

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity...

...combining the special Riding Lights brand of vivid on location story-telling, pilgrimage to the land where Jesus lived and meeting the people of the Palestinian church...with an optional extension to cross into Jordan and visit the rose red city of Petra.

...get on the bus and tour with

RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY

LIVING STONES

**23rd - 31st
May 2015**



“I couldn’t imagine the trip without the drama. Thought provoking, humorous, challenging and educational...”

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'Tell our story, pray for us, visit us'

was the message to Riding Lights from members of the Palestinian christian community when we went to meet them in May 2006. What followed was *Salaam Bethlehem*, a new play touring the UK as a creative response to their story in 2007. We've also led three memorable Living Stones tours since then, leading a coach load of people on a unique trip combining the special Riding Lights brand of theatrical storytelling with visits to some of the places of Jesus's life and ministry.

Those who came with us described it as a life-changing tour made all the more special by the unparalleled dramatic ingredient offered by Riding Lights. In fact it is the additional value of this particular element which they have pointed to as being the reason they would recommend our trip to others.

We are therefore very pleased to be taking another group in 2015 for a similar experience: spiritual pilgrimage, an encounter with people who are the 'living stones' of the church in the Holy Land today and also, through live on location performance, a more immediate experience of the events of the gospels. Very inspiring, very moving, as well as a lot of fun. We've also added an optional three-day extension to take in the historic beauty of Jordan, including two nights in Petra.

Visiting people and places in this way will give us a range of insights into our faith and its application to the current situation on both sides of the separation barrier. There will also be time for other things important to Riding Lights, such as entertainment, celebration and a sense of community.

We will visit Galilee and the principal sites of Jesus's ministry around Capernaum and his home town of Nazareth. In Bethlehem we will have an opportunity to see a number of inspiring projects and to meet christians living in the area today.

In Jerusalem, as we trace the steps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa to the places that mark his death and resurrection, we will also worship alongside the local Palestinian Anglican community at St George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem.

By joining this unique Living Stones tour you will be supporting the indigenous christian population at the heart of the Riding Lights project. All accommodation and other local provisions are in the hands of well-established christian companies, and the investment that this pilgrimage represents will play its small part in helping to sustain the communities that help keep this land holy today.

I look forward to you joining me and the acting company for this unique experience.

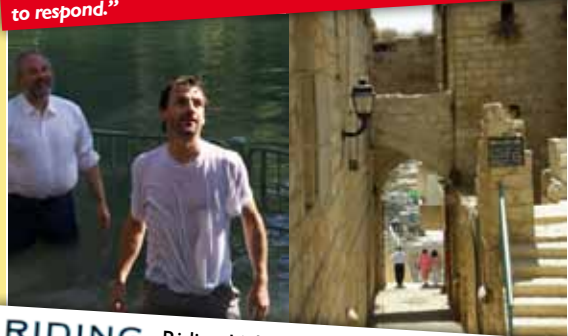
Paul Burbridge, Artistic Director, Riding Lights



"Reading the Bible will never be the same again - it changed my focus, from a very Western-centric view of church, to one that is truly intertational, and rooted in a culture so alien to our own."



"The amazing way you steered us to a peaceful place in each of the crowded sites - the songs and meditations gave us a chance to respond."



**RIDING
THEATRE
LIGHTS
COMPANY**

Riding Lights Theatre Company is based in York and has been producing theatre with a spiritual heart across the UK for over 35 years.

Wherever possible, actors travelling with the Living Stones tour will recreate stories associated with the places we are visiting as well as other moments of impromptu performance. Our aim is to enrich, through theatre, the experience of pilgrimage and our encounters with the people of Israel and Palestine and to help open windows that might cast a little more light on the journey which, we believe, God walks with us.

