

14  
DAYS

# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

## With Optional Petra Extension

**11 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS. DEPARTS MON 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Dead Sea (2 nights) • Madaba • Caesarea • Haifa • Sea of Galilee (3) • Mt Tabor • Cana • Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Bethlehem • Masada • Jericho • Optional 2 night Wonders of Petra Extension



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Tour Escort  
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*the genuine pilgrim experience*

**harvest**  
journeys



**DAY 1: MON 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 – DEPART FOR THE HOLY LAND**

**DAY 2: TUE 29 SEPTEMBER – ARRIVE AMMAN – DEAD SEA**

This morning we fly into Amman and immediately travel west to ascend Biblical Mt Nebo for a spectacular Mass. Here, at the site where the Old Testament opened its door to the land of the New, Moses looked over into the Promised Land and blessed Joshua who was to lead the Israelites under God's protection (Joshua 1:6-9). It has been possible for archaeologists to identify this sanctuary, thanks to the records left by two pilgrim-visitors of the fourth and fifth centuries of their travels in this region. One of these was Egeria, the pilgrim nun.

His Holiness Benedict XVI, on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009, said this while here on Mt Nebo: "Here, on the heights of Mount Nebo, the memory of Moses invites us to 'lift up our eyes' to embrace with gratitude not only God's mighty works in the past, but also to look with faith and hope to the future which he holds out to us and to our world." We too can seize this opportunity to thank God for our journey thus far and anticipate the blessings that are to come.

We then arrive at the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea to check-in to our beautiful hotel located down on the shore. Here we will unwind and take the optional opportunity to float in the salty waters said to have healing qualities. The experience is quite uplifting!!

*Dead Sea overnight (D)*

**DAY 3: WED 30 SEPTEMBER – BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN & MADABA**

This morning we visit to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, one of the most recent archaeological and religious discoveries. The five springs here form a tributary of the Jordan River, believed to be the Baptismal site of Jesus by John the Baptist. So authentic is this site that His Holiness Benedict XVI chose this as an essential place to visit on his last pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will celebrate Mass, renew our Baptismal promises and see the beautiful Orthodox Church (also the Catholic Church in construction).

We then visit St George's Church in Madaba with its precious 6th century mosaic map of the Holy Land comprised of more than two

million pieces. After this some free time will be afforded to explore the fascinating township of Madaba, the 'City of Mosaics', taking the opportunity for lunch and to browse the local crafts.

We later return to our hotel for free time.

*Dead Sea overnight (BD)*

**DAY 4: THU 1 OCTOBER – VIA CAESAREA & HAIFA TO SEA OF GALILEE**

We journey west across the Jordan River border into the Holy Land of Israel known as the land of the "fifth Gospel".

We journey north to the crusader port city of Caesarea to see the maritime city built by Herod the Great and once the Roman capital of Israel. It was here the centurion Cornelius was baptized by Peter, becoming the first gentile convert to Christianity (Acts 10), and where Festus tried Paul (Acts 25: 6-12). Visit the impressive excavations, the amphitheater and the Herodian port.

Continuing our journey, we visit the town of Haifa which is the largest city in Northern Israel, and the third-largest city in the country. The sea wraps around three sides of Haifa with intoxicating blue and gold beaches. In this region we will visit Mount Carmel where Elijah smote the false prophets and where we will visit the Carmelite Monastery, Chapel of the Holy Family and Elijah's cave.

Following Mass, we visit the House of Grace, a Catholic ministry that works with the most marginalised members of Haifa: Christians, Jews and Muslims who are in need of counselling, guidance, and material aid. We will hear a special talk about this ministry (*time permitting*).

We then proceed on to Tiberias on the shores of Lake Galilee ... "Go to Galilee and you will find him there" (Mt 28:7).

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BLD)*

**DAY 5: FRI 2 OCTOBER – SEA OF GALILEE**

Following breakfast, we travel to Capernaum, the centre of Jesus' teaching and healing and home to Peter the Apostle (Mt 4:12-20). After exploring this site, we travel through Sowers Bay and reflect on the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-9) before continuing through Magdala, the town of Mary Magdalene.

Visit the Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, within which is preserved the remains of a 1st century fishing

boat as in the days of Christ. We then set off from the shore in a traditional sailing vessel to encounter one of our most memorable pilgrimage highlights – a Private Mass floating in the centre of Lake Galilee with engines switched off. Here we will recall the miracles of Jesus calming the storm and appearing to the apostles walking on this very water. After Mass, we will continue back to the shore for our special 'St Peter's fish' lunch.

Journey on to Tabgha, site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mt 14:20), before an important stop at the Church of the Primacy of Peter where Jesus challenged Peter and each one of us 'Do you really love me, feed my sheep'. Here we will spend some quiet time to reflect and pray by the shore of the lake.

