

OUR DAILY ITINERARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, DAY 1: DEPART THE USA

We depart USA en route to Tel Aviv. Flight arrangements are made on our own.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, DAY 2: ARRIVE TEL AVIV / TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM

Arrive in Tel Aviv airport on our own. A group motor coach transfer along with your Catholic Travel Centre tour guide is provided from the Tel Aviv airport to our hotel in Jerusalem for the arrival of Delta flight # 234 from New York JFK airport. Passengers arriving at other times will need to take a taxi to our hotel in and check in on their own. Dinner this evening is not included due to our varied arrival times.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, DAY 3: JERUSALEM: EIN KAREM, ISRAEL MUSEUM & THE OLD CITY

This morning we gather for an orientation meeting at our hotel. Next, we visit the West Jerusalem neighborhood of Ein Karem. There, at the beautiful Church of the Visitation, we celebrate the opening Mass of our pilgrimage. We then cross the valley to the Church of St. John the Baptist.

After our included lunch, we visit the Israel Museum for a background lesson on the history of the Holy City with its model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. After that, we return to the Old City to pray at the Wailing (Western) Wall, where we mingle with devout Jews. We walk back to our hotel through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, taking a few moments to enjoy the view of the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, DAY 4: JERUSALEM: GETHSEMANE, MT. ZION & RABBINICAL TUNNELS

We visit the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of the city of Jerusalem, followed by a walk down the steep Palm Sunday Road to visit the Church of Dominus Flevit, commemorating where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. We continue down the road to the Garden of Gethsemane for a reconciliation service (*semi private prayer hour*), before gathering to celebrate Mass in the Church of All Nations.

We cross the Kidron Valley for our included lunch, and then visit the Palace of Caiaphas, a site known today as St. Peter in Gallicantu ("crowing rooster"). We continue up Mt. Zion, where we visit the Upper Room (commemorating the Last Supper and the first Christian Pentecost), the nearby Tomb of David, and the

Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition. We walk back to our hotel through the Armenian Quarter of the Old City.

After dinner at our hotel, we invite those who have the energy to visit the fascinating Rabbinical Tunnels leading us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give us a good understanding of the construction of the Temple Mount, the giant stones and water supply, and the Roman street where our Lord was led to judgment. (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, DAY 5: JERUSALEM: YAD VASHEM / JUDEAN DESERT / DEAD SEA

We begin today at Yad Vashem Memorial Museum, which tells the story of the Holocaust. After our included lunch, we travel into the Judean desert; the Good Samaritan story is related to this area. We celebrate Mass in the Judean wilderness. We continue on to the Dead Sea, where we are invited to swim and play in the amazing salt waters. We return to our accommodations for a presentation by a speaker who will tell us more about the Jewish faith and its traditions, followed by dinner. (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, DAY 6: JERUSALEM: VIA DOLOROSA, HOLY SEPULCHRE & CHURCH OF ST. ANNE-

After an early breakfast, we gather at the Antonia Palace to walk the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of the Cross, culminating at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where Jesus was crucified and buried, and more importantly, where he rose again.

Here we celebrate Mass, followed by a visit of the church.

After our included lunch, we walk through the Muslim Quarter to visit the Church of St. Anne, which marks the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. We then celebrate a healing service at the nearby Pools of Bethesda. Dinner is back at our accommodations. (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, DAY 7: EXCURSION TO BETHLEHEM

We travel today to Bethlehem where we begin with Mass in the Shepherd's Field, where it is believed that the angel hosts first announced the Good News of Jesus' birth. We visit the Church of the Nativity, St. Jerome's Chapel, and St. Catherine's Church, followed by lunch at the nearby Casa Nova.

After lunch we visit the Bethlehem Children's Home to learn about the important work of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. We take some time to browse in the local shops. This evening we invite a leader of the Muslim community to tell us more about their faith and traditions, with dinner following. (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, DAY 8: BEIT SAHOUR: OUR LADY OF FATIMA / BETHANY / GALILEE

We load our luggage and head to Our Lady of Fatima Church in Beit Sahour to celebrate Mass with the largest Catholic parish in the West Bank and to meet some members of the local community. After our included lunch, we visit Bethany where our Lord raised Lazarus from dead and then continue on to our accommodations along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Dinner is served at our accommodations. (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, DAY 9: EXCURSION TO NAZARETH & CANA

After breakfast, we travel to Nazareth, Mary's home and the town where Jesus played as a child, learned a trade, and grew to adulthood. We celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the Annunciation and tour the Church of St. Joseph, followed by lunch at the nearby Casa Nova. Before leaving town, we pause to pray at the Chapel of Charles de Foucauld. On our way back to the Sea of Galilee, we stop in Cana, site of Jesus' first miracle, where we invite couples to renew their marriage vows. Over champagne back at our accommodations to celebrate the couples, we take time to share about all the experiences we have enjoyed together on this pilgrimage thus far. Dinner follows. (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, DAY 10: MT. TABOR / NAIN / CAPERNAUM / MT.BEATITUDE

This morning after an early breakfast we board our bus and travel to Mount Tabor to celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the Transfiguration. After our included lunch, we briefly visit the village of Nain, where Jesus raised the widow's son (Luke 7). We continue with a visit to Capernaum, the city where Jesus performed much of his ministry recorded in the gospels. Here we have time for reflection. Our last stop is Mount of Beatitudes for a short reflection. We then return to our accommodations for a final dinner in beautiful Galilee. (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, DAY 11: GALILEE: PETER'S PRIMACY / BOAT RIDE / JORDAN RIVER / JERICHO / JERUSALEM: FAREWELL DINNER / TEL AVIV AIRPORT

This morning after breakfast we check out from our accommodations in Galilee. We celebrate the final Mass of our pilgrimage at the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter, where Peter was reconciled with Jesus (John 21). Then we take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, recalling the many stories of Jesus and His disciples which took place along the shores of this lake.

We then head all the way back south through the Jordan River valley, engaging in a mini-retreat about how the Holy Spirit invites us to use the graces we have received on this pilgrimage. At Qasr Al Yahoud, we renew our baptismal promises at the point on

the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John. Our final dinner is in a private room at the Ambassador Hotel in Jerusalem. Our pilgrimage concludes with a motor coach transfer to Tel Aviv airport for the departure of Delta flight #235. Flight arrangements are made on our own. Those of us departing at a different time or day will need to make our own arrangements from the airport in Tel Aviv. (B, L, D)

Note: While no changes are anticipated, there may be unforeseen occasions when certain alterations become necessary to this itinerary, either due to changes in airline schedules or for other reasons.