

The Holy Land

The Life and World of Jesus, Mary & Apostles

Chaplain: Father Bernard Carroll, S.J.
Tour Leader: Sr. Jocelyn Monette, nds
April – May 2010

Day 01: Toronto to Tel Aviv

Depart Lester B. Pearson airport to the Holy Land with complimentary meals served on board.

Day 02: Arrive in Israel

Shalom! We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where we will be met by our Israeli guide. Travel to our hotel in the Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Day 03: The Words and Works of Jesus

Following breakfast we travel to **Nazareth**, town of Gabriel's Annunciation. Visit the Church where the Word became Flesh! Drive to **Cana**, home of Nathaniel and site of Jesus' first miracle. Married couples may renew their vows. Taxi to the top of **Mt. Tabor**, where the Israelites (sent by Deborah and led by Barak) defeated Sisera's Canaanite army and where Jesus was transfigured. (Mt 17:1-8). Our day ends at **Yardenit**, the Jordan River where we will renew our Baptismal promises. Dinner and overnight

Day 04: The life and activities of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee

Following breakfast, we will learn on location how topography and theology intertwine against the backdrop of Galilee where the figure of Jesus emerges as a compassionate man. Our morning begins with a boat ride to **Capernaum**, headquarters of Jesus' ministry where he recruited his first followers among the fishermen. Visit the 4th Century synagogue which stands on the site where Jesus called his first disciples, taught and healed the sick. Drive to the **Mt. of Beatitudes** and spend some quiet time reflecting on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Continue to **Tabgha** and view a unique mosaic of loaves and fish recalling the feeding of 5000. Continue to the **Primacy of Peter** and see the "Mensa Christi" where the Risen Jesus prepared a meal for the disciples. Dinner and overnight.

Day 05 Jordan Valley to Bethlehem

Following breakfast we travel south following the scenic **Jordan Valley** passing by Beit Shean where Saul's headless body was hung on the Gates of the city. Drive past **Jericho**, the most ancient city in the world and site of Joshua's conquest, meeting with Zacchaeus and restoring the sight of Bartimaeus. Continue westward into the Judean Hills, reciting the Psalms of Ascent (120 – 134). As pilgrims we "go up" to the Holy City of our God, **Jerusalem**. Drive to **Bethlehem** of Boaz and Ruth and the birthplace of Jesus, the Messiah. Visit the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity, the Church of St. Catherine and the cave of St. Jerome (translator of the Bible into Latin). Time for shopping! Dinner and overnight.

Day 06 Discovering the Jerusalem of Jesus

Following breakfast, we drive to **Ein Karem**, where John the Baptist was born and Mary uttered the words of the Magnificat. Walk to the Church of the Visitation. Visit **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust Memorial that remembers the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis. Travel to Mt Scopus for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. Continue to the Church of the **Pater Noster** where the Disciples were taught the Lord's Prayer. Descend the **Mt. of Olives** via the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Church

of **Dominus Flevit** (the Lord wept). Continue to the Church of All Nations, the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where olive trees are still living that stood in the time of Jesus. Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

Day 07: Jerusalem, the Holy City

Following breakfast, drive to and visit the Church of **St. Peter in Gallicantu**. Continue to Mt Zion and visit the **Upper Room**, where Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples and where we remember the Feast of Pentecost. Continue to the **Dormition Abbey** where Mary "fell asleep". Walk through **Zion Gate** and explore the Jewish Quarter and the 6th Century "**Cardo**" en route to the **Western Wall**, the most revered and honored site in Jewish civilization; these rough massive stones are all that is left of the great Second Temple. Above the Wall we view Mount Moriah with the Islamic shrine, the Dome of the Rock. Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

Day 08: Into the wilderness

Following breakfast we travel to **Bethany**, a small town on the other side of the Mount of Olives. Visit the Church of Martha and Mary. We continue eastward and view the "**desert**" where Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days. As we continue our journey, to the lowest spot on earth, we enter the strange and barren landscape of the **Dead Sea**. Once the Biblical Lands of Moab and Edom, the Dead Sea basin has been a refuge to prophets, zealots and outcasts. Buried in the beige limestone bluffs, we drive past Qumran, home of the Essenes, a reclusive Jewish sect that buried the now famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Further south lies **Ein Gedi**, the oasis where David hid from King Saul. At the Ein Gedi Spa we cover ourselves with the natural mud unique to this magical place and "float" in the healing, mineral-rich and salty waters. Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

Day 09: The last week of the life of Jesus

Following breakfast, we enter into the Old City through **St. Stephen's Gate** and visit the Church of **St. Anne** and the **Pool of Bethesda**, where Jesus cured an invalid. Continue to the **Ecce Homo Convent** to view the Lithostratos, and the Praetorium, site of the public trial and condemnation of Jesus. We continue through the picturesque Bazaar streets praying the Stations of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the holiest Christian site, where Jesus died and was raised to life by the power of God. "Do not look for Him here for He is risen". You will never forget this moment in your life as you look for Him, not in the tomb but within your own life. Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

Day 10: Return to Canada

Lehitra'ot! We return home with unforgettable memories, knowing we have walked in the footsteps of Jesus and the early Christians. This will bring new meaning to our Scripture reading and our Mass celebrations!

TOUR PRICE: CDN\$2898.00 + departure taxes
Per person based on double occupancy