



Serving the traveling public since 1975

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PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLYLAND

DAY 01: BEGINNING OUR PILGRIMAGE Depart North America via jet service. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 02: INTO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE Upon arrival in the afternoon, you will be met by our representative who will assist you with formalities. A luxury motorcoach will transfer you to your hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 03: JERUSALEM This morning visit the Church of St. Ann, built on the site of the birthplace of Our Lady where *Mass* will be celebrated. Continue to the Pool of Bethesda, where Christ healed the paralytic. Visit the Temple area, the spot where the original temple was built and which was the scene of many episodes from the life of Christ, such as the expulsion of the money changers. Here now stands the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest spot in the world for the Moslem faith. Visit the El Aqsa Mosque and then the Wailing Wall which is the most sacred spot in the world for the Jews. In the afternoon proceed to the National Museum, the Shrine of the Book enclosing the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Knesset or the House of Parliament. Continue to Mount Zion, visiting the room of the Last Supper, Church of the Dormition and then visit the Church of St. Peter in Gailicantu built on the site of the house of Caiaphas which encloses the dungeon where Christ was kept on Holy Thursday night and where Peter denied Christ thrice.

DAY 04: MOUNTAINS OF JERUSALEM Drive to the Mount of Olives and visit the Church of the Ascension, the spot where Christ ascended into Heaven; the Pater Noster Church commemorating Christ's teaching of the Our Father to his disciples; Dominus Fievit, the spot where Christ wept over Jerusalem and onwards to Gethsemane to view the ancient Olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane and to visit the Church of All Nations which houses the Rock of the Agony of Christ on Holy Thursday; in this Church is a beautiful mosaic donated by the United States. Celebrate *Mass* at the Church of All Nations. Visit the Cave of the betrayal of Jesus and the Tomb of Our Lady. In the afternoon, visit Ein Karem, the place of the Visitation where Our Lady came to visit her cousin Elizabeth. View the plaques with the Magnificat in most languages of the World. Visit the parish church of St. John the Baptist, and the Grotto of his birth. Return to your hotel.

DAY 05: JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM Drive to Bethlehem. Visit the Basilica of the Nativity, built over the site of the birthplace of Christ. Visit the Cave where Christ was born and it is the occasion to sing the traditional Christmas Hymns. A visit is made to the Chapel of St. Jerome, who lived here for many years and translated the Bible into Latin. The nearby Church of St. Catherine is the venue for the midnight Mass which is broadcast all over the World from Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Continue to the Shepherds field, recalling the "great throng of the heavenly hosts" who appeared to the Shepherds and told them of the birth of the Saviour. This afternoon tour the Old City of Jerusalem, visiting the Chapel of Flagellation, the chapel of Condemnation and the Lithostrotos, the site of the Antonia Fortress where Julius Caesar resided at the time of Christ and where Christ was tried and condemned to death. Beginning the way of the Cross here, join the walk along the Via Dolorosa led by the Franciscans - ending at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the site of the Crucifixion and the Tomb. Visit Calvary and the Tomb of Our Lord followed by a short tour of the Basilica.

DAY 06: THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA After breakfast, drive to Bethany and visit the new Church, built on the site of the house

of Mary and Martha, where *Mass* will be celebrated. Visit the Tomb of Lazarus. Proceed through the Judean Wilderness to Jericho stopping at the Inn of the Good Samaritan. Visit Elisha's Fountain and the ancient city of Jericho from which you can view the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. Continue along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit Ein Gedi where you may enjoy a float on the Dead Sea and proceed to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, before returning to Jerusalem.

DAY 07: SAMARIA AND GALILEE After breakfast, we leave Jerusalem and head northward via Tel El Ful and Beroth, commemorating the halt of the Holy Family when they discovered the child Jesus missing. Proceed to Bethel "the House of God" where Jacob dreamed of the ladder ascending into Heaven. Drive to Shiloh to view the site where the Tabernacle was erected following Joshua's conquest of Canaan. This site of ancient pilgrimage was where Hannah prayed for a son and Samuel served Eli the Priest. Proceed through Samaria for a visit to Jacob's Well which lies in the valley between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim. Visit the ruins of Sebastia, the capital of Samaria. Proceed to Tel Dothan where Joseph was sold to the Egyptians by his brothers. Continue to Nazareth where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation enclosing the remains of the House of Joachim and Ann and the site where the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she was to become the Mother of God. *Mass* is celebrated here followed by a visit to the Home of the Holy Family, St. Joseph's workshop, Mary's Well and the Synagogue where Jesus preached. Continue to Cana, where Christ performed his first miracle and where any married couples can renew their marriage vows. Drive to the top of Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. Proceed to your hotel in Tiberias for overnight.

