Holy Land Pilgrimage for Colorado Episcopalians

May 29 - June 8, 2021

Itinerary
Each stop at Christian pilgrimage sites will include special prayer and meditation by one of the participants. There will be other occasions on most days for additional worship, reflection and debriefing on the day’s experience.

Day 1, Sat May 29: Arrival (No Bus, One Guide)
● Arrive at Ben Gurion airport and transfer to Jerusalem on own by taxi, train, or shuttle using guidance provided ahead by MEJDI travel services. Gather for a welcome dinner at the guesthouse with your MEJDI Tour Guide and group leaders, and an overview of the touring program.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Dinner included]

Day 2, Sun May 30: Jerusalem, City of Faiths (Bus, One Guide)
● Begin the day with Morning Prayer (led by The Rev. Weezie Blanchard, Chaplain).
● Following Holy Eucharist at St George’s Cathedral, have a group lunch, with local bishop as available and/or the cathedral’s dean. In the afternoon, ascend the Mount of Olives by bus, including an overview of East Jerusalem, its history, demographics, and current issues. From a vantage point above the Old City, engage in a discussion of Jerusalem’s deep connection to three faiths. Then descend by foot, with stops at Dominus Flevit and Gethsemane. From there, follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for a thorough tour of the historic church and a discussion of Christian communities in the Holy Land.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner include]
Day 3, Mon May 31: Jerusalem (Israeli Narrative) (Bus, Two Guides)

- On Monday, begin the Dual Narrative portion of your touring program, with Morning Prayer.
- Meet the second of your two guides and head out for a visit to the Western Wall to discuss its history and importance to Jews as a place of prayer.
- From the Western Wall, survey important events over centuries of the Jewish people in diaspora as you head toward Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Memorial. Following a sobering tour of Yad Vashem, have a conversation with an Israeli soldier at Mt. Hertzl, and take a walking tour of Ein Kerem to learn different narratives about Zionism and Israel’s 1948 War of Independence.
- Finally, discuss the diversity of Jerusalem’s Jewish communities and neighborhoods, as you head to the city center for a time to explore West Jerusalem’s cafes and restaurants for dinner on own.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Lunch included]

Day 4, Tue June 1: Bethlehem (Palestinian Narrative) (Bus, Two Guides)

- On Tuesday, begin the day early with Morning Prayer. Then visit the Noble Sanctuary / Temple Mount, touring the site that houses the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque, and meeting with an Imam or representative from the Waqf for a discussion.
- From there, journey south to Bethlehem. Cross the checkpoint, and walk the Separation Wall for a dual narrative conversation on its history and effects.
- Visit Aida Refugee Camp, and meet with a resident from the camp.
- Continue to discuss the question of refugees and other issues as you head through Bethlehem to Shepherd’s Field for a special lunch at the Bedouin-style Tent Restaurant, with local CMEP representative as guest.
- After lunch, take a tour of the Church of the Nativity, and enjoy some free time in Nativity Square before ending the day with a visit with a local minister over coffee - at the family home if possible. Then return to Jerusalem for dinner at the hotel. At dinner, welcome Rabbi Daniel Roth for a presentation on religion and peace-building.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Day 5, Wed June 2: Hebron / West Bank (Bus, Two Guides)

- Begin the day with Morning Prayer.
- Start with Eucharist at the Garden Tomb, with a reserved room and supplies. Rev. Blanchard will preside.
Cross back into the West Bank and travel to Hebron, to tour the Cave of the Patriarchs and the Old City.

