



BETHLEHEM HANDICRAFTS

Your Guide to the Holy Land

The Holy Land
experience
you'll never forget





The Bannoura family is one of the Christian families who live in Bethlehem. Many families, learned to beautifully hand carve religious artifacts from olive wood, as Christian pilgrims came to the Holy Land in greater numbers and desired items to remember their pilgrimage with.

This skill has been improved upon and passed down from father to son for many generations in our family with each generation adding new stylistic ideas and new means to improve the crafting, until we reached where we are now; masterly finesse.

Hoping to continue this trade in our workshop, named *Bethlehem Handicrafts*, we have created a website under the same name that operates as both, an online market, and a pilgrimage tourism operations and management that provides Christians a truly sacred and significant pilgrimage experience in the Holy Land.

Bethlehem Handicrafts organizes many pilgrimages for different groups of churches and organizations. However, if you're a tour leader, your travel expenses will be covered since we understand that leading a community trip is not an easy work. This life altering pilgrimage, that helps to support Christians living in the Holy



Land, makes *Bethlehem Handicrafts* your ideal selection for your pilgrimage groups!

You'll attend a service where Jesus Christ was born, preached, healed and resurrected, and have a chance to meet our family members during your visit, who will host you for a dinner. You are also given the choice to visit our workshop in Bethlehem, which is an additional mark that is not obligatory. Given the chance, we would love to show you how we handcraft the Holy Land's olive trees to turn them into remarkable olive wood carvings.

We ensure you a unique experience where all will be taken into account and the best service is provided. Our tours are customized just for you including a guide that'll match the group's expectations.

In case of an emergency, immediate assistance is provided.

Join us today in a remarkable pilgrimage to the Holy Land and be one of the most blessed people who get to walk on the footsteps of Jesus Christ. *Bethlehem Handicrafts*: The Holy Land experience you'll never forget.





Holy Sites

Basilica of the Annunciation (Nazareth)

The largest Basilica in the Middle East. It's where angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to bear a son, and he was to be called Jesus.



St. Joseph's Workshop (Nazareth)

St. Joseph's Church, located adjacent and north to the Basilica, is built according to early traditions over St. Joseph's carpenter workshop, and later on redefined as the house of the holy family and Virgin's Fountain, where it is said that the virgin washed the swaddling clothes of our Lord.



Shepherds' Field (Bethlehem)

Shepherds' Field, identified as the scene where the Angel of the Lord visited the humble shepherds, who kept their sheep on the outskirts of Bethlehem, and informed them of Jesus' birth. In addition to the church, Pilgrims can visit a few caves there, where the shepherds watched over their sheep.



Church of the Nativity (Bethlehem)

Built over a cave where a fourteen-pointed star marks the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth with an inscription in Latin that means “Here, of the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ was born”. You can also visit the site of Adoration of the Magi and the Manger of infant Jesus, and still see the beautiful remnants of byzantine mosaics.



Cana (Tiberius)

Where Jesus performed his first miracle at the marriage of Cana in Galilee by turning water into wine. Many married pilgrims renew their wedding vows there.



Ein Karem (Jerusalem)

The name means the spring of the vineyard and it's where John the Baptist was born. You can find two churches in Ein Karem; one that is dedicated to John the Baptist, and the other to the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.





Mount of Olives (Jerusalem)

Many biblical events took place on this mountain which led to building many churches , including:



- **Dome of the Ascension:** where the last footprint of Jesus on earth can be seen before he ascended into heaven.



- **The Church of the Pater Noster:** stands on the site where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer (Our Father).



- **Dominus Flevit Church:** built to commemorate the Lord's weeping over Jerusalem.



- **The Garden of Gethsemane:** where Jesus prayed to the Father before his crucifixion.

- **The Basilica of Agony:** built on the site where Jesus had his last prayer before he was betrayed and arrested.

Via Dolorosa and the Holy Sepulcher (Jerusalem)

Pilgrims usually walk the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) while praying the Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis). This path usually starts in front of the Franciscan Church of the Flagellation and ends at the Holy Tomb.

There are 14 stations in total, and the last five are all commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is considered the most important pilgrimage site in the world for all Christians.