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BLD)*

**DAY 6: SAT 3 OCTOBER – MT TABOR, NAZARETH & CANA**

Departing Lake Galilee, we travel to the foot of Mt Tabor before ascending by taxis up the narrow winding road leading to the majestic summit. Here Our Lord's divinity shone forth in the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-2). Here in this breathtaking setting we will better understand Peter's words 'Lord it is good for us to be here'.

Proceed on to the village of Cana where Jesus, at the request of His Mother, performed his first miracle transforming the water into wine at the wedding feast (Jn 2:1-11).

Continue towards Nazareth, the town of Jesus' childhood. Here we will enter inside the Basilica of the Annunciation where a traditional cave becomes the focal point of Mary's response "Let it be done to me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). Celebrate a touching Eucharist here.

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BD)*

**DAY 7: SUN 4 OCTOBER – VIA JACOBS WELL TO JERUSALEM**

We make a special visit this morning to the Mount of Beatitudes as we take time in this special place to ponder Jesus' message of happiness – the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-12), reflecting in the beautiful garden settings of the mountain.

Departing Galilee, we journey south through Samaria, a land rich in Old Testament history. We see the twin peaks of Mt Gerizim and Mt Ebal, known in the Old Testament as Mt Blessing and Mt Cursing. Mt Gerizim is today



HOLY SEPULCHRE CHURCH



GARDEN OF GETHEMANE

the home of the few remaining Samaritans. Soon we come to the actual site of **Jacob's Well**, hewn manually out of solid rock and over 100 feet deep. The water at the bottom of the well is fed by flowing water which is why ancients gave it the name of "living water". At this well Jesus met the Samaritan woman and said to her: *"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (Jn 4:13-14)

We continue our journey up to **Jerusalem** – the City of our God.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 8: MON 5 OCTOBER – BETHLEHEM

We begin our day with a visit to **Ein Karem**, the birthplace of St John the Baptist and site of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth *"Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord"*. Pilgrims may choose to pray a mystery of the Rosary here as we walk up to this church dedicated to 'The Magnificat'.

We then continue to **Bethlehem**, the City of David where we commence our day with a visit to **Shepherd's Field** to commemorate the appearance of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas night (Lk 2:8-16).

We then visit the renowned **Bethlehem University**, a Catholic co-educational institution providing higher education to the people of Palestine.

Continue to the **Church of the Nativity** built over the stable where Jesus was born. Bending low, we enter the church through the Door of Humility and descend into the **Grotto of the Holy Manger**. A **silver star** in the floor marks the very spot where Christ was born. The star's inscription reads in Latin: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est* (Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born).

Prepare to enjoy tonight our special **Breaking the Bread Experience** as we enter the homes of local Christians and share in a delicious home-cooked Arabic meal.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 9: TUE 6 OCTOBER – MASADA, JERICHO & MT TEMPTATION

Travel along the **Jericho Road** as we remember the parable of the Good Samaritan and

journey through desert hills and dry rocky landscape. Soon our coach will pass by the site of **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy.

We continue south along the Dead Sea to the historical **Masada** where, on arrival, we will embark on the cable car offering spectacular scenery to the summit. Here we will enjoy a guided tour of Herod's fortress and the Zealot's last stand.

Travel then back to Jericho the 'City of Palms' which is said to be the oldest inhabited city and most famous oasis. Across the valley we see the **Mt of Temptation**, the site of Jesus' fast of 40 days and there are enough stones to illustrate Satan's words *"If you are the son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves"*. Before returning to Jerusalem we view the **Monastery of St George**.

Prior to dinner we will meet representatives of the **Parents Circle** – this is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation made up of more than 600 bereaved families. Their common bond is that they have lost a close family member to the conflict. Instead of choosing revenge, they have chosen a path of reconciliation.

*Jerusalem overnight (BLD)*

#### DAY 10: WED 7 OCTOBER – JERUSALEM

We proceed to the **Mt of Olives** this morning where we will firstly visit the Church of the '**Pater Noster**' commemorating the site where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:7-15). We then enjoy a panoramic view over the city and a spectacular photographic opportunity. As we commence our walk down the Palm Sunday Road, we wander past the **tombs of the Prophets** Haggai, Malachi and Zechariah before arriving at the **Dominus Flevit** for Mass. This church was built on the site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem (Lk 19:41-44).

We then visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we will enter the **Church of the Agony** containing the bare rock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. The outside garden contains olive trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus.

