

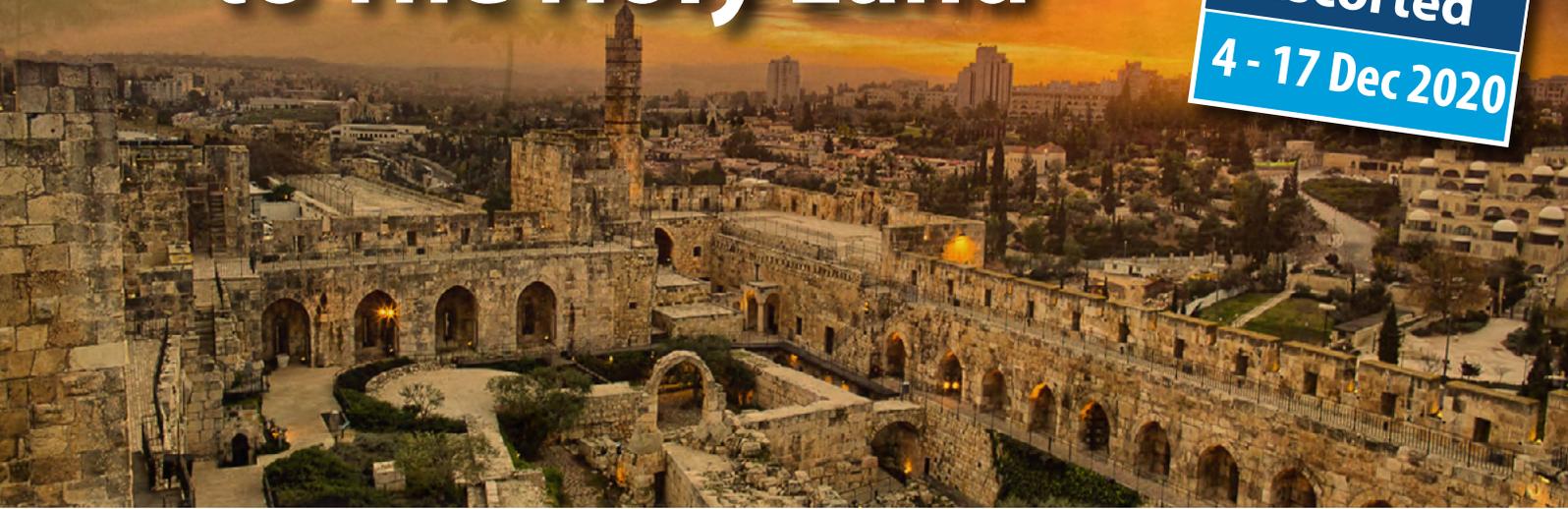
"Arise Shine for your Light has Come" (Isaiah 61.1.)

An Advent Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

14 Days

Fully Escorted

4 - 17 Dec 2020



TOTAL ESTIMATED PACKAGE PRICE:

\$5,990* per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL **\$1,075**

* Price is based on minimum of 30 paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply. It is envisaged that aspirants presently enrolled in the diocesan discernment program, diocesan candidates for ordination and clergy licensed as Assistant Curate at the time of booking and paying a deposit will be eligible for a subsidy.



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

Escorted by
Bishop Brad Billings

The Holy Land has been a place of religious significance and pilgrimage for people of Christian faith for many centuries. The landscape is filled with sites of great importance to the story of Christianity and the Bible, including of course the holy city of Jerusalem. Pilgrims on this journey will follow the footsteps of Jesus from Bethlehem, the place of his birth, to the shores of the Sea of Galilee where his public ministry was largely conducted, to Jerusalem and the site of his death, burial and resurrection. Along the way we will also visit many other places of religious, historical and cultural significance, see sites of extraordinary natural beauty, and encounter the people, culture and cuisine of the land. You will be accompanied throughout by Bishop Brad Billings, a frequent visitor to the Holy Land, the Australia / New Zealand regional representative for the executive committee supporting the ministry of St George's Anglican College in Jerusalem, and the author of "To be a pilgrim: A reflective guide to the Holy Land"

(Morning Star Publishing, 2018).

BASED ON FOLLOWING HOTELS (or similar):

Bethlehem	St Gabriels Hotel	2 nights
Galilee	Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel	4 nights
Jerusalem	Leonardo Hotel	4 nights

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return economy airfares Melbourne - Bangkok - Tel Aviv with Thai Airways & El Al Israel Airlines or Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong
- Current airport and departure taxes
- 10 nights' hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms
- Daily breakfasts & dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Farewell meal at a local Middle Eastern restaurant
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor-coach
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- All tips, portering and gratuities

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Lunches
- 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 and obtain a booking form from Bishop Brad Billings or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a booking deposit of \$500 per person will be required by 15th March 2020
3. The balance payment is required by 1st October 2020

DAY 1: FRIDAY 4 December Depart Australia

Depart Melbourne on our flight bound for Asia and onwards to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2: SATURDAY 5 December Arrive Tel Aviv, Joppa

