

JANUARY 15-26, 2018

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

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The Most Reverend Robert Coerver, Bishop of the Diocese of Lubbock and Reverend Don Zeiler, pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel parish in McKinney, invite you to join them for an inspiring pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Holy Land is often referred to as the 5th Gospel, a place where the people, places and events of the Bible come to life. We will be traveling during a beautiful time of the year in the Holy Land when crowds are thinner and access to sites much nicer. Our program balances archaeological visits, religious visits and opportunities to learn more about the rich cultural life of local people – enjoying their hospitality, food and art. We will celebrate Mass each day at sites where Jesus and his early disciples gathered and/or where pilgrims have gathered over the centuries. Our program also includes a visit to the spectacular site of Petra, in Jordan. This is an enchanting place where monuments are carved into the orange rock and sandstone. En route, we will visit Mt. Nebo where Moses looked out over the Promised Land. Come join us for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in the footsteps of visionary men and women of faith and connect with your faith heritage.

We are all members of a global community that is increasingly interdependent. The future of our world depends on our cultivating a spirit of hospitality, respect, understanding and compassion for one another.

Enlightenment comes in many forms, but we believe that there are few life experiences more moving than exploring other cultures, meeting people of diverse backgrounds, and becoming a citizen of the world – leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life.

Our Program

Monday, January 15: We depart Dallas/Ft. Worth for Tel Aviv.

Tuesday, January 16: Arrival Tel Aviv. We will meet our tour manager at the airport and transfer by motorcoach to the hotel in Tiberias. We will gather together this evening before the welcome dinner to meet one another and have an opening prayer for the pilgrimage. Dinner and overnight Tiberias.

Wednesday, January 17: Breakfast. Today we will travel to Nazareth – stopping enroute at Valley of the Doves to get a feel for the pristine area and path along which people would have walked from Nazareth to Galilee. In Nazareth, we will visit the Basilica of the Annunciation with Mass at the Grotto altar. We will continue with a visit to the excavations under the Sisters of Nazareth guesthouse – a 1st century house that may be the house of Mary and Joseph. There will be some free to shop and get some food independently. Afterwards, we will travel to Cana for a renewal of marriage vows at the church here. Before we return to our hotel, we will stop at Mt. Tabor. Dinner and overnight Tiberias.

The main attraction in Nazareth is the Basilica of the Annunciation – a modern church built over the ruins of a Byzantine church built over a cave where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, announcing that she had been chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah. There are also ruins nearby of a site believed to be the home and workshop of Joseph.

Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). There is a church here that commemorates the miracle and a nice place where married couples renew their marriage vows.

Mt. Tabor is the site associated with Jesus' Transfiguration. It is a beautiful and serene location where a basilica built in the ruins of a 12th century fortress commemorate the event.

Thursday, January 18: Breakfast. We begin the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee from the hotel to Capernaum. We will then visit the archaeological site of Capernaum and continue to Tabgha. We will celebrate Mass at either Tabgha or the Mt. of Beatitudes. Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at the Mt. of Beatitudes guesthouse and visit the site. We will continue to Yardenit for a renewal of our baptismal vows at Yardenit. Then we will visit the new archaeological site of Magdala. Dinner and overnight Tiberias.

Capernaum is one of the most important sites along the shores of Galilee. There is an extensive archaeological park here with ruins from the 1st century. This was the city where many of Jesus' first disciples lived. A church is built over the ruins believed to be the house of Simon Peter where Jesus cured his mother-in-law. The ruins of a 4th century synagogue underscore the long-term importance of this city for Jewish life in the region.

Near Capernaum is Tabgha, where Jesus did much of his preaching. The Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes commemorates the miracle of the feeding of those gathered to hear Jesus. The site is offers a suggestive place to commemorate Jesus' calling of his disciples (as the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter celebrates).

The Mount of Beatitudes is a hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The site includes a beautiful eight-sided chapel signifying the eight beatitudes and offers an inspiring place for worship and prayer. The site marks the place where Jesus preached to the crowds - his so-called 'Sermon on the Mount.' Galilee was the region where the rabbis fled after the destruction of the temple in the year 70. It was there that they began to write commentaries on the Jewish scriptures. There are many similarities between the themes of the Gospels and the commentaries of the rabbis, underscoring how important this region was for the creative evolution of Jewish and early Christian spirituality. Matthew's Gospel compares Jesus with Moses as Moses receives the Torah (Law) on Mount Sinai.

Magdala is the hometown of Mary Magdalene and new archaeological site on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where archaeologists recently found remnants of a 1st century synagogue. Since the Gospels talk about Jesus stopping in synagogues along the shore of Galilee, this archaeological site is one of the most certain we have of a place Jesus actually visited. There are foundations of other structures that have been excavated as well. A beautiful new chapel dedicated to women of the scriptures has been built here with a view overlooking the Sea.

Friday, January 19: Breakfast. Today we will travel to Petra. En route, we will stop at Madaba and Mt. Nebo - with Mass. Dinner and overnight Petra.

