

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 19TH to 29TH 2009 - (11 Days)

With Fr. Dennis Hayes of the Companions of the Cross

The tour begins Monday, October 19th, 2009.

Monday October 19th: Departure

Evening departure from Ottawa via Toronto to connect with a direct flight to Tel Aviv aboard Air Canada. In flight meals provided.

Tuesday October 20th: Arrival / Tel Aviv

Afternoon arrival in Tel Aviv where we will be met by our tour guide. Transfer to a first class hotel where you will have time to rest and freshen up. Dinner and an evening Mass at our hotel in Tel Aviv (Marina Hotel).

Wednesday October 21st: Joppa / Caesarea / Mount Carmel

Morning visit to nearby Joppa (Jaffa), where St. Peter raised Tabitha from the dead and stayed at Simon the Tanner's house (Acts 9:36-43). Then we drive north through the beautiful Valley of Sharon to Caesarea, an ancient port built by Herod in 22 B.C. It was here that St Peter baptized the Roman soldier Cornelius after he had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:1-48). St Paul was imprisoned here for several years and gave an eloquent defence of his faith before King Agrippa (Acts 23:23- 26:32). We continue on to Mount Carmel, site of the Prophet Elijah's challenge to the pagan prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:1-40) and where St Simon Stock in the 12th century had a vision of the Blessed Mother giving him the Brown Scapular. We will celebrate Mass in a Carmelite monastery at Muhraqa, visit Megiddo which has a breathtaking view of the entire Valley of Jezreel, described by St John the Evangelist as the future site of Armageddon (Rev. 16: 14-16). Then on to Tiberias and our first class hotel overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight (Caesar Hotel – 3nights).

Thursday October 22nd: Capernaum / Golan Heights / Mount of Beatitudes

We begin our day with a splendid boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. It was here that Jesus called his first disciples while they were fishing (Mt. 4: 18-22), calmed the storm (Lk. 8:22-25) and walked on the water (Mt. 14: 22-32). Once back on shore we will visit Tabgha, site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mk. 6:30-44) and Capernaum, where Jesus preached in the synagogue and healed many people (Mk. 1:21-34). Then on to the majestic Golan Heights to visit Caesarea Philippi, site of St Peter's first profession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah. In return, Jesus declares St Peter to be the "rock" upon which he will build his Church (Mt. 16:

17-20). Now we will continue on to the scenic Mount of Beatitudes, site of Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5: 1-7:28), where we will celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Friday October 23rd: Mount Tabor / Nazareth / Cana

Ascend to the top of mystical Mount Tabor, where we will celebrate Mass in the Church of the Transfiguration (Lk. 9:28-36). Then on to Nazareth, home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Lk. 2:39-40). Here we will visit the Church of the Annunciation (Lk. 1:26-38) and see Mary's well. Visit nearby Cana, where Jesus performed his first public miracle by changing water into wine during a wedding feast (Jn. 2:1-11). Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Saturday October 24th: Jordan River / Beit Shean

Time to relax beside this picturesque sea where Jesus walked, before our late morning Mass at St Peter's Church in Tiberias. This will be followed by a renewal of our Baptismal vows in the Jordan River, where Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist (Mt. 3:13-17). We will stop at Beit Shean, an ancient city dating from the time of King Saul, and view the beautiful mosaics, the remains of a Roman theatre and other ongoing excavations. And then, as the late afternoon sun casts long shadows on the ancient hills, we will catch our first glimpse of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem (The Olive Tree Royal Plaza Hotel – 4 nights).