Day 1 - Saturday

Departure to the Holy Land

We gather with the Riding Lights acting company and tour leaders at London Luton in the morning for our flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival we will be met by our guide and driven north to our hotel by the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 2 - Sunday

Mount Tabor, Cana and Nazareth

St Luke links the account of Jesus' transfiguration with his death, as Jesus speaks about 'what he would accomplish' in Jerusalem. It is fitting for us to begin our pilgrimage at Mount Tabor, long believed to be the place of the transfiguration, to alert us to the signs of God's glory on our own journey and prepare us for what we hope to accomplish in Jerusalem. From Mount Tabor we make the short journey to Nazareth, stopping in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus's first Sign took place. After lunch in Nazareth, we visit the vast Basilica that commemorates the encounter between the angel Gabriel and a young woman called Mary, which opened the door to the redemption of the world. We return to our lakeside hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 - Monday

Sea of Galilee and Capernaum

This morning we visit sites connected with Jesus's ministry in towns and villages around the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Places which recall the Feeding of the Five Thousand, the preaching of the Sermon on the Mount, and the re-commissioning of Peter after the resurrection. We will also visit the excavations of Capernaum, where Jesus lived with his disciples. We also have the chance to sail on the Sea of Galilee in a boat modelled on a first century fishing boat. Late afternoon we return to our lakeside hotel for dinner.

Day 4 - Tuesday

Yardenit – Nablus & Jacob's Well – Bethlehem

We begin today by driving to Yardenit, on the River Jordan, to renew our baptism vows. We then begin our journey south. We come first to the city of Nablus in which is found Jacob's Well - a site which Jesus himself visited on a journey to Jerusalem. We will have lunch at the Anglican Church here, St Philip's, and hope to meet and learn more of the remarkable work of its priest, Fr. Ibrahim Nairouz. From here we drive through the heart of the West Bank, and are able to see something of the nature of the Israeli Occupation and consequent building of settlements. Finally we proceed up through the hills of the Judean wilderness towards Jerusalem. We then drive the short distance south to Bethlehem, passing through the vast concrete wall that surrounds the little town to reach our hotel, located in Manger Square adjacent to the Church of the Nativity. Here we will have dinner, bed and breakfast.

Day 5 - Wednesday

Bethlehem

In the town of Jesus's birth, we reflect on God's great gift of His Son incarnate to bring the world 'life in all its fullness'. We visit the two principal sites associated with the gospel accounts - the Shepherds' Fields and the Church of the Nativity. Today will also offer an opportunity to see projects in Bethlehem that help to bring light into darkness and some of the remarkable people who live and work in Bethlehem and the surrounding towns of Beit Sahour and Beit Jala. At the end of the afternoon we will arrive at our hotel in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, where we will have dinner, bed and breakfast for the rest of our stay.

Day 6 - Thursday

Temple Mount – Western Wall – Hebron - Mount of Olives

We will begin our day by visiting Al Haram al Sharif, sometimes called the Temple Mount, where the Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock are set in beautiful

surroundings. We will continue to the Western (or Wailing) Wall, the last remaining part of the structure of the Second Temple. Our journey will then take us south to the historic city of Hebron to visit the tombs of the Patriarchs and see the effects of the Occupation in the very heart of this city so precious to all three faiths of this land. In the afternoon we turn our thoughts towards the story of the end of Jesus's life, as we visit the Mount of Olives. Our journey starts at Bethphage where Jesus mounted a donkey before riding into Jerusalem. From here we journey slowly down the Mount of Olives, recalling the teaching of the Lord's Prayer and the occasion when Jesus wept over the city, before reaching the Kidron Valley and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Day 7 - Friday

Ein Karem – Marc Chagall Hadassah Windows - Yad Vashem - Mount Zion

This morning we head to the 'Hill Country of Judea' to a village called Ein Karem, believed to be the birthplace of John the Baptist and therefore where the wonderful meeting between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth took place when they were both pregnant. We will also have the opportunity to see Marc Chagall's fabulous stained glass windows in the synagogue at the Hadassah Hospital. It is then a short drive to the Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. In the afternoon we will return to Jerusalem and ascend to the top of Mount Zion to visit the room associated with the Last Supper and the Abbey of the Dormition, which stands out dramatically on the Jerusalem skyline. The afternoon ends at the church built over what are believed to be the ruins of the High Priest's palace, where Jesus was held after his arrest. Ancient stone steps from the first century lead up to where we remember Jesus's trial by the High Priest and Peter's denial.