DAY 08: THE SEA OF GALILEE AND UPPER GALILEE In the morning, we cross the Sea of Galilee by boat from Tiberias to Capernaum, now in ruins but once a thriving town where Peter lived and where much of the public ministry of Christ took place. See the Church of the Primacy of Peter, where Christ confirmed Peter as Head of the Church and we visit the Mount of Beatitudes, where Christ taught the Eight Beatitudes to his Disciples. *Mass* will be celebrated at the Mount of Beatitudes. Proceed to Tabgha, the place of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish. Continue to the ruins of Magdala where Mary Magdalen lived. In the afternoon, drive to the Golan Heights in Upper Galilee. Visit the Sources of the Jordan. View Tel Dan. Return to the River Jordan where a Baptismal Service can be arranged. Return to your hotel.

DAY 09: ALL THE PAST YEARS WITH HISTORY Morning departure from Tiberias to Meggido, Armageddon, a very important strategic point on the Via Maris connecting Egypt and Damascus. It is a city which has witnessed many wars and suffered many destructions throughout the wars and different periods of time. Continue to Haifa, visiting Mount Carmel and the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, where *Mass* will be celebrated, and the Cave of the Prophet, Elijah. Visit the Bah'ai Temple and proceed along the shores of the Mediterranean to Caesarea Martima on the Plains of Sharon to visit the ruins of the Crusader's City, surrounded by a moat and a city wall enclosing the ruins of the Roman city. Visit the Roman Theater. Proceed to Tel Aviv for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10: TEL AVIV/NORTH AMERICA Transfer to the airport for your return flight to North America.

Instead of the last days in the Pilgrimage to the Holyland you substitute from the following itineraries...

EXTENSION TO ROME

(Can be customized to suit your group)

DAY 08: ALL THE PAST YEARS WITH HISTORY

Morning departure from Tiberias to Meggido, Armageddon, a very important strategic point on the Via Maris connecting Egypt and Damascus. It is a city which has witnessed many wars and suffered many destructions throughout the wars and different periods of time. Continue to Haifa, visiting Mount Carmel and the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, where *Mass* will be celebrated, and the Cave of the Prophet, Elijah. Visit the Bah'ai Temple and proceed along the shores of the Mediterranean to Caesarea Martima on the Plains of Sharon to visit the ruins of the Crusader's City, surrounded by a moat and a city wall enclosing the ruins of the Roman city. Visit the Roman Theater. Proceed to Tel Aviv in time for your flight to Rome, Italy. Upon your arrival in Rome you will be met and transferred to your hotel for overnight.

DAY 09: ANCIENT ROME This morning begin with the Colosseum, where fights between men and beasts, gladiatorial contests, races and simulated naval battles took place. Continue to the Roman Forum, which stands in the center of modern Rome as a romantic statement to her past greatness. Continue to the Pantheon, a perfectly preserved ancient building. Built by Agrippa in 27 BC and re-built by Hadrian, it was once a temple and was converted to a church. Proceed to Piazza Navona, the square built on the site of Domitian's stadium. This lively pedestrian precinct has as its centerpiece with Bernini's baroque masterpiece, Fountain of the Four Rivers. Continue to see the famous Trevi Fountain and on to the Spanish Steps in Piazza di Spagna. Return to your hotel.

DAY 10: ASSISI Depart Rome and drive to Assisi. Visit the Tomb of St. Francis. Explore the quaint hilltop birthplace of St. Francis which still breathes the Middle Ages of the early 1200s when St. Francis began his ministry. Contained within the huge 13th century Basilica are many of the saint's possessions and a series of frescoes depicting his life. Kneel before the crucifix from which Jesus spoke to St. Francis asking him to rebuild His church. It was in St. Mary of the Angels Basilica that St. Francis spent most of his life and where we visit the Chapel, Portiuncola, the thornless rosebush, and the cave where St. Francis retired for prayer. Continue to the Church of St. Clare to see the saint's incorrupt body. The foundress of the Order of the Poor Clares followed the teachings of St. Francis, living a life of poverty and humility. Return to Rome for overnight.

