



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land *In The Footsteps of Jesus*



11 days

23rd June - 03rd July 2024

£1895.00 per person

Organised by Agatha Kai-Kai



Please remit your fully completed booking form and deposit of £300.00 per person by **25th November 2023**. You can contact Agatha directly by email at agathakai kai@gmail.com or by phone on 01316641431/07711769616

Operated by

SPECIAL PILGRIMAGES 'Christian Tours'

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Established 1983



YOUR ITINERARY

A coach will be arranged by the parish from Edinburgh to London Heathrow return. Please note that the cost of the coach is not included in the tour price. We are currently in touch with EL AL the airline you are booked to travel with to see if a coach subsidy can be arranged to make the cost as low as possible. We will be in touch in due course with more details.

Sunday 23rd June

LONDON HEATHROW / TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS

Meeting and assistance on arrival at London Heathrow airport. We then fly on a direct EL AL service, the LY316 departing at 15:15 hours and arriving at 22:00 hours. You will have one check in bag and one hand luggage per person. A meal and refreshments will be served inflight. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv you will be met by your guide in arrivals. Transfer to Tiberias for check in, dinner and overnight stay. **Please note that due to your late arrival, cold plates will be provided in your rooms.**

Monday 24th June

SEA OF GALILEE & MAGDALA

In the morning, we will proceed to the Mount of Beatitudes, which commemorates the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). Continue to visit the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter (John 21:1-14) followed by Tabgha, the site where the Lord fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish (John 6:1-13). We then visit Capharnaum "The Town of Jesus" where He carried out the major part of His Ministry. Jesus told Peter and Andrew "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:12-22), He cured the Demoniac (Mark 1:21-28), He cured Peter's mother in law (Mark 1:21). He cured the Roman Centurion's servant (Luke 1:1-10) and here Jesus made the promise of the Eucharist (John 6:22-71). We will visit the excavations and St. Peter's Church. *Take a cruise across the Sea of Galilee from Ginosar to the Lido at 12:30 hours. We will eat lunch at the Pagoda Lakeside restaurant at 13:15 hours (included).* After lunch we will drive to Magdala, where a First Century Synagogue was discovered, where it is certain that Jesus taught. Inside the synagogue they also found The Magdala Stone, a discovery many archaeologists call the most significant archaeological find in the past 50 years. With only 10% of the archaeology uncovered, the hometown of Mary Magdalene already provides pilgrims an authentic location to walk where Jesus taught and to connect with the first century life of Jesus' followers. It is home to the beautiful Duc In Altum, which provides a place for worship, mass, and prayer. **Celebrate Mass at Magdala at 17:00 hours.** We then return to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Tuesday 25th June

CANA / NAZARETH / MT. PRECIPICE / MT. TABOR

This morning, we drive to the traditional site of Cana of Galilee, where since early Christian times many have believed is where Jesus performed His first miracle by turning water into wine at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11). **We will celebrate Mass and renewal of marriage vows in Cana at 09:00 hours.** We then drive to Nazareth (refreshment stop en route) where the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to bear the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38). It was also here that Jesus grew up. First we visit the Church of St. Gabriel (Mary's Well), which is built over the only freshwater spring in Nazareth, a place where Mary and Jesus must have visited daily to draw from their daily water supply.



Continue to the Basilica of the Annunciation including the Grotto for a visit. We also visit the Chapel of St. Joseph and view the Old Synagogue. Tradition holds that this simple building stands on the site of the synagogue of Jesus' time (Luke 4: 16-21). **Lunch in Nazareth (not included).** In the afternoon, we proceed to Mt. Precipice, the site of the rejection of Jesus. This is traditionally the site where it is believed Jesus leapt from the Mount after being chased away from the synagogue. We then continue to Mount Tabor, which according to a very old tradition going back to apostolic days, is the place where Jesus was transfigured. Ascend by taxi (included) to the summit to visit the Basilica of Transfiguration, and to see the magnificent view across the plain of Jezreel. We then return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight stay.

