



Journey to the Land of the Bible

SPONSORED BY WHITTIER AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH

PASTORAL HOSTS: DR. BILL & ARLIE ANKERBERG

TOUR LEADERS: DR. RON & PAT PIERCE

June 5–17, 2012

Dear Church Family,

Join us for a life-changing journey to the Land of the Bible! In conjunction with a series of preparatory classes next spring, Professor Ron and Pat Pierce are leading a travel-study tour to the Holy Land for Whittier Area Community Church.

This educational adventure is designed for those who are serious about their faith and the study of God's Word. It involves practicing Christian community on a pilgrimage to the place where it began. And, it provides an opportunity to explore the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict from a respectful and biblical perspective.

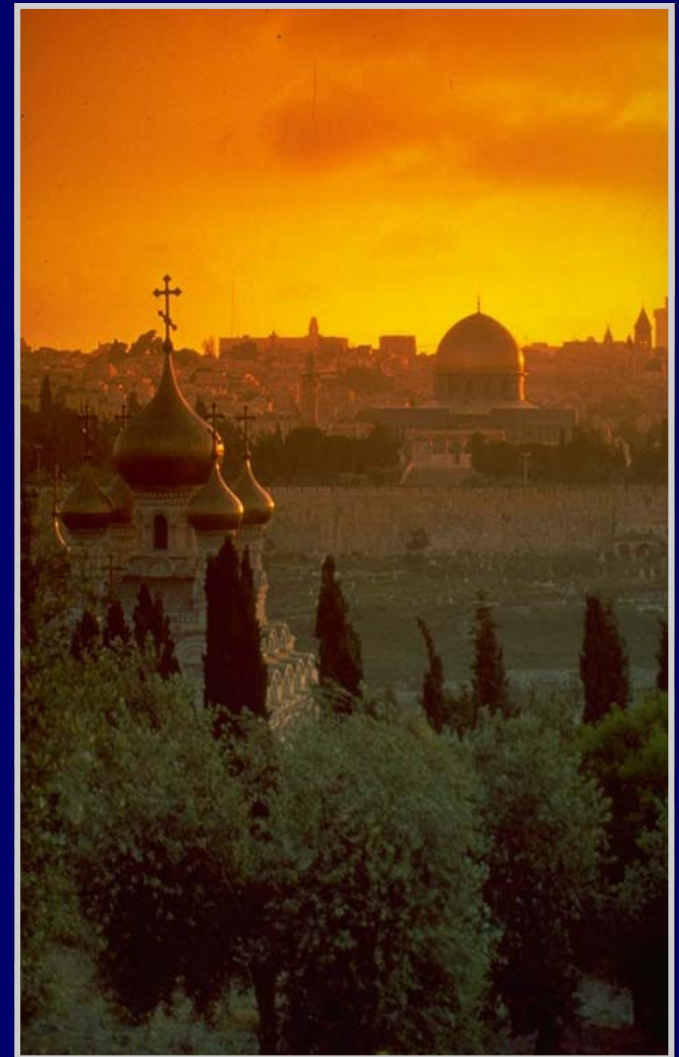
Our goal is to understand the Bible in its historical, geographical and cultural context. To do so, we will set out each morning with a full and challenging itinerary. Along the way we will interact with Israelis and Palestinians—including fellow believers seeking to model reconciliation in Christ.

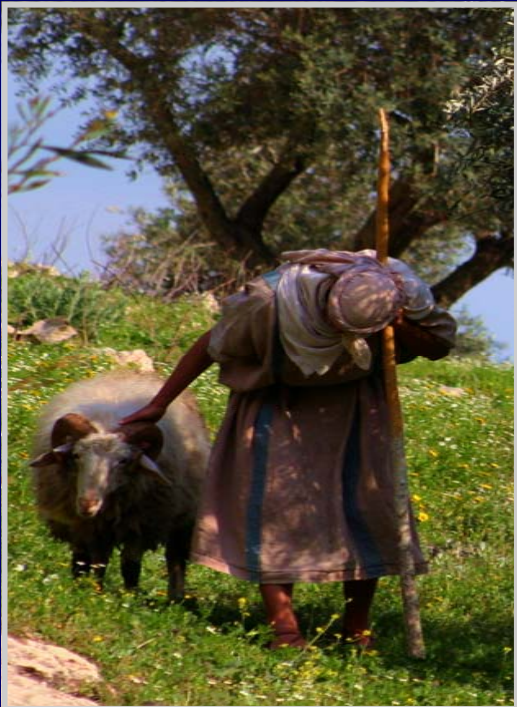
Rest assured that every effort has been made to provide a safe, pleasant and spiritually meaningful tour. We are drawing on the resources of Dr. Pierce's thirty-five years of university teaching in Bible and theology, including fifteen years of Ron and Pat's leadership of Biola's travel-study program to Israel and Palestine.

