark, Greece, and the Phillipines. Jerry has led cultural tours to Cuba, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, including many programs to Israel and Palestine. His philosophy of education focuses on learning about the world by being in the world. Jerry has led field studies from the Himalayas to the Amazonian Rainforest and also serves as a travel consultant and tour coordinator for [Irantraveler.net](http://Irantraveler.net).

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## COST INCLUDES

All hotels with breakfasts and dinners throughout

All tours, museum entries, and ground transportation

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## COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Meals and beverages not specified in itinerary

Optional Tours

Passport Fees

Travel and Health Insurance

Airport taxes

Alcoholic beverages

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## COST OF PROGRAM: \$2295 (US)

Single Supplement: \$450

Deposit: \$500 (non-refundable)

Balance: \$1795 due December 1, 2011

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## CANCELLATION FEES:

90-61 Days before departure: 25% of program cost

60-31 Days: 50% of cost

30 Days or less: 100% of cost

