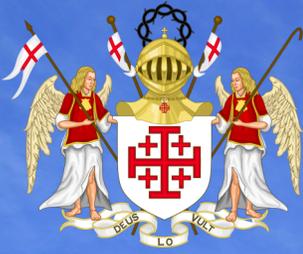


Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
- Gibraltar -

The Holy Land

“In The Footsteps of Jesus”



February 9 - 18, 2024

Land Only: **\$3,450 per person** based on double occupancy

Spiritual Director:

Rt Rev Mgr Carmel Zammit, KC*HS, Bishop of Gibraltar

Visit to: Caesarea · Stella Maris (Haifa) · Nazareth · Cana · Tiberias · Sea of Galilee · Jordan River · Mt. Tabor · Jericho · Jerusalem · Temple Model · Ein Karem · Bethlehem · Bethany · Dead Sea · Mt. Of Olives · Gethsemane · Mt. Zion (Upper Room) · Western Wall · Via Dolorosa · Church of the Holy Sepulchre



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SAMPLE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday – February 9 - Depart to the Holy Land - Arrive in Tel Aviv - Tiberias
Make your own way to your local airport where you will board your flight to Tel Aviv (at own expense). Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, you will exit our plane and make your way to Passport Control, then to the Baggage Claim to collect your luggage(s), and then enter into the Arrival's Hall. There, you will be met by the 206 Tours representative. Once everyone has arrived in your group, you will board your bus that will then transfer to your hotel in Tiberias. You will enjoy a late dinner, and then retire to your room for overnight.

Day 2: Saturday – February 10 – Tiberias

Today you will get to sleep in, and begin the day a little later, allowing you to get used to the time difference. Enjoy a late breakfast, followed by Mass at the Magdala Center. You will have the remainder of the day free to relax and prepare for the pilgrimage ahead. Gather in the evening for dinner, and retire for a restful night's sleep.

Day 3: Sunday – February 11 - Tiberias – Haifa - Caesarea - Nazareth – Cana - Tiberias

Theme: The Annunciation

This morning will start with Mass, followed breakfast. You will have time to relax and pray before boarding your bus to head south to Haifa and visit Stella Maris, the Carmelite Monastery dedicated to Our Lady of Mt Carmel and located over the cave where Elijah lived. After, we will continue south to Caesarea, which was once the ancient capital of the Roman province. The tour will start by viewing the impressive archaeological remains of the Roman and Byzantine city that once dominated the region. It was at Caesarea that Peter came to understand that the Good News was not for Jews only, but for the whole world. Here he baptized the Roman Centurion, Cornelius, and his family. It was from Caesarea that Paul set sail for Rome, an event that eventually brought Christianity to the World. Your next visit will be to Nazareth, where you will visit the Byzantine Church of St. Joseph and Mary's Well. From there, you will walk to the Church of the Annunciation for a quick tour, including the Archeological Garden where you will see 1st century remains of houses from the time of Christ. You will also visit the Museum where we see inscriptions left by pilgrims venerating the Virgin Mary, including the 2nd century A.D. inscription showing Xeria Maria 'Ave Maria', considered to be the oldest venerating signs of the Blessed Virgin. We will stop for lunch, and then visit Cana where you will visit the Franciscan Wedding Church. Couples will have the opportunity participate in the ceremony of renewing their Wedding Vows, led by your Spiritual Director. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

***Wedding Vows in Cana: Each couple will receive a "Special" Certificate to commemorate the ceremony.**

Day 4: Monday – February 12 - Tiberias: Banias - Sea of Galilee

Theme: The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee

After breakfast, we will begin the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. After this, see the remains of a boat that dates back to the time of Jesus, found buried in mud. We will then travel north to visit Caesarea Philippi, also known as Banias. It was here that Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah and where Jesus told St. Peter, "You are the Rock, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Banias is also the source of the River Jordan. Continue to Capernaum, from where Jesus launched his Ministry; see the synagogue which dates to the time of Jesus and the church built over the site of Peter's home. We will stop for lunch included. We will then celebrate the Liturgy at the Mt. of Beatitude, the scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. Nearby is Tabgha, where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 and onto the site known as "Peter's Primacy". Here, after His resurrection, Jesus met with His disciples and told Peter to "feed my lambs; feed my sheep." [John 21:9]. Then we will see the Sower Cove, located midway between Tabgha and Capernaum, where Jesus was pushed out on a boat by the crowd and taught from the parable of sower. Our last visit will be remains of the fishing village of Magdala (Aramaic for "elegant"). During the time of Jesus it was a thriving place that exported dried fish and garum (a fish sauce reduction popular in Roman cooking). Excavations done by the Franciscans in the 1970s revealed the residential area of the village and the docks where the fishing boats would unload the fish caught in the Sea of Galilee. In 2009 a chance discovery revealed a 1st Century synagogue at the entrance to the village from West. It is also assumed that Mary Magdalene was born here. Then walk to the nearby Valley of the Doves, to see the Jesus Trail, and the ancient road that was walked by our Lord. End the day at Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Day 5: Tuesday – February 13 - Mt. Tabor – Jericho – Jordan River - Jerusalem

Theme: The Transfiguration

Today, after breakfast, drive to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration, with time to reflect on Christ's Humanity and Divinity. Celebrating Mass here will be a good preparation for the journey to Jerusalem where Jesus was to suffer the crucifixion and resurrection. Drive down the Jordan Valley to Jericho, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, where we view Mt Temptation and an example of a Sycamore Tree. Visit the Baptismal site on the Jordan River, and have the opportunity to renew your own baptism (pending weather conditions). Continue on to Jerusalem where we will arrive in time for check-in, followed by dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Wednesday – February 14 - Jerusalem: Temple Model - Ein Karem

Following breakfast, we will begin with a visit to the Israel Museum which houses the Temple to which Jesus was Presented (Luke 2:22). Your group will visit a model of the Second Temple, as it was in the time of Jesus, as well as viewing the Shrine of the Book (where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display). After lunch we will make a

short drive taking us to the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist, to visit the church. Known for its two churches representing the two homes of Zechariah and Elizabeth. The first is in a valley where the birth of St. John the Baptist is commemorated (Luke 1:39-80) in the Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The second, the Church of the Visitation, is on a hill where Elizabeth spent five months, in seclusion (Luke 1:24). Visit both churches. You will have the opportunity to pray the Mystery of the Rosary as you walk up the hill to the Church of the Visitation. This will be followed by a return drive back to Notre Dame for dinner & overnight.

