



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA PRESENTS

A JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

Under the Direction of The Rev. Rob Courtney, Rector,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School, New Orleans
Local Guide Canon Iyad & Rami Qumri

MAY 21 - JUNE 1, 2024

ITINERARY

TUE, MAY 21, DAY 1: DEPART USA

You're on your way to the land of the Holy One who makes us holy!

WED, MAY 22, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT, TEL AVIV TRANSFER TO NAZARETH

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv our guide and Fr. Rob Courtney will meet you and escort you to our accommodations in Nazareth.

Dinner and overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

THUR, MAY 23, DAY 3: NAZARETH, SEPPHORIS

Introductions. We will visit Mary's Well, the site of the only spring-fed fountain in the city, and most likely the place where Mary would have gone to draw water. We then visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation where we will have an opportunity to have an introduction to the Icon, we then follow on foot the path to the Latin Church of the Annunciation, the traditional site of the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, telling her she would conceive Jesus, the Emmanuel. Lunch. Depart to Zippori, Sepphoris, where we explore the excavations of the Roman/Byzantine city.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

FRI, MAY 24, DAY 4: SEA OF GALILEE, THE JORDAN RIVER, CAPERNAUM & MOUNT OF THE BEATITUDES

Today we depart for the Sea of Galilee-Lake Kinnereth. Stop at the Jordan River from the Northern side for the renewal of Baptismal vows. We then visit Capernaum where we see the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes.

Lunch is by the Sea of Galilee, followed by a visit to Tabgha (Heptapegon), The Loaves and Fishes Church, and the Chapel of St. Peter's Primacy. Then a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

Plus, a treat you will not want to miss!!!

SAT, MAY 25, DAY 5: BURQUIN, NABLUS, TAYBEH

Depart for Burqin. Jesus passed through Burqin on his way to Jerusalem from

Nazareth, and as he was passing by the village he heard cries for help from ten lepers who were isolated in quarantine in a cave. Then to Nablus to visit St. Photini, the Greek Orthodox Monastery. St. Photini lived in first century Palestine. She was the Samaritan woman who Christ visited at the well asking her for water. We will tour the church built over Jacob's Well, and we will drink from the Well.

Lunch in Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town in the Palestinian Authority. In the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine and his mother St. Helena built the church of St. George in the village, and the ruins of the Church are still found on a hill in the town. Taybeh is also the home of the only Palestinian brewery in the Middle East, which we will visit. Depart for Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

SUN, MAY 26, DAY 6: HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM, HERODIUM

Sunday Eucharist at Saint George's Cathedral where the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic. Then we walk down to the Damascus Gate to get the feel for the distance and our surroundings. From Mt. Scopus, view the Judean desert; from Mt. of Olives, view the City of David.

Lunch. Afternoon at Herodium some 12 km south of Jerusalem, on a hill shaped like a truncated cone that rises 758 m above sea level, the palace of King Herod. It has a breathtaking view overlooking the Judean Desert, the mountains of Moab to the east, and the Judean Hills to the west.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues - A Palestinian Perspective

MON, MAY 27, DAY 7: SHEPHERD'S FIELD, BETHLEHEM

We depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds' Field, visit a 1st century cave-dwelling. Lunch is in Beit Sahour (Shepherds' Field).

Afternoon, Church of the Nativity located in Manger Square. It is the Oldest Church in Christendom, constructed by Constantine in AD 326 and the traditional site of the Nativity.

Guest Speaker: Lecture on Islam

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

TUE, MAY 28, DAY 8: WESTERN WALL, DOME OF THE ROCK, ISRAEL MUSEUM

We depart for the Western Wall near Elharam Esh Sharif (The Dome of The Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque), then St. Anne's Church and the pools of Bethesda.

Lunch. Then a drive to Mt. Scopus where we will look at the different dramatic settings of Scripture. Then, the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. We will also visit a scale model of the Old City of Jerusalem, describing the city as it would have been during Jesus' time.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues - An Israeli Perspective

WED, MAY 29, DAY 9: OLD CITY, CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Walk the Cardo to the Constantinian Entrance to the Church of the Resurrection to the Holy Sepulcher.

Lunch, afternoon Holy Sepulcher (cont.), walk to the Armenian quarter where we will be able to observe the Armenian Vespers.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

THUR, MAY 30, DAY 10: WADI QELT, MOUNT OF TEMPTATION, JERICHO, DEAD SEA

Wadi Qelt early morning to watch the sunrise and also get a feel for the desert, depart for Jericho to hike up Mt. of Temptation and view Tell Jericho. Breakfast in Jericho before we begin our trip up the Rift Valley to Nazareth.