From here we see the path Jesus was taken along as a prisoner while ascending Mt Zion to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas. Here, at the **Church of St Peter in Gallicantu**, Our

Lord was interrogated and imprisoned, while Peter denied Jesus three times. Continue to the **Cenacle**, room of the **Last Supper** and the **Church of Dormition** where Our Lady was assumed into heaven.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 11: THU 8 OCTOBER - JERUSALEM

We commence early this morning our **Stations of the Cross**, beginning from the **Antonia Fortress** where Jesus was condemned to death. See the **Lithostrotos (pavement)** in the Ecce Homo convent. Visit nearby the **Flagellation and Condemnation Chapels** as we pray and follow in Our Lord's footsteps along the actual **Via Dolorosa** to the site of **Calvary** where we will celebrate Mass in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Walk the stairway climbing to the actual site where the Cross of Jesus once stood. The glass panels reveal the natural rock below which we may come to touch with our pilgrim hands. Also enter the **Edicule** containing the tomb where Our Lord rose from the dead.

After breakfast we travel to the vicinity of the Temple Mount to view the **Dome of the Rock**, **El Aqsa Mosque** and the **Wailing Wall**. Then we come to the **Church of St Anne**, said to be built over the birthplace of the Virgin Mary, and visit the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the paralysed man (Jn 5:2-9).

We then visit the **Israel Museum** where we have an orientation viewing of the **Second Temple scale model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Jesus. This model will help us to understand the layout of the Old City of Jerusalem as it was in the time of Jesus. We will also visit the **Shrine of the Book** to view the **Dead Sea Scrolls**.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 12: FRI 9 OCTOBER – FREE DAY

Enjoy a free day in Jerusalem to rest, pray, or return to your favourite places in the Old City.

For our final night of pilgrimage, we will enjoy a special farewell dinner.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### DAY 13: SAT 10 OCTOBER - DEPART THE HOLY LAND

#### DAY 14: SUN 11 OCTOBER - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA



JERUSALEM



PETRA

## WONDERS OF PETRA

2 NIGHT / 3 DAY POST TOUR OPTION

### DAY 14: SAT 10 OCTOBER – DEPART FOR JORDAN

Following breakfast, we farewell the Holy Land as we cross the border back into Jordan and continue down the King's Highway to the ancient trading city of Petra known as the 'Red Rose City'. Here we are positioned in the biblical land of Edom.

*Petra overnight (BD)*

### DAY 15: SUN 11 OCTOBER – PETRA

Enjoy an unforgettable guided walking tour this morning of the ruins from ancient Petra – the city that the Nabateans carved out of solid rock dating back to 300 BC! Our visit will follow a passage through the Siq, a chasm created in a prehistoric earthquake. It is one of the special moments to walk through this canyon which dramatically opens up to reveal the Treasury Building (Al Khasne) - a never to be forgotten experience. We will see also the Roman Theatre, Corinthian tomb along with churches, homes and many other buildings from this fascinating period.

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

*Petra overnight (BD)*

### DAY 16: MON 12 OCTOBER – DEPART THE HOLY LAND

This morning travel north as we are transferred to Amman Airport for our homebound flight connections. (B)

### DAY 17: TUE 13 OCTOBER –ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

## PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

<b>TOUR CODE</b>	PV6420
<b>DEPARTS</b>	Mon 28 September 2020
<b>RETURNS</b>	Sun 11 October 2020
<b>TWIN SHARE</b>	\$9,988* <i>Indicative cost pp</i>
<b>SINGLE ROOM</b>	\$2,188* <i>Indicative cost</i>
<b>PREPAID TIPPING</b>	Included

*\* Costs are based on prices as at May 2019 and must remain subject to possible change in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases and minimum group size (15) contingencies. PP = Per Person.*

## OPTIONAL PETRA EXTENSION

<b>STARTS</b>	Sat 10 October 2020
<b>RETURNS</b>	Tue 13 October 2020
<b>TWIN SHARE</b>	\$1,188** <i>Indicative cost pp</i>
<b>SINGLE ROOM</b>	\$600 <i>Indicative cost</i>
<b>PREPAID TIPS</b>	Included

*\*\* Includes: Deluxe Coach / Fully Escorted / Standard Hotel / Breakfasts & Dinners Daily / Entrances & Sightseeing. Minimum group size (15) contingencies. PP = Per Person.*

## INCLUSIONS

**Airfares:** Economy class airfare from Melbourne to Amman and return (N.B. Airlines taxes are included on standard itinerary and subject to fluctuations).

**Accommodation & Meals:** Based on moderate standard hotel accommodation throughout with breakfast, dinner daily & 3 lunches

**Touring & Transportation:** Deluxe Air -Conditioned Motor Coach with driver • Professional English Speaking Guide • Sightseeing & Entrance Fees • Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person at hotels • Jordan Visa

**Not Included:** Passport • Other Visas (if applicable) • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature including phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc. • Travel insurance (Harvest will recommend a special group policy rate).



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