Wednesday 26th June

SEA OF GALILEE / MOUNT CARMEL / BETHLEHEM

In the morning, we will have breakfast and some time at the Sea of Galilee. **Check out of our guest house and celebrate Mass at the Casa Nova at 11:00 hours.** We then drive to Haifa. **Lunch in the vicinity (not included).** In the afternoon, we stop and view the Bah'ai shrine and gardens before we continue to Mount Carmel, where we recall Elijah's firelighting challenge against the Prophets of Baal. Continue to the Mother Church of the Carmelite Order for a visit and Elijah's cave. We then drive to Bethlehem to our hotel for check in, dinner and overnight stay.

Thursday 27th June

BETHLEHEM

After breakfast, we shall drive to Manger Square, where we visit the Basilica of the Nativity and the Grotto venerated as the birthplace of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7). Also visit the Church of St. Catherine, the Crusaders' Cloister, the Chapel of St. Jerome and the Grotto of the Holy Innocents. We will also visit the Milk Grotto. **Lunch at the Grotto restaurant at 13:00 hours (included).** In the afternoon, we will visit the Basilica and Grotto at **the Shepherds' Fields, where we will celebrate Mass at 15:00 hours.** We then return to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Friday 28th June

JERICHO / QASR AL YAHUD / DEAD SEA

Today we visit Jericho (circumstances permitting) the oldest continually inhabited city in the world and an oasis in the desert. Visit the Mount of Temptation, where we will take a cable car ride and view the Monastery of the Temptation and enjoy the spectacular panoramic view of the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and the Mountains of Moab and Gilead. **Celebrate Mass in Jericho at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 11:00 hours. Eat lunch in Jericho at Al Rawdeh restaurant at 12:15 hours (included).** In the afternoon, proceed to

Qasr Al Yahud, the Baptismal site on the River Jordan, where we have the opportunity to renew our Baptismal vows. Continue on to the Dead Sea for time to float. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Saturday 29th June

MT. OLIVES / MT. SION

After breakfast we shall check out of our hotel and drive to the Mount of Olives. We shall view the Place of the Ascension, visit the Pater Noster Church commemorating Jesus teaching His disciples the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:7-15). Inside the cloisters the Lord's Prayer is written in 110 different languages. Continue to enjoy the panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem before we descend on foot to visit Dominus Flevit where Jesus wept over the City of Jerusalem and foretold its destruction (Luke 19:41-44). Continue along the Palm Sunday route to the Garden of the Gethsemane, the scene of Jesus' agony, betrayal and arrest (Luke 22:22-54). Visit **the Church of All Nations containing the rock where Jesus is believed to have prayed before His betrayal and arrest and where we will celebrate Mass at 11:00 hours. Lunch in the vicinity (not included)**. In the afternoon, we continue to Mount Sion to visit the Upper Room, which is also known as the Cenacle and is the site of the last supper. We shall continue to visit the Dormition Abbey, built over the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have "fallen asleep". Proceed to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu for a visit, which is built over the site of the house of the High Priest Caiaphas and the dungeon where Our Lord was imprisoned before his trial. It is also here that Peter denied knowing Jesus thrice (Luke 22: 54-62). We then proceed to our hotel in Jerusalem for check in, dinner and overnight stay. **This evening, we will join the International Holy Hour at the Gethsemane at 20:00 hours.**

