

Day 1 | Thursday, December 26: Depart for the Holy Land

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight to Israel. Your meals will be served on board.

Day 2 | Friday, December 27: Arrive in Tel Aviv

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the Arrival's Hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv to check-in. Enjoy dinner at the hotel before retiring for the evening. Overnight Tel Aviv.

Day 3 | Saturday, December 28: Tel Aviv - Caesarea - Nazareth - Cana

Theme: The Annunciation

Leave Tel Aviv to Caesarea Maritima, located on the shores of the Mediterranean. Built by Herod the Great, Caesarea was where St. Peter baptized the first gentile convert, Cornelius (Acts 10). We will see the Roman theatre, Herod's Palace, view the Hippodrome, and the harbor from which St. Paul sailed on his journeys to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the ancient world. Continue to Nazareth to visit the museum and archaeological garden which contain remains of Nazareth at time of Christ. We also see St. Joseph's workshop. Within the Church of the Annunciation, we make our way down to the Grotto to see the remains of the house of the Blessed Mother, where the Angel of the Lord announced the good news to Mary. From here we drive to Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle, changing water into wine at the request of His mother. We celebrate Mass here at the Wedding Church, and married couples will have the chance to renew their wedding vows to each other. From there, we continue our hotel by the Sea of Galilee, for dinner and overnight. Overnight Galilee.

Day 4 | Sunday, December 29: Tiberias – Sea of Galilee

Theme: The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee

This morning we take a boat ride on the beautiful Sea of Galilee (Luke 5:1). Then we visit Capernaum, the fishing town where Jesus lived and launched His ministry that was to change our lives and the world. In Capernaum we see the Synagogue where Jesus taught (Mark 1:21-29) and gave the sermon on the Bread of Life. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (Luke 6:20-49). Then to Tabgha, where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish (Luke 9:10-17). Nearby is St. Peter's Primacy, where Peter confirmed his love of Jesus (John 21) and it was in this place that Jesus anointed Peter to lead His Church and was to become the first Pope. (John 21:9). Continue to visit the birthplace of Mary Magdalene in Magdala. During the time of Jesus, this village was a prosperous fishing village that exported fish and garum, a fish sauce reduction popular in Roman cooking. End the day with a stop at the Valley of the Doves, located at the foot of the steep cliffs of Mt Arbel and was part of the ancient Via Maris trade route linking Mesopotamia and Egypt. This route also linked Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee and would have been the path that Jesus walked when travelling between the two places. Today the valley is still undeveloped, and we can imagine Jesus walking along this ancient way and resting by the stream. Overnight Galilee.

Day 5 | Monday, December 30: Mt. Tabor - Jericho - Jerusalem

Theme: The Transfiguration & Journey to Jerusalem

After breakfast, drive to the site of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor (Matthew 17:1-50). At this site, you will have some time to reflect on Christ's Divinity. Celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the Transfiguration and

then continue south towards the Jordan Valley, to the oldest inhabited city in the world, Jericho (Joshua 6:12-25). In Jericho, you view the exact location, the Mount of Temptation, where the Devil tempted Jesus during his forty-day fast (Luke 4:1). Drive up to Jerusalem to check-in to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 | Tuesday, December 31: Bethlehem & Ein Karem

Theme: The Visitation and Nativity

This morning we go the village of Ein Karem to visit to the Church of St John the Baptist, which marks his birthplace (Luke 1.5). Nearby is Church of Visitation that commemorates the visit of our Blessed Mother to her cousin, Elizabeth, staying with her for 3 months (Luke 1.39). Many people pray the Mystery of the Rosary as they walk up the hill to the Church. Later drive to Bethlehem to visit the fields where the Angel appeared to the shepherds to proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ, (Luke 2:8). We enter the caves where shepherds took shelter in ancient times and see the soot marks of the fires they lit to keep warm. Continue to Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity. We enter the church through the door of humility and proceed down to the Grotto of the Nativity, which marks the place of Our Saviour's birth (Matthew 2:1-18). Beneath the altar, there is a silver star and a Latin inscription that states: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary). Following Mass in Bethlehem return to the hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and an overnight.

Day 7 | Wednesday, January 1: Mt. Of Olives - Gethsemane - Mt. Zion (Upper Room)

Theme: Palm Sunday and the Agony in the Garden

We start the day on the Mount of Olives with a breath-taking panoramic view of Jerusalem. Visit the Pater Noster Shrine where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster) (Luke 11:1-4). Then we walk down the Palm Sunday Road, which reminds us of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Along this route there stands Dominus Fleuit which marks the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). Continue down to Gethsemane; it was here that Jesus brought His disciples to pray the night before He was crucified (Luke 22:29-53). The Garden still contains trees with roots that date back to the time of Jesus. Next to the garden is the Church of All Nations, built over the "Rock of Agony", where Jesus prayed alone before His arrest. From Gethsemane Jesus was taken to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas on Mt Zion, where we see the dungeons in which He was imprisoned. Also at this place, marked by the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, is where Peter denied Christ three times and wept bitterly (John 18:15-18), repented and was forgiven. On the upper part of Mt Zion, we visit the Upper Room, where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, (Matthew 26:17-30). Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 8 | Thursday, January 2: Via Dolorosa - Holy Sepulchre- Western Wall

Theme: The Way of the Cross, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection

Very early this morning we walk together in prayerful procession along the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross). We start at the Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate (John 18:28-19:16) and receives His cross. We end at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which marks the place of the Crucifixion & the Resurrection, (Luke 23:26-33). After Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher we return to the hotel for breakfast. Later we revisit the Old City to see the Church of St. Anne's, the traditional birthplace of the Virgin Mary. Nearby is the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the crippled man (John 5:1-9). End the day with a visit the Western Wall, which is the last remnant of the Jewish Temple destroyed in 70 AD. Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 9 | Friday, January 3: Jordan River- Qumran - Dead Sea

Theme: the Judean Wilderness and the Baptism of Christ

Drive through the Judean wilderness, the site where Jesus spent His 40 days of fasting. We head to the Jordan River for some time to reflect on the Baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:13-17). In the afternoon we visit Qumran, the Essene site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. (Ezekiel 47:8-10). These writings have helped further the understanding of the Jewish background to Christianity. There is also time to swim or float on the Dead Sea, the lowest and saltiest place on Earth before return to Jerusalem. This evening we gather for a farewell dinner. Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 10 | Saturday, January 4: Transfer to Airport

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, transfer to the Tel Aviv airport for return flights home.

***206 Tours Disclaimer:**

Occasionally local religious and national holidays, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of events or the missing of certain events/places. Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of events and places to be visited.