

# YOUNG ADULT HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2023

## What is a Pilgrimage?

Going on a religious pilgrimage is an ancient way of deepening one's spirituality by traveling to a place associated with a holy person. It can be a deeply moving and powerful religious encounter. Pilgrims are not tourists, pilgrims are people on a journey designed to take them outside their everyday, familiar lives into an unfamiliar environment, where they can encounter the extraordinary, and thereby experience the life and teaching of a holy person in a new way.

Our Pilgrimage to The Holy Land offers participants a chance to reflect on and learn about the life of Jesus of Nazareth in his native land. The Pilgrimage includes time for reflection, study, exploration, leisure, and visits to sacred places associated with Jesus from the Scriptures and local tradition. Pilgrims will experience the spiritual heritage bestowed upon the world by Jesus Christ and his Apostles as they encounter Christ in the places where he lived and ministered.

## Guiding Principles

In an effort to broaden and enrich our understanding of the Scriptures that are the foundations of our faith, our pilgrimage to the Holy Land will expand participants' appreciation of what it means to walk in the footsteps of Christ and his disciples, by increasing our spiritual growth in the following areas: understanding the scripture from an historical perspective, reverence for Christ's message and an appreciation of his earthly life, the cultivation of a deeper understanding of the cultural values and geographical complexities of Christ's ministry on earth. +

## What's Included

**Tuesday June 13, 2023, Evening Departure from your home city to Tel Aviv, Israel**

**Wednesday June 14, 2023, Tel Aviv**

You will arrive at the Tel Aviv airport in the afternoon and will be met by your guide for the trip, Iyad and Bro. Paul. As soon as luggage has been gathered and visas have been processed, the group will then board a comfortable touring bus to travel to your hotel along shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Supper will be at the hotel. There is a beautiful beach and walking path near the hotel.

**Thursday June 15, 2023. Nazareth, Mount Tabor Cana, Mount of the Beatitudes Guest House, Tiberias**

We begin the day with worship at the top of Mount Tabor, site of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Our journey will continue to Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home, and will include visits to several sites in and around Nazareth that tell the story of Jesus' life. We will also visit the Church in Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding Feast. We spend the night in Tiberias.

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### **Friday June 16, 2023, Capernaum, Tabgha, Peter's Primacy, Sea of Galilee**

We begin today with a visit to the original Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will visit Tabgha, the traditional location for the calling of the disciples and the feeding of the 5000, and the location of the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. We then visit Capernaum, Peter's hometown and where Jesus began his preaching ministry. We will also visit the synagogue that stands on the site where Jesus taught. Lunch will be along the Sea of Galilee. After lunch, we take the boat ride on the lake then visit a museum which houses a first century fishing boat found on the lake. We end our day by visiting the ancient village of Migdal, the home of Mary Magdalene. Spending the night in Tiberias

### **Saturday June 17, 2023, Caesarea Philippi, Banias Falls, Tel Dan, Picnic lunch**

Today, we head up to the northern part of Israel along the Syrian and Lebanese borders. Tel Dan is a national park dedicated to the ancient sites of the Old Testament including the city gate into the area inhabited by the tribe of Dan. We will also visit Banias park and falls, an area full of springs which flow into the Sea of Galilee. Our day also includes time at Caesarea Philippi where Jesus asked the disciples about his identity in the midst of this pagan city. The day will include some hiking and a picnic lunch and a stop at a Druze village. Spending the night in Tiberias.

### **Sunday June 18, 2023, Baptismal site, Jericho, Qumran, Dead Sea**

Today we start our day by visiting the Jordan River, the place where John baptized Jesus, then make our way to Jericho the oldest and lowest city on earth. After stopping to see the site of the cave of the Dead Sea Scrolls, we continue to the Dead Sea and check in to our hotel. There will be time to float in these healing mineral waters. Hotel at the Dead Sea.

### **Monday June 19, 2023, Masada (sunrise hike) Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Jerusalem**

The morning begins before sunrise with a hike up the Snake Path at Masada to watch the sun rise over the Dead Sea. After a return to the hotel for breakfast, we continue to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus to view the cave where Jesus was born. We will also get the chance to shop for olive wood carvings and other souvenirs at a shop in Bethlehem. Hotel in Jerusalem

### **Tuesday June 20, 2023, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Cooking with Green Olive Tours**

We begin our day on the Mount of Olives where we will encounter a panoramic view for our introduction to the Old City. After visiting the Church of the Pater Noster, built on the traditional site where Christ taught the Lord's Prayer, we will walk the Palm Sunday Trail. We continue to the Church of Dominus Flevit, the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Then we continue to the Garden of Gethsemane and the church of All Nations, built over the rock on which Jesus prayed the night before he was crucified. We then go to St. Peter of Gallicantu to see the pit where Jesus was jailed after praying in Gethsemane. That evening, we will have a traditional Palestinian cooking class. Hotel in Jerusalem

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## **Wednesday June 21, 2023, Old City, Hezekiah's Tunnel/City of David, Conversation with the Sheikh**