Lunch in Jericho. Then, to the Dead Sea, where you will have the option to swim - or, really, float (Rocky Beach).

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

FRI, MAY 31, DAY 11: BETH-PHAGE, DOMINUS FLEVIT, GETHSEMANE

Depart for Beth-phage and Mt. of Olives. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road ending at the Garden of Gethsemane.

Lunch, Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the church was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Peter denied Jesus three times.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

SAT, JUNE 1, DAY 12: WAY OF THE CROSS, EMMAUS

Early this morning we walk and pray the Way of the Cross. Later, we depart for Emmaus Nicopolis, and will celebrate our closing Eucharist at the ruins of a Byzantine Church.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner. Transfer to Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv for our return flight to the USA



Entrance to St. George's Cathedral's Pilgrim Guest House, Jerusalem, our primary lodging

RATES PER PERSON IN US DOLLARS:

Double Occupancy: **\$3,100**
Single Supplement: **\$560** (A limited number of single rooms are available)

The above rate includes:

- Accommodation on full board basis (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).
- Transportation in a deluxe motor coach.
- Guide fees.
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary.
- Guest speakers.
- Porterage to all hotels.
- Tips for restaurant and hotel staff, and bus driver.

The above rate *DOES NOT* include:

- Airfare.
- Trip cancellation/medical insurance.
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls, beverages, and laundry.
- Guide tip (recommended \$5 per day, collected by the trip leader on our last day).

Trip Cancellation / Medical Insurance

All pilgrims must have trip cancellation insurance as well as international medical insurance.

PAYMENTS:

- \$750 non-refundable deposit per person due upon registration by Nov. 1, 2023.
- \$2,350 final payment due April 1, 2024.

Checks should be made out to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church with “Holy Land 2024” in the memo line and mailed (or dropped off) with registration form to:

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Attn: The Rev. Rob Courtney
6249 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124



Rooftop view from the Sisters of Nazareth, our home in Galilee

FLIGHT INFO:

Flights will be the responsibility of each pilgrim. We will expect you to arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 22. Fr. Rob and Canon Iyad will meet you at baggage claim to get you transported to the Sisters of Nazareth. We recommend you schedule your departure for the evening of Saturday, June 1 between 11:00 PM and 12:00 AM. More details to come.

GETTING READY FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE

PREPARATION

You are on pilgrimage for a short time. It is a chance to surrender to the mystery of the journey, without the distractions of our daily routines. You have a unique chance to rest in the hands of your leaders, in the hospitality of the wonderful people of Israel-Palestine, and in the guiding love of God. Traveling lightly, including shedding worries and preconceptions, will open your heart to the adventure and holy journey you will be sharing together. One of the most important differences between a vacation and a pilgrimage is advanced preparation. In order to bond the pilgrimage group and thoroughly prepare us for this once in a lifetime experience, **all participants will be expected to attend four preparatory group meetings**. These meetings will last approximately two hours, and will be scheduled between January and April of 2024 at times and locations most agreeable to the group.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

It is mandatory that you have a passport valid until at least Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024 (preferably later). Visas to Israel are not required for persons holding United States passports and traveling to Israel directly from the USA.

***If you are planning to travel from Israel to Jordan you must obtain a Visa before you arrive in Israel. If you are coming from Jordan to Israel you can get a Visa in the Jordanian airport. These arrangements are the responsibility of the individual traveler.

TRANSPORTATION FROM TEL AVIV (BEN GURION) AIRPORT TO NAZARETH:

Fr. Rob Courtney and Canon Iyad Qumri, will meet the group at Ben Gurion Airport. A bus will transport the group to St. George's.

MEALS

All meals are included. Breakfast is to be at the St. George's Guest House or at the Sisters of Nazareth Guest House. Lunches are in restaurants along the way. Dinners are at St. George's Guest House and at Sisters of Nazareth. There are several nights when you can plan to enjoy the local restaurants on your own. When you do this, the Guest House must be notified the day before. The cost of the missed meal cannot be reimbursed. If you have dietary restrictions, please discuss these with Fr. Courtney before completing your registration form.

TRANSPORTATION DURING THE PILGRIMAGE

We will travel on a modern, comfortable, deluxe tour bus. There is no bathroom on board, but rest stops are always available.

WALKING

Participants should be able to walk comfortably for up to 60 minutes at a time. Bear in mind that the terrain is often rough, and uneven. There are a number of moderate up-hill walks. In some locations, there are places to sit and rest while waiting for the group.

