

ISRAEL, OUR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY

06 – 17 May, 2024



Hosted by Fr. Dan Stevenot – Saint Mary’s Parish, Banff

“What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.”

(Psalm 84:5)



Tel Aviv, from the ancient port of Jaffa



Sea of Galilee, viewed from the Mount of Beatitudes



Boat Ride and Fellowship on the Sea of Galilee



Temple Mount, viewed from the Mount of Olives



Travel Industry Council of Ontario
T.I.C.O. Registration # 2976741

DAY 1. MON. 06 MAY: Departure to Israel

Today, we depart from Calgary and Edmonton on our flights to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

DAY 2. TUE. 07 MAY: Israel, Tel Aviv

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we are met by our Israeli Tour guide who will assist us with luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach, we relax and enjoy the journey to towards the Sea of Galilee.

Mount Carmel – Overlooking the City of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side, we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (I Kings 2; 15:4; 25; Isaiah 33:9; Zechariah 12:12)
Here, we will enjoy our daily Mass.

Once at the Sea of Galilee, we check-in to our hotel on the Mount of Beatitudes. Home for the next 4 nights. Tonight, we will have our 'welcome dinner' in anticipation of a memorable journey. **(B, D)**

DAY 3: WED. 08 MAY: Sepphoris, Cana, Nazareth, Beth Shean

Today, we leave the Sea of Galilee and journey towards Nazareth and surrounding areas visiting:

Sepphoris – Tradition says that this is the birthplace of Mary and home to Joachim and Anna. It was once the capital of Galilee. This excavated city has some of the most magnificent mosaics in the country, including "The Mona Lisa of Israel".

Cana – Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38; John 1:46; Matthew 2:23)

Nazareth – Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Church of Annunciation, Mary's Well and many other sites to visit. Mass will be at St. Joseph's church today.

Beth She'an – The largest of Israel's archeological digs. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7-8)

Later this afternoon, we return to the Sea of Galilee for dinner at our hotel. **(B, D)**

DAY 4: THU. 09 MAY: Caesarea Philippi, Upper Galilee

Before breakfast, we will enjoy Mass to start our day.

After breakfast, we spend our day in the upper Galilee. Driving northward, our day includes the following:

Tel Dan – This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history!

Caesarea Philippi – Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the City of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat-footed god, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples His purpose, His Church, and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah. (Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

Golan Heights – Today, we have the opportunity to view Israel from both Mt. Bental and the Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee.

This afternoon, we return to the Sea of Galilee and head to the top of Mt. Arbel. From here, we can view the entire panorama of the Sea of Galilee. The heart of Jesus' Ministry!

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

DAY 5: FRI. 10 MAY: Sea of Galilee

After another Israeli buffet breakfast, our full touring day involves visits to:

Magdala – Located within one kilometer from our hotel, we have one of the latest Biblical excavation digs. We have the chance to visit what has been unearthed so far for the ancient seaside town of Magdala. (Luke 8:1-3) Our Mass today, will be at the Magdala retreat centre.

The Mount of Beatitudes – Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee, the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. (Matthew 5:1-8) We will take the scenic walk down the mount to the shores of the Galilee and Capernaum.

Capernaum – The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan Monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

Church of the Primacy of Peter – It is here that Jesus appears to his disciples for the third time after his resurrection on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The night before, Peter and several other disciples had sailed out on the lake to fish but caught nothing. In the morning, a man appeared on the shore and called out to them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. Doing so, they caught so many fish they couldn't drag the net back into the boat. At this point, Peter recognizes Jesus and promptly jumps out of the boat to wade to shore to meet him.

Tabgha – Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes, this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. Here, we will enjoy private worship and intercession by the shores of the Galilee. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21; 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride – Today ends with boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Tonight, dinner will be at our hotel overlooking the shores of the Sea of Galilee. **(B, D)**

DAY 6. SAT. 11 MAY: Mt. Tabor, Jericho Bethlehem

This morning, we begin with Mass before we leave for Bethlehem. En-route, we shall visit:

Mt. Tabor – One of the traditional sites of Christ's transfiguration, the ascent of Mt. Tabor involves the dexterity of the local taxi drivers to reach the summit.

Jericho – We visit Old Testament **Jericho**, home of Zacchaeus and the Sycamore tree (Luke 19:1-8) where the walls came tumbling down. In the New Testament, Jericho is close to where **Jesus healed Bartimaeus**.