So whether you have never been to the Holy Land, or left a piece of your heart there once before, you are cordially invited to come and discover something fresh and new that God has prepared especially for you "next year in Jerusalem." You must be 18 or older to participate, and we have capped the group size at 45 persons for the best learning and travel experience. So sign up early to insure your spot on the 2012 tour.

*Peace be upon you—Shalom/Salam,
Bill & Arlie Ankerberg
Ron & Pat Pierce*

*What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD,
who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. ~ Psalm 84:5*





ITINERARY

JUNE 5 • DEPARTURE

Our spiritual adventure begins as we depart from the U.S. for our long awaited destination—the Holy Land!

JUNE 6 • ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL *A carefully chosen guide and driver will assist the WACC group through arrival details and transport us to our hotel for a well-deserved dinner and rest.*

**CAESAREA
AQUEDUCT** *If our travel schedule goes according to plan, we should be able to catch a lovely Mediterranean sunset over the ancient aqueduct at Caesarea.*

JUNE 7 • CAESAREA

CAESAREA *Begin your first full day in the land by exploring the Roman theater, harbor, newly excavated hippodrome, and palace—all built by Herod the Great in the days of Jesus.*

MOUNT CARMEL *View the western end of the Jezreel Valley from atop Mount Carmel where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal.*

MEGIDDO *Explore the remarkable excavations and water tunnel at this chariot city of King Solomon, including a view of the gathering place of the nations at Armageddon.*

NAZARETH *Visit a magnificent church constructed on the site of Jesus' boyhood town, near the place his mother Mary received the angel's visit.*

MOUNT PRECIPICE *Drink in a breathtaking panorama of the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley situated between Mt. Carmel and the Galilee hill country.*

MOUNT TABOR *Drive by the place where Deborah and Barak gathered their army, as well as the traditional site of the transfiguration of Christ.*

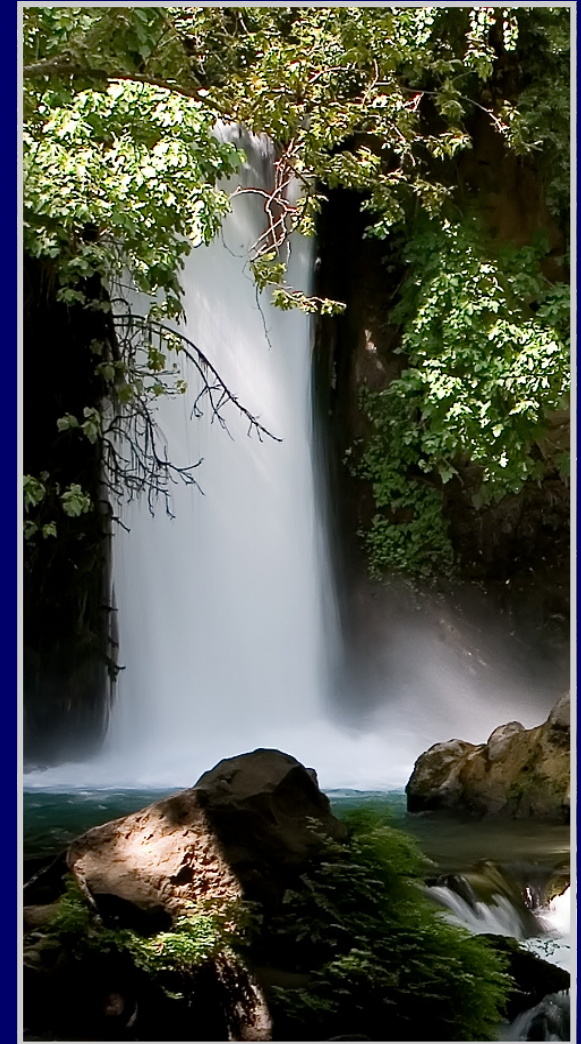
JUNE 8 • AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE

