

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

25 February - 6 March 2022 to Israel and Palestine

Jerusalem

Based at Ecce Homo Pilgrim House in the heart of the Old City for our first four days, we shall investigate the history of ancient and modern Israel, explore the bustling alleys, walk the Way of Sorrows to the cross, and enjoy the markets and wonderful food.

Galilee

Nazareth, Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes are among the highlights of our time up north. We stay two nights at Kibbutz Ein Gev guesthouse on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Palestine

During the Jewish Shabbat, we cross into the West Bank with a Palestinian guide to visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Fields in Bethlehem and to explore the sacred Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.



Once in a lifetime . . .

The Bible comes alive as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus as well as the Hebrew kings and prophets before him. You will learn and laugh, and you'll find yourself growing closer to God, to your fellow pilgrims and to the many peoples of the Holy Land — Israeli & Palestinian, Christian, Muslim & Jewish. This is a land of incredible beauty, variety and vitality. Our guide and educator is Jared Goldfarb, a Jewish scholar (and NH native) who makes history and scripture come alive. He's also great fun!

Practicalities

This trip is geared to young people but open to all. Physically strenuous activities will include hikes along steep and rough terrain. Assuming twenty travelers, the cost of the trip will be \$2,400 which includes flights, double rooms, transportation,

entrance and guide fees, and most meals. Pilgrims will make their own arrangements for drinks, lunches and three evening meals.

ITINERARY

FRIDAY, 25 February **Transatlantic travel**

We depart Logan airport at 16.20 on Lufthansa 423, arriving in Frankfurt at 05.25 on 26 February.

SATURDAY, 26 February **Welcome to Israel/Palestine!**

LH686 departs Frankfurt at 10.10, arriving in Tel Aviv at 15.15. Our tour bus takes us to Mount Scopus for a panoramic view of the Judean desert and Jerusalem. Jared introduces the sacred city and then checks us in at Ecce Homo Guesthouse. After freshening up, we enjoy an orientation dinner at a local restaurant.



SUNDAY, 27 February **Jerusalem: Epicenter of Monotheism**

After breakfasting at Ecce Homo and celebrating the Eucharist at St. George's Cathedral, we explore the Temple Mount, home to the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. We'll lay the narrative foundations of the city's history, track the importance of Jerusalem for Jews, Christians and Muslims, and then peel back the historical layers by visiting the city's best archaeological sites. The City of David takes us back to the ancient Canaanites and the glory days of David and Solomon. The Southern Excavations show how Israel fared under the Greeks and Romans and why many dreamed of messianic deliverance. The famous Western Wall Tunnels, deep underneath today's markets, reveal both the magnificence of Jerusalem at its peak as well as its destruction a generation after Jesus. We'll have dinner and the rest of the evening to ourselves — on the town or early to bed.

MONDAY, 28 February **Walking in Jesus' Footsteps**

We'll begin early by ascending the Mount of Olives to retrace Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We pass through the oldest Jewish cemetery on earth, visit the beautiful church of Dominus Flevit, and take time to pray as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane. We'll pause at each Station of the Cross to hear a snippet of a scripture and to pray and then sing our way through the bustling alleys of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which contains the sites of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and



resurrection. We'll have a break to explore the vibrant Arab suq (market) on our own before meeting up for dinner with Jewish, Christian and Muslim participants in Kids4Peace.

TUESDAY, 1 March

Narrative & Identity in the Modern Jewish State

We tour the campus of Yad Vashem, Israel's national holocaust memorial, in order to understand how the persecution and extermination of the Jews in Nazi Europe shaped collective Jewish identity and national aspirations, and how that tragic memory continues to mold the Jewish body politic of today. We then visit the most lively and life-affirming spot in West Jerusalem — the Machane Yehuda food market — where we can wander the aisles, observe the colorful fabric of food cultures, and of course taste everything we see! In the afternoon, we become actual archaeologists — helping to excavate the remains of a 2,200-year-old well-to-do Hellenized community. We'll return to Ecce Homo to clean up, and then our friends/neighbors Bernard Avishai and Sidra Ezrahi (who divide their year between Wilmot & Jerusalem) will host a roundtable discussion on our rooftop terrace before or after dinner.



