



# The Holy Land Pilgrimage: Walking in Christ's Footsteps

Group Organizer: Ms. Dorothy DeNoto

## Tour Includes

### Departure Date

February 16, 2024

### Overnights

Tel Aviv-Yafo 1 • Haifa 1 • Tiberias 1 • Jerusalem 5

### Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a double basis.

### Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Deluxe touring motorcoach.

### Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners. Farewell dinner on Day 9.

### Guides

English-speaking tour escort throughout. Guides as noted on itinerary.

### Travel Protection

**passports** provides and pays for a Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that provides coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Baggage Loss or Delay, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.

### Itinerary also includes:

Group/Individual Spiritual Direction available (optional)/Communal Prayer each morning with explanation of scriptural context of day's upcoming visits /Communal Prayer each evening where we will journal the graces of the day (optional)

## Investment

# \$5094

Program Cost \$5394

*-\$300 Early Enrollment Discount*

Total \$5094

*Early Enrollment Discount expires July 4, 2023. Final payment is due 10/29/2023 or, with E-Z Pay, 1/17/2024. Tour cost is based on a group size of 20 participants. Departure from New York City, NY.*

## For More Information

- 1 Visit our website **passports.com**
- 2 Enter Tour ID **DDENOTO2024-5**

# The Holy Land Pilgrimage: Walking in Christ's Footsteps

Departs: February 16, 2024



To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



## Tour Participant Age Requirement

Travelers on this tour must be 21 years of age or older

## Itinerary Includes

English-speaking tour escort throughout

Three course dinner with water along with a choice of a soft drink, glass of wine, or a beer.

## Days 1-2: Home - Tel Aviv-Yafo

Arrival transfer

Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

## Day 3: Tel Aviv-Yafo - Haifa

Sightseeing stop in Old Jaffa, Walking Tour, Visit to the Ruins of Caesarea Maritima, Visit to the excavations of Tel Megiddo, Mt. Carmel ascent to Muhraqa

## Day 4: Haifa - Tiberias

Basilica of the Annunciation, Visit to Cana's Wedding Church, Visit to the Capernaum Excavations, Visit to the Church of the House of Peter in Capernaum

## Day 5: Tiberias - Jerusalem

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride

Scenic drive down the Jordan Valley, Visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls Caves in Qumran

## Day 6: Jerusalem

Walk on the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane

Walk from St. Stephen's Gate and along the Via Dolorosa

Christian quarter walking tour: Visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Visit to the King David Street Souk

Visit to the Israel Museum to view the Model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period

Mt. Zion walking tour: Visit to the Upper Room and King David's Tomb

## Day 7: Jerusalem

Excursion to Bethlehem: Local Guide, Manger Square, Visit to the Basilica of the Nativity, Visit to the Chapel of the Milk Grotto, Shepherds' Field

## Day 8: Jerusalem

Excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea: Masada cable car up the hill and walk down on the Roman Ramp, Masada Excavations, Sightseeing stop at the Dead Sea, Dead Sea Float!

## Day 9: Jerusalem

Excursion to the Ella Valley in the Judean Mountains: David & Goliath and Samson & Delilah

Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

Farewell dinner: Evening Performance

## Day 10: Departure

# Detailed Itinerary

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## Friday 2/16 - Saturday 2/17

### Home - Tel Aviv-Yafo

Arrival transfer

Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

Meals included: Dinner  
Overnight: Tel Aviv-Yafo

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## Sunday 2/18

### Tel Aviv-Yafo - Haifa

Sightseeing stop in Old Jaffa, Walking Tour, Visit to the Ruins of Caesarea Maritima, Visit to the excavations of Tel Megiddo, Mt. Carmel ascent to Muhraqa

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Haifa

### Days 1-2: Arrival, Mass

A dream comes true as your wide-bodied jet thunders off the airstrip. Your destination is Ben-Gurion Airport, near Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv has been called "The Biggest Little City" in the world! Ancient and modern, deep-rooted and cosmopolitan, it is both Israel's administrative and economic center (having served as its temporary capital city in 1948-49) and a fancy resort on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean.

### Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

This time is unscheduled to allow attendance at Mass.

### Day 3: Jaffa, Caesarea, Megiddo, Muhraqa, Haifa

Head to the seaside district of Yafo, the cradle of tel Aviv, whose history was traced back to a 1800 BCE settlement on a coastal rocky ridge, with a natural harbor from which Jonah set sail (Jonah 1:3).

#### *Walking Tour*

Walk through

#### *Travel to Caesarea*

Enjoy the ride along the coastal plain as you head north.

#### *Visit to the Ruins of Caesarea Maritima*

Walk through the excavated city that King Herod the Great built roughly between c. 20 BC and 10 BC, and which he named in honor of his patron, Caesar Augustus. See the enormous Roman Theater, the ancient port, and the Crusader fortress.

#### *Visit to the excavations of Tel Megiddo*

Step onto the ancient site associated with the Battle of Armageddon. Excavations have revealed 26 layers dating back to 3500 BCE. Devastated many times through history, Megiddo has come to represent the last battle between Good and Evil that's mentioned in the *Book of Revelation*. See it as it was in the time of King Solomon.

#### *Mt. Carmel ascent to Muhraqa*

Travel up *Har HaKarmel*, a mountain range called *el-Muhraqa* in Arabic.

Stop in Muhraqa, a sacred site where the Prophet Elijah challenged the Prophets of Baal. Take in the panoramic view of the Valley of Jezreel, Samaria, and the coast.

#### *Travel to Haifa*

Proceed to Israel's third-largest city.

Landmarks in Haifa include the Israel Institute of Technology, the Government Center with the elegant Sail Tower, and the world headquarters of the Bahá'í Faith, whose golden-domed Shrine surrounded by Persian gardens is now part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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## Monday 2/19

### Haifa - Tiberias

Basilica of the Annunciation, Visit to Cana's Wedding Church, Visit to the Capernaum Excavations, Visit to the Church of the House of Peter in Capernaum

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Tiberias

## Day 4: Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Tiberias

Set out for Galilee, the region that was home to Jesus for the first thirty years of his life.

### *Travel to Nazareth*

Stop in the largest city of Galilee, where Jesus spent His boyhood.

### *Basilica of the Annunciation*

View the Grotto of the Virgin, site of the Angel Gabriel's apparition to the Virgin Mary, as you visit the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Attendance at Mass would be subject to parish schedule and timing of group's travel day

Holy sites in Nazareth are often inside churches, such as Mary's Well and Joseph's Workshop, with the exception of the public fountain that was built in town over an ancient well fed by Mary's Spring.

### *Travel to Cana*

Continue to the town of *Kafr Kanna*, identified by Christians as the biblical town of Cana.

### *Visit to Cana's Wedding Church*

Visit the church built on the site of Jesus' first miracle, when He turned water into wine.

### *Travel to Capernaum*

Proceed to a fishing village that dates back to the time of the Second Temple and is associated with Jesus' ministry in Galilee.

### *Visit to the Capernaum Excavations*

This tour will have you walking in footsteps thousands of years old on your way to the remains of a synagogue built on the foundations of a 1st century synagogue where Jesus taught (*Mark 1:21*).

### *Visit to the Church of the House of Peter in Capernaum*

Walk into the church built over the excavated site of a first century house believed to have been the house of "Simon, called Peter," which served as a meeting place of early Christians.

### *Travel to Tiberias*

Drive on to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and to the city that was named *Tveria* in honor of the Roman emperor Tiberius.

## Day 5: Sea of Galilee Boat Ride, Jordan Valley, Qumran, Jerusalem

### **Sea of Galilee Boat Ride**

It is a special moment when you ride a boat on the waters of the Sea of Galilee, site of many miracles. This is also the lowest fresh water lake on earth and a major source of fresh water for the entire country.

Journey down the Jordan Valley, past the Roman relics of Beth Shean.

You're headed to the Qumran National Park, located in the Judean desert, at the foot of steep cliffs of on the shore of the Dead Sea.