SUNRISE BAPTISM *Those interested will have the opportunity to be baptized at a quiet sunrise service on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.*

MOUNT ARBEL *Experience from these spectacular cliffs a sweeping overview of the Sea of Galilee and the biblical sites of Jesus' public ministry.*

CAPERNAUM *Walk the adopted hometown streets of Jesus, passing the remains of Peter's house, where Jesus based his adult ministry and the synagogue where He preached.*

SEA OF GALILEE *Climb aboard a replica of an ancient boat from Jesus' time for a worship service on this famous freshwater lake.*



JUNE 8—CONTINUED

- GALILEE BOAT** See firsthand the recently discovered remains of an ancient fishing boat dating to the time of Jesus.
- TABGHA** Contemplate the miracle of the multiplied loaves and fishes at the place where it happened.
- CHORAZIN** Consider the privilege of being part of Jesus' local ministry among a community rebuked for their lack of faith.
- MOUNT OF BEATITUDES** Reflect on the powerful Beatitudes of the Peacemaker from Galilee in a serene setting overlooking the Sea.

JUNE 9 • ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDER

- HAZOR** Travel to this strategic ancient site located on the International Highway between Egypt and Mesopotamia, where the decisive battle for the conquest by Joshua was won.
- ANCIENT DAN** Walk through a refreshing nature reserve at the northernmost city of ancient Israel, passing the place of Jeroboam's golden calf and a city gate from the days of Abraham.
- BANIAS WATERFALL** Take an optional hike down an old rock staircase to a spectacular waterfall with lush vegetation at the headwaters of the Jordan River near the foot of Mount Hermon.
- CAESAREA PHILIPPI** Stand in the pagan Roman worship center where Peter made his famous profession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- GOLAN HEIGHTS** View the route of Paul's life-changing journey on the Damascus road, while contemplating the modern struggle of Israel with Syria and Lebanon.

JUNE 10 • UP TO JERUSALEM

- BET SHE'AN / SCYTHOPOLIS** Explore the extensive Roman city seated in the shadow of the hill where the Philistines once displayed the slain bodies of King Saul and his sons.
- PENIEL / MAHANA'IM** Drive through the Jordan River Valley as we discuss the Samaritan hill country of the Palestinian West Bank, as well as the modern State of Jordan at the place Jacob wrestled with the angel of God.
- JERICH0** View a 10,000 year old watchtower along the crumbled walls of the ancient Canaanite city of Jericho, Israel's first conquest.



JUNE 10—CONTINUED

- UP TO JERUSALEM** Ascend by bus to the immortal city of Jerusalem through the foreboding Judean Wilderness where Jesus was once tempted by Satan.
- MOUNT OF OLIVES** Savor the most famous panoramic vista of the Old City of Jerusalem in anticipation of the days still ahead of us in the Holy Land.
- DOMINUS FLEVIT** Walk down the paved path of this historic hillside and stop at a small church that remembers where Jesus wept over Jerusalem.
- GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE** Pause for a quiet moment of prayer at the magnificent Church of All Nations, nestled among the ancient olive trees where Jesus was betrayed.