Sunday October 25th: Jerusalem

Our day begins on the Via Dolorosa where we will celebrate Mass at the Lithostrotos, the Antonio Fortress where Jesus was condemned to death. We will continue on to the Chapels of Condemnation and Flagellation and begin to pray the Stations of the Cross as we make our way to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This is the holiest site in all of Christianity, where Our Lord was crucified, died, was buried and rose to life again (Jn. 19:1-20:30). Then we will visit the Mount of Olives, with a panoramic view of the old city of Jerusalem, visit the chapel of the Ascension, the Pater Noster Church and walk down the "Palm Sunday Road," stopping at Dominus Flevit Chapel where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Lk. 13: 31-35). We will continue on to the Garden of Gethsemane, site of the Agony in the Garden (Mt. 26:36-46). After lunch we will drive to Mt. Zion where we will visit the Upper Room, Pentecost site (Acts 2:1-4) and Dormition Abbey, built on the site traditionally believed to be where Our Blessed Mother lived and died. Stop at the Tomb of David and the Church of St. Anne built by the Crusaders alongside the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a man who had been sick for 38 years. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Monday October 26th: Jerusalem / Ein Karem / Bethlehem

Today we will visit the Model City of Jerusalem as it was during the time of Jesus, then stop at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. Next we will proceed through the Judean Hills and stop at the Hadassah Medical Centre to see the beautiful Chagall stained glass windows depicting the 12 tribes of Israel. And then a short drive to Ein Kerem, birthplace of St John the Baptist where we will celebrate Mass at the Church of the Visitation. It was here that Mary proclaimed the Magnificat (Lk.1: 39-56). After lunch we continue on to nearby Bethlehem where we will visit and pray at the Church of the Nativity, site of Jesus' birth (Mt.

2: 1-12). Then we will visit the Church of St Catherine, where beneath the sanctuary there are three caves. Two of these caves house the Chapel of St Jerome, who lived here when he translated the Old and New Testament into Latin (The Vulgate). The adjacent Chapel of the Innocents recalls the terror of Herod the Great who ordered the slaughter of the male children of Bethlehem. Time to shop for souvenirs in Manger Square and a visit to Shepherds Field, where shepherds heard the angels sing "Glory to God in the Highest" at the birth of Jesus (Lk. 2:1-20). Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Tuesday October 27th: Masada / Dead Sea / Qumran

We begin this morning with a drive to Masada, King Herod's fortress and last stronghold of Jewish resistance to the Romans in 70-73 AD. Ascend by cable car where you will experience a stunning view of the entire Dead Sea region. Ezekiel describes in his vision a river flowing out from the Temple of Jerusalem into the Dead Sea and making its salt water fresh (Ez 47: 1-12). We will tour the beautifully restored archaeological remains of luxurious palaces, mosaic floors, a synagogue and many other fascinating artefacts. In the afternoon we will pause for a "float" in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea, the lowest accessible point on the earth. Then we continue along its arid shores to Qumran, home of the Essenes and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Wednesday October 28th: Jerusalem

Today will be a free day for further explorations, shopping or rest. Late afternoon Mass at the Basilica of St Stephen, will be followed by a Middle Eastern dinner and your farewell to Israel .

Thursday October 29th: Return to Canada

Embark on an early morning flight to Canada on Air Canada.

Tour Cost: October 19th to October 29th, 2009 (11 days)

- **\$2995.00** per person - double occupancy
- **\$465.00** departure taxes
- **\$725.00** single supplement
- **\$350.00** deposit due at time of booking
- **Tips: \$100.00 US to be collected on the day of departure to cover the cost of tips to the guides, bus drivers, and hotel restaurant staff for meals included.** .

Included:

- Airfare Ottawa – Tel Aviv – return
- Hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner daily
- Deluxe motor coach and guide
- All admission fees to sites, hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage at airport and hotels

Not Included:

- Lunches
- \$465.00 departure taxes
- Optional cancellation insurance extra, can be purchased at time of deposit

Insurance: All inclusive trip cancellation insurance is recommended through Tips Travel Insurance, which will protect against cancellation charges due to sickness, accident or death of an immediate family member. It also covers baggage loss (limited), medical expenses and return transportation home. Semi-inclusive non-medical insurance is also available. *Contact Gail Goshko for rates.

Passports: Must be valid six months after your date of return.

