



FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & EGYPT

November 26-December 8, 2023

GEORGE'S
INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Day 1 - Sunday, Nov. 26: Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Day 2 - Monday, Nov. 27: Arrive Tel Aviv

After arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, we'll be welcomed by our Franciscan spiritual director, who will accompany us throughout our pilgrimage and make the Scriptures come alive as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Board our motor coach and drive to our hotel in Tel Aviv. (D)

Day 3 - Tuesday, Nov. 28: Tel Aviv / Tiberias

This morning depart Tel Aviv and drive along the Mediterranean coast for a while before turning inland to Cana, the site of the first miracle. Here couples will have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows. Next we drive to Nazareth, Jesus' home during his hidden years. We visit the Grotto of the Annunciation as well as St. Joseph Church, site of the home of the Holy Family. After lunch we journey to Mt. Tabor, the mountain where Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. Our day comes to an end with a drive to Tiberias, our home for the next two nights. (B/D)



Day 4 - Wednesday, Nov. 29: Tiberias

This morning we drive to Kursi, the site of the expulsion of the demon called Legion. Next we drive to Bethsaida, the birthplace of Peter, Andrew and Philip and the site of the cure of the blind man. A boat ride on the Sea of Galilee is next on our agenda. After lunch we will visit Capernaum, Jesus' hometown during his public ministry. Nearby are the shrines of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes and the Primacy of Peter, both situated in a region referred to as Tabgha. Finally, we drive up to the Mount of the Beatitudes, the site of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus preached to the people. (B/L/D)

Day 5 - Thursday, Nov. 30: Tiberias / Jerusalem

Drive through the Jordan Valley to visit ancient Jericho, the oldest known city in the Western world. Here we will view the Mt. of Temptation, site of Jesus' temptation by Satan. Nearby we will view a sycamore tree to remind us of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Next we drive to the bank of the Jordan River to recall Our Lord's Baptism by St. John and to renew our Baptismal Promises. Finally, we drive to Jerusalem and check in to our hotel. (B/L/D)



Day 6 - Friday, Dec. 1: Jerusalem

This morning we drive to the summit of the Mt. of Olives to visit the Chapel of the Ascension and the Church of Pater Noster. Walking the Palm Sunday Road, we will visit the chapel of Dominus Flevit. There we have a wonderful panoramic view of the city of Jerusalem. We continue down the road to the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Basilica of the Agony. Nearby is the Grotto of the Judas' Betrayal and Mary's Tomb, the site of Mary's Assumption. This afternoon we travel to Ein Karem to visit the Church of St. John the Baptist, the birthplace of the Precursor of the Lord, and the Visitation Church, where we recall Mary's prayer of praise: the Magnificat. (B/D)

Day 7 - Saturday, Dec. 2: Jerusalem

We'll begin our day by entering the Old City of Jerusalem at St. Stephen's Gate, where our first stop is at the Church of St. Anne and Bethesda's Pools. Next, we make our way to the Church of the Flagellation which marks the beginning of the Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa) ending on Calvary. We enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and within the church, we visit Golgotha and complete our devotions at the Sacred Tomb of Jesus. Traveling a short distance south of Jerusalem, we arrive in Bethlehem and begin our visit in the countryside at the Shepherds' Field to remember the angels' glad tidings to the shepherds. Within the town of Bethlehem, we go to venerate the Holy Grotto of the Nativity and the Manger and the Grotto of St. Jerome. We will also visit the Franciscan church of St. Catherine, the site of Bethlehem's Christmas Midnight Mass. (B/L/D)





Day 8 - Sunday, Dec. 3: Jerusalem / Dead Sea

This morning we go to the Western Wall or Wailing Wall, where prayers are offered up at these remaining holy stones of the glorious Second Temple compound. We are aware that now the only structures standing on the Temple Mount are the Moslem Shrines of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. We drive along the walls of the Old City to Mt. Zion. Next, we visit the Upper Room's nearby traditional site, remembering the Last Supper, a post-Resurrection appearance, and Pentecost. Nearby we see Dormition Abbey Church that honors Mary's "falling asleep." We end the morning with a visit to St. Peter in Gallicantu, which marks Peter's denial. In the afternoon, we depart Jerusalem and head towards the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. There will be an opportunity to swim in the salty, mineral-laden waters that one cannot sink in. Continue on to our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. (B/L/D)

Day 9 - Monday, Dec. 4: Dead Sea / Mt. Sinai

Today we depart the Dead Sea area and drive to the Israeli/Egyptian border. After crossing into Egypt we will travel through the barren wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula to Mount Sinai, where God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. On the way, we will see Bedouins living the same way as the children of Israel when they crossed the desert through the area to the Promised Land. Transfer to our hotel. (B/D)



Day 10 - Tuesday, Dec. 5: Mt. Sinai / Cairo

Early this morning, climb Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments. After breakfast, visit the isolated and magnificent Monastery of St. Catherine, which contains a great collection of icons and treasures. We will view the burning bush and Moses' well. Next we will tour the unrestricted portions of the Monastery. Afterward, drive to Cairo, our home for the next three nights. (B/D)