JUNE 11 • THE WILDERNESS

- DOWN TO THE DEAD SEA** Descend by bus to the lowest point on the face of the earth at the Dead Sea. Drive along its shores and witness dramatic evidence of the ancient earthquake activity that shaped this unique geological phenomenon.
- MASADA** Ride a cable car to the 1300-foot heights of Herod's lavish palace and fortress where Jewish zealots made a final stand in their revolt against Rome.
- EIN BOKEK** Consider the failure and judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah as we continue our drive along the shores of the Dead Sea.
- SWIM IN THE DEAD SEA** Lay back in the most floatable body of water in the world and enjoy the special amenities this unique place offers.
- OASIS OF EN GEDI** Take an optional 20-minute hike across streams and rocks to the caves and waterfall where, in his exile, David encountered King Saul, or just relax in the nature reserve with the deer and rock badgers.
- QUMRAN** Visit the site where the most important manuscript discovery of the modern era was made—the Dead Sea Scrolls.

JUNE 12 • ANCIENT TREASURES

- HEBRON** Take a drive south past Hebron, one of the most important Judean cities in the biblical and modern era.
- JUDEAN HILL COUNTRY** Wind your way through this beautiful hill country, once known as the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- BEERSHEBA** View the Negev desert from the southernmost city of biblical Israel. This was also the winter home of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



JUNE 12—CONTINUED

JUDEAN FOOTHILLS *Transverse the foothills (Shephelah) where ancient Israel encountered the fierce Philistines.*

ELAH VALLEY *Stop at the famous battlefield of David and Goliath and pick up a few “smooth stones.”*

SOREK VALLEY *Weave your way between the foothills to the place of Samson’s escapades, then pass Beth Shemesh, where the Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites.*

NEVE SHALOM *View along the way the place of a courageous Israeli & Palestinian social experiment in peacemaking.*

JUNE 13 • DAVID’S JERUSALEM

SHEPHERDS’ FIELD *View this serene hillside and reflect on the angelic announcement of the birth of Jesus.*

BETHLEHEM *Come as a pilgrim to the Church of the Nativity, built near the place of Jesus’ birth in the “Little Town of Bethlehem.”*

BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE *Hear firsthand about one of the most important evangelical ministries in Palestine today, touching many students and families for Jesus in a predominately Jewish and Muslim environment.*

CITY OF DAVID EXCAVATIONS *Explore the ruins of the original Canaanite city of Jebuse, which David made “Jerusalem,” the ancient capital of Israel.*

WARREN’S SHAFT *See the water shaft that David’s general Joab climbed to capture this city.*

HEZEKIAH’S TUNNEL *Take an optional “wet walk” through this historic and amazing tunnel dug by Hezekiah to survive the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem.*

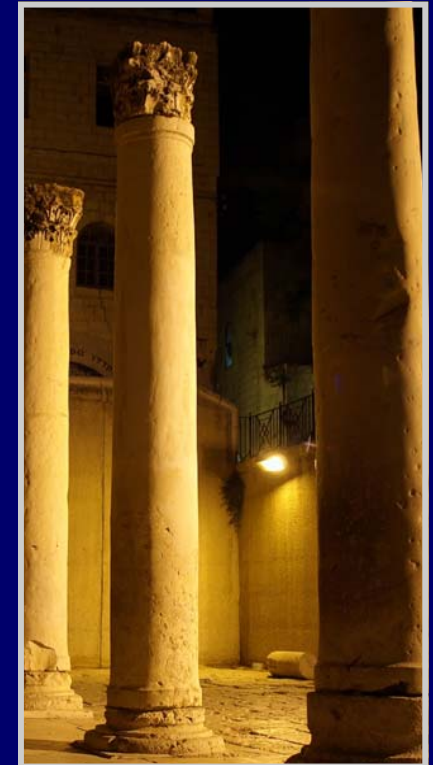
POOL OF SILOAM *See the place where the blind man washed the mud off his eyes and received his sight from Jesus.*

JUNE 14 • JERUSALEM—YESTERDAY & TODAY

THE TEMPLE MOUNT *Enter the grounds where the second Jewish Temple once stood, now the home of the most sacred Muslim sites in Jerusalem: the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque.*

SOUTHERN TEMPLE MOUNT STEPS *Explore the extensive excavations of the southern steps of the Temple Mount, indeed some of the very steps on which Jesus would have walked.*

WESTERN WALL *Pray at the most sacred Jewish site in Jerusalem; the enormous retaining wall for the Temple Mount of Herod the Great.*



JUNE 14—CONTINUED

RABBINICAL TUNNEL Hear from a Jewish guide about the excavations of the Roman city that now runs under today's Old City and along the Western Wall.

