

Preliminary Detailed Pilgrim Journey Itinerary Eastertime 2017

Biblical Lands from Rome to Israel & Jordan

with

Rev. Ralph Kleiter

Ministry to Tourism's 24th Holy Land Program

Italy, Israel, & Jordan



Note: For prices and other details of the Pilgrim Journey visit www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

Day 1: Wednesday, April 19/2017 (Orthodox & Catholic Easter Wednesday)

Departure Home city (Saskatoon) to Rome via Toronto

Day 2: Thursday, April 20 Rome arrival, Overview tour of Ancient to contemporary Rome. Early retirement. (D)

Day 3: Friday, April 21 Vatican Museum to St. Peter's, St. Mary Major & St. John Lateran Basilicas. Evening Walking tour of city centre-Piazza Navona, Spanish Stairs, Trevi fountain etc. (B)

Day 4: Saturday, April 22 Day excursion to Assisi or free day to explore Rome Environs. (B)

Day 5: Sunday, April 23 (Divine Mercy Sunday) St. Peter's Piazza & outside Rome Papal Mass and/or Noon Blessing. Visit to Catacombs and St. Paul's Outside the Walls
Farewell Dinner and Italian Entertainment- Le Terme Del Colosseo
(BD)

Option: Home departure on Overnight Flight to Tel Aviv via Toronto

Day 6: Monday, April 24 Morning free. Flight Rome to Tel Aviv

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, we are met by our guide and driver. Transfer to the Mediterranean coast. Balance of day free for rest. Dan Panorama Hotel 4*
(BD)

Day 7: Tuesday, April 25 Tel Aviv/ Jaffa/ Free afternoon to enjoy the beach

(BD) We enjoy an overview tour of Tel Aviv and travel to the ancient port of Jaffa to commemorate the vision of St. Peter. Balance of the day at leisure.

Day 8: Wednesday, April 26 To Caesarea/ Cana/ Sunset cruise/ Tiberias in the Galilee

We begin our journey to Galilee stopping for a visit at Caesarea, built by Herod the Great to see the video and ruins of the ancient port which Sts. Peter & Paul experienced. At Cana, the scene of the first miracle of water into wine by Jesus, married couples will have an opportunity for a special blessing. In the early evening, we take a sunset cruise on the Sea of Galilee en route to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

(BD) Hotel Galei Kinnereth 4*

Day 9: Thursday, April 27 Sefhoris/Nazareth / Tiberias

We start the day with a visit to **Sefhoris**, a major town near the village of Nazareth at the time of Jesus, and believed to be the birthplace of Anne. We see the beautiful mosaics discovered recently and the Roman Villa. Then we move onto **Nazareth**. We see the Church of Annunciation and Mary's Well. Visit the **Excavations** at the Sisters of Nazareth. Continue to visit **Nazareth Village**, a reconstructed 1st century village reflecting the way of life at the time of Jesus. We have lunch there, based on the types of food prevalent at the time of Jesus.

Continue to Tiberias to our hotel for dinner and overnight. **(BLD)**

Mass: Chapel of St. Joseph, Patron saint of Canada

Day 10: Friday , April 28 Galilee/ Beatitudes/ Banias/ Winery

We start with a visit north of the Sea of Galilee at the Mt of Beatitudes where the Sermon on the Mount is remembered. Continue to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' Ministry. We see there the 1st Century Synagogue and the Church of St. Peter, built over Peter's house. Then on to Tabgha to see the famous mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes and the 7 Springs of Eremos. From there we drive up to the Golan Heights to the springs of Banias, the source of the River Jordan. Banias is also known as Caesarea Philippi where Peter said: "Thou art the Christ".

(BD) Outdoor Mass: Mt. Beatitudes

(BD)

Day 11: Saturday, April 29 Tabor/ Free time in Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee

After breakfast or late afternoon we drive to Mt Tabor, site of the Transfiguration and take taxis up to the summit for a spectacular view. Time to relax by the Sea of Galilee for rest and integration of our experiences to date. **(BD)** Mass: Mt. Tabor

Day 12: Sunday, April 30 To Jericho/Masada/ Jerusalem

We drive south stopping at the ancient city of Jericho, sight of Zaccheus meeting Jesus. We visit the Franciscan parish and school. We continue along the shores of the Dead Sea to the hilltop fortress of Masada built by Herod where Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Then it is time to drive up to Jerusalem and toast this holy city. **(BD)** Hotel Dan Boutique 4* or similar