It marks the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, at a place known as «Calvary» or «Golgotha», and his burial and resurrection at the burial grotto, which's also called Anastasis. Inside it, the Holy Tomb can be found enclosed by a shrine.



Baptism Site on River Jordan (Jericho)

Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan. So, pilgrims go there to renew baptismal promises (or to actually be baptized).





Tabgha (Tiberius)

Where the miracle of the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish for the five thousand people happened. The rock on which the miracle took place is in under the altar in this church.



Magdala (Tiberius)

Where pilgrims can visit a new church that is really special because of its mesmerizing view of the Sea of Galilee and an outstanding boat in the chapel that commemorates Jesus preaching from the boat. Also, Magdala is the city where Mary of Magdala, who's an integral part of Christianity, came from, and where a 1st century Synagogue and the "Magdala stone", which is considered the most important archaeological find in the past 50 years, have been found.



Mount Tabor (Tiberius)

This is the mountain where Jesus was transfigured. The Basilica of the Transfiguration is on top of the mountain of Tabor.



Cenacle/Upper Room (Jerusalem)

This church marks the place of the Last Supper and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension.



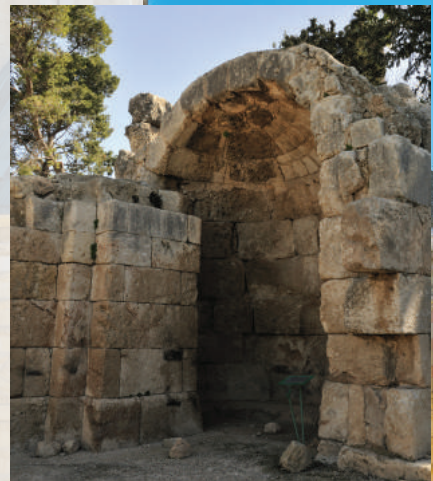
Dormition Abbey (Jerusalem)

Also known as Basilica of the Assumption, it's where the Blessed Virgin Mary reached the end of her earthly existence and was taken to Heaven, body and soul. This site is very close to the Upper Room.



Emmaus Nicopolis (West Bank)

Emmaus Nicopolis is the aftermath of the excavation of two byzantine churches and, according to the Gospel of Luke, the village of Emmaus, is where Jesus appeared to his two of his disciples after his crucifixion and resurrection.



Mount of Beatitudes (Tiberius)

Overlooks the shore of the Sea of Galilee and is very close to Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitudes recalls Jesus' most famous discourse, the Sermon on the Mount. Mount of Beatitudes is one of the most magnificently serene places in the Holy Land.



Lake of Galilee (Tiberius)



Also known as Sea of Tiberius, Lake of Galilee is home to many types of fish including “St. Peter’s fish”. It is also the lake that Jesus has calmed and walked on, and where many other incidents in the life of Jesus and his disciples have taken place. Many pilgrims go on a boat ride on this beautifully calm lake.



Peter's Primacy and Mensa Christi (Tiberius)

This place marks the third appearance of Jesus Christ after his resurrection. Here Peter reaffirmed his love for Jesus Christ and thus his primacy among the apostles was recognized. In this church, you can observe the table of the Lord (Mensa Christi), which is where Jesus prepared a breakfast for his disciples after they went fishing on the lake of Galilee.



Local Food



Za'atar Manakeesh

The only way to wake up in Palestine is with one of these Za'atar Manakeesh. A popular Palestinian breakfast consisting of flattened dough, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and ground dried za'atar. Cooked quickly on a high heat and eaten just as fast. This delicious snack is usually served with a glass of mint tea and goat cheese on the side.



Warak Dawali

A plate that has been part of the Palestinian cuisine for centuries. The vine leaves (Warak Dawali or Warak Inab in Arabic) are stuffed with spiced chopped up lamb meat and rice. Typically cooked with stuffed courgettes, as well as some beef shanks for extra grease and it's ready for lunch!

Kebab and Shish Taouk

The deliciously divine Palestinian barbeque is every family's lunch on summer! It consists of various types of grilled meat including spiced chicken Shish taouk (chicken breasts) and tender meat kebab on skewers. The grilled meat is almost always served with pita bread, hummus, grilled vegetables and a wide range of refreshing salads that go beyond words.



