



International Christmas Camp 2012-2013

Live & Experience Daily Life in Palestine

Explore the land ...

Enjoy the culture ...

Learn Arabic ...

You are invited to the International Christmas Camp "ICC" in Bethlehem, Palestine, a cultural immersion program taking place this Winter.

From the 22nd of December 2012
Until the 2nd of January 2013

Educational Excellence Center

www.excellencenter.org

apply@excellencenter.org





International Christmas Camp 2012-2013

Welcome to the International Christmas Camp in Bethlehem, Palestine! ICC is a cultural immersion program for internationals, allowing you to experience the holy Christmas in Palestine, as well as living the Palestinian daily life and familiarizing yourself with the area's rich history.

Join thousands of Christian pilgrims in the traditional birthplace of Jesus, Bethlehem, for warm holiday cheer! Watch the 50-foot-tall Christmas tree being lit on Manger Square and enjoy midnight mass at the Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto where Jesus was born!

Palestinian guides will provide visitors with hands-on experience in the West Bank. You will have the opportunity to interact with people of various backgrounds, including education, intercultural communications and Palestinian studies. The traditions, cultures, foods and people of this vibrant land will come to life. Those who are interested in the political situation will also have the chance to get a first-hand impression of the occupation.

Come experience Palestine and gain an insider's view!

ICC's Goal

The Excellence Center is an education institution dedicated to fostering cultural and linguistic exchange. The ICC aims to achieve a diverse cultural exchange and social dialogue by hosting people from around the world. Come experience the Christmas service at the Nativity Church in Bethlehem!

ICC provides the opportunity for internationals to:

- ❖ Live in Bethlehem, explore the beautiful, historic churches in Bethlehem.
- ❖ Engage local residents in conversations on topics of common interest
- ❖ Meet Palestinian Christians and find out what it means to be a follower of Christ in the West Bank!
- ❖ Spend Christmas Eve in Bethlehem singing Christmas carols on the stone streets of the city.
- ❖ Greet the new year in Palestine!
- ❖ Travel to historical locations and nearby cities including Jerusalem, Jericho, Ramallah, and Hebron.
- ❖ Spend time and live with a Palestinian host family, if desired
- ❖ Visit Palestinian universities, local institutions and organizations specializing in culture and education
- ❖ Eat local Palestinian foods and desserts
- ❖ Attend cultural nights featuring entertainment, activities and sports
- ❖ Listen to distinguished lecturers discussing Palestinian heritage and history.

Past Experience from International Camp Participants

The International Summer Camp (ISC) 2012 offered a unique opportunity for participants to explore today's Palestine. Visiting the old cities in Hebron, Nablus and Bethlehem evoked thoughts of earlier times, bringing history to life. Participants didn't simply tour refugee camps, they spent the day with host families, enriching their understanding of the reality on the ground. **Please have a look at this link which is the last International Summer Camp film** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kLTSYpdeGI&feature=youtu.be>





"I gained a whole new perspective on the situation in Palestine – mostly through talking with a wide range of people whose attitudes effected me deeply, increasing my communication skills". –**Mira Buttinger Kreuzhuber from Austria**

"What struck me most was the great dignity and generosity of the people with whom we met." –**Mary Stylidi from Greece**



"The food is DELICIOUS!!! Don't fill up on the first dish, there will be many more to follow!" –**Emily Wischniowsky from Germany**

"Make sure to add extra days to your stay so that you can spend more time with your host family – you won't regret it!!!" –**Lisa Wischniowsky from Germany**



"After these 10 days, all I can say is – I WANT MORE!!!!" –**Marvin Baudewig from Germany**

"Instead of meeting with bitterness and despair, I met with dignity, self-reserve and generosity – an amazing trip in a beautiful country!" –**Irene Stevenson from USA**





Eligibility for ICC

English speakers 18-50 years old are eligible to participate in ICC. Friends and relatives are encouraged to apply.

To apply, please read the enclosed information and submit a completed application to apply@excellencecenter.org on or before November 20th, 2012.

Early applications are greatly appreciated!

ICC's Dates

Excellence Center will host the 2012 International Christmas Camp in Bethlehem from December 22 through January 2, 2013. The camp will be for 11 days excluding your arrival and departure.

Associated Fees

ICC fees amount to 899\$ or 685 €. Accommodations, food, and traveling within Palestine during the stay are included and will be arranged for the guests.

Students and groups of three or more will get a discount!

Selection Date


We will confirm your acceptance to participate in ICC via email by November 25th. Following your selection we will arrange a meeting via Skype to discuss the details of your trip and travel arrangements.

Accommodations

Travel arrangements and accommodations within the West Bank will be scheduled and coordinated by Excellence Center. Participants have the option of staying with a host family or in a rented apartment.

Detailed Christmas Camp program

A detailed program will be provided after the participant list is finalized.





Visa

A 90-day tourist visa will be issued to you upon your arrival in Israel. **There is no need to obtain a visa ahead of time.**

Traveling to and from Bethlehem

Travel instructions will be sent upon your enrollment in the International Christmas Camp (ICC) in Bethlehem- Palestine.

About Excellence Center

Located on Ein Sara, the main street of Hebron, Excellence Center provides convenient educational services to students and professionals.

We offer language classes at all levels and courses on other critical subjects such as CV and cover letter writing and interview preparation. We believe hosting teachers from abroad facilitates cultural immersion in the classroom. The Excellence Center also provides career consulting services in areas such as project management and proposal and research writing. Obtaining proficiency in these fields enables graduates of EC courses to better themselves and help build a positive future for Palestine.

The International Christmas Camp was designed by the Excellence Center staff and our team of international interns. For more information about the camp, please visit our website:

www.excellencenter.org or contact us at: Apply@excellencenter.org.

For the United State of America (USA) you may contact Irene Stevenson at: (202) 468-7454

For EU countries you may contact Rafat Shantir at: +49 176 39353950

Thank you very much!

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