



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA PRESENTS
READING THE FIFTH GOSPEL:
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 Qumri

JUNE 7-20, 2018

ITINERARY

THU, JUNE 7, DAY 1: DEPART USA

Fr. Courtney will escort those traveling on the group air flight.

FRI, JUNE 8, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv our guide, Iyad Qumri, will meet you and escort you to our accommodations in Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

SAT, JUN 9, DAY 3: HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM HERODIUM

Introductions, 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

SUN, JUN 10, DAY 4: WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL ISRAEL MUSEUM

This morning we will celebrate Eucharist (Arabic/English) at St. George's Cathedral.

Lunch, 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: Lecture on Islam

MON, JUN 11, DAY 5: WESTERN WALL, DOME OF THE ROCK

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

Lunch, visit SUNBULA, founded in 1996. It's mission is to support Palestinian women's cooperatives and disabled persons.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

TUE, JUN 12, DAY 6: JERICHO, NAZARETH

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.

Lunch in Jericho before we begin our trip up the Rift Valley to Nazareth. In Nazareth we will visit Mary's Well, the site of the only spring-fed fountain in the city, and the 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.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

WED, JUN 13, DAY 7: 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.

Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth, plus a treat you will not want to miss!!!!

THU, JUN 14, DAY 8: SEPPHORIS, CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Today we depart for Zippori (Sepphoris), where we explore the excavations of the Roman/Byzantine city.

Lunch, depart for Caesarea Philippi (Banias) where Jesus asked the disciples "Who do people say that I am?"

Meet with Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun at Christ Church in Nazareth. Dinner and overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

FRI, JUN 15, DAY 9:

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. We will also do some shopping in Taybeh to support the Christian community.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House
Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues- A Palestinian Perspective

SAT, JUN 16, DAY 10:

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.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

SUN, JUN 17, DAY 11:

**CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
FREE TIME**

After a morning walk of the cardo to the Constantinian entrance to the Church of the Resurrection and worship you will have a free day to shop, revisit favorite sites in Jerusalem, or to visit the dramatic desert site of Masada, a fortified palace of Herod the Great which saw heavy fighting between Jewish rebels and Roman soldiers in 73 A.D. You may also wish to visit Yad Vashem site of the Holocaust Memorial, David's Citadel and David's Tower.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House
Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues- An Israeli Perspective

MON, JUN 18, DAY 12:

**BETH-PHAGE, DOMINUS FLEVIT, GETHSEMANE,
DEAD SEA**

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

Dead Sea, where you will have the option to swim – or really, float (Rocky Beach).

Dinner in Jericho at the Qumris
Overnight at Saint George's Guest House

TUE, JUN 19, DAY 13:

WAY OF THE CROSS, EMMAUS

Early this morning we walk and pray the Way of the Cross. Later we depart for Emmaus Nicopolis. We celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine church.

Afternoon at leisure.

Transfer to the Tel Aviv airport 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: **\$2,635**
Single Supplement: **\$540** (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.

The above rate *DOES NOT* include:

- Personal expenses such as telephone calls, beverages, and laundry.
- Trip cancellation/medical insurance.
- Guide and bus driver tip.

Medical Insurance

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

PAYMENTS:

- \$500 non-refundable deposit per person due upon registration by Dec. 8, 2017.
- \$2,135 final payment due April 30, 2018.

Checks should be made out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church with "Holy Land 2018" 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

NOTE: These payments are for ground travel only; individual Air Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance must be arranged by each participant individually (see group flight information below).



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

GROUP FLIGHT INFO:

The (Optional) Group Flight arrangements are via United Airlines

07 June Thu

UA 711 Leave New Orleans (MSY) 02:55pm Arrive Newark (EWR) 07:10pm
 UA 90 Leave Newark (EWR) 10:45pm Arrive Tel Aviv 04:20pm/08 June Fri

20 June Wed

UA 955 Leave Tel Aviv 12:55am Arrive San Francisco (SFO) 06:00am
 UA 1122 Leave (SFO) 08:35am Arrive New Orleans (MSY) 02:43pm

Base fare (guaranteed): \$1,195.00
 Approx taxes/fuel/fees: \$630.00 (subject to change, fluctuations will be minimal)
Estimated Total: \$1,825.00

This Group Fare is available provided at least 10 persons purchase it by the cutoff date.

Trip Cancellation Insurance should be purchased through:

Christopher S. Winchell (Chris)
 Pinnacle Travel Services
 185 S. Douglas Street, Suite 200
 El Segundo, California 90245
 (310) 343-4102
 (310) 343-4224 – fax
c.winchell@ptsla.com

Chris can also help you make alternative travel arrangements.

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 May at times and locations most agreeable to those who have registered for the trip.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

It is mandatory that you have a passport valid until at least December 31, 2018. 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 JERUSALEM:

Fr. Rob Courtney will lead those flying with the group. Our guide, Iyad Qumri, will meet the group at Ben Gurion Airport. A bus will transport the group to St. George's. IF YOU ARE TRAVELING TO BEN GURION ON YOUR OWN, THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR GETTING TO ST. GEORGE'S:

Option 1: A driver will be prearranged to meet you as you exit luggage and customs area of the airport. He will be holding a sign with your name and bring you to St. George's Guest House; the cost is \$100.

Option 2: Hire a private regular Taxi at the airport; the cost is around \$60.

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 planned “free time” within our itinerary. 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 70°-85°-ish in most of the country (hotter, though, at the Dead Sea). Jerusalem will be in the 60°’s in the evening. There is very little 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.

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g297758-d1135842-Reviews-Sisters_of_Nazareth_Convent-Nazareth_Galilee.html

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 sun glasses. **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

Care should be taken not to photograph any military or police personnel or installations. Visitors should also be discreet about taking photographs in Jewish Orthodox areas and of Jewish Orthodox people. Most sacred sites will indicate whether photography is permitted. Bring 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 and perhaps a map, a guide book 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.

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 \$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 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, Fr. Rob Courtney, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School at (504) 488-3759, ext. 122, or email rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org.

"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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(504) 488-3749
www.StPaulsNOLA.org