YAD VASHEM Contemplate one of the great tragedies of modern history at Israel's memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

SHRINE OF THE BOOK Browse highlights of biblical archaeology that include utensils from the City of David, the last remnant of Solomon's Temple, and the oldest copy of a biblical passage.

JERUSALEM MODEL Study a large-scale display of the city during the time of Jesus.

JUNE 15 • THE OLD CITY

ST. PETER IN GALICANTU Relive the trial of Jesus at the traditional site of Caiaphas' House.

FREE TIME Take this part of the morning off to bargain with shopkeepers, return to a special site, or just people-watch. As a Muslim holy day, it is a good time to visit Jewish shops.

LIONS' GATE Begin our remembrance of Passion Week at Stephen's Gate, the traditional place of the stoning of the first Christian martyr.

POOL OF BETHESDA & ST. ANNE'S CHURCH See the pools where Jesus healed an infirmed man, and worship at the finest remnant of a Crusader church in the Holy Land.

ANTONIO'S FORTRESS Weep at the place where Jesus was mocked by the soldiers and a crown of thorns was placed upon His head.

VIA DOLOROSA Journey the traditional "Way of the Cross" to the most holy Christian site, where Jesus gave His life for mere mortals like us.

WESTERN WALL ON FRIDAY NIGHT Visit the Western Wall and experience the exciting atmosphere as Jews usher in Shabbat, their day of rest.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tour Leaders: Dr. Ron & Pat Pierce

pierce.pa@gmail.com

(714) 871-3318


Morning Star Tours

P.O. Box 740305

Dallas, TX 75374-0305

(972) 690-0092

tours@morningstartours.com

 **Morning Star**
TOURS

JUNE 16 • OUR FINAL DAY

FREE TIME Savor the last of your free time to say "Shalom/Salam" to Jerusalem—Old or New. As the Jewish holy day, it is a good time to visit Arabic shops.

GORDON'S CALVARY & THE GARDEN TOMB Observe a memorable communion service and celebrate Jesus' resurrection at a more recently identified site of these sacred events. Walk into an ancient tomb that reminds us of Jesus' tomb and view a hill that resembles a skull.

ROAD TO EMMAUS Stop at the place where Jesus appeared to two of His disciples after the resurrection, as we journey back to where we began.

JOPPA, THE ANCIENT CITY OF JAFFA Wander the streets of old Jaffa where Jonah set sail; see its ancient port and the artists' colony that has grown up around it.

SEASIDE FAREWELL DINNER Enjoy our farewell dinner on the Mediterranean coast, hopefully in time to catch a final sunset over the water.

JUNE 17 • HOMEWARD BOUND

Return home rejoicing and reminiscing over our extraordinary thirteen days spent together in the Land of the Bible!



PRELIMINARY TOUR COST

Because group flights cannot be reserved until July 2011, the prices shown below are preliminary only. While we do not expect the cost to change, the final cost of the trip will not be released until Morning Star Tours confirms our flights. You are welcome to register for the tour starting April 10, 2011, at 2:00 pm PST.

Preliminary Tour Cost: \$4,595 per person
Single Room Occupancy: \$750 additional

PAYMENT DATES

\$750 deposit due at the time of registration
\$1500 due by February 10, 2012
Balance due by March 20, 2012



INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

Air Transportation—Round-trip transatlantic economy class from **Los Angeles (LAX)**. A limited number of seats will be confirmed. Participants will be given these seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Airfare used is based on economy class effective at date of publication. Airfares and **airlines** are subject to change should more seats be needed than allocated.

Hotels—First—class hotels and kibbutzim throughout, double occupancy.

Meals—Breakfast and dinner daily except where noted on itinerary.

Sightseeing—As itinerary specifies, in deluxe motorcoaches with English-speaking guide. **All entrance fees** are included.

Transfers—All group transfers between airports and hotels.

Porterage—Porterage of one suitcase (standard size).

Tips—Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff.

