



Holy Land Journey

8 Days

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Day 1 – DEPART USA – Today we depart our home airport to connect with our overnight flight aboard a wide-bodied jet. We will be served complimentary beverages, in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft.

Day 2 - TEL AVIV/TIBERIAS - We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv and transfer to our hotel on the shores of the Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 - TIBERIAS - By boat, we cross the Sea of Galilee and view the surrounding mountains and sites of Jesus' bountiful ministry. On the opposite side, we first visit Capernaum, where we see the remains of the village synagogue and the new church built atop St. Peter's house. Next we drive to the Mount of Beatitudes, where we have time for personal meditation in the beautiful gardens. We drive to Tabgha and see the Benedictine Basilica of the Loaves and Fishes followed by the Franciscan Church of St. Peter's Primacy, where Jesus made His appearance after the resurrection. This afternoon, we drive to the village of Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle, where our married couples renew their wedding vows. Afterwards, we continue to Nazareth visiting Mary's well and walk through the local bazaars. Following personal prayer time, we celebrate Mass at the Church of the Annunciation, where the Word became Flesh! Before going to Tiberias and our hotel on the shores of the Galilee for dinner and overnight, we visit the Jordan, where we renew our Baptismal promises.

Day 4 - TIBERIAS/JERUSALEM - This morning, we begin at the Jordan River where we can renew our Baptismal Promises. Afterwards, we drive to Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration, where we will celebrate the Mass of Transfiguration. We will continue south through the Jordan Valley visiting Jericho and viewing the Mount of Temptation. We tour the excavations at Qumran, the home of the Essenes connected with John the Baptist and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Next we will tour along the shores of the Dead Sea the lowest place on earth. On route to Jerusalem, we pass by the traditional site of the Inn of the Good Samaritan. In Jerusalem, we enter the New City passing by the Knesset and Hebrew University. We will visit the Model City of Jerusalem in Jesus' time and Ein Karem, where John the Baptist was born and Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth to utter the words of the Magnificat. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 - JERUSALEM - This morning after visiting the place of the Ascension and the Church of the Pater Noster, we view the beautiful City of Jerusalem from Mt. of Olives. We then walk down the hill to Dominus Flevit Chapel, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem and where we will celebrate Mass. Afterwards, we continue to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. We then go to Mt. Zion to visit the tomb of King David, the Church of Dormition and pray in the Upper Room. Following Mass in the beautiful Franciscan Church of the Cenacle, we enter the Old City through Zion Gate. Making our way to the Western (Wailing) Wall, we see the Cardo and the remains of Nehemiah's wall. We will visit the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - JERUSALEM - This morning, we will drive to Bethlehem, The House of Bread, to visit the Church of the Nativity that commemorates the birth of Christ. We will visit the Manger, Crusader's Cloister, and the Grotto of St. Jerome. We continue to Shepherd's Field where we will celebrate the Christmas Mass. We return to Jerusalem and enter the Old City via St. Stephen's Gate and visit the Church of St. Ann (Mary's mother) and the Pool of Bethesda. We will visit Pilate's Judgment Hall, the Chapel of Flagellation, Lithostrotos, Arch of Ecce Homo and the Convent of the Sisters of Zion. We will prayerfully follow the Stations of The Cross along the Via Dolorosa concluding at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. After some free time in the Old City, we will return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 7 - JERUSALEM/EMMAUS/JAFFA/AIRPORT - This morning, we depart Jerusalem and travel to Abu Gosh, one of the traditional sites of Emmaus, where Jesus appeared on the road on the first Easter Sunday. We will celebrate our closing Holy Land Mass here. We continue northwards along the Mediterranean to Caesarea and visit the Roman and Crusader remains, where St. Peter and Paul visited. Afterward, we continue to Jaffa, the city of Jonah, where Peter had his rooftop experience, where we ride through the quaintly restored area. Afterwards, we will celebrate our farewell dinner nearby before we head to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight home.

Day 8 - USA - We arrive home today with unforgettable memories to cherish always. Knowing we have walked in the footsteps of Jesus and the early Christians bring new meaning to our Scripture reading and celebration of Mass.