### *Visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls Caves in Qumran*

View caves where, in 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy discovered the first manuscripts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were written between the third century BCE and 68 CE, when the site was destroyed by the Romans.

### *Travel to Jerusalem*

Continue to the Holy City, which recently celebrated 3,000 years of history since its establishment by King David as the capital of his kingdom.

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## Tuesday 2/20

### Tiberias - Jerusalem

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride

Scenic drive down the Jordan Valley, Visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls Caves in Qumran

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Jerusalem

## Wednesday 2/21

### Jerusalem

Walk on the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane

Walk from St. Stephen's Gate and along the Via Dolorosa

Christian quarter walking tour: Visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Visit to the King David Street Souk

Visit to the Israel Museum to view the Model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period

Mt. Zion walking tour: Visit to the Upper Room and King David's Tomb

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Jerusalem

## Day 6: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Christian Quarter, Mt. Zion

Go up the Mount of Olives, from which there's a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem, basking in the sunlight.

As you descend along Palm Sunday Road, you will visit the Sanctuary of Dominus Flevit, built on the spot where Jesus wept over the foreseen destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

The Hosanna Road also takes you through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent a night in prayer after Judas' betrayal.

### Walk from St. Stephen's Gate and along the Via Dolorosa

Enter the Old City through the arch, also known as the Lion's Gate, which marks the beginning of the *Via Dolorosa*.

On a walk along the Way of Sorrow, you will see notably the Church of St. Anne (a Crusaders' sanctuary from the 1130s); the Pool of Bethesda (where Jesus healed an invalid); the Antonia Fortress built by King Herod; the Ecce Homo Arch ("Behold the Man," per Herod's words); and the Lithostrotos (pavement) where Jesus was mistreated by Roman soldiers.

### Christian quarter walking tour

Set out on a stroll through the Old Jerusalem district known as the Christian Quarter.

#### *Visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre*

Visit Jerusalem's most sacred Christian sanctuary, which stands on the hill believed to be Golgotha, or Calvary, site of the Crucifixion. Within the church, a chapel known as the Edicule was built over the tomb traditionally regarded as the Tomb of Jesus, site of the Resurrection.

#### *Visit to the King David Street Souk*

A well-known market (souk) lines King David Street, where souvenir seekers can find something to please every taste.

### Visit to the Israel Museum to view the Model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period

Discover the State of Israel's largest cultural institution, set on a 20-acre campus. It's a treasure trove of precious artifacts, with sections devoted to the fine arts, Jewish Art and Life, and archaeology.

You will view notably the fabulous model created in 1966 by Professor Avi-Yonah, who used pale limestone to represent Jerusalem in 66 CE, under Roman rule, and before the destruction of the Second Temple.

### Mt. Zion walking tour

Proceed to the hill known both as the Western Hill and as Mt. Zion. It rises south of Jerusalem's Old City, near the city walls. Although the biblical Mt. Zion, with the remains of the City of David, lies to the east, the modern Mt. Zion also bears sacred sites.

#### *Visit to the Upper Room and King David's Tomb*

Visit the most important room in Christendom, also called the Cenacle. It's traditionally regarded as the site where the Last Supper was held and where the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles - an event that marked the birth of the Christian Church.

Below the Upper Room, you will view the traditional site of King David's Tomb, which is a place of pilgrimage for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

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## Thursday 2/22

### Jerusalem

Excursion to Bethlehem: Local Guide, Manger Square, Visit to the Basilica of the Nativity, Visit to the Chapel of the Milk Grotto, Shepherds' Field

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Jerusalem

## Day 7: Excursion to Bethlehem

### Excursion to Bethlehem

Enjoy an excursion to the birthplace of King David and Jesus. Bethlehem is also the city where David was anointed king by Samuel and where his ancestors Ruth and Boaz were married.

#### *Local Guide*

A local guide will accompany your group during your excursion.

#### *Manger Square*

How often have you heard about this city square, in history books or on the news, especially on religious holidays? It's named after one of its most sacred sites, the Manger in which Jesus of Nazareth was laid to sleep on the day of His birth.