Sunday 30th June

BETHANY / GOOD SAMARITAN INN / MASADA

In the morning, we drive to Bethany (circumstances permitting) where we visit **Bethany Church and celebrate Mass at 10:00 hours**. We also visit the Tomb of Lazarus, where Jesus' raised Lazarus from the Dead. We will then proceed to the Inn of the Good Samaritan, where we recall the famous parable and visit the museum. Stop to view St. George's Monastery in the desert before we continue on to Masada. Stop en route to view Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. **Lunch en route to Masada (not included)**. In the afternoon, we visit Masada. Upon arrival, we will take a cable car and ascend to this formidable fortress. After you leave the cable car you will have a magnificent view of the Dead Sea and Wadi Arava. It is famous for being the last Jewish foot hold against Rome. It was captured by the Roman Commander Flavius Silva in 70 AD after a siege which lasted for 3 years during which period he built a ramp on the west flank, 610 feet long on which he set up his war machine. As soon as a breach was opened in the walls, the 967 men, women and children decided to kill themselves rather than surrender. Only two women and five children escaped to tell the tale. We will visit the Synagogue, the luxurious Roman style bathhouse, the storerooms, the Herodian mosaic floor, one of the cisterns, the Western Palace and the walls. We then descend by cable car back to our coach. Return to Jerusalem for dinner and

overnight stay.

Monday 01st July

WESTERN WALL / VIA DOLOROSA / FREE AFTERNOON

This morning we will walk the Via Dolorosa (Stations of the Cross) through the Old City of Jerusalem to **the Holy Sepulchre where we celebrate Mass at 07:30 hours**. We then return to our hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, we will visit the Church of St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda. We will also visit the Western Wall. **Lunch in the vicinity (not included)**. The afternoon is free in Jerusalem for your own activities. Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel.

Tuesday 02nd July

LATIN PATRIARCHATE / EIN KAREM & ABO GOSH

In the morning, we proceed to the Latin Patriarchate for an Audience (subject to the Patriarchate being in residence). **We will also celebrate Mass in the Patriarchate at 11:00 hours. Lunch in the vicinity (not included)**. In the afternoon, we drive to the village of Ein Kareem, the home of Zachary and Mary's cousin Elizabeth the parents of St. John the Baptist and where Mary visited her cousin. We will visit the Church of St. John the Baptist and then walk up to visit the Church of the Visitation. Continue to Abo Gosh, one of the possible sites of Emmaus for a visit before we return to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight stay.

Wednesday 03rd July

JAFFA / TEL AVIV / LONDON HEATHROW

Check out of our hotel after breakfast and drive to Jaffa, where for hundreds of years pilgrims arrived by boat to the Holy Land. Tabitha, a disciple of Jesus was raised from the dead by Peter in Joppa (Acts 9:36-43). Peter stayed in Joppa a long time in the house of Simon the Tanner, and it was here he saw his vision of the beasts on a sheet, coming out of Heaven. **Celebrate our farewell Mass at St. Peter's Church at 11:00 hours. Lunch in the vicinity (not included)**. In the afternoon, we will drive to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion airport for our return flight to London Heathrow on the LY317 departing at 17:20 hours and arriving at 20:45 hours. **End of services. Activities on the last day are subject to flight times permitting**

THE AIRFARE DEMANDED BY ALL AIRLINES ARE SUBJECT TO OCCUPANCY AND PROXIMITY TO DEPARTURE DATE. TO GUARANTEE A PLACE ON THIS DEPARTURE, BASED ON THE TOUR PRICE ADVERTISED, WE STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LATE BOOKINGS MAY ATTRACT A FLIGHT SURCHARGE. ANY INCREASE IN AIRFARE ABOVE OUR BUDGET, WILL BE PASSED ON TO YOU. IN SUCH AN EVENT YOU WILL BE OFFERED A CHOICE EITHER TO PAY THE SURCHARGE AND PROCEED WITH YOUR BOOKING OR WITHDRAW.

Due to the considerable walking on uneven places and climbing steps during the tour, anyone applying must be reasonably fit to do so. The excursions in this pilgrimage are not suitable for people with walking difficulties. The tour may also involve walking on unpaved paths and trails. For further advice, please ask your guide or Tour Leader for advice.