Day 7: Thursday – February 15 - Jerusalem: Temple Mount - St. Anne's Church – Bethlehem (Holy Child Program - Church of Nativity - Shepherds Fields)

Theme: The Visitation & Nativity

Following an early breakfast, we will start our day with a visit to Temple Mount, starting with a visit to the Church of St. Anne's, the home of Jesus' maternal grandparents (Anne and Joachim). Nearby, we enter the Old City to see the Pool of Bethesda (John 5: 1 - 9), which supplied the water for the Temple, and where Jesus healed the crippled man. We will make our way to Bethlehem and start with a visit to the Holy Child Program – a school for children that the Order has directly funded. After meeting with the Franciscan Sisters who run the school, we will take a tour, followed by a meeting with students. From there, we will depart to the Manger Square, which stands in front of one of the oldest of Christian churches, the Church of the Nativity. Enter the Church and down to the Grotto of the Nativity which marks the spot of Jesus' birth. Beneath the Altar, there is a silver star with the Latin inscription: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary.) We will celebrate the Liturgy in the Church of Nativity, and then continue our final stop of the day, the Shepherds Fields. The caves have soot marks of the fires that shepherd's lit to keep warm while watching over their flocks. Return to Notre Dame for dinner and overnight.

Day 8: Friday – February 16 - Jerusalem: Bethany - Mt. of Olives - Mt. Zion - Meeting with the Latin Patriarchate or Apostolic Administrator (Receive Pilgrim Shell)

Theme: Palm Sunday the Agony in the Garden, and the Last Supper

We will start the day with breakfast, and then a visit to Bethany, where Lazarus was raised from the dead. Drive to the Mount of Olives, where we will take in the panoramic view of Jerusalem. Then to the Pater Noster shrine, where Jesus taught His disciples the Pater Noster - The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Walking down the Palm Sunday Road, we will stop at the beautiful little church, Dominus Flevit - "The Lord wept." It was here that Jesus wept over Jerusalem [Luke 19:41]. Then make our way to Gethsemane to reflect on Jesus' final night (Luke 22: 29 - 53). The Garden contains trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus. Visit and celebrate Mass at the Church of All Nations to pray at the "Rock of Agony," a section of bed-rock identified as the place where Jesus prayed alone in the garden on the night of His arrest. Following Mass, we will visit the Church of the Assumption, and then make our way to Mt. Zion, overlooking the Kidron Valley. From Gethsemane, Jesus was taken as a prisoner to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas where He was interrogated and imprisoned. Now called Peter in Gallicantu ("Crowing Rooster"), this beautiful Church also commemorates Peter's denial of Christ (Luke 22: 33 - 34), his repentance and then being forgiven by Jesus. We will make a stop for lunch included and then continue on to Mt. Zion, the Upper Room (Matthew 26: 17 - 30) where we commemorate the Last Supper. Nearby is King David's Tomb, and the Benedictine Church of the Dormition. We will proceed to the Latin Patriarchate for a visit to the Office of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. All Knights and Dames will receive the Pilgrim Shell and then process to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to visit the tomb. Dinner and overnight at Notre Dame.

Day 9: Saturday – February 17 - Jerusalem: Via Dolorosa - Church of the Holy Sepulchre - Meeting at the Pontifical Mission - Our Lady of Palestine

Theme: The Crucifixion

Today will be an early morning, as we will depart the Hotel at 5:30 A.M. and make our way to begin the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) at the Antonia Fortress. This is the spot where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate (John 18:28-19:16). Following His condemnation, He was taken (on the Road to Calvary) to His place of Crucifixion. Your group will reflect upon the Stations of the Cross as you travel through the markets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Luke 23: 26-33). This Sacred destination is the site of Calvary (Jesus' crucifixion place) and, His tomb (Luke 23: 50-55). The Liturgy your group will be celebrating this morning is High Mass at the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Continue to the Western Wall, the holiest site to Jews. Return to Notre Dame for breakfast, and then you will have some free time to relax. We will then meet at the Pontifical Mission with their representative, Mr. Sami El-Yousef. Quick lunch included and then travel along the Valley of Elah, where the famous encounter between David and Goliath has taken place, reaching Deir Rafat Monastery. This Monastery is dedicated to Our Lady of Palestine. The Latin Patriarchate, Luigi Barlassina, established this Monastery in 1927. The facade in the Convent Church bears the Latin inscription "Reginae Palaestinae", meaning "to the Queen of Palestine". It carries a six (6) meter statue of the Virgin Mary. The Church ceiling is decorated with a painting showing angels carrying banners with the first words of the "Hail Mary" prayer in 280 languages. Return to the Notre Dame for your Farewell Dinner on the rooftop of the Notre Dame "Wine & Cheese", and overnight.

Day 10: Sunday – February 18 - Return Home

Breakfast in the morning, followed by free time to spend at your own leisure before you meet back at the Hotel. With heartfelt farewells to your fellow pilgrims, you will board our evening transfers to Tel Aviv Airport for our return flights home.