WEDNESDAY, 2 March

Repentance & Redemption in the Desert (Ash Wednesday)

After checking out early, we drop into the Judean desert and hike through the same raw landscape to which the Spirit drove Jesus after his baptism. Like him, we'll explore our inner landscape in silent contemplation amidst awe-inspiring surroundings. We then join the desert's native denizens — a local Bedouin tribe — for a traditional lunch and conversation. Heading north in our bus, we'll stop along the Jordan River to reflect on the crossing of the Israelites into the Promised Land and to renew our baptismal vows near the spot where Jesus was baptized. We follow the Jordan Valley to its midpoint where the fresh waters of the northern springs gather in a lake bed — the Kinneret or Sea of Galilee. We'll check in at our kibbutz guesthouse on the shore of the lake for the next two nights. It was on this far side of the lake that Jesus healed Gentiles as well as Jews — and fed thousands.

THURSDAY, 3, March

Jesus in the Galilee

We get a taste of Jesus' early life in Nazareth Village, visit Mary's well, and then briefly explore both the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches of the Annunciation. We head to Capernaum, where Jesus called his first disciples, and visit the ruins of one of the world's oldest synagogues. We ascend the beautiful Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Kinneret basin. Reflecting on the Hebrew Scriptures and its Christian appendix (the New Testament), we'll appreciate both the Jewishness of Jesus and the way the Gospels understand him as the new bridge (as distinct from the Law and the Temple) between heaven and earth. We'll cap off this day of discovery with a relaxing sunset sail on the Sea of Galilee.

FRIDAY, 4 March

What Makes a Nation? Land, People, Story

We hike through the green hills of the Jezreel Valley as the wildflowers blossom to herald the onset of spring. The land beneath our feet played a pivotal role as tensions developed between Arabs and Jews over the last 150 years, and we'll begin to understand the complicated relationship between Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism that now dominates the bleak media coverage of this Middle Eastern neighborhood. Returning to Jerusalem, we'll engage in hope-filled community service that brings the two sides of the city together through place-making and sustainable partnerships. We check into our new



Jerusalem lodging (Beit Ben Yehuda or Tantur Ecumenical Institute) for two nights and celebrate the dinner rituals of the Jewish Sabbath with Jared and his family. Shabbat Shalom!

SATURDAY, 5 March

Palestine: History, Community, Culture

As Jared observes his day of rest, his Palestinian colleague (Kamal Mukarker) brings us across the border to Bethlehem — the little town where Mary and Joseph went for the census and returned with a son. We visit the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherd's Field where the "multitude of the heavenly host" first sang "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." A gracious lunch with our guide's family enables us to view the Holy Land through the lens of Palestinian Christian identity. We board our mini-bus to visit Hebron and the Tomb of Abraham and Sarah, an immensely sacred site for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Ultraorthodox Jewish settlers (mostly American) began to colonize the center of this conservative Muslim city after Israel seized the West Bank in 1967. We'll walk through both Muslim and Jewish quarters under the watchful eyes of Israeli military guards. We return to Jerusalem to freshen up in our rooms before meeting Jared for a final celebratory supper. We'll eat, drink, laugh, share and reflect as we bid farewell to this amazing place.

SUNDAY, 6 March

Homeward Bound

Our bus will drop us at Ben Gurion Airport by 02.30 for our 05.20 departure on LH691. We arrive in Frankfurt at 09.00 and depart for Boston on LH422 at 11.10, arriving at Logan at 13.30. Back in the Granite State, we discover that the Holy Land will always travel with us . . .

GENERAL INFORMATION

We have space for twenty pilgrims. A deposit of \$500 is due by 1 November 2021 and the final payment of \$1,900 by 15 December 2021. Checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's Church with Pilgrimage in the memo line. Participants should purchase travel insurance that covers medical and trip cancellation costs. Your passport must be valid until at least 6 September 2022.



The daytime temperatures are likely to get into the 50s but the nights can be chilly. Rainfall will make the early flowers bloom. We'll dress like the locals — casual with plenty of layers.

Israel is considered one of the most COVID-safe nations and began welcoming back small tourist groups in September 2021. We may need to provide proof of vaccination and COVID test results. Safety and security will be paramount concerns for us. With 25 years of guiding experience under his belt, Jared is skilled at anticipating challenges before they arise, and our small group size allows flexibility. Kamal, our Palestinian guide, will be especially attuned to the security situation in Bethlehem and Hebron.

Questions? Ready to join us? Check out www.standrewsnl.org/pilgrimage and email office@standrewsnl.org to reserve your place.