FREE TIME

There will be some planned “free time” within our itinerary, particularly in the evenings. Your guide will suggest a variety of activities for you to choose from including particular shopping areas and additional places of interest. Or, you may choose just to relax and enjoy the grounds of St. George’s Cathedral.

WEATHER

Daytime temperatures will be in the 80°s and 90°s in most of the country (possibly hotter, though, at the Dead Sea). Jerusalem will be in the mid 60°s in the evening, with a late sunset (7:45 PM or so). There is little to no chance of rain in the summer months.

PILGRIMAGE ACCOMMODATIONS

Jerusalem:

St. George’s Guest House is located just a short distance outside the northern gates of the Old City. The rooms have two single beds, a private bath, and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

Tel: 972-2-6283302

Fax: 972-2-6282253

Nazareth:

The Sisters of Nazareth Guest House rooms are a bit smaller than at St. George’s, but have been fully updated, have climate control, and are noted for their very clean upkeep. Breakfasts are simpler than at St. George’s.

Tel: 972-4-6554304

Fax: 972-4-6460741

CLOTHING

For women:

Dress conservatively for the Holy Sites. Skirts, slacks, or capris (that cover the knees) are good. No tank tops, shorts, or sleeveless blouses. Short-sleeves are fine. Bermuda shorts are fine for the walking tour in the Galilee. You will want to be able to dress up slightly for church on Sunday and for a couple of special nights. You may also want a sweater or light jacket for potentially cool evenings.

For men:

Long pants, jeans or khakis, are necessary most days. Bermuda shorts are fine for the walking tour in the Galilee. You might want some long-sleeved shirts for church and a few special nights.

Everyone will need a hat and sunglasses. **Sneakers and/or walking shoes that can handle cobblestones are absolutely necessary.**

LAUNDRY

Many pilgrims hand wash a few items in their bathrooms; they will dry overnight. There is also a laundry service available at St. George's for an extra charge.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND CAMERAS

Most sacred sites will indicate whether photography is permitted. If you bring a camera, make sure to include extra memory cards and batteries from your home country as these items are very expensive in Israel and Palestine.

BOOKS

You will not want to bring many books. However, pack a journal, perhaps a guidebook to read at night, a Bible, or prayer book if it is small. Excellent books are for sale at St. George's College and the nearby Educational Bookshop, as well as in other shops we will visit.

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

The electrical current in Israel is 220AC. Electrical plugs are shaped differently in Israel. Most U.S. phone and camera chargers only need a simple plug adaptor (see Internet or local travel store). You will need a transformer in addition to an adapter if you are bringing a hair drier.

WAKE-UP CALLS

Wake-up calls are possible but a small travel alarm is useful.

JEWELRY

A watch is helpful but a lot of jewelry is unnecessary. Many people enjoy finding a silver or gold cross or some special earrings while on the pilgrimage.

PURCHASING PERSONAL ITEMS

There is a pharmacy five minutes' walk from St. George's for those items you may have forgotten.

INTERNET

There is wireless internet at St. George's Guest House. There is also wireless at the Sisters of Nazareth, but it is very limited.

CURRENCY

It is wise to bring at least 20-50 \$1.00 bills. It is possible to get NIS (New Israeli Shekels) in the USA in advance of your departure. You can also change dollars into shekels at the airport and there is a money changer as well as an ATM within 10 minutes of the Hotel. Remember you will receive shekels not dollars from the ATM. Many merchants will accept credit cards (although they often add a foreign transaction fees). The vast majority of places we will visit do take dollars.

WATER

Bottled water is available for \$1.00 per bottle on the tour bus. Tap water is safe to drink. It is crucial that you stay hydrated in the dry climate.

QUESTIONS

Contact your pilgrimage coordinator, The Rev. Rob Courtney, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School, at (504) 488-3759, ext. 122, or email rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org.

A Journey to the Holy Land 2024 Registration Form

Full name as it appears on your passport.....

Passport number.....Date of birth

Passport issued by (country)..... Expiration date

Mailing address.....

Email.....

Mobile phone number.....

If under age 21, I am traveling under the supervision of:

.....

Emergency contact in USA

Please give name, address and mobile/home phone numbers

.....

.....

I CONFIRM that I have read the trip information provided and agree to abide by the stated expectations and instructions:

Signature (required)

Please mail this form with a deposit of \$750 (non-refundable) per person to:

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Attn: The Rev. Rob Courtney
6249 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124

Please write “Holy Land 2024” on check memo line.

ST. PAUL’S OFFICE USE:

Control#..... Date Received.....

Check number and amount.....

Traveling with.....

Single supplement Y N

“Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and one you will find in the land they call holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you.”
-Bargil Pixner



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