Mass: Parish church of St. Peter

Day 13: Monday, May 1 Bethlehem/ Catholic University/ Shepherds Field/Family visit

We start the day with a visit to Manger Square and the Nativity church. Enjoy a visit and luncheon with the students at the university. Then on to the Shepherds' Field to see the caves where the Shepherds were. Visit with local Christian Families for tea and sweets. Before we

head back to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight we stop to purchase local souvenirs made by the locals. **(BLD)**

Mass: Shepherds Field

Day 14: Tuesday, May 2 Jerusalem/ Mt. Olives/ Mt. Zion

We drive up to the Mt of Olives for a wonderful view of the Old City. We follow the Palm Sunday route past Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem and on to the Church of All Nations at Gethsemane. We see the ancient olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. We go on to Mt Zion to see the Upper Room where the Last Supper took place. We also visit St. Peter's in Gallicantu and the Church of Dormition. **(BD)**

Day 15: Wednesday, May 3 Jerusalem/ Via Dolorosa/ Holy Sepulchre/ Western Wall

Early this morning we enter the Old City of Jerusalem through St. Stephan's Gate and walk to St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda. We have lunch and Mass with the Sisters of Zion at Ecce Homo. We follow the Via Dolorosa praying the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We visit the Holy Tomb and the rest of the ancient church. We take a short walk to visit the Western Wall before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight **(BLD)** Mass: Ecce Homo

Day 16: Thursday, May 4 New City of Jerusalem

This morning we visit to the lovely village of **Ein Karem** and see the Church of Visitation where Mary visited Elizabeth and the Church of Benedictus where John the Baptist is believed to have been born. Then we visit the **Israel Museum** to see the Model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus. Visit Yad Yashem, the Museum/Memorial of the Holocaust before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight **(BD)**

Day 17: Friday, May 5 Qumran/Allenby Bridge/ Petra Jordan

Early this morning we drive down to the Dead Sea to **Qumran** where the Essene community once lived and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We visit the exhibit at the **Qumran Visitors Center**. We then drive to the **Allenby Bridge** and cross the border into Jordan. After border formalities we drive along the desert highway to our hotel in Petra for dinner and overnight. **(BLD)** Hotel Movenpick Petra 5*

Day 18: Saturday, May 6 Petra / Dead Sea Jordan

After breakfast, we visit Petra by foot or by optional horse cart, the city of the ancient Nabateans. See the Treasury carved in the pink stone, and continue past the Roman theatre, the Corinthian Tomb, Palace Tomb, and the Roman road. Climb up to the High Place or the Deir or Monastery. Transfer to the Dead Sea to our hotel resort & spa for dinner and overnight. **(BLD)** Hotel Movenpick Dead Sea 5*

Day 19: Sunday, May 7 Madaba/Bethany / Mt. Nebo / Movenpick Spa

We drive a short distance to the Christian town of Madaba and see the Mosaic Map with Jerusalem at its center. We visit Bethany Beyond the Jordan and Baptismal site on the banks of the River Jordan. Regarded by many as the third holiest site in Christendom and visited by St. John Paul II. At Mt. Nebo, where Moses saw the Promised Land for the first and last time, we take in for the last time the view of the Holy Land. Balance of the day free at the Spa. Farewell Dinner and overnight at our hotel. **(BLD)**

Closing Mass: Mt. Nebo

Day 20: Monday, May 8 Madaba/ Amman/ Movenpick Spa

This is our day to enjoy the resort on various terraced levels along the banks of the Dead Sea with opportunities to bath in the Dead Sea or in the several pools. It is a time for rest and integration. Or, those wishing, may enjoy an optional excursion to Amman, capital of Jordan, and Jerash, the UNESCO site with amazing Roman ruins. Dinner and overnight at Hotel. **(BLD)**

Day 21: Tuesday, May 9 Early departure Flight home.

In Summary

Option I (Full Program):

**LV. Wed., April 19 Saskatoon-Rome-Tel Aviv- AMMAN-SASKATOON
RETURN FRIDAY, MAY 09, 2017**

OPTION II: (MODIFIED PROGRAM-MINUS ROME)

**LV. SUN., APRIL 23 SASKATOON-TEL AVIV-AMMAN- SASKATOON
RETURN FRIDAY, MAY 09, 2017**