



MEJDI TOURS

PureSpring Institute Holy Land Pilgrimage

Itinerary

Day 0: Sunday, May 21 - Departing Boston

Flight recommendations with departures after 7pm EST and arrivals to Israel in afternoon of ⁴ Monday, May 22. Airfare not included in pricing.

- *British Airways Flight 212 (departs Boston 7:15pm)*
- *Turkish Airlines Flight 82 (departs Boston 11:30pm)*
- *Swiss Flight Flight 53 (departs Boston 9:40pm)*
- *Lufthansa Flight 425 (departs Boston 7:55pm)*

Day 1: Monday, May 22: Arrival (One Guide, Bus Transfer to Hotel)

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport, meet your guide, and transfer to your hotel. Overview program with guide at dinner and enjoy a free evening to catch your breath and stretch your legs. If time permits based on arrival time, be sure to see the sunset over the Mediterranean from one of Tel Aviv's beautiful beaches.

Hotel: Metropolitan Hotel, Jaffa-Tel Aviv. (Meal: Dinner Included)

Day 2: Tuesday, May 23: Annunciation in First Century Context (One Guide, Bus)

Begin your journey by traveling the Mediterranean coast to Herod's port city of Caesarea Maritima, seat of government of Pontius Pilate. Here, discuss the influence of Rome on the region in the First Century, and then continue to explore the religious complexities of Jesus' day as you travel through Megiddo (Armageddon) and alongside Sepphoris to Jesus' boyhood town of Nazareth where you'll tour Nazareth Village, a re-creation of small-town life in the Galilee of Biblical times. Continue to Mary's Well, and the Church of the Annunciation to consider the message of the Annunciation, and how it likely sounded to Mary in her context. Enjoy a special dinner in Nazareth joined by a local Religious Leader,

and take time for reflection atop Mt Precipice for reflection on Jesus' words about prophets in their hometowns before heading to your hotel by the Sea of Galilee.

Hotel: Degania Bet Country Lodge, Galilee. Check-in at 8:30 pm (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Included)

**Day 3: Wednesday, May 24: Jesus' Ministry around the Galilee
(One Guide, Bus)**

In the lush Galilee, explore the role of Capernaum, a city along a route for many travelers of various cultures in the First Century, and center of Jesus' ministry. Stop at Tabgha, the site associated with Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fish, and at the site associated with Jesus' call to Peter. Recall the Sermon on the Mount at the Mount of Beatitudes. Enjoy the pilgrims' tradition of a Saint Peter's fish lunch while overlooking Galilee before visiting the Jesus Boat Museum to view a First Century fishing boat recovered by scientists, and worship on your group's private boat on the Galilee.

Hotel: Degania Bet Country Lodge, Galilee. (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included)

**Day 4: Thursday, May 25: Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem
(One Guide, Bus)**

On Sunday, head south through the Jordan Valley and Samaria, a pilgrimage Jesus would have made repeatedly for Jewish holy days in Jerusalem. Stop at the Jordan River to recall Jesus' baptism, and to consider the prophetic role of John the Baptist. Have a chance to Baptize in that same place. Enter Jericho to ride the cable car up the Mount of Temptation, where pilgrims mark the temptation of Christ, and walk the ruins at Qumran - the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and home to the ancient Essene community. Float in the mineral-rich Dead Sea before heading into Jerusalem.

Hotel: Holy Land Hotel, Jerusalem (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Included)

**Day 5: Friday, May 26: Way of Christ
(One Guide, Bus)**

Begin the day with a step back into the footsteps of Jesus. Start with a visit to the Augusta Victoria Hospital and learn about the Housing Project. Then visit the Mount of Olives, and descend, making a stop at Dominus Flavit - "The Lord Wept" - a wonderful site to say a prayer over today's city while remembering Jesus' tears over its divisions in his day. Continue down the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane, and see centuries-old olive trees, including some that were likely alive during Jesus' lifetime. From the Garden of Gethsemane, climb Mount Zion to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, recalling Peter's

denial of Jesus, and then travel through the Armenian and Christian quarters of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the final site of Christian pilgrimage for centuries. Finish the day with a time of devotion with your group in the tranquility of the gardens at the nearby Garden Tomb.

Hotel: Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Included)

**Day 6: Saturday, May 27: Bethlehem, Yesterday and Today
(One Guide, Bus)**

From Herod's hilltop fortress of Herodium, look out toward Tekoa, home of the Prophet Amos. Reflect on the figure of Amos there, and discuss the present issue of Israeli settlements in the area, and the deep connection of both Palestinians and Jews to these lands. Visit Shepherd's Field and enjoy a traditional Palestinian meal at the Bedouin-inspired Tent Restaurant. Visit with a local Palestinian theologian to discuss the situation for Christians in the region and Palestinian theological responses. Visit the Nativity Church, one of the oldest churches in the world, and site where Christians recall the birth of the Prince of Peace in the humble form of a child in a manger. Return to Jerusalem with a bit of free time for any last stops you want to make on your own.

Hotel: Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included)

**Day 7: Sunday, May 28: Jerusalem, Yesterday and Today
(Two Guides, Bus)**

Your group will be joined by a second guide, giving you the rare opportunity to hear a Jewish/Israeli guide and an Arab/Palestinian guide in conversation about some of the most contested areas of the Holy Land. Overlook Jerusalem from one of its peaks, and pass through contested neighborhoods to discuss their ancient significance and interreligious issues today. Enter the excavation of the Southern Steps, which Jesus and other First Century Jewish pilgrims likely used to ascend to the Temple. Visit the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary, site of today's Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Learn the profound significance of this location, both to Jews and Muslims, including a discussion with an imam. Experience a time of prayer at the Western Wall, site of Jewish pilgrimage for centuries, and end this special day with a dinner and discussion with a local rabbi.

Hotel: Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Included)

**Day 8: Monday, May 29: Political Ramallah to an Afternoon of Hope
(Two Guides, Bus)**

Continue the dual narrative approach as you ride along the "Green Line" from Jerusalem to

nearby Ramallah. Along the way, your guides discuss ancient and modern history, including current issues such as the Separation Wall, inter-group violence, and Palestinian refugee camps. Walk through the center of town and briefly visit a well known heritage house displaying local photography and arts. After lunch, head south to hear about various sites proposed as possible locations of the Biblical Emmaus, where the Gospels tell of Jesus appearing once again to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. Visit the site of Emmaus Nicopolis, located in what is now an Israeli national park. Continue to the nearby village of Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam (Oasis of Peace), an intentional village of coexistence between Jews and Arabs, and meet with one of its residents to learn about its special story and hopeful vision. Then share a time of prayer together from Neve Shalom Wahat al Salaam, with one of the sites proposed to be the Biblical Emmaus within sight in the distance. Ask final questions of your two guides in dialogue as you recap your days spent in the Holy Land.

Hotel: Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem. (Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included)

**Day 9: Tuesday, May 30: Departure
(Breakfast, Transfer, No Guide)**

Transfer to Airport for Departure.

No Hotel. (Meals: Breakfast Included)