Day 11 - Wednesday, Dec. 6: Cairo

Today our tour will highlight the monuments of Egypt. Drive to Giza and visit the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Continue to Memphis, the capital of the Pharaohs during the Old Kingdom. Visit the recumbent statue of Ramses II and the 80-ton Alabaster Sphinx. Continue to Sakkara to see the prototype of the pyramids, the Step Pyramid, built for the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Zoser by the exalted architect Imhotep. Continuing south, visit the Pyramid of Dahshour, also known as the Red Pyramid, which was built by King Seneferu, approximately 4,600 years ago. (B/D)

Day 12 - Thursday, Dec. 7: Cairo

Drive to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities for a detailed guided tour of the treasures of ancient Egypt. Among other fascinating exhibits, see the contents of the treasures of the Tomb of Tutankhamen. Next to the Citadel to see the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali, an all-impressive landmark. Then visit Old Cairo and walk backwards in time, visiting the Old Coptic Church, the Ben Ezra Synagogue, the Khan el Khalili Bazaar, and the Abu Serga Church, where tradition says the Holy Family lodged on their flight into Egypt. After dinner transfer to Cairo Airport to catch our return flight home departing after midnight. (B/D)

Day 13 - Friday, Dec. 8: Cairo / USA

After midnight our flight departs Cairo and arrives home the same day.

PILGRIMAGE COST

\$4,545.00

per person/double occupancy

For single occupancy please add \$845.00.

This price includes:

- ✘ Roundtrip airfare from New York JFK
- ✘ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied
- ✘ Accommodation in 4 star hotels for 11 nights
- ✘ All hotel taxes
- ✘ Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ✘ Land transportation by deluxe motorcoach
- ✘ All transfers and baggage handling at hotels
- ✘ Comprehensive sightseeing with all entrance fees
- ✘ Egyptian entry visa
- ✘ Daily Mass

Airfares from other departure cities throughout the United States are available upon request.

For those who prefer to arrange their own flights the Land-Only cost is \$3,327.00 per person.

Please visit www.holylandpilgrimages.org for information on additional pilgrimages being organized by the Franciscan Monastery.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payment: Please complete the attached Reservation Application and return it with your deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations received after 5PM Pacific Time or on weekends/holidays will be processed the next business day. The following per person cancellation charges will apply: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$50.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$250.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 7 days prior to departure \$700.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking. Additional cancellation charges may apply depending upon the cancellation terms of our suppliers.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if the Seller of Travel was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which the Seller of Travel failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to the Seller of Travel, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Travel Documents: A passport with a minimum of 6 months validity remaining is required of all U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens do not require visas for entry to Israel but visas are required for entry to Egypt. The cost of the Egyptian visa is included in the cost of your trip and George's International will be procuring a group visa on your behalf. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. George's International is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Tour Cost: All quoted prices are based upon airfares, tariffs and currency exchange rates at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the minimum number of 20 tour members not be reached, the right is reserved to increase the tour cost accordingly.

Tour Documents and Tickets: Final tour documents are mailed, provided we have received full payment, within 3 weeks of departure.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. You will be responsible for paying to the airline any additional charges for additional checked baggage or overweight baggage (if excess weight is permitted). George's International Tours is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Air Transportation: Airfare is in economy class on Lufthansa (or any other IATA carrier). Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares/flight schedules are subject to change without notice.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted, and should be requested at the time of booking.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Insurance may be purchased directly through George's International Tours and registration forms will be provided upon receipt of your deposit or you may purchase online at www.georgesintl.com. George's International Tours acts only as an intermediary between you and the insurance provider and in no event shall George's International Tours be liable to any person or entity whatsoever for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, compensatory, consequential, or punitive damages related to insurance coverage purchased.

Not Included: Gratuities (\$200.00 recommended per person), COVID-19 testing (if required), passport and/or individual visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of the included meals, additional baggage in excess of airport allowance, optional sightseeing tours, and all expenses of a purely personal nature.

Responsibility Clause: The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. George's International Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries.

Limitation of liability: The airlines, hotels, and other suppliers (jointly: "travel suppliers") providing travel or other services sold by George's International Tours are independent contractors and not agents or employees of George's International Tours. George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their travel suppliers offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public. To the extent permitted by law, George's International Tours does not assume liability for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay due to an act or omission of a travel supplier, including, without limitation, an act of negligence or the default of a travel supplier. To the extent permitted by law, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage and/or delay due to force majeure, sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, bankruptcy, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or any causes beyond George's International Tours' control. Further, no responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions, delays, failure to make connections, non-performance or poor performance, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated profits, any additional expenses or lost business, attributable to you yourself, acts or omissions of any third parties, or acts of any governmental authority, even if George's International Tours has been advised that such damages were possible or probable.

Please refer to www.georgesintl.com for further disclosures concerning travel risks, travels with special needs or disabilities, and arbitration.

Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

George's International Tours - CST# 2035995-40

For further information on this pilgrimage please contact:

Holy Land Franciscan Pilgrimages

Phone: 443-832-0350

Email: info@holylandpilgrimages.org

or

Fr. David Wathen, O.F.M.

Director, Holy Land Franciscan Pilgrimages

Email: dwfm1400@hotmail.com