



Ahlan wa-Sahlan!

("Welcome," or literally, "your people, my tent!")



Fr. Steve Wilson



Youth Pilgrimage to Jordan

Youth from the Diocese of West Missouri have been invited to participate in a pilgrimage trip to Jordan March 12-20, 2010.

The trip is led by Rev. Steve Wilson, Rector of Grace Church, Carthage. Fr. Wilson has led three pilgrimages to Jordan in the past, including one last year with a number of young elementary-aged children. He has also led over 30 other pilgrimages to the Middle East and Europe, including youth pilgrimages to Taize, France, and to Turkey. He has served on the Board of the American Friends of the diocese of Jerusalem and has many friends and acquaintances in the area. He speaks basic Arabic and has many post-graduate hours in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies.

Is it safe?

Yes. Jordan has one of the lowest crime rates on the planet. You are safer in Jordan than you would be in any major American city.

Cost?

The cost of \$2800 per person includes air, transports to and from airports (Springfield MO and Amman, Jordan), three meals daily, hotel, guides, horse back entrance to Petra, entrance fees and all other items except: spending money (\$100 ought to be fine), passports, food in the airport.

Aren't they all Muslims?

90% are. The other 10% have been Christian since, oh, about Pentecost, AD 33. But yes, you'll hear a lot of mosque wake-up calls and you'll not see any bacon at breakfast.

Do I have to dress funny?

No, just conservatively. It's a rural, traditional country where people don't want to see too much skin. Most days you'll need to wear jeans and a tee-shirt that covers your shoulders. For gals, no low necklines. Shorts only in the desert at first for boys or girls. **GOOD WALKING SHOES** - flip flops are forbidden!

Is the food okay?

Yes. Meat (mostly chicken and lamb), rice, potatoes, a limited amount of vegetables, mainly tomatoes, eggplant and cucumber, bread, yogurt and baklava-style sweets. If you're a picky eater, remember that Jesus would have eaten like this every single day, a healthy but not exciting diet.

Swimming? At least once or twice....

Camels? Definitely.

Weather?

We can expect warm spring weather in March. Which means it may be cool or rainy a day or two, but will basically be nice enough to get a little sun on your winter skin....

Why?

Abraham, lot, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Ruth, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus all were here. Enough said.....

What do you need to do?

1. If you're interested, you need to contact either Kim or Fr. Steve as soon as possible!
 - Kim Snodgrass, DYMC - kimwestmo@swbell.net or 417-793-0780
 - Rev. Steve Wilson - gracechcar@sbcglobal.net or 417-358-4631
2. Make a commitment to go. The last possible date to make a commitment is
3. Get your passport, **NOW**, through your local United States Post Office.
4. Raise the necessary funds by asking, in part, for financial support from your local parish.
5. Walk. **A lot.** Every day. Jordan is a physically demanding destination.