Madaba is a settlement that traces its origins back to the Moabite people and earlier. However, its claim to fame derives from the extensive mosaics that were found in Byzantine-era churches in the late 19th century. Among these, the Madaba Map of the Holy Land was a detailed map from the 6th century providing invaluable information about the geography of the Holy Land – including the city of Jerusalem.

Mt. Nebo is the site that commemorates the story in Deuteronomy 34 when God shows Moses the land he has promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The mountain provides a beautiful panoramic view of the Judean desert, the Jordan valley and even Jerusalem on clear days. According to tradition, Moses was buried here. There are ruins of a Byzantine-era basilica with impressive mosaics.

Saturday, January 20: Breakfast. Today we enjoy a full-day visit to Petra. Lunch will be included. We will also celebrate Mass at some point today. Dinner and overnight Petra.

Petra is one of the most enchanting archaeological sites in the world. The Nabataeans built a large city here between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AD. It was a major trading center for the region. Christians moved there in the 4th century

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and then Muslims in the 7th. After the time of the crusaders, the site was abandoned and forgotten until Johann Ludwig Burckhardt disguised himself as a Muslim scholar and discovered the site en route to Egypt. Beautiful burial monuments and chapels are carved into the orange and red stone walls that rise sharply from the wadi floor. The main city of Petra includes extensive archaeological ruins, including a theatre, temples, market squares, and a Byzantine-era church with mosaic floors.

Sunday, January 21: Breakfast. We will begin with Mass, and then journey from Petra to the Dead Sea to visit Masada. We will continue to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Masada, the site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. It is an impressive fortress built high upon a plateau. Originally, Herod had used it as a desert palace. There are extensive ruins accessible by a gondola or by a winding foot path. There are magnificent views of the desert and the Dead Sea.

Monday, January 22: Breakfast. This morning we will visit the Western Wall, the Temple Mount area, and the Jerusalem Archaeological Complex and Davidson Center. We will enjoy a light lunch before continuing with a visit to the Mount of Olives with Mass at Dominus Flevit, followed by visits to St. Peter in Gallicantu and the Upper Room. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

The Western Wall is one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Jews. The Wall is part of the retaining wall for the Temple Mount built by Herod the Great. Over the centuries it has become a place of Jewish pilgrimage where Jews lament the destruction of the temple and pray (placing small written prayers in the cracks of the large stones).

Haram Es-Sharif is the Noble Sanctuary or original platform upon which the Jewish temple stood. After the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 AD, the area underwent many modifications until the 7th and 8th centuries when the Dome of the Rock and the El-Aqsa Mosque were built.

The Jerusalem Archaeological Complex and the Davidson Center is a large archaeological park adjacent to the Western Wall devoted to exposing the various foundations and monuments built on this site. There is an important and illuminating exhibit of the development of Jerusalem over the millennia.

The Mount of Olives rises to the east of the Old City of Jerusalem. It has been a burial site for 4500 years – with acres of tombs covering the hillsides. It is believed that this is where the Messiah will first beckon the faithful to the resurrection. There are breathtaking views from the Mount of Olives of the Old City of Jerusalem including an unobstructed view of the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock.

The Mount of Olives is associated with Jesus' agony and betrayal. Nearby is the Chapel of the Ascension, built on the site where Jesus is believed to have ascended into heaven after his resurrection. The Chapel of Dominus Flevit is built around a rock in the garden believed by medieval pilgrims to have been the place where Jesus wept over his impending passion. The Church of All Nations was built over the site where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu is built over some 1st century caves and buildings. According to tradition, this is where Jesus was held prisoner prior to his trial and where Peter denied knowing Jesus when he was accused of being one of his followers.

A crusader building houses the "Upper Room," place where the disciples dined with Jesus – the so-called "Last Supper." It is here that Jesus washed their feet and announced his impending death. Jews believe that in the lower level of the building, amongst a series of chambers, is the Tomb of King David. This continues to be an important Jewish pilgrimage site.

Tuesday, January 23: Breakfast. Today we walk in the footsteps of Jesus - with a devotional walking of the Stations of the Cross that will end at the Holy Sepulchre, with Mass. The afternoon will be free for participants to explore and enjoy the Old City. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

The Via Dolorosa is a route through the Old City of Jerusalem that traces the path of Jesus' journey from his trial and flagellation to his crucifixion and burial. Christians stop at 14 stations to remember important moments of that journey and to pray. The Via Dolorosa ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was first built by Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena in the 4th century. In the 11th century it was rebuilt and has been enlarged and repaired over the centuries. It encloses two important sites – Golgotha, the site of Jesus' crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus, where he was laid to rest after his death and where he resurrected. Disputes over access to the most important pilgrimage site for Christians led to a resolution under the Ottoman Turks, dividing custody among Armenians, Greeks, Cops, Roman Catholics, Ethiopians and Syrians.