Our day begins at the Western Wall, believed to be the last remaining part of Solomon's temple. Then we will follow the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, walked by Our Lord on the way to his crucifixion, passing by the Ecce Homo Arch, the site where Pontius Pilate presented Our Lord to the crowds. Next, we will visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place of the crucifixion and the empty tomb. Our day also includes a walk-through Hezekiah's Tunnels and the City of David. We return back to our hotel in Jerusalem. That night the Sheikh will visit us at the hotel to talk about Islam and its deep connections to the Holy Land and the other Abrahamic faiths. Hotel in Jerusalem

## **Thursday June 22, 2023, Yad Veshem, Tent of Nations, Debbie Weissmann, Farewell dinner**

Today we start our day by traveling to Bethany to visit the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Then we will travel to Ein Karem the traditional site of the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. We'll also stop to visit a Christian family and learn about their story with the land at the Tent of Nations. We will go back to our hotel in Jerusalem to have a conversation with Debbie Weissmann, college professor and founder of an Orthodox synagogue in Jerusalem. Hotel in Jerusalem

## **Friday June 23, 2023, Departure to the United States**

### **Scheduling**

1. **Morning Prayer/Mass/Prep for Days activities:** One of the pilgrimage leaders will lead the group in Morning Prayer. After prayer, the trip guide will brief the group on the day's activities. This will include an explanation of the objectives of the day's activity, where we will be going, what we will be doing, as well as what to bring with you. Most days we will either begin or end with mass.
2. **Evening Reflections:** Either before or after a deliberate time of reflection and debriefing will be led by one of the pilgrimage leaders. This will provide participants with the opportunity to reflect on their day, express their observations and feelings, and discuss what they have learned or want to know more about. Along with Morning prayer and Mass, evening reflection is one of the most profound and important parts of each day.

### **Logistics**

1. **Accommodations and Meals:** Participants and leaders will stay at the Herod's Hotel Tel Aviv, Mount of Beatitudes Guest House, David Dead Sea Resort, and at the St. George Hotel in Jerusalem. Meals will be taken at the hotels and at local restaurants.
2. **Transportation:** The group will be transported by mini-bus and foot to some location that the bus cannot take them.

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- Health and Safety:** All travelers to the Holy Land must purchase their own International Health and/or Travel Insurance if they would like this coverage (trip insurance is not required by strongly suggested). We will address other health and safety concerns when we reach Galilee at the beginning of the trip. Participants will be required to have a COVID-19 test before departure, another upon arrival, and a third test before returning to the United States. Participants will be responsible for paying for these tests. (We will follow the current Covid regulations for both Israel and the US.)

### Pre-Trip Preparation

- Pre-Departure Forms:** Participants may find all forms on the FMU website (these can be downloaded and printed). Br. Paul will provide practical information on what to bring for the trip, a health and wellness form to ensure your health and safety should you fall ill or have an accident, as well as a travel contract which is to be signed and returned to Br. Paul by each participant. All participants will be required to send a scanned color copy of their passport picture page to Br. Paul.

### Price does not include:

- Tips for the guide and the driver
- Covid testing
- Incidentals
- Some drinks
- Travel insurance

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2023	USA	Tel Aviv	Galilee	Galilee	Galilee	Dead Sea	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	USA		
	Tuesday June 13	Wednesday June 14	Thursday June 15	Friday June 16	Saturday June 17	Sunday June 18	Monday June 19	Tuesday June 20	Wednesday June 21	Thursday June 22	Friday June 23		
7:00	Evening flight from the US to Tel Aviv	Arrive in the afternoon in Tel Aviv		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Breakfast	Sunrise Hike to Masada	Morning Prayer	Breakfast	Morning Prayer	Morning flight back to the USA		
7:30			Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Mass/Sunday Service	Breakfast	Breakfast	Morning Prayer Mt. of Olives	Breakfast			
8:00													
8:30													
9:00					Nazareth	Capernaum	Tel Dan		Bethlehem	Mount of Olives		Western Wall	Bethany
9:30					Mt. Tabor	Tagba	Banias Falls	Baptism Site Jericho	Church of Nativity	Pater Noster		Via Dolorosa	Ein Karem
10:00					Cana	Migdal				Domus Flevit		Holy Sepulcher	
10:30													
11:00													
11:30													
12:00													
12:30					Lunch in Cana	Lunch in Cana	Picnic Lunch	Lunch	Lunch in Bethlehem	Cooking Class Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
1:00													
1:30													
2:00													
2:30													
3:00					Rest/Afternoon trip prep and reflection	Peter's Primacy	Caesarea Philippi	Qumran	Drive to Jerusalem	Garden of Gethsemane		Hezekiah's Tunnel	Yad Vashem
3:30													
4:00						Boat Ride		Dead Sea		Church of all Nations		City of David	
4:30													
5:00							Hotel/Free Time						
5:30								Peter in Gallicantu	Conversation with the Sheik	Debbie Weissmann			
6:00													
6:30				Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer in Jerusalem						
7:00													
7:30		Welcome Dinner	Dinner at Mt. of Beatitudes	Dinner at Migdal	Dinner at Mt. of Beatitudes	Dinner	Dinner St. George Hotel	Dinner in Jerusalem	Dinner	Farewell Dinner			
8:00													
8:30													
9:00		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time			
9:30													
10:00													

Meals	Free Time
Travel	Prayer
Pilgrimage	Mass

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