

ENCOUNTERING A NEW FACE OF GOD: A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

7th - 21st October 2017 Escorted by Fr Paul Marshall



Jesus called the disciples as pilgrims on an inner faith journey. They travelled with him around the Galilean countryside and through Samaria to Jerusalem for the festivals. Along the way Jesus showed by example what it means to pray; he used agrarian images from the landscape around Him to describe the nature of the Kingdom; he used parables to challenge their preconceived ideas about who God is, and all the time Jesus was revealing Himself to his disciples. A decision point came for his disciples when He asked them at Caesarea Philippi, "Who you say I am?"

A pilgrimage to Israel brings us close to the stories and heritage of the Jewish people; it brings us close to the stories and heritage of Jesus, the apostles and the early Church. As a pilgrim, we open ourselves to the present moment encountering the face of God in previously undiscovered ways. Come with us on a journey of interior discovery of who Jesus is for you in the land in which He, himself, walked: visit the ancient ruins of the first century synagogue in Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee and the holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Fr. Paul Marshall will lead this pilgrimage. Please join him!

DAY 1: Saturday 7 October DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Sydney today on your Emirates Flight to Dubai.

DAY 2: Sunday 8 October ARRIVE AMMAN

On arrival in Dubai transfer to your onward Emirates flight to Amman, Jordan. Upon arrival into Amman we will be met and assisted through immigration by our tour guide and driver. Enjoy a brief orientation tour of Amman including a short visit to Amman Museum. After lunch we will also celebrate Mass today at the Catholic Church in Amman. We aim for an early check in and dinner at our hotel in Amman.

DAY 3: Monday 9 October MT NEBO, MADABA, PETRA

We depart Amman this morning and drive to Mt Nebo, where Moses first saw the Promised Land across the Jordan Valley. Continue to the mainly Christian town of Madaba to see the famous mosaic map of the world with Jerusalem at its centre. Enjoy an early lunch before the journey south to Petra. Arrive mid-afternoon and settle into your hotel before dinner and overnight in Petra.

DAY 4: Tuesday 10 October FULL DAY PETRA

Today we tour Petra, the rose red city half as old as time. We commence our visit of the ancient Nabatean Capital walking through the Ciq, a long narrow fissure between two overhanging cliffs. The tour then proceeds to gradually unfold the mysteries of the red rose city with its spectacular treasury, royal tombs, burial chambers and high places of sacrifice. Return to our Petra hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: Wednesday 11 October BETHANY ON THE JORDAN, ALLENBY BRIDGE, TIBERIAS

We depart Petra this morning and proceed north to Bethany on the Jordan River, Baptismal site. After lunch, proceed to the nearby Allenby Bridge border crossing point to Israel. After border formalities, take the scenic drive up through the Jordan Valley to our hotel in the Galilee. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Tiberias.

DAY 6: Thursday 12 October SEA OF GALILEE, CAESAREA PHILIPPI

After breakfast, enjoy a morning boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. We then visit the ancient fishing boat dating from the 1st Century that was found in the seabed at Nof Ginosar Kibbutz. Driving up the Mount Of Beatitudes, we visit the beautiful church where the Sermon on the Mount is remembered. From there we continue onto Capernaum to see the Synagogue and Peter's house, center of Jesus preaching ministry. See the Church of Tabgha with its famous mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes and the Church of Primacy where Jesus said to Peter "Thou art the rock". We head up the Golan Heights to the Springs of Banias, also known as Caesarea Philippi where Peter said "Thou are Christ". If time allows we will have a brief visit to Safed, the centre of Cabals. Return for dinner and overnight in Tiberias.
MASS at Tabgha

DAY 7: Friday 13 October CANA, NAZARETH, NAZARETH VILLAGE, MT TABOR

Drive to Cana, the site of the First Miracle of turning water into wine. On to Nazareth to see the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. We also visit Nazareth Village, a reconstructed site, capturing life in 1st Century Nazareth. Drive to the foot of Mt Tabor, site of the Transfiguration and take taxis up to the summit to visit the Church. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.
MASS in Nazareth

DAY 8: Saturday 14 October ZIPPORI, MT CARMEL, CAESAREA, BETHLEHEM

Start the day with a visit to the Roman remains of Zippori, which used to be a major town at the time of Jesus. See the ancient mosaics and other remains before passing by the ancient town of Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon. Visit Mt Carmel and enjoy a wonderful view across the Mediterranean Sea, River Kishon and Haifa Harbor and see the cave where Elijah took refuge in his contest with the prophets of Baal. Time for Mass. Take the coastal highway to Caesarea once capital of the Roman province. There we will see the Roman and Crusader remains and the harbour from which St. Paul was taken prisoner to Rome. Continue to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 9: Sunday 15 October BETHLEHEM, ISRAEL MUSEUM, EIN KAREM