Arrive into Tel Aviv this morning, where we will be met by our waiting tour guide and driver. We will have a tour of Old Joppa before transferring to our hotel in Bethlehem for an early dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: SUNDAY 6 December Bethlehem

Our first day in the holy land is spent remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord, in Bethlehem, the City of David. We will visit first the Shepherd's Fields, the traditional site where the angels announced the birth of the Messiah to shepherds watching their flocks by night. Here we share in a service of Holy Communion as we begin our time as pilgrims. We will then visit the Church of the Holy Nativity, reputed to have been built over the cave in which Jesus was born. (B,D)

DAY 4: MONDAY 7 December Nazareth, Sepphoris

Today our focus shifts to the Holy Family as we travel to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, and the site of the annunciation to Mary. Our first stop will be at the Church of the Annunciation, decorated with pictures of Mary from around the world. We will then visit the archaeological site of Sepphoris (Zippori), where Joseph may have plied his trade. Dinner will be at our hotel at the Nof Ginosar Kibbutz on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (B,D)

DAY 5: TUESDAY 8 December Sea of Galilee

We spend today on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, beginning our theme for the next few days on the public ministry of Jesus, and visiting places well known to us from the Gospels. We travel first to Capernaum, where we will see the ruins of the ancient synagogue there and a house that may once have been home to Peter. We next visit Tabgha, where the exhortation of Jesus to Peter 'feed my sheep' and the feeding miracle of the loaves and fishes are both commemorated. From Tabgha, a winding road takes us to the heights above the Sea of Galilee and to the Church on the Mount of Beatitudes. This area is associated with the Sermon on the Mount and provides lovely views over the surrounding Galilean countryside. Return to Nof Ginosar for dinner and a relaxing evening. (B,D)

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY 9 December Caesarea Philippi, Mt Tabor

This morning we will drive north through the Golan Heights, to the site of ancient Caesarea-Philippi. There will be time to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, as well as to read and prayerfully reflect on the biblical narratives associated with Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah. On the way back we will proceed to Mt Tabor, a possible location of the Transfiguration, where Jesus came with his disciples to a 'high mountain' at a very pivotal moment in his ministry. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: THURSDAY 10 December Jesus Boat, Boat Ride

Enjoy a leisurely final day at the Sea of Galilee. In the morning we will see the first century 'Jesus boat' recovered from the Sea of Galilee some years ago. We will then take a boat trip onto the Sea of Galilee, pausing on the

lake for a service of prayer and praise. After lunch there are two options – either spend the afternoon at leisure at our kibbutz hotel, or depart for an excursion to Beit Shean, an ancient biblical, and later Roman city, that has been extensively excavated. (B,D)

DAY 8: FRIDAY 11 December Ein Kerem, the Jordan River, the Wilderness, Jerusalem

Leaving Nof Ginosar after breakfast, we begin two days of reflection on the ministry of John the Baptist. We will come to the Qasr al-Yahud baptism site at the Jordan River, and then drive into the Judean wilderness from where John may have come. We will then proceed to Ein Kerem, the traditional site associated with John the Baptist and his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth. After stopping on Mt Scopus for a panoramic view of the holy city, we will then check in to our Jerusalem hotel. (B,D).

DAY 9: SATURDAY 12 December Jericho, Qumran, Masada, Jerusalem

After breakfast we will drive through the Jordan Valley, past the site of ancient Jericho, and into the Judean desert, to Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found, and where John the Baptist may have spent some time. From there we continue to Masada, Herod's hilltop fortress where the Jewish rebels made their last stand against an advancing Roman army in 70 AD, which can be ascended today by cable car, and offering incredible views over the wilderness. There will also be an opportunity to float in the Dead Sea (weather permitting). Finally, we will return to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: SUNDAY 13 December Jerusalem

This morning we will attend the service for Advent Three at St George's Anglican Cathedral Jerusalem. In the afternoon we will proceed to the Mt of Olives, where we will be afforded a wonderful view of Jerusalem as we begin our descent on foot, following the path taken by Jesus on the first Palm Sunday. Half way down we will pause at the Church of 'Dominus Flevit' ('The Lord wept'). Upon reaching the bottom of the mount we will come to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Our day will end with a visit to the Wailing Wall. (B,D)

DAY 11: MONDAY 14 December Jerusalem

Early in the morning we will walk the Via Dolorosa or 'Way of the Cross,' a meaning-filled and deeply spiritual walk through the Old City of Jerusalem, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will then visit the Garden Tomb, one of the possible sites of the burial and resurrection, where we will share a final Service. Later in the day we will end our time as pilgrims with a Middle Eastern feast at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 12: TUESDAY 15 December Depart Jerusalem

Check out of our hotel after breakfast and leave for the airport for our flight home. (B)

DAY 13: WEDNESDAY 16 December In Flight

DAY 14: THURSDAY 17 December Arrive Australia

Arrive home today with wonderful memories of our trip!



For further details about the itinerary and enquiries regarding the subsidy contact:



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