

starting from
€1444
IN TRIPLE

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
ZABBAR AND MARSASKALA PARISHES

**"HOW I REJOICED WHEN THEY SAID TO ME:
'LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD...'"! (PSALM 122)**

26TH JANUARY - 4TH FEBRUARY 2018



Rates:	Special*	Normal
Triple	€1444	€1544
Twin	€1494	€1594
Single	€1899	€1999

Price Includes:

- Air Malta Direct flight to Tel Aviv including 20 Kgs Luggage & hand luggage
- 3 Night Accommodation at Casa Nova (or similar) in Nazareth on FB Basis
- 6 Nights Accommodation at the Greek Catholic Patriarchate Foyer (or similar) in Jerusalem on FB Basis
- Buffet Breakfasts and Dinners (at hotel), Lunches at Tourist Class Restaurants as per program
- Airport Transfers with English Speaking Representative
- Local Licensed English Speaking Guide
- Pilgrim Certificate
- Mass Reservations
- Deluxe Bus with A/C
- Luggage Fees at Hotels
- Tour Leader
- Spiritual Director

**Minimum number of participants required
Special price available until 01.11.2017

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Friday 26th January 2017:

Haifa, Megiddo, Tiberias

Meet the tour leader at the Malta International Airport at 10.45pm of Thursday the 25th of January for check in formalities. Air Malta direct flight to Tel Aviv leaves at 01.15am arriving at Ben Gurion Airport at 04.55am (Israel is one hour in advance). We will start our journey in a private deluxe bus towards the modern port city of **HAIFA** for breakfast. Afterwards we will visit the Carmelite monastery of Stella Maris, situated on the slopes of the evergreen **MOUNT CARMEL**, for our first mass. We continue on our way to **MEGIDDO**, one of Israel's most ancient cities, where there are traces of fortifications left by the Canaanites, King Solomon and King Ahab amongst others, as well as a very sophisticated water system. After lunch we pass through the hills of Galilee to reach **NAZARETH** for check in, room allocation and a deserved rest before dinner and overnight

Saturday 27th January:

Cana, Nazareth, Mount Tabor

After breakfast we will be visiting Nazareth, Cana and Mount Tabor. In **NAZARETH** we contemplate the very important moment of the **Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of the Annunciation. Visits to St Joseph's church and the Greek-Orthodox Saint Gabriel church are also included. After lunch in Nazareth, continue your way **CANA**, a village close to Nazareth where Jesus performed his first miracle, married couples will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows here. Later we move on to **MOUNT TABOR** with its scenic Church of the Transfiguration. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sunday 28th January:

Capernaum, Tabgha, Jordan River

Today we shall visit the places where Jesus exercised most of his public life in the very scenic area around the **Sea of Galilee** before going to Jerusalem for his passion, death and resurrection. After breakfast we visit **CAPERNAUM**, located on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee, especially the remnants of the famous synagogue from where Jesus gave his teachings on the Bread of Life according to the Gospel of John. This is situated a few meters away from **Saint Peter's Memorial**. There we celebrate mass in the modern church built upon what many believe was Peter's house. Lunch will be served at St. Peter's fish restaurant on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Then continue our way to the **Mount of the Beatitudes**, where the Sermon on the Mount was given before heading to **TABGHA**, visiting the church of the Multiplication of Loaves. We will also set sail on a boat similar to the one used by Jesus and his disciples. An original boat dating back to the times of Jesus is exhibited in a museum by Kibbutz Ginosar. Later on we go to **Yardenit** to experience the tranquility and spiritual beauty of the waters of the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John. There, we all renew our Baptismal vows. Return to the hotel in time for dinner and overnight.

Monday 29th January:

Jericho, Bethany, Jerusalem

After breakfast and check out, we drive along the Jordan Valley to **JERICHO** where we shall see a sycamore tree, similar to the one Zacchaeus, the tax-collector climbed in order to see the Lord. Continue on our way to **BETHANY**, home town of Lazarus, Mary and Martha where we celebrate mass. Then drive towards **JERUSALEM**, entering the city via the **Mount of Olives**. There we visit the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord, the Church of the Pater Noster where one can view the Lord's



prayer in Maltese. Lunch will be served near the **Old City**. We enjoy a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem just like Jesus did in his days, before taking the steep road down to the Dominus Flevit Church, where the Lord wept and foretold the destruction of the city and the temple. This happened by the Romans in 70 A.D. Transfer to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday 30th January:

JERUSALEM

Mass, specifically for our group will be said 5.30am at the **Holy Sepulcher**. Return to our hotel for breakfast and soon afterwards we re-enter the Old City visiting the Jewish quarter to reach the famous **Western Wall** also known as the Wailing Wall. Jews from all over the world come here to worship at the remaining huge blocks of stones from the foundations upon which the Second Temple was built. We will also enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the **Temple Mount** (where the Jewish temple once stood), with the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aksa mosques. Afterwards we will walk along the **"Via Dolorosa"** stopping by the Ecce Homo Arch, before entering the monastery of the Sisters of Zion to see the Pretorium where Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate and the famous Lithostrotos, mentioned by St John in his passion narrative. There, some Roman engravings on the ancient pavement are still visible. On the way, we visit **Bethesda Pools** where Jesus healed a crippled man who couldn't walk for decades and the **Church of St Anne** (famous for its long-lasting echo). Lunch will be served inside the Old City before re-visiting the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre to pray at **Calvary** (Golgotha) and the **empty Tomb** of Jesus. At 4.00pm we join the Franciscan community for a procession in the Basilica visiting the main areas commemorating the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday 31st January:

Ein Karem, Yad Vashem, Knesset

After breakfast, we journey to the Franciscan church built over what is said to have been the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth in **EIN KAREM** and named in honour of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. We visit also the spot marking the birthplace of John the Baptist. Before entering the church we will view and pray the Magnificat inscribed in Maltese on the walls of the parvis. Mass will be said at the Church of the Visitation followed by a visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's Holocaust Memorial.

Soon after lunch we will have the opportunity to visit the huge Menorah (candelabra) situated in front of the Knesset, housing Israel's Parliament. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight

Thursday 1st February:

Bethlehem, Jerusalem

After breakfast, we drive to Beit Sahur to visit the Church of the Shepherds Fields. Then continue to **BETHLEHEM** and visit the ancient Basilica of the Nativity of Our Lord, especially the Grotto marking the place where Jesus was born. Mass will be said in the Catholic Church of St Catherine where we venerate the small effigy of Baby Jesus used during the procession at Midnight Mass. We will also visit the Milk Grotto. At noon we take part in the procession held daily by the Franciscans in the Basilica of the Nativity. Lunch will follow. In the afternoon return to Jerusalem, enter the **Gethsemane**, situated at the foot of the Mount of Olives where we humbly meditate the agonizing moments of our Lord under the ancient olive trees. We enter the Old City through Zion Gate to visit the "Upper Room" also known as the Cenaculum where Jesus and his disciples had the Last Supper together, King David's Tomb, Dormition Abbey of the Virgin Mary and St. Peter in Gallicantu Church, where Jesus was imprisoned in the house of Caiphaz the High Priest. At the end of such interesting day, we make our way to the hotel for dinner. At 8.00pm we should be at the Church of all Nations or the Basilica of the Agony for one hour adoration. This should be one of the most emotional moments of our pilgrimage. Return to our hotel for overnight

Friday 2nd February:

Judean Desert, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea

After breakfast, ascend through the Judean Desert to visit **QUMRAN** where the famous "Dead Sea Scrolls" were found in 1948 and learn about the life of the Essenes – a sect who lived a life very similar to the life and ideas of John the Baptist and his disciples. Mass, marking the feast of the "Presentation of the Lord in the Temple" will be held at the Qumran National Park. We climb by cable-car to the famous cliff-fortress of **MASADA**, where Herod the Great built a magnificent palace in the middle of the desert. Masada was then used as a fortress by the Jewish "Zealots" who fought - few against many - against the pagan Romans. Their heroic struggle became a symbol of the modern State of Israel. Lunch in Masada. Do not miss some swimming (floating) in the **Dead Sea** (430 mts – 1412 ft below sea-level!), known for its healing qualities. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday 3rd February:

Emmaus, Jerusalem

After breakfast we head towards **EMMAUS** to celebrate our last mass of this pilgrimage at the church marking the apparition of the risen Christ to two of his disciples on the same day of his resurrection. Then we move on to Jerusalem through the colourful and noisy Machane Yehuda Market. Lunch will be served at the hotel. The afternoon is free for the last minute souvenir shopping or general enjoyment. You may also want to join the spiritual director for a transfer to Mea Sherim, in modern Jerusalem for a few hours of relaxation before returning to hotel for dinner and a period of rest.

Sunday 4th February

An early rise and our private coach transfers the group to Ben Gurion Airport for check in for a direct Air Malta flight leaving Tel Aviv at 0630hrs with an expected arrival time of 0835hrs.

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