- Have lunch at a family home in Hebron.
- Meet with Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) members, and visit a Jewish settlement to have a discussion with Israeli settlers.
- In the evening, enjoy a special dinner with Israeli and Palestinian guest speakers from the Parent’s Circle-Families Forum.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Day 6, Thr June 3: Ramallah (Bus, Two Guides)

- Begin the day with Morning Prayer.
- Visit with Sabeel in Beit Hanina, either on the way to Ramallah, or on return.
- In Ramallah, meet with a Palestinian government official - specifically with Hanan Ashrawi, as available; and make an additional visit with an NGO civil society leader: Depending on availability, Sahar Francis of Addameer, an institution offering support for Palestinian prisoners and torture victims; Salwa Duaiabis of the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling to learn about Palestinian prisoners and their families; Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American business man; Ahmad Shami, businessman and environmentalist; or Mustafa Barghouti, Palestinian physician, activist, and politician.
- Group lunch is in Ramallah, and the day will also include a visit to the Riwaq to learn about the preservation of Palestinian architecture.
- Close the day with a home-cooked meal and live music by 2-3 Israeli-Palestinian musicians, hosted at the home of the Abu Sarah family in Bethany.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included]

Day 7, Fri Jun 4: Welcoming the Sabbath (Evening Bus, One Guide)

- On the 7th day of your tour, take a day for rest and renewal. You might choose to visit the Israel Museum (on own), explore the Arab and/or Jewish marketplaces, take some time to visit the souvenir shops in the Old City, or observe the many Muslims and Jews visiting the Old City’s holy sites for special Friday prayers.
- In the evening, regather and head out with your Jewish guide for a Shabbat meal and blessings in Jewish home or homes - Rabbi Joshua Weisman as available. Bid farewell to your Jewish guide from here.

Hotel: St. George’s Cathedral Guesthouse or Similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast and Dinner included]

Day 8, Sat Jun 5: Jordan Valley to Nazareth (Bus, One Guide)

- Begin the day with Morning Prayer.
After check-out, descend from Jerusalem into the Judean Desert until reaching Qumran, at the northern end of the Dead Sea. Take a brief tour of Qumran and the nearby site of Qasr al Yahud - site where the baptism of Jesus is recalled, as well as the crossing of the Israelites into Canaan.

Then head north along the Jordan Valley to Nazareth.

Following a break for lunch, explore the modern city of Nazareth, visiting the Basilica of the Annunciation, White Mosque, and St. Gabriel’s Orthodox Church. Include a meeting also with the local Anglican priest - Rev. Nael Abu Rahman, as available - for a conversation on life, ministry, and interfaith relations in Nazareth.

Check into your hotel in time to explore Nazareth’s many cafes and restaurants for dinner on own.

Hotel: Legacy Nazareth or Similar, Nazareth [Breakfast and Lunch included]

**Day 9, Sun Jun 6: Nazareth and the Galilee (Bus, One Guide)**

- On Sunday morning, choose between:
  - Join Nazareth’s Christ Church community for 10 am Holy Eucharist in Arabic and English, OR...
  - Head out with guide to ascend Mount Tabor for a time at the Church of the Transfiguration.

- Regather (if splitting) and continue to Tiberias for a St. Peter fish lunch, and then a boat ride on the Galilee to Capernaum, center for much of Jesus’ Galilean ministry. Enjoy a time of prayer on the Mt of Beatitudes before returning to Nazareth ahead of dinner on own.

Hotel: Legacy Nazareth or Similar, Nazareth [Breakfast and Lunch included]

**Day 10, Mon Jun 7: Caesarea, Jaffa and Tel Aviv (Bus, One Guide)**

- Begin your final full day with Morning Prayer. Then head to the seaside site of Caesarea Maritima for a tour of the ancient Herodian city and its more recent history.

- Then head south to Tel Aviv, and make a stop at Rabin Square for a discussion Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination, his memory today, and prospects for future peace.

- In the afternoon, check into your hotel for a break, and be sure to make arrangements individually via your hotel’s guest services for taxi to airport at time needed tomorrow. Head out late afternoon for a walking tour of Jaffa and a special farewell dinner to celebrate your time together, and to bid farewell to your guide and driver.

Hotel: Market House or Similar, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast and Dinner included]

**Day 11, Tue Jun 8: Departure (No Bus, No Guide)**

End of tour program [Breakfast included]