

## A Journey of Faith — Daily Itinerary

### Following Jesus' steps in the Holyland

November 19 ~ November 30, 2019

#### **Tuesday November 19: DEPART CANADA**

Board flight for Tel Aviv (complimentary meals and beverages served on board)

#### **Wednesday, November 20: ARRIVE TEL AVIV – Caesarea Maritima then Tiberias for 4 nights**

After arrival in Tel Aviv, drive by motorcoach up the coast to Caesarea Maritima - once the ancient capital of the Roman province. See 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. Transfer to hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Dinner served at the hotel (Caesar Tiberius Hotel). **S, D**

#### **Thursday, November 21: NAZARETH | Theme: The Annunciation**

Drive to Nazareth, the site of Mary's home and the town where Jesus lived as a child. At Nazareth, celebrate Mass in the Byzantine Church of St. Joseph then visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well and the convent of the Sisters of Nazareth (one of the nuns will give a tour of the fascinating excavations discovered there including the tomb of the 'Just Man'). After lunch, at the International Centre of Mary of Nazareth, watch audio-visual presentations on the life of Mary. Return to Tiberias. **B, L, D**

#### **Friday, November 22: TIBERIAS: SEA OF GALILEE & BANIAS | Theme: The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee**

Begin with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount, Tabgha (Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000) and onto the site known as "Peter's Primacy," (Here Jesus met with His disciples and told Peter, "Feed my lambs; feed my sheep" (John 21:9) ). A short drive away is 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. Celebrate Mass in this special place before proceeding north to Caesarea Philippi (Banias). It was here that Peter proclaimed 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. **B, S, D**

#### **Saturday, November 23: MUKHRAGA, STELLA MARIS & CANA**

Following breakfast, depart for Mukhraka (Monastery which commemorates Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal). Continue north to Haifa to visit Stella Maris, a Carmelite Monastery with the Madonna of Mt Carmel. Celebrate Mass here. After enjoying the view of the bay of Acco, drive to Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother (John 2:1-11). Visit the Franciscan chapel. Couples who wish can renew their wedding vows. Return to your hotel by the lake. **B, L, D**

#### **Sunday, November 24: MT TABOR, DEAD SEA | Theme: The Transfiguration**

Following breakfast, drive to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration, with time to reflect on Christ's Humanity and Divinity. This is a good preparation for the journey to Jerusalem where Jesus was to suffer the crucifixion and resurrection. Mass will be at the Basilica designed to represent 3 tents. Leaving the Galilee area, drive down the Jordan Valley to your hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea for overnight. There will be time for a swim in the hotel's salt water pools and the Dead Sea (Daniel Dead Sea Hotel). **B, L, D**

#### **Monday, November 25: MASADA/ JERICHO / QUMRAN/ DEAD SEA / JORDAN RIVER**

**Theme: The Wilderness**

Following breakfast, visit Masada, scene of the Zealots' last stand against the Romans. Then to Qumran to visit the remains of the Essene community who produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. Stop for Mass in Jericho, the world's oldest continuously inhabited city, to view the Mt of Temptation and see an example of a Sycamore Tree. Visit the Baptismal site at the Jordan River before continuing up to Jerusalem to check into the Olive Tree Jerusalem Hotel. **B, L, D**



## Holy Land Itinerary Con't

### **Tuesday, November 26: EIN KAREM, & BETHLEHEM | Theme: The Visitation and Nativity**

Following breakfast take a short drive to the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist. Visit the church that commemorates him. Pray the Rosary on the walk up the hill to the Church of the Visitation. After a break for lunch, drive towards Bethlehem to see the cave at the Shepherds' Field (caves have soot marks from the fires that shepherds lit to keep warm while watching over their flocks). Celebrate Mass in the large cave. Then to Bethlehem, beginning at Manger Square (square that stands in front of one of the oldest of Christian churches, the Church of the Nativity) enter the Church and proceed down to the Grotto of the Nativity (marks the spot of Jesus' birth). Beneath the altar, is a silver star with the Latin inscription: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS meaning 'Here, Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary'. In the afternoon, visit the Catholic University of Bethlehem. After a brief tour of the Campus, there will be a screening of a documentary about the University made by Salt & Light TV followed by a meeting with the President of the University and some students. **B, L, D**

### **Wednesday, November 27: MT. OF OLIVES, GETHSEMANE MT. ZION**

#### **Theme: Palm Sunday and the Agony in the Garden**

From the Mount of Olives, take in the panoramic view of Jerusalem, followed by a visit to the Pater Noster Shrine, where Jesus taught His disciples the Pater Noster - the Our Father (Luke 11:1-4). Walking down Palm Sunday Road, stop at the beautiful little church, Dominus Flevit meaning 'The Lord wept'. It was here that Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). At Gethsemane, reflect on Jesus' final night. The Garden contains trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus. Visit the Church of All Nations to pray at the "Rock of Agony," a section of bedrock identified as the place where Jesus prayed alone in the garden on the night of His arrest. From there, take the route through the Kidron Valley along which Jesus was taken as a prisoner to the house of the High Priest, Caiaphas, and where He was interrogated and imprisoned. Now called Peter in Gallicantu meaning 'crowing rooster', this beautiful church also commemorates Peter's denial of Christ, his repentance and then being forgiven by Jesus. Celebrate Mass, followed by going up to Mt. Zion to visit the Upper Room, commemorating the Last Supper. Nearby is the Benedictine Church of the Dormition of Our Lady. **B, L, D**

### **Thursday, November 28: VIA DOLOROSA, HIGH MASS AT THE HOLY SEPULCHRE**

#### **Theme: The Way of the Cross, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection**

This morning, start the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross or The Way of Suffering) at the Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate. From there He was taken through the city to be crucified. The Stations of the Cross curve through the Old City of Jerusalem to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here is the site of Calvary and the Tomb of Christ. Attend High Mass at the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The rest of the day are free to explore the Old City. **B, L, D**

### **Friday, November 29: TEMPLE MODEL, WESTERN & SOUTHERN WALL**

#### **Theme: Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem**

Following breakfast, begin the day with a **visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum**. Then, to the Israel Museum to see the Second Temple scale model, an impressive model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus and see the Dead Sea Scrolls. Then, at the steps of the Southern Wall of Temple Mount, ponder the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, the Finding of Jesus at the Temple and the healing of the blind man at the Temple. Visit the Western Wall of Temple Mount then walk to see the Church of St Anne and the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the crippled man. End the day in Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead. **B, S, D**

### **Saturday, November 30: DEPARTURE from Tel Aviv** Transfer to airport for the flight home. **B**

**Note:** The above itinerary is intended for illustrative purposes. The sequence and timing of visits to sites each day may change because of local conditions, such as traffic, local feast, road closures and congestion. The time and location of Mass each day is subject to local church schedules and may be changed to a location and time of day other than that listed in the itinerary.

**B= breakfast L= lunch S= snack or light lunch D= evening dinner**