Day 8 - Saturday

The Way of the Cross – Garden Tomb / Free Afternoon

This morning we come face to face with the final goal of Jesus's own journey to Jerusalem as we follow in his footsteps to walk the Way of the Cross. We will make our way to the Crusader Church of St. Anne, set alongside excavations of the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus performed a miraculous healing. Then to the excavations of a first century pavement, where we remember Jesus' trial by Pilate. From here we walk the Via Dolorosa, as it winds through the streets and markets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed by Christians over many centuries to be the place where Jesus died, was buried and rose again. There will be an optional visit to the Garden Tomb, a tranquil site founded by English Christians in Jerusalem in the nineteenth century. After this there will be free time to explore Jerusalem.

Day 9 - Sunday

Sunday Service – Emmaus - our journey home....or for those travelling on, to Jordan

This morning we join members of the local Palestinian Anglican community for worship at St. George's Cathedral before driving to Abu Gosht, the possible site of Emmaus. Those travelling back to London will proceed to Jaffa for lunch before going to Tel Aviv airport and the evening return flight to London Luton. Those crossing to Jordan will lunch in Jericho before the journey to Petra. See back page for more details about the Jordan extension.

Please note this complex touring programme may be subject to minor local amendments.

"The trip was a deeply significant gift, the goodness of which will go on unfolding for the rest of my life."

INCLUSIVE TOUR COST

23rd - 31st May 2015

£1,995

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Absolutely NO hidden extras - All Lightline tours are calculated to include all items necessary to complete your tour at the advertised price.

Lightline Pilgrimages is the official and preferred partner for The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. A contribution is made to the diocese on behalf of each and every person that travels with Lightline Pilgrimages.



3 DAY JORDAN EXTENSION

31st May - 3rd June 2015 £679*

At the end of the visit to Emmaus on 31st May, those joining this additional part of our journey together will travel to Jericho for lunch before making our way across the Allenby Bridge into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We will drive down to Petra, the 'rose red city half as old as time' where we will spend the next two nights at the Petra Guest House. On 2nd June we will travel north via the fabulous ruins of the crusader castle at Kerak to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George at Madaba which houses a sixth century mosaic map with Jerusalem at its centre. From Madaba we drive a short distance to Mount Nebo with spectacular views across the Jordan Valley to Jericho, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Here Moses is said to have stood and been shown the Promised Land. We finish our day on the banks of the Dead Sea, spending our last night at the Holiday Inn there. On 3rd June we cross back to Jerusalem and, after lunch and a little time there, we make our way to Tel Aviv and our evening flight home.

* plus gratuities (£25), border taxes (US\$49), visa and, if required, single room supplement (£95).

Scheduled return flights with Easy Jet from London Luton to Tel Aviv. Details to be advised.

Accommodation in twin-bedded rooms at the following hotels:

Galilee - Pilgerhaus at Tabgha (an exquisite guest house for Pilgrims on the lake of the Sea of Galilee)

Bethlehem - The Casa Nova/Orient Palace (ideally situated in Manger Square)

Jerusalem - The Knight's Palace (a unique and atmospheric pilgrim hotel in the Christian Quarter of the Old City)

All rooms on the tour have en-suite private bathrooms.

All hotel rooms with ensuite private facilities

Full Board throughout (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
All transfers & sightseeing in modern air-conditioned coaches.
State licensed English speaking guides throughout the tour.
All entrance fees & local taxes to places listed in itinerary

The only items NOT included are:-

Single Room Supplement (very limited) £385 / Travel Insurance / Gratuities £90 / Charitable Donations / Laundry / Personal items

TRAVELLING ON YOUR OWN

A large proportion of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive "single room" supplements. Please indicate this on your booking form (share twin-bedded room) and we will accommodate you with a person of the same sex, also travelling alone, who would

also like to share a room. If we are unable to accommodate you in a shared twin, we will place you in single room at only half the cost (50%) of the usual single supplement. If passengers require single rooms (if available) they should request this when booking and the appropriate supplement will apply.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & HEALTH

A full valid 10 year passport is necessary for all our tours. Check NOW that it is valid for the duration of your tour and validity runs for a further 6 months after your return to the UK. Visas are required for British & Irish passport holders and are issued free of charge on arrival in Israel. Holders of other passports please contact Lightline Pilgrimages on 01992 576065 for advice. No inoculations are required, however we advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION & PEACE OF MIND



The air holiday package in this brochure are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9693. Please see our booking conditions for more information.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

Please read the booking conditions and complete the enclosed booking form and send it, with a deposit of £200 per person to:

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