

Interfaith Journeys

Travel to places of important religious and historic significance with people of different religious traditions creates citizens of the world. Participating sojourners share each other's humanity, build bonds of friendship, and gain perspectives that inspire them to lead compassionate and respectful lives. Illume collaborates with interfaith clergy alliances, congregations that seek to foster dialogue with neighboring congregations of other faith heritage, student interfaith groups, and organizations seeking to advance interfaith dialogue.

Program Objectives

Learn about each tradition's beliefs and practices

Experience the practices of each tradition, learn about the historical roots of those practices, and gain an appreciation for the hope and vision of each tradition. Illume creates interfaith journeys to places conducive for reflecting on the intersection of diverse traditions and on strategies for creating peaceful and mutually enriching relationships.

Explore the heritage of one's own tradition

An interfaith experience is not only an opportunity for dialogue, it is a moment of profound discovery of the rich origins of one's own tradition. As participants walk in the footsteps of visionary men and women and recount the stories of sacred texts, their own faith deepens, matures and strengthens. The journey to historical places becomes an interior journey as stories become more tangible and invite participants to encounter God in a new way.

Create unique experiences for your group

Illume will create activities built around the unique objectives of your group. These may include visits with local experts, panel presentations, seminars, dialogue opportunities for interfaith groups, visits to settlements to explore different perspectives, arranging private religious ceremonies or participation in religious ceremonies of other faith communities.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant - to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.

Sample Venues

Southern Spain

Southern Spain offers an excellent venue for exploring the history of the relationship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Visit historic sites in Toledo, Granada, Cordoba and Seville with opportunities for interfaith activities. Highlights include historic synagogues in Toledo, the Alhambra Palace in Granada and Mezquita in Cordoba, and rich religious layers in Seville.

The Holy Land – Israel and Palestine

Walk in the footsteps of ancient Jewish prophets, priests, kings and believers. Trace the life and times of Jesus and his early disciples. Explore Muhammad's mystical flight to Jerusalem and Islam's reverence and connection to Jerusalem and other historical cities in the region. Reflect on questions of justice and peace while pondering historical and contemporary conflict in addition to examples of cooperation and dialogue.

Turkey

In Istanbul, visit monuments of Byzantine Christianity and magnificent mosques and palaces marking its center of the Ottoman Empire. Flourishing communities of Jews, Muslims, Christians (Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant) make up a rich religious diversity and offer many opportunities to witness interfaith activities and organizations. Venture to archaeological parks in western Turkey – such as Ephesus and Sardis where multiple faith traditions are represented.

Other venues – Interfaith opportunities exist throughout Italy (particularly in Rome) and ecumenical opportunities in Germany, Switzerland, and France. Visit European capitals where immigrant groups create new interfaith dynamics.

Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.