Drive up to Bethlehem and Visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem built over the stable cave of Jesus' birth. Then to the Shepherds' Fields stopping at the Church there with its blackened cave where Shepherds' watched over their flocks. This afternoon, we will have lunch at a local restaurant in Bethlehem. We visit the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept. We will also visit the Model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus and the Second Temple. Continue to the village of Ein Karem. See the Church of Visitation. Return to our hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.
MASS at Church of Nativity

DAY 10: Monday 16 October BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY, MT. OLIVES, GETHSEMANE

This morning we visit Bethlehem University, the first Catholic University in the Holy Land founded in 1973. We will have an opportunity to hear about the work of the church in sustaining the University as a beacon of hope and have the opportunity to meet present day students over lunch. Drive to the Mount of Olives for a wonderful view of the Old City of Jerusalem. See the Place of Ascension, commemorating Jesus' Ascension and the Pater Noster Church. We then follow the Palm Sunday Road stopping at Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. At the foot of the hill see the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees and the church of All Nations. Dinner and overnight is in Jerusalem.
Mass at Gethsemane



DAY 11: Tuesday 17 October
OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, MT ZION

This morning we start early to enter the Old City through St Stephen's Gate and walk along the Via Dolorosa ending up at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Mass is at the Holy Sepulchre. After breakfast at our hotel we return to the Old City of Jerusalem to visit St. Anne's Church, the home of the Virgin Mary and her parents Saints Joachim and Anne. We pass the Ecce Homo where Pilate proclaimed "Behold the man"; then the Wailing Wall, the most holy place for Jews. Nearby is the Dome of the Rock and the Haram al Sharif or Temple Mount. In the afternoon, we drive up to Mt Zion to see the Upper Room and the Tomb of David and the Church of Dormition. Visit the Church known as St. Peter in Gallicantu, where Peter denied Christ. See also Caiphas' House, where Jesus was held. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 12: Wednesday 18 October
DAY OF LEISURE

Enjoy a full day at leisure to relax, further explore independently or do some shopping. Meet back for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 13: Thursday 19 October
MASADA, DEAD SEA, EIN GEDI, QUMRAN

Drive to Qumran to visit the remains of the Essene enclave and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were hidden and discovered. Continue on along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth to the fortress mountain called Masada, the stronghold of Jewish resistance to the Romans in the revolt of AD 75. Ascend by cable car to see the remains of Herod's Palace and many other archeological excavations found. Stop by Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea for a float in its salty waters before returning to Jerusalem for final dinner and overnight.

DAY 14: Friday 20 October
JERICHO, ALLENBY BRIDGE, AMMAN AIRPORT, DUBAI

This morning we visit Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world and see the excavations there. View the Mt of Temptation. Cross the border at the Allenby Bridge back into Jordan. After lunch, we head to Amman Airport for our flight to Dubai. Upon arrival into Dubai transfer to our flight to return to Sydney.

DAY 15: Saturday 21 October
ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back into Sydney today with wonderful memories of your trip.

TOTAL ESTIMATED PACKAGE PRICE:

AUD \$6,390* per person (twin sharing)

Single supplement: **AUD\$1,650**

* Subject to change. Conditions apply. Price is based on minimum of 25 participants. Actual pricing and flight schedules will be known in November 2016.



HOTELS TO BE USED (or similar)

Amman	Crowne Plaza Hotel (1 night)
Petra	Marriott Hotel (2 nights)
Galilee	Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel (3 nights)
Bethlehem	St Gabriel's Hotel (2 nights)
Jerusalem	Olive Tree Hotel (4 nights)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney – Dubai – Amman with Emirates including all airport & departure taxes
- 12 nights' hotel accommodation including daily buffet breakfasts & dinners throughout
- 1 lunch in Israel
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as outlined in the itinerary with the services of local professional English speaking guide throughout the tour
- Airport meet and assistance and transfers and transportation throughout in a luxury air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to museums and all sights as mentioned in the itinerary
- Border crossing fees and Group Jordan Visa
- Whisperer headsets in Israel
- Tips, gratuities and portorage throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Lunches
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary

- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest & obtain a booking form from Fr Paul, the Parish office or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$350 per person is required by Friday, 17th February 2017 (unless sold out prior).
3. Full payment will be required by 7 August 2017.

ATTEND AN INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us for an informative, entertaining and interesting evening, have your questions answered and meet your fellow pilgrims. Sample some delicious Middle Eastern treats as well!

WHEN: Monday night 6th February at 7.30pm

WHERE: Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, 198 Old Prospect Rd. Greystanes

RSVP: For catering purposes, it is essential that you RSVP to Katrina at Olive Tree Travel by Friday, 27th January 2017
1300 550 830 or Katrina@olivetreetravel.com.au

WHO TO CONTACT:



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