



Walking the Living Stones: A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Oct 31 - Nov 8, 2020

Itinerary

(Potential pre-tour extension in Jordan to be discussed. Not included in main tour pricing. Details to come by September 1, 2019)

Day 1: Sat, Oct 31: Arrivals and Meetup (Guide, Bus)

Main flight: Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and meet guide and driver. Ascend to Jerusalem, with orienting narration en route. Depending on arrival time, make a pre-tour stop to be determined. Then meet up with others from your group at time and location tbd upon learning arrival time. Enjoy a welcome reception with guide and group at location near hotel in Jerusalem (tbd).

Overnight: St. George's Pilgrim House, Jerusalem

Meals: Dinner included

Day 2: Sun, Nov 1: Christianity in Old City (Guide, Bus)

In the morning, visit a local congregation in Jerusalem for worship. Then tour key Christian sites in and around the Old City, with included lunch, and stops at Dominus Flevit, Gethsemane, Gallicantu, the Cenacle, Dormition Abbey. Do a thorough tour of Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and stop at Bethesda Pools and St. Anne's Church to experience its amazing acoustical sound.

Overnight: St. George's Pilgrim House, Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 3: Mon, Nov 2: Al Aqsa / Temple Mount and Bethlehem (Guide, Bus)

On Monday, check out of your hotel and ascend the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary for a close view of the iconic Dome of the Rock and al Aqsa Mosque. Stop for a time of reflection at the Western Wall, and discuss the history of these key sites in Jewish and Muslim tradition, as well as current issues. Then head to Bethlehem District, and stop in Shepherd's Field in the town of Beit Sahour, for lunch at the Bedouin-style Tent Restaurant. Tour Nativity Church recalling the

birth of Christ, and then tour your mission partner Dar al Kalima University, with speaker Mitri Raheb or Nuha Khoury as available. Return to Jerusalem along the famous separation wall, with option to walk through the checkpoint as time permits. Check into hotel, and be joined at dinner by speakers from the Parents' Circle Family Forum, Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers who've lost family members to violence.

Overnight: Jacir Palace, Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 4: Tue, Nov 3: Masada and Dead Sea (Guide, Bus)

On Tuesday, begin a descent into the Judean desert. Make a stop in the desert to be determined, and continue to Masada and take the Gondola up to tour Herod's desert fortress of Masada. Enjoy lunch at Crowne Plaza Ein Bokek, with included entrance to spa with towel, and opportunity to float in Dead Sea as desired (changing rooms and showers at beach). In the afternoon, hear from your guide about ancient and modern issues along the Jordan valley as you head into Jericho for a stay in one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities.

Overnight: Jericho Village Resort or similar, Jericho

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 5: Wed, Nov 4: Baptism and Transfiguration (Guide, Bus)

In the morning, head further north along the Jordan Valley, and make a stop at the Jordan River to renew your baptismal vows (Yardenit). Following a group lunch near Yardenit, continue to Mount Tabor, where you can choose to hike or to shuttle up the Church of the Transfiguration. Share a time of devotion at the Church of the Transfiguration while looking over the Jezreel Valley and Megiddo below. Then head to your hotel in Tiberias for check-in and dinner. If desired, stroll the promenade in the evening in Tiberias, along the Galilee.

Overnight: Scots Hotel Tiberias

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 6: Thr, Nov 5: Around the Galilee (Guide, Bus)

On Thursday, visit Capernaum, site of Jesus' ministry, Tabgha, and the Mount of Beatitudes. Then make a stop at the museum in Ginosar to see a 2000-year-old fishing boat, carefully recovered and restored from shallows of the Galilee. Take part in the Pilgrims' tradition of St. Peter Fish lunch and a boat ride on the Galilee. Close the day with a visit to Migdal, hometown of Mary of Magdala, before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Scots Hotel Tiberias

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 7: Fri, Nov 6: Nazareth (Guide, Bus)

Head out Friday morning for Nazareth, and take a tour of Nazareth Village a living re-creation of First Century small town Galilee life. Then head to Mary's Well and St. Gabriel Church to see the icons that play such an important role in devotional life for Eastern Orthodox Christians. Enjoy free time in the Soukh for lunch on your own, and finish your time in Nazareth with a visit to the

Basilica of the Annunciation with its many artistic depictions of Mary and Christchild from around the world. Then continue to Tel Aviv and check into hotel ahead of dinner.

Overnight: Tal Hotel Tel Aviv

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 8: Sat, Nov 7: Caesarea, Jaffa, and Celebration Dinner (Guide, Bus)

For the final full day of your Holy Land pilgrimage, head north along the coast to Caesarea, and discuss its role in the days of Jesus, and in the ministry of Paul. Break for lunch on own in Caesarea. Then return for an afternoon tour of Old Jaffa, including a visit to the Church of St. Peter. End the day with a closing celebration dinner at one of Jaffa's wonderful seaside restaurants, and bid farewell to your guide.

Overnight: Tal Hotel Tel Aviv

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 9: Sun, Nov 8: Departure / Extension (Bus Transfer)

Group One: Bus transfer to Ben Gurion Airport (time, TBD)

Meals: Breakfast included

Group Two: Extension on Modern History and Current Issues (not included). To be determined.

Overnight and Meals: TBD.