

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & PETRA

APRIL 8 TO 17, 2024

WITH THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF FATHER PETER JURZYK, PASTOR OF ST. LAWRENCE PARISH, HAMILTON



I rejoiced when they said to me « Let us go to the house of the Lord » (Psalm 122 :1) We invite you to join us on a spiritual journey that is sure to be one of the most unforgettable experiences of your life. Imagine yourself in the Galilee at the same sites where Jesus taught and performed his miracles, being baptized in the Jordan River, walking through the streets of Jerusalem and reflecting on the sacrifice He gave in this city that changed the world. In Jordan, stand on top Mt. Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses and from where he first glimpsed the Promised Land, a land he was forbidden to enter by God. Explore the wonderful Rose City of Petra. Come and see for yourself, you will never be the same!!!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 APRIL 8 MONDAY FLIGHT TORONTO-TEL AVIV

Fly from Toronto to Tel Aviv aboard Air Canada. Prepare yourself for an experience that will change your life. In only few hours you will be walking in the same path that Jesus walked! Group seating for our flight will be pre-assigned by the airline. *Meals on board*

DAY 2 APRIL 9 TUESDAY TEL AVIV-NAZARETH

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival and clearing immigration formalities, we meet our local guide and drive to Nazareth. We check-in at our hotel and get settled in our rooms. Celebrate the beginning of our Pilgrimage right here where the Word became Flesh (Luke 1:30-31), where it all began. Enjoy dinner and retire for the evening. *Dinner*

DAY 3 APRIL 10 WEDNESDAY THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

We take a relaxing boat ride across the Sea of Galilee recalling the miracle of walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33) and calling on Peter and Andrew to become 'fishers of men' (Matthew 4:19). In Capernaum, Jesus' town (Matthew 9:1) and the center of his ministry (Matthew 4:13, 23), see the remains of the ancient Synagogue where our Lord preached, and the new church built atop St. Peter's house. It is here where Jesus spent most of his public life. In Tabgha, traditional location of the feeding of the 5,000, see the splendid mosaic of the miracle of the loaves and fishes (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-15), pray at the Chapel of the Primacy where Jesus reinstates Peter (John 21:15-19) and reflect at the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon of the Mount (Matthew 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26). We end the day at Magdala to explore the hometown of Mary Magdalene. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 4 APRIL 11 THURSDAY FROM THE GALILEE TO JERUSALEM

This morning we visit Cana, where the Shrine reminds us of the first miracle of Jesus turning water into wine (John 2:1-11), couples who are present could renew their wedding vows at this same spot. Next to Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration of Christ (Luke 9:28-36). We renew our baptismal promises at the Jordan River and follow the route towards the Mount of Temptation, traditional site where Jesus spent forty days and forty nights and was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1). We recall the story about the poor blind man (Luke 18:35-43) and Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10) and ascend the Judean Hills towards the Holy City of Jerusalem, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26)! We arrive at our hotel and check-in for the next 3 nights. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 5 APRIL 12 FRIDAY AGONY AND PASSION OF CHRIST

A very rewarding day... From atop Mt. of Olives we walk down Palm Sunday Road, visit the traditional site where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44) and the Garden of Gethsemane. It was here that Jesus experienced his deepest anguish, deciding to entrust himself, in total abandonment, to the will of the Father (Mark 14:36). Visit the Upper Room, where Jesus shared the last meal with his Apostles the night before he died. At the Church of St Peter in Galllicantu, built on top of the remains of the house of the High Priest, we recall Peter's denial of Christ (Matthew 26:69-75). We visit the Western Wall and the Church of St. Ann, traditional site of the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. Here we also see the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed the miracle of healing (John 5:2-9). We follow the last footsteps of Jesus as we walk the Way of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, something unforgettable in our pilgrimage, ending at the site of the crucifixion of Christ (Calvary), and the site of the Sepulchre. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 6 APRIL 13 SATURDAY BETHLEHEM AND THE SHEPHERDS FIELDS

Today we visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, see the Manger and the 14-pointed star that mark the exact place of Birth of our Lord, and at the Shepherd's field we remember the humble shepherds listening to the angels that sang: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! (Luke 2:14). Back in Jerusalem enjoy some free time to relax or explore on your own. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 7 APRIL 14 SUNDAY KINGDOM OF JORDAN-AMMAN

We depart from Jerusalem and cross the border into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We arrive in Amman and get settled at our hotel for 2 nights. In the afternoon we'll visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George at the biblical town of Madaba to see the earliest original map of the Holy Land ever found and Mount Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses where he glimpsed the Promised Land from, a land he was forbidden to enter by God (Numbers 20:12). It was here that His Holiness Pope John Paul II stood, raised his arms, looked towards the heavens, and prayed for Peace in the Holy Land. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 8 APRIL 15 MONDAY EXCURSION TO PETRA

No visit to Jordan is complete without visiting the Rose City of Petra and today we will enjoy a tour of this *World Heritage Site*, near the town of Wadi Musa. Local tradition says that the spring at Wadi Musa (Valley of Moses), is the place where Moses struck the rock and brought forth water (Numbers 20:10-11). We will explore the city of Petra, walk through its famed gorge, a one-kilometer-long fissure between overhanging cliffs that seem to meet more than 300 feet overhead (if you prefer not to walk there are optional carts available at additional cost). See ancient streets, dwellings and tombs, as well as incredibly beautiful temples carved into its multi-colored sandstone. This is the place mentioned in the Old Testament as the Seir mountain. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 9 APRIL 16 TUESDAY BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN-DEAD SEA

We leave our hotel and visit Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John the Baptist preached and baptized Jesus (Matthew 3: 13-17). Next, we cross the border back into Israel and enjoy free time to relax by the Dead Sea, the lowest point of earth, perhaps float in the salt water and cover your bodies with the famous mud rich with minerals. This is going to be fun! Tonight we share our thoughts and enjoy a Farewell Dinner with all the members of our group. *Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 10 APRIL 17 WEDNESDAY FLIGHT TEL AVIV-TORONTO

Today we return home. We feel deeply moved for the spiritual experience that we have just lived, bringing new meaning to our Scripture reading and celebration of Mass. We will cherish the memories that will last a lifetime. We land at Toronto Airport. **END OF OUR PILGRIMAGE.** *Breakfast, Meals on Board*

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$ 4,940 CAD

It includes \$820.06 CAD for Fuel Surcharge & Airport Taxes and they are subject to change without notice until time of ticketing. Supplement for individual room \$ 990. ***See next page for complete list of inclusions***

To register and for more information please contact:



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