DAY 11: ROME Full day at leisure for relaxation or personal exploration. This evening attend Midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

DAY 12: CHRISTIAN ROME This morning begin our tour of Christian Rome. Visit the other three major basilicas: St. Mary Major, one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, built after she had appeared to Pope Liberius in 358 requesting that a church be built in her honor. The shrine contains a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. The Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the former residence of all the popes prior to their return to Rome in 1377 where five ecumenical councils have been held and which contains the remains of 4 saints. St. Paul Outside the Walls which has the remains of St. Paul under its main altar and which has many relics on display, including the chains that once bound the apostle while a prisoner in Rome. We will also see the ancient Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Drusus, the Chapel "O'Domine Quo Vadis?", the remains of imperial tombs, the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, and the Catacombs of Callixtus where the early Christians hid themselves to escape persecution. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

DAY 13: ROME After breakfast drive to Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience and Blessing given by His Holiness, John Paul II. Visit St. Peter's Basilica, built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. The largest religious temple in the world, St. Peter's has housed 264 popes. Unsurpassed in beauty, a monument to the long history of the Catholic Church, where pilgrims come from around the world, St. Peter's is the grandest of the world's churches. View historical treasures such as a piece of the True Cross, the lance that pierced Christ's side, and numerous papal tombs. See Michelangelo's restored mural of the Last Judgement on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the *Pieta*, and four mighty piers supporting the magnificent dome. In the afternoon, visit the Vatican Library and Museum to see its great holdings in holy relics and works of art. Return to your hotel.

DAY 14: ROME / NORTH AMERICA Transfer to the airport for your return flight. Arrival in the afternoon the same day.

EXTENSION TO EGYPT

DAY 10: TEL AVIV/ CAIRO Depart Tel Aviv this morning through the Sinai and across the Suez Canal which cuts through the 70 mile wide isthmus between the two great land masses of Africa and Asia. The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean with the Red Sea and thus opens up a shorter route between the North Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. Proceed to Cairo for dinner and overnight.

DAY 11: MEMPHIS / SAKKARA / GIZA Morning tour to Memphis and Sakkara. Located twenty miles southwest of Cairo, Memphis was one of the most important cities through the history of ancient Egypt and was once the capital of Egypt. Sakkara's Step Pyramids are the oldest in existence and are the world's first stone tombs. This afternoon proceed to the Giza Plateau to see one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Cheops, Chephren, and Mycemius Pyramids and the Sphinx. Return to your hotel.

DAY 12: EGYPTIAN MUSEUM / OLD CAIRO This morning, visit the Egyptian Museum which houses the world's largest and finest collection of antiquities from the times of the Pharaohs, including precious specimens from the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amon. Enjoy a sightseeing drive along the Nile Corniche, past Kasr El Aini Hospital to Old Cairo. Then visit the Coptic Churches of Abu Sarga associated with the Flight of the Christ Child to Egypt; Ben Ezra Synagogue; AMR Mosque and the site at the Nile where Moses was found in the bulrushes. Drive via Republic Square, past Abdin Palace to Sultan Hasan Mosque, the Citadel, Mohammed Ali Mosque for a panorama of Cairo; through the City of the Dead; El Azhar University to the native bazaars of Khan el Khalili where time is allowed for browsing and shopping. Return to your hotel.

DAY 13: CAIRO / NORTH AMERICA Morning transfer to the airport in time to connect with your return flight. Arrival in the afternoon local time.

EXTENSION TO ATHENS

DAY 09: ALL THE PAST YEARS WITH HISTORY Morning departure from Tiberias to Meggido, Armageddon, a very important strategic point on the Via Maris connecting Egypt and Damascus. It is a city which has witnessed many wars and suffered many destructions throughout the wars and different periods of time. Continue to Haifa, visiting Mount Carmel and the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, where *Mass* will be celebrated, and the Cave of the Prophet, Elijah. Visit the Bah'ai Temple and proceed along the shores of the Mediterranean to Caesarea Martima on the Plains of Sharon to visit the ruins of the Crusader's City, surrounded by a moat and a city wall enclosing the ruins of the Roman city. Visit the Roman Theater. Proceed to Tel Aviv to connect with our flight to Athens, Greece. Upon our arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10: ATHENS / CORINTH Morning sightseeing of Athens which will include a visit to the world renowned Acropolis, with the ruins of the Parthenon, Erectheum and Propylea. Thereafter we will ascend Mars Hill, where Paul preached. View the Agora (ancient market place, and former center of Athenian public life), the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Palace, now called the Presidential Palace. Afternoon sightseeing tour of ancient Corinth, seeing the Archaeological Museum, the Bema, and the Market Place and Temples. Corinth was home to St. Paul for 18 months. From the Bema at Corinth, Paul spoke to the Corinthians about Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On the way to Corinth, stop for a few minutes at the Corinth Canal, which separates Pelopnese from the Greek Mainland and connects the two Seas (Ionian and Aegean). Return to your hotel in Athens for dinner and overnight.

DAY 11: DELPHI Depart Athens for Delphi via the National Highway passing near Thebes-Levadia and the picturesque village of Archova. Visit the museum with its renowned bronze sculpture, "The Charioteer" and other famous pieces. In the afternoon visit the Temple of Apollo, the Athenian Treasury and Castillian Spring. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

DAY 12: ATHENS / NORTH AMERICA Transfer to Athens International Airport for our flight home. Arrival in the afternoon local time of the same day.