Another prominent landmark is the Mosque of Omar, first built in 1229, and rebuilt in 1860, near a site hailed as the burial place of King David and King Solomon. Thus the three great monotheistic religions coexist in Bethlehem as they do in Jerusalem.

#### *Visit to the Basilica of the Nativity*

On Manger Square, visit the Basilica that houses the Grotto of the Nativity, the Birthplace of Jesus Christ, a sacred site which is the world's oldest continuously used place of worship.

#### *Visit to the Chapel of the Milk Grotto*

A short walk from the Basilica of the Nativity, enter the Franciscan chapel built over the Grotto where the Holy Family sought shelter during the Slaughter of the Innocents.

Prayer service or Mass will be subject to availability and group's schedule for the day

#### *Shepherds' Field*

In the vicinity of Bethlehem, you'll see the site where, as the King James Bible tells us, *there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

## Day 8: Excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea

Travel to the Judean desert's natural fortress of Masada, which has been described as a site of majestic beauty and as one of the greatest symbols of the ancient kingdom of Israel.

#### *Masada cable car up the hill and walk down on the Roman Ramp*

Ride up to the Herodian fortress built on top of an isolated rocky promontory. There, in 74 CE, 960 Jewish rebels withstood three months of siege by 15,000 Roman soldiers, and in the end chose death over surrender.

Your walk back down the hill will take you along the path known as the Roman Ramp.

#### *Masada Excavations*

See the excavated ruins of palaces and baths, of an ancient synagogue and of a chapel built by Byzantine monks.

#### *Sightseeing stop at the Dead Sea*

Continue to the lowest place on earth.

#### *Dead Sea Float!*

Wade in *Yam Hamelach* (the Sea of Salt), where water evaporates faster than it can be replenished by the River Jordan. It's salty, so you'll float easily! And you may reap health benefits as both water and mud are hailed for their healing properties. This sea isn't really dead: despite the elevated salt level, minute forms of life are sustained by freshwater springs on the seafloor.

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## Friday 2/23

### Jerusalem

Excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea: Masada cable car up the hill and walk down on the Roman Ramp, Masada Excavations, Sightseeing stop at the Dead Sea, Dead Sea Float!

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Jerusalem

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## Saturday 2/24

### Jerusalem

Excursion to the Ella Valley in the Judean Mountains: David & Goliath and Samson & Delilah

Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

Farewell dinner: Evening Performance

Meals included: Breakfast, Farewell dinner  
Overnight: Jerusalem

## Day 9: Excursion to the Ella Valley in the Judean Mountains, Jerusalem, Mass, Farewell Dinner

Today, discover the fertile valley of *Elah* where, for centuries, shepherds have watched over their flocks, and farmers have grown crops and tended vineyards, as they do to this day.

In this valley, as the Bible tells us, a young shepherd slew an invincible giant. Not far away, the Israelite warrior *Shimshon* was betrayed by a beautiful Philistine woman, who cut off his hair, source of his strength.

### Free time in Jerusalem

The afternoon is unscheduled.

Seek the advice of your tour escort.

Consider a visit to the Israel Museum to view its best-known exhibits: the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) and the famous Model of the City of Jerusalem during the Second Temple Period.

### Unscheduled time to allow attendance at Mass

This time is unscheduled to allow attendance at Mass.

### Farewell dinner

After a long day of exploring, there's nothing better than sitting down to a delicious meal. And what better way to conclude your stay than with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant? Enjoying the local cuisine is a great way to get a taste of the culture and traditions of your destination. It can also be a fun and memorable experience for everyone in your group. So go ahead and enjoy that last meal! Who knows, it might just be the best one of your trip.

*Evening Performance*

## Day 10: Departure

Most good things must come to an end. In a few days you have traversed thousands of years, seen the holiest of sites in the land that fostered the world's three monotheistic faiths, and walked alongside members of diverse groups who all belong to the People of the Book. You'll arrive home later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

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## Sunday 2/25

### Departure

Meals included: Breakfast