

## **Holy Land Pilgrimage - Triumphant**

In March of 2024, we will travel together on a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our journey will begin with the Galilee region to the places where much of Jesus' ministry took place and will continue to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. We will end our journey in Jerusalem where Jesus was arrested, crucified, and resurrected. Along the way, we will see many Old Testament sites as well. During the pilgrimage, we will have an opportunity to connect with the Lutheran Church of the Holy Land and see the ways God is at work in and through them today.

### **Basic Information**

**Dates: March 6-15, 2024**

**Tour Company: Elias Tours (see QR code)**

**Flights: Austin in/out Tel Aviv**

**Who can participate: Members and non-members**



#### PRICING:

**\$3,790.00** per person (based on double occupancy)

- Single room supplement - \$790.00
- Land only (if booking your own flights) - \$2,640.00 (airfare credit \$1,150.00)

#### PAYMENT PLAN:

- \$300.00 deposit per person with registration to secure space
- \$1,000.00 of the total amount is due on or before October 5, 2023
- Balance due on or before January 5, 2024

<b>Vacation</b>	<b>Pilgrimage</b>
Souvenirs	Learning
Experiences	Listening
Pictures	Reflecting

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## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1: Departure from the USA**

Depart from Austin, TX. for your overnight flight to the Holy Land. Meals will be served on board.

### **Day 2: Arrival - Tel Aviv**

We arrive at Ben Gurion airport and depart northward to our hotel for one night in the coastal area near Tel Aviv to start off the journey of visiting the Holy Land. The remainder of the day is free to walk along the Mediterranean, relax, and dine in our hotel in Tel Aviv.

### **Day 3: Caesarea - Mt. Carmel - Nazareth - Cana - Tiberias**

After breakfast, we travel by private motor coach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, where the Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We see the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct. We visit Mount Carmel, Muhraqa (the Place of Fire), and consider the contest between the Prophet Elijah and the false prophets of Baal (I Kings 18), discussing the reasons why the Prophet chose that place for the contest, and the lessons we learn from the story. Afterward, we go to Nazareth where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Church of St. Joseph. We end our day with a visit to Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle. Drive to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 4: Caesarea Philippi - Golan Heights - Mt. Arbel - Valley of Doves - Sea of Galilee**

We start our day with a visit to Caesarea Philippi, at the source of the river Jordan, where Peter confessed that Jesus is the Messiah. Then we return to the Sea of Galilee via the Golan Heights with a stop overlooking the Road to Damascus. On to Mount Arbel, where we overlook the ancient road from Nazareth to Galilee with a possible hike on part of the Jesus Trail. We then carry on to the Valley of the Doves and travel along the ancient road that leads from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee along the Via Maris. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

### **Day 5: Sea of Galilee - Magdala - Capernaum - Mount of Beatitudes**

We start the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, followed by a visit to the Ancient Boat Museum that houses a 2,000-year-old fishing boat found buried in mud on the shores of Galilee. The boat provides a good example of what fishing boats looked like during the time of Jesus. Then we visit Magdala,

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the hometown of Mary Magdalene, and see the 1st-century synagogue, the oldest synagogue discovered on the shores of Galilee, with a stone-carved replica of the Temple and Menorah. We then take a short drive to Capernaum, the biblical village and hometown of Jesus. Capernaum is closely associated with Jesus and His ministry as described in the Synoptic Gospels. There we see the house of the mother-in-law of Peter and an ancient synagogue that dates back to the time of Jesus and where much of His teaching took place. After a lunch of St. Peter's fish, we drive to Tabgha on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000. We then visit the site known as "Peter's Primacy" where Jesus appeared to His disciples for the third time after His Resurrection. Later we continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, the scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. We enjoy the view of the enchanting gardens and reflect on Jesus' sermon. We also have time for prayer and reflection. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

### **Day 6: Jordan Valley – Jacob's Well – Shepherds Field – Bethlehem - Meet Bishop Azar (ELCJHL)**

After breakfast, we drive through the Jordan Valley and on to Nablus, where we visit the ancient city of Shechem saddled between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim. There, we see ruins dating back to the time of Jacob and Joshua, including the "high place" of the city and the city gates. Nearby, we visit Jacob's Well where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman. We drive to Bethlehem to visit Shepherd's Fields, where the angels appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of Our Lord. These fields are also the setting of the Book of Ruth. After lunch, we travel to the Church of the Nativity and view the place where Our Lord was born. We check in at our hotel and enjoy dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

### **Day 7: Augusta Victoria Hospital – LWF – Mt. of Olives – Mt. Zion - Worship with the local Church (ELCJHL)**

We start our day at Augusta Victoria Hospital to witness the work of the Lutheran World Federation in health and education. Later, we enjoy a panoramic view from the top of Mount of Olives, and then we continue to the Church of the Ascension and the Church of the Pater Noster. We continue down to Dominus Flevit and St. Mary Magdalene Church. We pray at the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations. In the afternoon, we visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, where Jesus was denied by St. Peter. Then we visit

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the Upper Room, the place of the Last Supper, and King David's Tomb. Back to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

### **Day 8: Wadi Qelt – St. George Monastery – Baptismal Site – Jericho – Qumran – the Dead Sea**

This morning we depart Bethlehem, traveling through the Judean wilderness where Jesus fasted for 40 days, and along the ancient road passing the good Samaritan inn. Upon reaching Wadi Qelt, we enjoy a view of St. George's Monastery nestled in the wilderness. We carry on along the ancient road toward Jericho, passing by Herod's Winter Palace, where the infamous King died in the year 4 BC, and which was likely the background setting for the parable of the prodigal son. On the way to Jericho, we head to Bet Arabah where John baptized Jesus. The site is also known as the "Place of Crossing" of the Israelites. From Bet Arabah, we drive to the city of Jericho. We see Tel Jericho, the old town of Joshua, to see the excavations of the ancient city and the Mount of Temptation. We then drive to Qumran and visit the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were accidentally found and the buildings that formed the public center of the Essenes. Then we proceed to the Dead Sea where we can enjoy a dip in the relaxing and healing waters. Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

### **Day 9: Temple Mount – Pools of Bethesda – Via Dolorosa – Holy Sepulcher – Jerusalem**

This morning after breakfast, we walk the Via Dolorosa, the traditional path that Jesus walked from the Antonia Fortress to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. There, we visit Golgotha and the Empty Tomb. We then visit the Jewish Quarter and go to the Western Wall, a section of the Western retaining wall of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. We then ascend to visit Temple Mount itself, where the Jewish temple stood until its destruction in 70 AD, and see the Dome of the Rock, a possible location of the Holy of Holies. We then visit St Anne's church and the nearby Pools of Bethesda, where the healing at the pool took place. Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

### **Day 10: Departure from Tel Aviv to the US**

Check-out and departure from our hotel for the return home. We arrive on the same day.