The flights and accommodation information in this brochure are provisional and should be treated as such. Hotels, carriers, airports and flights schedule can change without prior notice. We cannot be held responsible for any travel or transportation arrangements you personally under take with a third party in conjunction with the flights and accommodation information provided in this brochure. Final flight and accommodation details will be supplied three weeks before departure.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

THE TOUR INCLUDES: -

- Flights with EL AL from London Heathrow. You will have one hand luggage and one check in luggage per person. A meal and refreshments are currently served inflight on the London to Tel Aviv legs of your flights.
- Accommodation on half board basis; in Tiberias at the Casa Nova pilgrim house or similar for 3 nights, for 3 nights in Bethlehem at the Angel Hotel or similar and for 4 nights in Jerusalem at Ecce Homo guest house or similar for 4 nights. All rooms will be with private facilities and based on sharing a double, twin or triple room. All rooms will be with private facilities.
- 4 lunches as per your itinerary
- The services of an official fully licensed local excellent English speaking guide for the duration of your pilgrimage (airport to airport)
- All transfers and transportation in deluxe and air-conditioned tourist motor coaches as per your itinerary.
- Porterage in Bethlehem.
- All the entrance fees as outlined in your itinerary.
- The advance booking of all the services relevant to your tour including the booking of Mass.
- **A very basic tip for the your guide and driver in the Holy Land—\$1.00 per person per day.**

NOT INCLUDED: -

- Return coach travel from Edinburgh to London Heathrow.
- Single room supplement **£295.00**
- Insurance
- Lunches unless specified under 'included' beverages and refreshments
- Items of a personal nature, e.g. laundry, telephone, bar bills etc.
- Passport and all Visa Costs.



Bookings made within 12 weeks from departure may incur an extra administration charge of at least £50 per person

Departure based on a minimum of 20 pilgrims
Exchange rate £1 = \$1.25

Please note that this tour will not be cancelled unless the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office bans all travel to / from Israel and / or BA, El Al Israel Airlines or other airlines stop flying to and from Tel Aviv to the United Kingdom for political or security reasons

A Visa may be required for non British / EU passport holders. Ensure that you disclose your nationality & those of your party on the booking form if NOT British.

HOW TO BOOK

Please complete the enclosed booking form in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, which should be returned to us together with a non refundable deposit of **£300.00** per person. **Cheque payments should be made payable to 'Special Pilgrimages Ltd'.** If you wish to pay your deposit by online bank transfer, please follow the instructions on the enclosed **"Green Appendix" payments Guidance.**

SINGLE ROOMS

Single rooms are available at an extra cost of **£295.00** for the duration of your pilgrimage and are subject to availability and to our confirmation. ***If you are booking on your own and request to share a twin room, we will do our best to find you a suitable person to share with. In the event that we fail to do so by 3 weeks before your departure, we will charge you the single room supplement and allocate you a single room.***

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance cover today is now easily available to buy online and often is included with your house insurance, bank account or credit card cost. Also as some people travel frequently they find it cheaper to purchase annual Travel Insurance Policy. Therefore we have decided to stop selling travel insurance policies.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a valid travel insurance policy in place, which affords you repatriation and medical cover that includes any and all of your pre existing medical conditions during your holiday with us. It is of utmost importance that you declare to your underwriter any and all pre existing medical conditions to enjoy unrestricted cover. We strongly advice you not travel without such adequate and comprehensive travel insurance cover.

PASSPORTS

You will require a full ten-year international passport for your pilgrimage. **The passport must be valid for a further 6 months at the date of travel.** If you do not hold a European Community passport you must inform us in writing immediately. Visas for Israel may be required for non British and E.C. passport holders.

VISAS

If you are not a British or EU Citizen, **it is your responsibility** to ensure that you obtain all the necessary visas as required by the states you are visiting whether single or multiple entries. ***Visas for Israel may be required for non British / E.C. passport holders. For more information please check***

If you are not holding a full British or EU Passport, you might need to obtain a visa for Israel

FINAL BALANCE

Final payment is due **TWELVE weeks** before you travel. If we do not receive your full payment by the date shown on your remittance slip we shall assume that you are no longer travelling and we shall cancel your place with loss of your deposit. **A reminder will not be issued.**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL Protected, since we own an Air Travel Organisers Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 2963. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking.

For further information, visit the ATOL website at

www.atol.org.uk