Taxes—Airport departure taxes in the U.S. and Israel; amount is subject to change and is based on tax rates & fuel surcharges at time of ticketing.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

Lunches—Also beverages at meals, other than coffee and tea with breakfast.

Personal Expenses—Such as passport fees, visas for non-US citizens, travel insurance, laundry, phone calls, etc.

Single Room Occupancy—A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional cost of \$750 per person.

Services—Not specifically mentioned above.

SPECIAL NOTES

Reservations—A **deposit of \$750** must accompany the reservation form for each participant enrolling in the tour. An additional partial payment of \$1500 is due by February 10, 2012. Final payment is due by March 20, 2012.

Tour Prices—All tour prices are based on costs, charges, taxes and US dollar exchange rates known at the time of booking. We regret should any of these costs change, a surcharge may be added to the cost of your tour. You would be notified prior to travel.

Deviations & Changes—Participant requests for deviations from itinerary are subject to space plus an applicable airfare surcharge, and a \$50 deviation fee per person. To enable finalizing of group arrangements, requests and changes are not accepted less than 60 days prior to departure.

Insurance—Baggage, trip cancellation and emergency medical insurance is **STRONGLY** recommended. Forms will be provided upon registration.

Important: The exclusion of **Pre-Existing Conditions** is waived provided the premium is received no later than fifteen days after the initial deposit for your trip.

Passports—You must have a valid passport with

expiration not less than 6 months after your return to the US. It takes about eight to twelve weeks to secure a passport so don't delay. **Non-US passport holders must contact Morning Star Tours to confirm need for visa.** Passport information along with applications can be obtained on the WEB by going to:

www.travel.state.gov/passport/index.html

Cancellations—All cancellation notices must be received in writing.

<u>Date of Cancellation</u>	<u>Refund Policy</u>
Prior to February 10, 2012	Full refund less 50% of your deposit
Feb 10 to March 20, 2012	Penalty of 50% of your deposit plus \$500
March 21 until departure	No refund

Baggage Allowance—Due to bus size we can only allow one checked piece, not to exceed 62 inches (length plus width plus depth) and 50 lbs. You may also bring one carry-on item.

The tour operator reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary.

RESPONSIBILITY Morning Star Tours, with their officers and staff, act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, carriage, automobile, airplane, or other conveyance which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delay which may be occasioned by reason of defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in the conveying of passengers. Morning Star Tours accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or changes in motorcoach, train, airplane services, or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, or other causes; and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract, as issued by the airlines or other transportation companies involved with the tour, shall constitute the sole contract between the purchaser and the airlines or transportation companies and limit the responsibilities of the tour sponsors concerning the related travel and accommodations. Prices and schedules that appear in any brochure or website are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice.

Payment of deposit for this tour signifies full understanding and acceptance of the above-mentioned conditions.

JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

June 5—17, 2012

Hosted by

Whittier Area Community Church

To reserve your place on this tour, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your \$750 deposit per person. Additional information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form and deposit.

Name (as it will appear on your passport) _____

Tag Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

GATEWAY CITY FOR DEPARTURE: Los Angeles (LAX)

Is this your first time to travel with Morning Star Tours?

YES No, I traveled with MST in _____

How are you associated with WACC? _____

I am enclosing a \$750 deposit (for each participant, due with reservation form) and will pay a partial payment of \$1,500 per person by February 10, 2012, and the balance by March 20, 2012.

I desire a single room (\$750 extra).

Form of Payment: Check (Make checks payable to Morning Star Tours)
 MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____

3 Digit Validation Code _____ Expiration Date _____

I authorize Morning Star Tours to charge my credit card in the amount of \$750 per person and to automatically charge the credit card when payments are due (February 10 & March 20, 2012).

The name **and** billing address are the same as above for this credit card (If not, please provide) _____

I understand that prices cannot be confirmed until flights are secured in July 2011.

Mail or fax reservation forms to: **MORNING STAR TOURS**
Tour # 589
PO Box 740305
Dallas, TX 75374-0305
Fax: (972) 690-4470



Signature _____

Payment of deposit for this tour signifies full understanding & acceptance of the conditions mentioned in the brochure/website.