Falafel

Fried veggie patties created with a combination of chickpeas, vegetables and spices. Mostly served with hummus, salted slices of tomatoes and cucumbers, labneh, and Tabolueh which is the ultimate traditional salad.



Arabic Coffee

Arabic coffee is coffee beans mixed with many spices, especially crushed cardamom. Prepared by brewing it on a stovetop in a special pot, and served in a petite cup called finjaan.





Kanafah and Baklava

Kanafah, also spelled kunafeh, is a Middle Eastern cheese pastry soaked in delicious syrup. It's the perfect mixture of sweet and salty that is famous everywhere in Palestine, but especially in Nablus. And Baklava is a mouth-watering sweet dessert pastry made of layers of filo filled with chopped nuts that are held together with sugar-based syrup. These two kinds of desserts are usually sold in the same shop.

Saint Peter's Fish

Pilgrims will most likely get to taste the tastiest Saint Peter's fish in Palestine! Also known as Tilapia fish, Saint Peter's fish were one of the main kinds of fish that were caught from the Sea of Galilee in Biblical times. The name refers to the story in the Gospel of Matthew where the apostle Peter catches a fish carrying a coin in its mouth. Depending on your preference, the fish gets fried or grilled, and then it's usually served with some French fries and few slices of lemon on the side for extra deliciousness!

Local Folk Dance “Dabke”

Dabke, which is a folk dance that goes back many generations, is danced by both men and women with different steps and different rhythms. Traditionally, Dabke combines line and circle dancing, but certain modern groups have recently added some theatrical elements to their performances that have connected the past to the future in a beautifully artistic way. Although being typically performed at weddings and other joyous occasions, most pilgrims get the chance to watch a performance of Dabke on our pilgrimages while eating delicious local food.



How to proceed?

Just say “Yes” and we’ll impress!

We are aware that you have many other important matters to deal with. So, we will do our best to minimize the church involvement in the process as much or as little as you wish. Please rest assured that you will not incur any financial responsibility for pilgrimages that may be unsuccessful in their completion.

- Choose the date (please provide several options within 8 - 24 months).
- Choose the program (10 days, 12 days, all inclusive, extensions, etc.).
- After confirmation we will print all brochures/ registration forms and posters to advertise the Pilgrimage.
- We provide personal and online support (registration, insurance information and travel updates).
- We will host 2 to 3 informational meetings to discuss the pilgrimage and to answer any questions that your community may have.
- Prior to departure we will provide all essential information for the pilgrims i.e. (instruction packets, name badges, emergency contact information, luggage tags, etc.).

We welcome the privilege of hosting you and your faith community, and we desire the opportunity to share the Holy Land with you, as to return the favour of the generous hospitality of many churches who have been very welcoming to allow us into their churches, giving us the chance to share our olive wood products with a wider range of Christians. Our pilgrimages are conducted with the highest level of professionalism, integrity and spirituality.

One Sample of our Pilgrimages

(More samples are available on our website)

Day 1 DEPARTURE

Depart overnight flight to the Holy Land. Food served on flight.

