

Tuesday, May 3 The Judean Desert (early departure) The day begins with an excursion into the silence of the Judean wilderness with a visit to the Monastery of St George, Wadi Qelt. Lunch is at the ancient oasis of Jericho with a visit to the excavations of the oldest city in the world, Tel Jericho. In the afternoon we visit the excavations at Qumran from where the Dead Sea scrolls were unearthed. Returning to Jerusalem we visit Bethany. “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil and he fasted forty days and forty nights.

- *Wadi Qelt / Walk in the wilderness*
- *Masada*
- *Qumran*
- *Dead Sea (swim)*

Wednesday, May 4 Travel North to Nazareth We travel north to the pastoral region of the Galilee via the ancient coastal city of Caesarea Maritima. From the heights of Mount Carmel we overlook the Jezreel Valley and the hills which shelter Nazareth. The next two nights are spent in Nazareth. “They returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom and God's blessings were upon him” Luke 2:39

- *via Nebi Samwil*
- *Lunch & swim in the Mediterranean at Kibbutz Kefyam*
- *Arrival at hotel in Nazareth*
- *Caesarea Maritima*
- *Muhraqa*

Thursday, May 5 Nazareth The day begins at the recent excavations of what was once a vast city near Nazareth, and yet never mentioned in the Bible. From Sepphoris we raise more questions than answers as we journey back to Nazareth to visit its ancient churches and subterranean discoveries. “(Sepphoris) the ornament of all Galilee.” Josephus A.J. 18:27

- *Sepphoris*
- *Mary’s Well & St. Gabriel’s Orthodox Church*
- *Excavations at the Sisters of Nazareth*
- *Lunch in Nazareth*
- *Church of Annunciation & St. Joseph’s*

Friday, May 6 Travel to Sea of Galilee The morning begins with a meditation on the heights of Mount Tabor where tradition says Jesus was transfigured. In the afternoon we travel via Tiberias and the Baptismal site on the Jordan River to our hotel on the hillside above the Sea of Galilee where we spend the next three nights. Evening mediation above the lake.

- *Mount Tabor*
- *Yardenit (baptismal site)*
- *Mount Beatitudes Guest House*
- *Devotional on Mt of Transfiguration*
- *Lunch in Tiberias (buy own lunch)*

Saturday, May 7 The North Shore of the Lake The day is spent on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum, Tabgha and on the sea. Lunch is in Tiberias followed by a boat cruise on the sea of Galilee. The afternoon ends with a quiet walk and Eucharist by the lake. “Jesus went out and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him . . . and he told them many things.” Matthew 13.1-3

- *Capernaum*
- *Mensa Christi*
- *Lunch at Migdal*
- *Mount of Beatitudes*
- *Tabgha*
- *The Galilee Boat*
- *Boat trip on the Sea of Galilee*
- *Late Afternoon Eucharist hillside*

Sunday, May 8 Hula Valley and Upper Galilee We travel north to the headwaters of the Jordan River and the place of Peter’s pronouncement at Caesarea Philippi. Turning east we proceed onto the Golan to visit the fortress of Nimrud. Lunch is at a Druze Village. “Then Jesus asked, Who do you say I am? and Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16.15

- *Banias / Caesarea Philippi*
- *Nimrud*
- *The Golan*
- *Tel Dan*
- *Lunch – Birket Ram : Druze village*

Monday, May 9 Travel South to the Dead Sea We travel south down the Jordan River Valley and visit the place where John baptized. Lunch is at Qumran. In the afternoon we visit Masada and then settle into our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea (floating optional).

- *Qasr el Yahud (Jordan River)*
- *Lunch: Mt. Temptation Restaurant*
- *Jericho : Tel es Sultan*
- *St. Peter Gallicantu*

Tuesday, May 10 Last Things Visit the Haram esh Sharif (the Temple Mount) and the holy centres of Islam.

- *Haram esh Sharif*
- *Lunch at Austrian Hospice*
- *Bethphage to Gethsemane*
- *Sisters of Zion, Ecce Homo Arch, Struthion Pool, Lithostrotos*
- *St. Anne’s*
- *The afternoon is free to walk and explore in the Old City.*

Wednesday, May 11 Farewell Travel down the road to the Crusader Church at Abu Gosh (Emmaus) and share a closing Eucharist where “Jesus was known in the breaking of the bread.” We return to the Old City to consider the birth of the early Christian community. The afternoon is free to revisit places in the Old City, pack for the homeward journey and celebrate a farewell dinner at Bethlehem.

- *Departure for Abu Gosh (Emmaus) Closing Eucharist*
- *Farewell dinner at Mar Elias*
- *Free time in the Old City*
- *Pack for home [Pack for Sinai]*

Thursday, May 12 To the airport This morning we are taken to the airport for our return trip to Canada where our family and friends are eager to learn of our many experiences.

To the desert
Travel to Eilat and into the Sinai Continuing south we arrive in Eilat by lunch at the junction of Israel, Jordan and Egypt. The group crosses into Egypt where we are met by jeeps and travel into the Sinai for a first night in the desert. “1000-star hotel” camp.

- *Travel to Eilat / Taba border crossing into Sinai*
- *Nuweiba*
- *Evening Eucharist*
- *Picnic lunch*
- *Overnight in the desert (Wadi Samara)*

Friday, May 13 The Pilgrim Way through the Sinai Safari day following the ancient pilgrim route to Mount Sinai with stops for tea with the Bedouin, quiet meditation in the wilderness and visits to ancient pilgrimage markings. The night is spent at St. Catharine’s Monastery guest house below Mount Sinai.

