

## HOLY LAND TOUR ITINERARY:

APRIL 9 - APRIL 19, 2018

**DAY 1 04/09 - BOSTON~ROME~TEL AVIV:** Depart Boston's Logan Airport aboard our transatlantic Alitalia flight to Tel Aviv, Israel (via Rome) with meal and beverage service en route, as well as stereo headsets for our listening and viewing enjoyment.

**DAY 2 -04/10 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL:** After our arrival at The Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, we will be met by our Tour Escort (Kayed Abusiny) who will assist with our transfer. We will board our private motor coach for the drive into the city of Tel Aviv where we will check into our hotel for 1 night. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to familiarize ourselves with our surroundings. **Dinner** and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 3 04/11 - CAESAREA~HAIFA~MUKHRAKA~NAZARETH~CANA~TIBERIAS:** **Breakfast** and hotel check out. Morning departure for Caesarea, once capital of this Roman province, to see the Roman and Crusader ruins, as well as the harbor where St. Paul was taken prisoner to Rome. We continue our journey into the Carmel Mountains, heading for Galilee. Stop in Haifa where we will visit the Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery, a 19<sup>th</sup> century monastery located on the slopes of Mount Carmel, and Mukhraka, where Elijah confronted the false prophets of Baal and where the Carmelite Order began. A short drive then takes us to Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus Christ, followed by a visit to Cana in Galilee, the site of the first public miracle where Jesus turned water into wine. Our pilgrim couples will have a special opportunity to renew their wedding vows during Mass. Continue on to Tiberius where we will check-in at the hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 4 04/12- SEA OF GALILEE AREA:** Breakfast is at our hotel. There will be a morning narrated boat cruise on the Sea of Galilee, where Christ walked on water. Next, we will tour the holy site of Capernaum, home to St. Peter and where Christ began His ministry. We will also visit the Jesus Boat Museum in Ginosar. We will travel to the Mount of Beatitudes where Our Lord preached the Sermon on the Mount. At 11:00 am, we will celebrate Mass here. A short drive takes us to Tabgha, the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, after which we will visit, the nearby Franciscan chapel known as the Church of the Primacy of Peter. A "St. Peter's" fish **lunch** will be included today. We will return to our hotel in Tiberius for **dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 5 04/13 - MT. TABOR~MAGDALA~SEPPHORIS:** **Breakfast** is at our hotel this morning. We will continue on to Mt. Tabor, scene of the Transfiguration, where at 9:00 am, we will celebrate Mass in the beautiful small church atop the mountain. Afterwards, we will visit the church in Magdala on the shores of Lake Kinneret, famous for its boat-shaped altar. We head to Sepphoris, believed that the parents of the Virgin Mary, Anna and Joachim, were natives of that area. It served as a center of Jewish religious and spiritual life in the Galilee and took in many Jewish refugees before. In the afternoon, we will return to our hotel for **dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 6 04/14 - BEIT SHE'AN~JORDAN RIVER~JERICHO~QUMRAN~DEAD SEA:** **Breakfast** is at our hotel. Please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. We start our day with a visit to Beit She'an, a strategically important location on the Jordan River with an Egyptian, Greek, and Roman history. Our next stop will be Qasr El Yahud, also known as Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the traditional site of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. We will celebrate Mass here and renew our baptismal promises. NOTE TO PRIESTS: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MASS VESTMENTS. AT APPROXIMATELY 11:00 AM, Our next stop is Jericho, the ancient Canaanite city destroyed by the power of God and the oldest known inhabited city in the world. Here, we will visit their excavations and enjoy a splendid view of the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus fasted and was tempted by Satan. We will visit the Qumran site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were unearthed, and stop at the

Dead Sea with time for a swim in the mineral-rich waters. The Dead Sea water is known to have healing properties, and the water is warm enough to swim in year-round! We will continue on to our hotel, and check in for 1 night. **Dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 7 04/15- MASADA~BETHLEHEM:** **Breakfast** is at our hotel. By 8:00 am, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. After departing, we will drive to Masada and ascend to the cliff top fortress by cable car to inspect the ruins of Herod's palace and fortification, which later served the Zealots to resist the Romans. We will descend by cable car. The visit to Masada should be between 8:30-11:30 am. We will continue to Bethlehem for a visit, arriving around 1:00 pm. In the afternoon, we drive to Shepherds' Field where the angels announced the birth of Jesus. We visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, which stands upon the site where Jesus was born. **A 4 pm Mass is planned at St. Catherine church.** There will be time to shop before transferring to Jerusalem and checking into our hotel for the remainder of the trip. **Dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 8 04/16 PALM SUNDAY ROUTE~VIA DOLOROSA:** Breakfast is at our hotel. . We begin our day with a visit to the Mount of Olives to walk the Palm Sunday route beginning with a visit to the Pater Noster Church, where the universality of the Catholic Church is evident in the tiled mosaics of the Lord's Prayer in many languages. **Please Note: the bus will drop the group on top of the mountain and will come to pick everyone up from the bottom, next to the church.** We will visit the Chapel of the Ascension from where Jesus ascended into heaven. Continuing down the Mount of Olives, we will visit the Dominus Flevit Church where we will celebrate Mass and visit the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed his last prayer before being arrested. We continue on to the Cave of Betrayal and the Cave of Assumption of Mary to Heaven. Entering the walls of the City of Jerusalem, we will visit St. Anne's church and the nearby Pool of Bethesda. Continuing our walk, we see the Ecce Homo arch where Pilate proclaimed, "Behold the man...". We will continue along the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow) through the Old City and pray along the Stations of the Cross as we walk the same path Jesus took. We will also visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which commemorates where Jesus was crucified and buried. We will return to our hotel in Jerusalem for **dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 9 4/17 WESTERN WALL~MT. ZION~ST. PETER IN GALLICANTU~ BETHANY~ GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE:** **Breakfast** is at our hotel. We begin our day with a visit to the Wailing Wall, the most holy place of the Jewish faith. We exit at the Mount Zion gate to visit the Upper Room, the location of the Last Supper and the Dormition Abbey where we believe the Blessed Mary died. At 09:00 am, Mass will be celebrated in the Cenacle "Ad Coenaculum" the Upper Room. We continue on to St. Peter in Gallicantu, where Peter denied Christ three times. We continue our day with a visit to Bethany, home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. We will return to our hotel in Jerusalem for **dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 10 04/18 EIN KAREM - YAD VASHEM - ABU GOSH:** - After **breakfast**, we will visit the village of Ein Karem, ". At 9 am we will have Mass in Visitation church in Ein Karem. the birthplace of St. John the Baptist and to the Church of Visitation where the Blessed Virgin Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, and proclaimed the "Magnificat This afternoon we will visit Yad Vashem at (estimated) 2:00 pm, the National Holocaust Museum. We will stop in the monastery that commemorates the biblical story of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus and how they came to recognize the Risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread. **Dinner** and overnight.

**DAY 11 - 04/19 TEL AVIV~ROME~BOSTON:** Following **breakfast** and hotel check-out, we will be transferred to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv for our return Alitalia flight to Boston (via Rome) with full meal and beverage service in flight.

➤ **FOR THOSE WHO ARE EXTENDING THEIR STAY, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR SPECIFIC FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**