Mt. of Temptation – Overlooking Jericho, it is this area of the Judean wilderness that Jesus was tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

After another fascinating day, we arrive at the Heritage hotel in Bethlehem. Home for the next three nights. **(B, D)**

DAY 7: SUN. 12 MAY: Bethlehem

Today, we will stay in Bethlehem and visit:

The Church of the Nativity and Star of Bethlehem – Located on, or near by to the birthplace of Jesus. (Luke 2:7; Matthew 2:1-12) It is here, that we will have our daily Mass service today.

Milk Grotto – A traditional site of Pilgrimage, bringing alive the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus fleeing to Egypt. (Matthew 2:13)

Shepherd's Fields – Where the shepherds were tending their flocks. (Luke 2:8-20)

Dinner will be at our hotel tonight. **(B, D)**

DAY 8. MON. 13 MAY: Masada, Dead Sea

After breakfast, we will visit the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit:

Masada – This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here, we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders.

Ein Gedi – This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (I Samuel 24; Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

The remainder of the afternoon will be left open for you to enjoy the unique properties of the Dead Sea.

Dead Sea – No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!

Qumran – Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here, we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947.

Dinner will be at our Bethlehem hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

DAY 9: TUE. 14 MAY: Ein Karem Jerusalem

Today, we leave Bethlehem and move into Jerusalem. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we shall visit:

Yad Vashem – Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

Monastery of the Cross – Built on the site where we believe that the tree from which the Cross of the Crucifixion came from.

Scale Model of Jerusalem – This fabulous reconstruction of the old City of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during Herodian times.

Shrine of the Book Museum – Here, we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

Ein Karem – It is this very village that Mary journeys to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, after Gabriel gives her the message that she is pregnant. It is here, that we will have our daily Mass service.

"Mary then "went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country", a distance of around 120km, "where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb." (Luke 1:39-41)

This afternoon, we will check-in to the Leonardo Hotel, home for the remainder of the journey. **(B, D)**

DAY 10: WED. 15 MAY: Jerusalem

Our day in Israel is truly a special one as we stay in the old city and visit:

Mount of Olives – We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent.

From here, we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

Dominus Flevit – The traditional site where Jesus wept over the City of Jerusalem.

Garden of Gethsemane – The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. – *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."* Today we plan to have an outdoor Mass service near the garden. (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

House of Caiaphas – Located under the current St. Peter of Gallicantu Church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

Upper Room – The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

Mount Zion – Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David, this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. We shall also visit Dormition Abbey.

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

DAY 11: THU. 16 MAY: Jerusalem

Our last day in Israel is truly a special one as we stay in the old city and visit:

Church of St. Anne – Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple. (John 5:1-9)

Lithostrotos – Here, we stand on the Roman flagstone floor where we believe Jesus was condemned by Pontius Pilate.



Via Dolorosa – The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill, finishing at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We end the journey with a Mass service in the complex of the church.

This afternoon, we shall have free time to peruse the many shops of the Christian Quarter.

This evening, we will enjoy our “farewell” dinner together. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you! **(B, D)**

DAY 12: FRI. 17 MAY Israel to Canada

This morning, we depart for our flights back to Calgary and Edmonton, arriving home in the evening. Breakfast and complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. **(B, D)**

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Calgary or Edmonton (other cities available)

Hotels: **Mount of Beatitudes Hotel**
Heritage Hotel, Bethlehem
Leonardo Hotel, Jerusalem

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner, with tea and coffee (some hotels charge for beverages with dinner).

Transportation: Air conditioned luxury coach service, throughout the tour.

Sightseeing: Comprehensive program, as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

Tour Guide: Government licensed Tour guide will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

Porterage: One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

Air Transportation Taxes: Currently \$810.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches (unless mentioned in the itinerary)

Travel Insurance:

Christian Journeys requires that you must have – “out of country” – emergency medical insurance equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please contact our office for policy details and premiums.

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD\$150.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport not expiring before 17 November 2024. Canadian, Filipino and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for the Holy Land.

Inoculation: Not a current requirement.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required along with the registration form. All cancellations charges are described on the registration form. Any cancellation prior to 05 February 2024 incur a \$300 cancellation fee, per person.

Fuel surcharges: The air transportation costs fluctuate. This amount is subject to change and will be reviewed at time of final billing 90 days prior to departure.

Currency surcharge: Christian Journeys reserves the right to introduce a currency surcharge. If applicable, this would be assessed 90 days prior to departure. An increase greater than 7% of the base journey cost would allow participants to cancel without a penalty.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

JOURNEY PRICING

LAND JOURNEY COST:	\$3799CAD
AIRLINE COST:	\$2199CAD
GRATUITIES:	\$ 200CAD
TOTAL:	\$6198CAD
(Based on 35 people)	
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 1199CAD

Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.



*for more
information
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