- *Walk to Malahas (“salty water”)*
- *Jebel Mahroom for lunch and meditation.*
- *Ein Hudrah, The Inscription Stone, Nuwamis*
- *St. Catherine’s Monastery*

Saturday, May 14 Mount Sinai

The day begins early with a camel ride up Mount Sinai. Eucharist on the plateau at dawn and optional ascent to the top of the mountain. A visit to St Catherine's Monastery and travel back to the Gulf of Aqaba. Hotel at Nuweiba on the coast.

- Early climb with camels up Jebel Musa
- Eucharist on the Mountain
- Visit St. Catherine's Monastery
- Lunch
- Travel to Gulf of Aqaba
- Overnight at Domina Hotel, Neuweiba

Sunday, May 15 Day of Rest & Refreshment

The day is spent on the beach or snorkelling in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Monday, May 16 Travel back to Jerusalem

The group returns to Eilat, crossing the border and returning to Jerusalem where we will spend the last two nights near the Old City.

- Border crossing to Eilat
- Lunch at Yotvata
- Grand Court Hotel

Tuesday, May 17 Travel Home

Course Leader and Tour Host: The Ven. Dr. Richard LeSuer. Richard is a former lecturer and course director of St. George's College, Jerusalem, with experience leading over 40 groups of clergy and laity in the biblical lands since 1983. Richard is a Parish Priest at St. Peter's Congregation in the Diocese of Calgary.

To express your interest in this pilgrimage that will start on or about April 27th for a 2 week period with an option available for 1 additional week in the Sinai – please e-mail to Rev`d David Pilling at dpilling@nf.aibn.com.

How To Register: Interested participants should contact Rev`d David Pilling at dpilling@nf.aibn.com or Richard LeSueur at pilgrimroutes@shaw.ca to request a registration package. A deposit of \$400 per person is required to make a reservation on this tour. Payment may be made by personal cheque, certified cheque or money order to "Pilgrim Routes Inc." Half the deposit is refundable up to February 1, 2011. A confirmation of your reservation will be forwarded to you after the completed registration forms and the deposit are received.

Land Package: \$3,100.00 payable to Pilgrim Routes Inc. (\$400 deposit + final payment \$2,700.00) *(This figures are approximate, based on 2010 costs, and are dependant on the value of the Canadian Dollar)*

Pilgrim Routes Inc.
PO Box 94004
Calgary, AB T2S 0S4

The final payment is due no later than February 1, 2011. If you are joining the tour following February 1, 2011, full payment is required at the time of booking your reservation.

The Land Package includes hotels, all meals (except for 2 lunches), transportation on air conditioned bus, professional guides, entrance fees, luggage handling at hotels, all tips and gratuities, border taxes, and guest lecturers. Does not include beverages.

Flight Information and costs will be provided in June, 2010

Journey in Faith - A Pilgrimage to the Biblical Lands

For centuries Christians have sought to stand within the gates of Jerusalem. The act of pilgrimage has been described as an instinct of the spiritual life. Come and journey on an unforgettable program of pilgrimage and discovery that every Christian should experience at least once in their lifetime. Participants will form a broader understanding of the biblical story, a deeper appreciation of this fascinating region, and a firsthand experience of the places which have given shape to our spiritual heritage. Call it transformational education or speak of it by its ancient name, pilgrimage.

Wednesday, April 27th, 2011

Leave St. John`s for Tel Aviv, Israel

Thursday, April 28 Arrival

14:50 am Arrival at Ben Gurion Travel by air-conditioned bus to Jerusalem (1 hour) Check into hotel / Dinner and early to bed. Enjoy a good sleep

Friday, April 29 Jerusalem : Old Testament Aspects

A day of orientation to the city of Jerusalem with particular attention to Old Testament aspects and the ancient City of David.

- Journey Around the Walled City
- Jaffa Gate : Lunch at Christ Church Hostel
- City of David
- Jewish Quarter of Old City

Saturday, April 30 Bethlehem & New Testament Jerusalem

Travel to Bethlehem via Beit Sahour with visits to the Basilica of the Nativity. Lunch is at Ein Karem, home of Elizabeth & Zechariah (Luke 1:5). In the afternoon we visit a model of first century Jerusalem and continue to the excavations south & west of the Haram (Ophel). "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king."

Matthew 2:1

- Shepherd's Fields (Beit Sahour)
- Bethlehem : Basilica of the Nativity
- Chapel St. Joseph & Manger Square
- Ein Karem : Lunch at Pundak Restaurant
- Church of the Visitation
- Model of 1st century CE Jerusalem & Shrine of the Book

Sunday, May 1 Worship & Jewish Aspirations

Sunday worship is with Anglican Arab congregation at the Cathedral Church of St George the Martyr. After some coffee and sweets we go for lunch and then travel into West Jerusalem to the Holocaust Memorial. We end the day with a meditation walk down the slopes of the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane.

- Worship at St. George's Cathedral
- Lunch : Pasha Restaurant
- Holocaust Memorial (Yad va Shem)
- Ophel Archaeological Garden

Evening speaker : Yakir Englander (Professor at Hebrew University)

Monday, May 2 The Way of Christ

The day begins in prayer along the ancient Way of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, leading to the Church of the Resurrection (The Holy Sepulchre) where the rest of the morning is spent. In the afternoon we continue through the Arab souk, out the Damascus Gate to consider another rolling-stone tomb from the 1st century. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed." John 20:1

- Via Dolorosa: Way of the Cross
- Holy Sepulchre : Coptic Community, Ethiopian Community
- Free time to wander in the Old City & explore
- Lunch – Lutheran Hospice
- Garden Tomb
- Sunbula : Palestinian Needle Crafts