



Tree of Life Journey to the Holy Land

February 15 to 25, 2023

Optional Extension to Saudi Arabia – February 25 to March 3



In the year 621, the Prophet Mohammad, Peace be upon him, made a journey by night from the Great Mosque in Mecca to what is now The Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. On this journey, he rode a winged white horse, by the name of Buraq, translated as “Lightning” and he prayed with the great prophets, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.

So it is with us. Each year, Tree of Life travels to the Holy Land allowing travelers to pray with the prophets of old. In many of today’s prophetic voices of conscience – Jewish, Christian, and Muslim – we will have the privilege of sitting at the feet of those who work and pray for human rights, struggling to make this a better world for all Creation.

We hope you will consider joining this **Night Journey** to the Holy Land, and this year, in our extension, Muslims and Non-Muslims will have the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Saudi Arabia as well. With emerging and startling changes in Saudi Arabia, our Non-Muslim travelers will be able to stand in solidarity with our Muslim friends.

As we are overwhelmed by the darkness of the land, with all its political corruption, greed, nationalism, tribalism, fear, and war, we need to learn from the wisdom of the prophets, past and present, so that we too can add our own prophetic voices to this troubled world.

Leading this journey will be Ghoufran Allababidi, President of Tree of Life Educational Fund.

Palestine – February 15 to 25, 2023
Saudi Arabia – February 25 to March 3

COSTS

Palestine – 9 days

Adult, double occupancy	\$ 2340
Adult, single occupancy	\$ 3300
Student, age 25 and under	\$ 2115

This includes all hotels, breakfast, bus transportation, transfers from airport, major tips for guides and bus driver, entrance fees. Does not include airfare and personal expenses.

Saudi Arabia – 7 days

For Muslim travelers on Umrah \$ 1800
going only to Medina, Mecca and
Jeddah

For those going to Alula and Jeddah
but not Medina and Mecca \$ 2250

This includes tips for drivers and guides, train, cars, accommodation, one meal per day (breakfast). Does not include cost of domestic flights or cost of visa.

As we anticipate that there will be considerable interest in our “Night Journey” we urge you to apply as soon as possible.

Deadline for applications including Saudi Arabia will be November 23, 2022.

Deadline for Palestine only will be December 15, 2022.

Highest priority will be given to make sure we have a good balance between Muslim and Non-Muslim travelers, and priority will be given to those who demonstrate their desire to take part in a journey that will lead them to connect their faith to ethical action in support of human rights. To apply or if you have questions, please contact:

Ghoufran Allababidi, president of Tree of Life Educational Fund – Ghoufran@tolef.org or
Rev. David W. Good, founder of Tree of Life Educational Fund – Davidwgood@fccol.org

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Please complete this PDF application in Adobe Acrobat. Save a copy with your name and return as an email attachment to goufran@tolef.org or elaine@tolef.org as soon as possible

Name (as it appears on passport) _____
First Middle Last

Check the segment(s) of the journey you are applying for:

Holy Land only Holy Land and Spiritual Extension to Saudi Arabia (Muslim) Spiritual Extension only
Holy Land and Adventure Extension to Saudi Arabia (non-Muslim) Adventure Extension only

Do you have a passport valid through August 2023
(Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond trip.) Yes No

Do you have at least 6 blank pages in your passport?
(The travel requires this.) Yes No

Name (as you like to be called) _____

Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Email _____

Home Address: Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing address (if different) : Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Emergency contact (name, relationship, phone)

This journey will involve some walking. Please describe any accessibility needs:

Please list dietary restrictions: _____

Please list allergies, medications, and medical conditions in case of emergency:

Have you been vaccinated for Covid-19? Yes No

Have you also received a booster for Covid-19? Yes No

All travelers will be required to be vaccinated for Covid-19 and we will apprise travelers of any changes to entry requirements that might occur.

Do you prefer single or double occupancy? Single occupancy is subject to availability.

Single Double

Please indicate your gender identity. _____

Do you have a religious / faith identity? If so, please list it. _____

Have you traveled to Israel / Palestine before? If so, please give a brief description of your experience. _____

Have you been engaged with the arts? If so, please give a brief description of your experience.

Why do you want to participate in this journey?

Tree of Life honors a three-part covenant for its journeys:

1. Before the journey, to begin learning by reading texts and watching films the trip leaders recommend.
2. During the journey, to travel in a spirit of humility, being willing to listen more than we speak, to live simply, and to honor the hospitality extended to us. We journey to listen to Christian, Jewish, and Muslim voices of conscience, not to engage in demonstrations or tell people who live in Israel / Palestine what they should or should not do.
3. When we return home, to do what we can to amplify the voices of conscience we have had the privilege of hearing, sharing our reflections and experiences as we feel called.

Do you accept the three-part covenant printed above? Yes No

Please let us know about skills and gifts you could contribute to the journey, such as taking photos, sharing updates via social media, leading music, etc.

Please provide a brief biographical statement to share with fellow travelers (about 100 words).

Please provide a high-resolution digital image of yourself to share with fellow travelers (jpg or pdf)

A refundable deposit of \$500 is due at the time of application. Whether you submit an application online, via email or mail, please mail a check made out to **Tree of Life Educational Fund** to the address below.

For those including one of the Saudi Arabia extensions, full payment will be due by **December 15, 2022**. For those going only to the Holy Land, full payment will be due by **January 1, 2023**. Please note that this is payment for services rendered and is not a tax-deductible charitable contribution.

Additionally, we urge each participant to consider making a tax-deductible gift to Tree of Life Educational Fund. Your gift will support grants for those otherwise unable to afford the journey, as well as efforts to promote justice and peace in Israel/Palestine. In the past, such contributions have been anywhere from \$5 to \$10,000. Your gift of any size makes a difference.

If you have questions about the journey, please contact Ghoufran or David.

Payment

We would prefer that payment be made by check, but payment can also be made online through our SafeSave payment gateway.

Payment by Mail:

Please make checks payable to: **Tree of Life Educational Fund**

Mail to:

Tree of Life Educational Fund
P.O. Box 968, Old Lyme, CT 06371

Payment Online:

Deposits and payments for the upcoming Tree of Life Journey may be made on our website. As SafeSave charges us 3% per transaction, please consider adding a commensurate amount to your payment to cover this expense.

To pay online go to: <https://tolef.org/journeys/payment>

Return completed application

Email to Ghoufran@tolef.org and Elaine@toleg.org

or Mail to:

Tree of Life Educational Fund
P.O. Box 968
Old Lyme, CT 06371