Information Meeting: Sunday September 13th 2009, at 2:30pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, corner of Bayswater and Young Sts., Ottawa

Payment: Make cheques payable to: International Heritage Tours, c/o Ari Bower, 7117 Bathurst St., Thornhill, Ontario L4J 2J6. Credit card payments are subject to a service charge.
Balance Due: August 19th, 2009

Note: Trip will operate with a minimum of 25 passengers.
Rates are subject to change due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges or other unforeseen circumstances.

Optional:

EXTENSION IN JORDAN: October 28th to November 2rd (5 days)

Thursday October 28th : Jerusalem

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem (Olive Tree Royal Plaza Hotel – 1 Night).

Friday October 29th: Madaba / Mount Nebo / Kerak / Petra

This morning will begin with a drive to the Allenby bridge where we will cross the border into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. From here we will travel south on the King's highway and stop at Mount Nebo, the traditional burial site of Moses, which overlooks the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. We will continue on to Madaba, a Byzantine centre of master mosaics, to see the oldest surviving map of the Holy Land, preserved on the floor of St George's Greek Orthodox Church. After lunch we continue southwards through the breathtaking scenery of Wadi Mujib to visit the Crusader Castle at Kerek. Our day's journey will come to an end at our hotel which overlooks the breathtaking rocky mountain of Petra.

Dinner and overnight in Petra (Petra Panorama – 2 nights).

Saturday October 30th: Petra

Today we will visit the lost Nabatean "Red Rose City" of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most magnificent attractions in the Middle East. Beginning with a morning ride on a Bedouin guided horse, you will pass through the fabled Siq, an immense sandstone gorge which opens out to reveal the elegant Treasury. Continue on to gaze at hundreds of ancient temples, royal tombs, Roman

theatres and houses. It was in the Byzantine period that the Nabateans lost their power, and Petra, most of its population. A small group of Christians converted some of the larger Nabatean tombs into church meeting places. Gradually the city was abandoned and remained lost until 1812. Then we will return to our hotel where there will be time to relax by the pool before dinner.

Dinner and overnight in Petra

Sunday October 31st: Wadi Rum / Amman

Depart this morning for the magical desert of Wadi Rum, home of "Lawrence of Arabia". Enjoy a mint tea or cardamom coffee before touring this moon-like landscaped desert in a Bedouin driven Jeep.

After this amazing experience and a stop for lunch, we will proceed on to Amman, the capital of Jordan and a bustling commercial and cultural centre which, like Rome, sprawls over seven hills. We will see the highlights of this ancient city, including the 2nd Century Roman Amphitheatre in the centre of town, the Roman Ruins of Citadel Hill and the Jordan Archaeological Museum. There will be time to shop in the Bazaar and catch the sweet scents of cinnamon, cloves, thyme and exotic spices.

Dinner and overnight in Amman (Hotel Geneva - 1 night)

November 1st & 2nd: Amman / Tel Aviv / Canada

This morning we will visit Machaerus, known today as Mukawir, traditional site of the execution of St John the Baptist. It was here that Salome danced for King Herod and demanded the Baptist's head on a platter (Mk.6: 22-28). We will leave the beautiful country of Jordan and journey on to Tel Aviv, arriving in time to enjoy a leisurely dinner in a Middle Eastern restaurant before we depart for the airport and our overnight flight to Canada.

Tour Cost: October 28th to November 2st (5 days)

- **\$999.00** per person – double occupancy
- **\$250.00** single supplement
- **Tips: \$40.00US to be collected on our departure from Jerusalem**

Included:

- Hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner daily
- Deluxe motor coach and guides
- All admission fees to sites, hotel taxes and service charges
- Assistance with border formalities

Not Included:

- Lunches
- Border fees: Israel to Jordan \$40.00US, Jordan to Israel \$7.50US

Note: Extension will operate with a minimum of 15 passengers.

For information and reservations call:

Gail Goshko 613-744-1418