



FRANCISCAN CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

December 18-28, 2023

GEORGE'S
INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Day 1 – Monday, December 18: Depart USA

Our spiritual pilgrimage begins as we depart the United States for Israel. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

Day 2 – Tuesday, December 19: 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 on our pilgrimage and make the Scripture come alive as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Board our motor coach and drive to our hotel located on the shores of the Mediterranean in Tel Aviv. (D)



Day 3 – Wednesday, December 20: Netanya / Tiberias

This morning we head to Nazareth. Just a short distance from our destination we stop in Cana, where Jesus' first miracle took place. Those who wish may renew their wedding vows, and all can remember Mary's words: "Do whatever he tells you." In Nazareth, where Jesus spent most of his life, we will visit its beautiful Basilica of the Annunciation. We will also visit St. Joseph's Church, the site of the home of the Holy Family. After a lunch break, we ascend the heights of Mt. Tabor where Jesus took Peter, James, and John and was gloriously transfigured in their sight. Nearby we will visit the church in the village of Nain which recalls Jesus raising the widow's son to life. (B/D)



Day 4 – Thursday, December 21: Tiberias

This morning we drive to the Mt. of Beatitudes which overlooks the Sea of Galilee. In this scenic setting, Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount. Down along the lake shore we are at a site called Tabgha (Seven Springs), where our first stop is at the site of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes. We go on to Capernaum, known as the Second City of Jesus. Our tour will show us the ruins of the fourth-century synagogue (John: 6). In this city Our Lord called a number of the Apostles, he delivered his Bread of Life Discourse, and he cured many people of their afflictions. In the afternoon we embark on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, remembering the Scripture passages of Jesus and his apostles on this lake. (B/L/D)

Day 5 – Friday, December 22: Tiberias

We will begin our day with a visit to the Primacy of Peter (John: 21). Next, a drive to the north will bring us to Caesarea Philippi where Jesus declares to Peter that "You are Peter and on this Rock..." In the afternoon we will visit Bethsaida, the hometown of Peter, Andrew and Phillip, and the place where Jesus cured a blind man. A visit to the site of the Miracle of the Swine at Kursi rounds out the afternoon. (B/D)

Day 6 – Saturday, December 23: Tiberias / Bethlehem

Today we follow the Jordan River south from the Sea of Galilee through its fertile valley to the city of Jericho. We'll drive by the site of Jericho in the time of Joshua, who led the army which conquered this town for the Israelite nation. In Jericho, we will also view the Mt. of Temptation, the place of Jesus' temptation by the devil. And nearby we will stop at a Sycamore tree which will help us recall Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Near to Jericho is the Jordan River which we will visit to recall Our Lord's Baptism by St. John, and to renew our Baptismal Promises. Then continue on to Bethlehem for check-in at our hotel. (B/L/D)

Day 7 – Sunday, December 24: Bethlehem

This morning we drive to Bethany the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, to visit the Tomb of Lazarus. Next we drive to the Dead Sea for an opportunity to float on its mineral-rich waters. In the afternoon we drive to Ein Karem to visit the Church of St. John the Baptist, birthplace of the Precursor of the Lord, and the Visitation Church, where we recall Mary's prayer of praise: the Magnificat. This evening we travel to the nearby village of Beit Sahour for our celebration of the Christmas Midnight Mass. (B/L/D)



Day 8 – Monday, December 25: Bethlehem / Jerusalem

We begin our day 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, as well as the Manger, followed by a visit to the Grotto of St. Jerome and the Franciscan parish church of St. Catherine of Alexandria. This afternoon we drive to the summit of the Mt. of Olives to visit the site of the Ascension of Our Lord and the Church of Pater Noster. Walking the Palm Sunday Road, we will next visit the chapel of Dominus Flevit. There, too, 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. We check-in at our hotel in Jerusalem. (B/D)



Day 9 – Tuesday, December 26: Jerusalem

This morning we enter the Old City of Jerusalem through St. Stephen’s Gate where our first stop is at the Church of St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda. Next, following our visit to the Chapel of the Flagellation, we make the Way of the Cross, carrying a wooden cross along the streets and among the markets and shops as Jesus did on His journey to 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. In the afternoon 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 nearby traditional site of the Upper Room, 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 day with a visit to St. Peter in Gallicantu, which marks the site of Peter’s denial. This evening a special farewell dinner will be served in our honor with drinks. (B/L/D)

Day 10 – Wednesday, December 27: Jerusalem

This morning drive to Emmaus to recall our Lord’s being revealed in the “Breaking of the Bread” with two disciples on the day of his resurrection. This afternoon we will have some free time to explore Jerusalem on our own. (B/D)

Day 11 – Thursday, December 28: Jerusalem / Tel Aviv / USA

This morning transfer to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv to catch our return flight home.

P I L G R I M A G E C O S T

\$4,090.00

per person/double occupancy

For single occupancy please add \$860.00.

This price includes:

- ✘ Roundtrip airfare from New York JFK
- ✘ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied
- ✘ Accommodation in 4 star hotels for 9 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
- ✘ 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 \$2,879.00 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 which is valid for a minimum of 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U.S. citizens. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to determine your visa requirement status. George's International Tours 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/Swiss Air (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: dwm1400@hotmail.com