Wednesday, January 24: Breakfast. We will begin with a morning visit to Bethlehem to the Basilica of the Nativity - with Mass. We will visit Shepherd's Field, continuing after with lunch and a visit to a local Palestinian Christian organization - perhaps Bethlehem University - to learn more about the local Christian population. Afterwards, we will return to the Old City for some free time. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem

Bethlehem is the traditional birth place of Jesus. The town is not far from Jerusalem and attempts have been made to preserve some of the pastoral feel it must have had in the 1st century. In the 4th century, Constantine built a church over the site of Jesus' birth. The church has been enlarged and rebuilt several times. A star marks the place of Jesus' birth in the Grotto of the Nativity. The Field of Shepherds commemorates the place where the shepherds learned of Jesus' birth and came to pay him homage.

Thursday, January 25: Breakfast. This morning we will enjoy free time in the Old City. In the afternoon, we will visit Ein Karem and Abu Gosh – with Mass. Afterwards, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local

restaurant before a late evening transfer to the airport for our return to the USA.

Ein Karem is a beautiful village where John the Baptist was born. Several churches and monasteries were built here to commemorate his life, including the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Abu Gosh is the site where Christians commemorate the appearance of Jesus after his resurrection at the place of Emmaus (Luke 24). There are two sites traditionally believed to be Emmaus. One is Latrun - where older legends place the breaking of the bread and appearance of Jesus. In Latrun there is a crusader church, a Cistercian monastery and a templar fortress. But, the Crusaders shifted emphasis to Abu Gosh (a place associated with the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant just before King David took it to Jerusalem) based on a more accurate distance from Jerusalem given in Latin Bibles and the presence of a caravanserai (a watering place along the highway) that was more evocative of the scene from Luke. A beautiful church was built here in the 12th century and is the place where groups come to celebrate the appearance of the resurrected Jesus in the Eucharist.

Friday, January 26: We arrive back to Dallas/Ft. Worth today.

Inclusive Features

- Roundtrip air from Dallas/Ft. Worth to Tel Aviv
- Accommodations in central 4-star hotels :
 - Tiberias - 3 nights
 - Petra - 2 nights
 - Jerusalem - 4 nights
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 4 lunches
- A full time tour manager
- Guided visits with local experts per the itinerary
- Local transportation via deluxe private motorcoach

Travel Resource Center

Visit www.travelillum.com/trc/idl for details and registration information. With questions please contact:

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Program Prices

\$3500 per person based on double occupancy
 +
\$725 airline taxes, airport fees, security fees, fuel surcharges

\$750 supplement for single occupancy

Land-Only Program Prices

Excludes all airfare and airport transfers

\$3000 per person based on double occupancy

\$750 supplement for single occupancy

Please note: Single rooms for single use are limited to 10% of the total number of rooms reserved. Should additional single rooms be requested, hotels may impose a higher supplement for all single rooms of \$1100. If you have selected double occupancy but no roommate is available due to uneven numbers or if your roommate should cancel you will be in a single room and responsible for the single room supplement.

All prices listed are discounted for payment by check. When paying with a credit card you will be charged the standard base price which is 5% higher.

All program prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect

May 11, 2017—and on 2017 land and air tariffs—and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

The program prices will be reviewed before the invoices for the final payment are mailed, and will reflect the current prices.

Travel Protection

Illume suggests that you purchase travel insurance to help protect your trip and your investment from unexpected circumstances. Please read the Illume Conditions and Clauses attached to the Program Registration Application to review the charges that will apply in the event that you cancel your program participation. Illume offers you the option of purchasing a Group Deluxe Travel Protection Plan for your program. If you wish to purchase the plan, the premium should be paid with your initial deposit on the same check.

Travel Protection Rates

Group Deluxe

\$276 per person – double occupancy

\$319 per person – single occupancy

Group Deluxe – Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)*

\$414 per person - double

\$478.50 per person – single

*CFAR coverage is 75% of the nonrefundable trip cost. Trip cancellation must be 48 hours or more prior to scheduled departure. CFAR is not available to residents of New York State.

This Travel Protection Plan is provided by Travel Insured International. All questions concerning covered reasons for cancellation, coverage while traveling, benefits and filing claims can be best answered by calling Travel Insured. Travel Insured International's customer care phone number is 1-(800)-243-3174. To download the Plan Document, please visit the "Travel Protection" link on your program's Travel Resource Center.

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Program Registration:

Complete the Application and forward with your **\$800.00** deposit per person (and travel protection payment, if purchasing) by **June 15, 2017** to:

illum
102 Union Wharf
Boston, MA 02109

*Registrations will be accepted after the deadline on a space-available basis, with full payment plus an additional \$200 late processing fee.

Checks should be made payable to illum.

A second non-refundable deposit of **\$1800** per person due not later than:
August 15, 2017

Balance of payment due not later than:
October 17, 2017

Note: Any changes to the program will be outlined in the final documents which you will receive one month prior to departure. If changes are made that affect the program price, you will receive an invoice or a credit accordingly.

Program No. 18.10432