

**A SPECIAL TRAINING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEAD JOURNEYS
OF DISCOVERY AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

MASAR IBRAHIM AL KHALIL (ABRAHAM'S PATH)

TRIP LEADER TRAINING OCTOBER 16-30 2010

Walking together, side by side. Sharing a meal and a story. Learning, through this simple exchange of hospitality, that no matter what divides us, what unites us is greater still. The Masar Ibrahim al Khalil (Abraham's Path) is a journey through the heart of the Middle East which invites us all to set out, in this spirit of friendship, to remember our common origins, to respect our differences, and to recognize the common humanity which we share.

In October 2010 the Abraham Path Initiative will be leading a two-week training for prospective trip leaders along the Masar ('Path' in Arabic) in Jordan and Palestine. This journey will include several days of walking in the rural heartlands of the Middle East, as well as an opportunity to explore the city of Jerusalem /Al Quds, and will equip leaders with the cultural insight and local contacts required to lead safe and inspiring journeys to the region.

WHAT IS THE MASAR IBRAHIM AL KHALIL / ABRAHAM'S PATH?

The Masar Ibrahim al Khalil is a route of walking and cultural tourism which follows the footsteps of Abraham / Ibrahim through the Middle East. The story of Abraham / Ibrahim's journey records the origin of a spiritual tradition shared by more than three billion people in the world today. By retracing this journey, the Masar





provides a place of meeting and connection for people of all faiths and cultures, inviting us to remember our common origins, to respect our cultural differences, and to recognize our shared humanity. The Masar also serves as a catalyst for sustainable tourism and economic development; a platform for the energy and idealism of young people; and a focus for positive media highlighting the rich culture and hospitable people of the Middle East.



UN WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GLOBAL NEGOTIATION PROJECT



UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Founded at Harvard University, the Abraham Path Initiative is a non-political, non-religious, non-profit organization supported by the UN Alliance of Civilizations program and the UN World Tourism Organization, whose mission is to inspire and support the opening of this route.

THE PATH OPENS...

Thanks to the generous welcome which has been extended by host communities along the way, the first sections of the Masar are now open to travelers. These include beautiful hiking trails in the Jordanian highlands and in the hills of northern Palestine. Over the past year more than 3000 people have been out walking parts of the trail – making friends, learning about other cultures, and bringing real economic benefits to villages along the route.





GETTING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK...

The Masar runs through a series of villages which are far from the beaten track and almost never visited by tourists. These are the rural heartland communities of the Middle East – places in which the age-old traditions of hospitality are still upheld, giving travelers a unique opportunity to be welcomed into ordinary family homes and to meet with local people in a friendly and respectful way. By exchanging the conventional luxuries of hotel and tour bus for the simplicity of

arriving on foot in a village, the possibility opens up for a much more equal and profound form of human encounter. This is the essence of the Masar.

A CALL FOR FUTURE TRIP LEADERS...

We are now looking for people who would like to guide their own journeys of discovery along the Masar. Such a trip may serve as an opportunity for cross-cultural listening and dialogue; as an educational journey for young people; as a pilgrimage which transcends divisions; or as a simple expression of friendship towards the people of the Middle East.

WHO IS THIS JOURNEY FOR?

This tour is open to educators, youth workers, faith leaders, mediators, and social or community leaders of any kind who would like to organize and lead small groups of people to travel along parts of the Masar. This is a pioneering effort – you will be taking part in the early stages of establishing the Masar – thus it is important that those who join this Trip Leaders Training deeply support its spirit and ethos. Participation is by application. Priority will be given to people who have the following:

- a firm intention to lead journeys on the Masar in the future
- an organization, congregation or constituency from which they will be able to recruit travelers for a future journey
- experience in group leadership and cross-cultural contact
- an approach to traveling which is sympathetic to the people and cultures of the region
- an understanding of the value of undertaking this journey on foot and an ability to lead walking tours



ITINERARY OF THE TRIP LEADERS TRAINING

The group will arrive in Amman on Saturday 16 October. Our trip will start the following morning in the highlands of northern Jordan, where we will begin with a full day of orientation to the journey ahead and to the culture of the region. There will be time to ask questions, to learn more about the project, and to reflect upon the purpose of our travels. We have our first walk the following morning, and will spend the following two or three days on the path – exploring the landscape of the Ajloun region and staying as guests in the homes of local families. We will then travel by bus across the Jordan River valley and spend the afternoon exploring the historic city of Nablus, starting our walk through the hills of Palestine the following morning. As in Jordan, we will stay with host families in villages during our journey along the Masar. There may be time to see the ancient city of Jericho and the Byzantine monasteries of the Wadi Qlt before arriving at the Mount of Olives and walking down into Jerusalem, where we will spend the whole of the following day, before picking up the Masar in Bethlehem and walking the final part of the trail into Al Khalil / Hebron. We will end with a quiet day of reflection on our learning together, and on day 15 (Saturday Oct 30th) depart from Tel Aviv.



THE TRIP WILL PROVIDE...

- an introduction to local contacts in Jordan and Palestine, including community leaders, guides and tour operators who can provide practical and logistical support to your future trips
- an orientation to the vision, mission, and values of the Masar
- an introduction to the history and culture of places along the route
- guidance in the art of leading transformative journeys and facilitating human encounter across lines of cultural division
- a chance to be welcomed into ordinary Middle Eastern homes and to share food, stories, and friendship with our host families
- an opportunity to deepen your own leadership skills, to expand your experience of cross-cultural contact, and to contribute towards the vision of the Abraham Path

NB: This is a non-accredited training which does not result in any formal qualification – but which does provide all the practical know-how and links to professional tour operators which you will need to lead safe and successful trips on the Masar



WHEN?

October 16th - 30th 2010

15 days total, including the traveling days at beginning and end)

LEADERSHIP

The trip will be led by Daniel Adamson, who has been leading cultural tours, pilgrimage journeys, and hiking groups in Europe and the Middle East for the past ten years. Daniel has been a part of the Masar Ibrahim al Khalil team since the start of the project in 2006, and has been living and working in the region since then to help bring this vision to life. In Jordan and Palestine, the walks will be led by our local country teams and by our hosts in the villages. Together, this team will help to provide cultural orientation, to guide the walks, and to introduce participants to our many friends and partners in the region. The group itself will include some experienced leaders. All participants will be invited to share their wisdom, experience, and insight so that we may learn from each other as we make our way along the Masar.

COST

Price of trip: USD \$2,800 / GBP £1760 / EUR € 2010.

This includes accommodations, meals, transportation in the region, local guides' fees, and program administration fees. Price does not include airfare, visas, departure taxes, transfers to and from airports, tips to drivers and guides, or personal extras.

The Abraham Path Initiative has recently applied for financial support which would enable us to offer a number of partial scholarships for applicants who are promising future trip leaders and who cannot raise their support from other sources. If you are interested to know about these bursaries, please tell us – if our own fundraising application is successful, we will invite those who have expressed an interest to apply for these funds.



We encourage you to help raise funds for your trip fee and expenses through your associated organizations, communities and other constituencies. This is a chance for these groups to participate with you in this inspiring and consequential project.



TO APPLY

Please send us your contact information, age, and a few sentences about yourself and your work. Explain your plans to lead groups on Abraham's Path in the future, your previous travel experience, and why you would like to participate in the Trip Leaders Training. Once you receive confirmation of your acceptance on the journey you will need to send a \$500 deposit to reserve your place. **Applications must be received by July 1, 2010.** There is a limit

of 16 participants, so do not wait too long to apply. For questions about the journey or further information contact Daniel Adamson at daniel@abrahampath.org

