



The Interreligious Coordinating Council In Israel

מועצה בין דתית מתאמת בישראל (ע"ד)

مجلس التنسيق بين الأديان في إسرائيل

Religions for Peace 

## CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH ISRAEL

### Promoting Conversation, Not Confrontation



The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) is proud to host the **Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel**, which provides visiting groups which are interreligious in their composition or in their areas of interest with a serious, systematic and sensitively balanced educational experience in Israel.



#### AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY IN ISRAEL

ICCI's innovative programs encourage personal discovery through first-hand experience. Site visits, text-study, lectures, meetings with local religious leaders and visits to local organizations (including many ICCI affiliates) serve as stimuli for far-ranging theological, historical and contemporary discussions amongst the participants and enable them to:

- ❖ **Explore** their own Christian, Muslim or Jewish roots and gain a deeper understanding of key religious, cultural, spiritual and educational issues in Israeli and Palestinian society
- ❖ **Confront** serious questions about faith, people and nationality in the context of complex regional problems
- ❖ **Deepen** their own values through encounters with other people and cultures
- ❖ **Delve** into timeless texts in the places where they were composed
- ❖ **Examine** minority-majority relations in a region where Christians are a minority population and Jews a majority.
- ❖ **Return** to their communities to build bridges and reduce tensions between religious communities.



**"ICCI has been a great partner in carrying out educational tours to Israel. The organization offers much more than tour guides and itineraries, it offers a serious curriculum that makes every stop a learning experience – and fun too. My students raved!"**  
– Prof. Ari Goldman, Columbia University, NY

#### WHAT DOES THE CENTER OFFER?

- ❖ Programs ranging from in-depth seminar-tours (10-12 days) to short (half-day) workshops
- ❖ Scholar-in-residence weekends & single lectures
- ❖ Programs for groups of first-timers and for repeating visitors
- ❖ Seminars tailored to the needs and interests of our partnering institutions
- ❖ Among our presenters are ICCI staff members, clergy, educators, community activists and participants in ICCI's programs.

**"I have been doing study seminars with students for 25 years and this was one of the best. I am overwhelmed with what I have learned and will be processing information for some time to come."**

**– Prof. Larry Hufford, St. Mary's University, TX**



## **THEMES OF RECENT PROGRAMS\***

### **Religion and Politics**

- ❖ Hearing Two Narratives – and how not to export the conflict along religious lines
- ❖ Understanding the Israel-Palestine Conflict and Interreligious initiatives for amelioration

### **Religion and Spirituality**

- ❖ Sacred Text and Archaeology
- ❖ Jewish, Christian and Muslim Education: Teaching about ourselves and the other
- ❖ The Parting of the Ways: Christian-Jewish Relations over the ages
- ❖ History of the Holy Land

\* All programs are custom developed in consultation with our partner organization.



**"Having been bringing groups on Study Tours for 15 years, I can honestly say that the standards and professionalism of ICCI are exceptional, providing life-changing tours which are immensely enjoyable, relevant and scholarly."**

**– Dr. Jane Clements, Director, Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine, UK**

## **FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:**

- ❖ "I knew it would be a religious experience, but didn't know it would be that phenomenal and have a huge impact. It wasn't sight-seeing. We were not only learning but experiencing. Wherever you went, if it wasn't about your faith, it was that of others and about being there with them and feeling what they're feeling. There were so many sides of this trip - religious and intellectual."
- ❖ "I have never had such a wide-ranging and thought-provoking travel experience in such a short time."
- ❖ "It was stunning and overwhelming to discover new dimensions of my own faith whilst sharing important 'moments of faith' with Muslims and Jews."
- ❖ "I will always treasure the experience and fully intend to translate it into practical action which will work to unite faith communities both in the UK and in Israel/Palestine."
- ❖ "The tour provided a learning opportunity that text books, articles or documentaries read and observed in the UK could never give. It gave a range of physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual experiences which I am now drawing on to develop my understanding and personal views about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict."
- ❖ "A really brilliant trip! For me, it enabled what had been strong opinions based on second-hand evidence to come really alive in first-hand encounter."



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Sample programs and additional references are available upon request.**

**<http://icci.org.il>**