Day 2 TEL AVIV / NETANYA

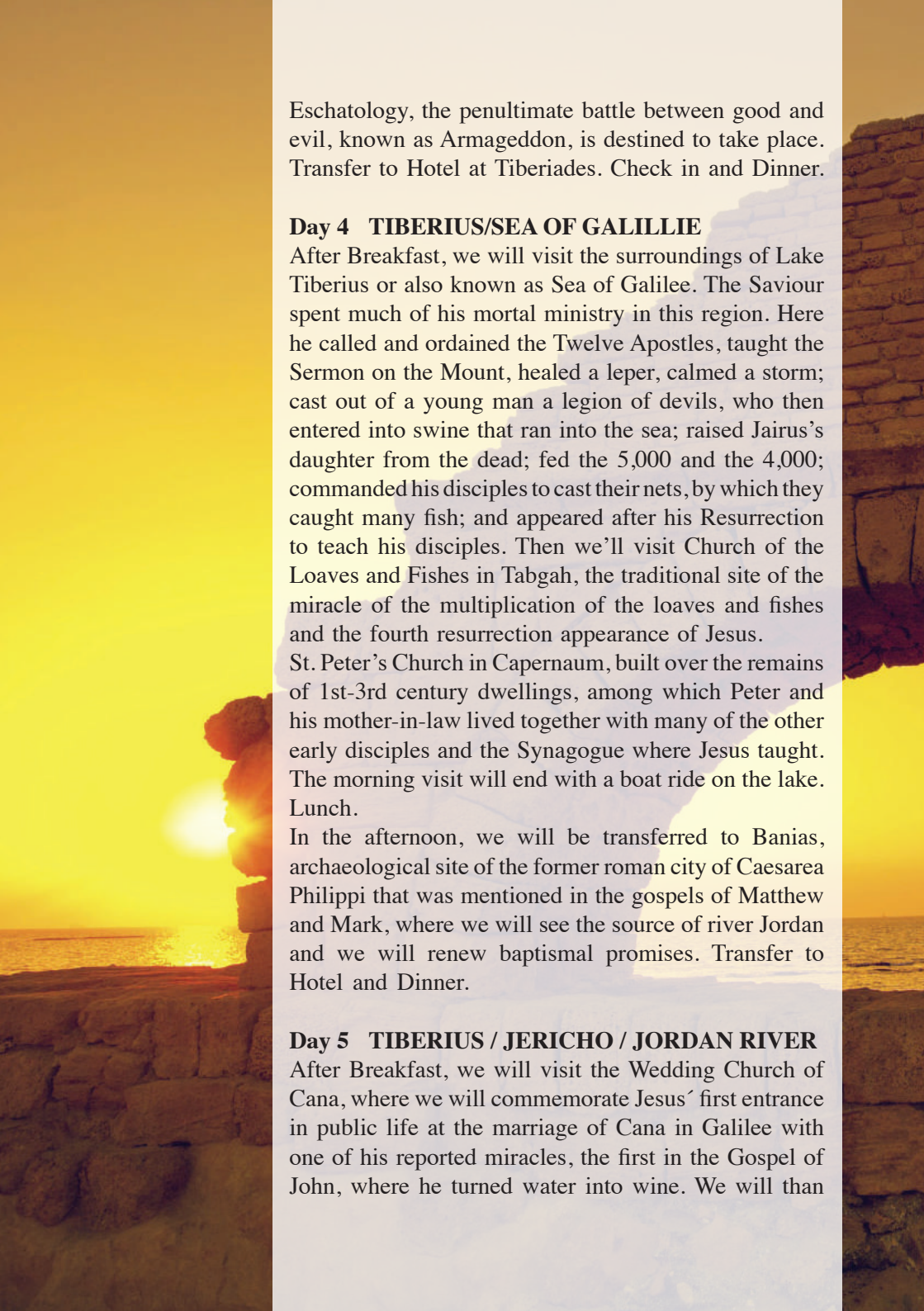
Arrival to Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, assistance and transfer to a hotel in Netanya, dinner and overnight.

Day 3 HAIFA / NAZARETH / TIBERIUS

After Breakfast we will have a short drive on the Mediterranean coast line to visit Caesarea Maritima, a harbor city that was built by Herod the Great. We'll continue our day to the city of Haifa, and then we'll drive to Stella Maris at Mount Carmel to visit the church of Prophet Elijah. Then, we'll continue to Nazareth, where we'll visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, where the Annunciation took place; (celebrate Mass). After lunch, we'll visit St Joseph's Church, located adjacent and north to the Basilica is St Joseph's Church which is built according to early traditions over St. Joseph's carpenter workshop and later on redefined as the house of the holy family and Virgin's Fountain where it is said that the virgin washed the swaddling clothes of our Lord.

We will start our afternoon itinerary by visiting Sepphoris capital of Galilee during Jesus childhood and, according to Christian tradition, the residence of the parents of the Virgin Mary: Anna and Joachim. It is also the home of Herod Antipas, best known today for accounts in the New Testament of his role in events that led to the executions of both John the Baptist and Jesus. We will be transferred via taxi to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus, the culminating point in his public life, to visit the Basilica and contemplate the Jezreel Valley; where according to Christian





Eschatology, the penultimate battle between good and evil, known as Armageddon, is destined to take place. Transfer to Hotel at Tiberiades. Check in and Dinner.

Day 4 TIBERIUS/SEA OF GALILLIE

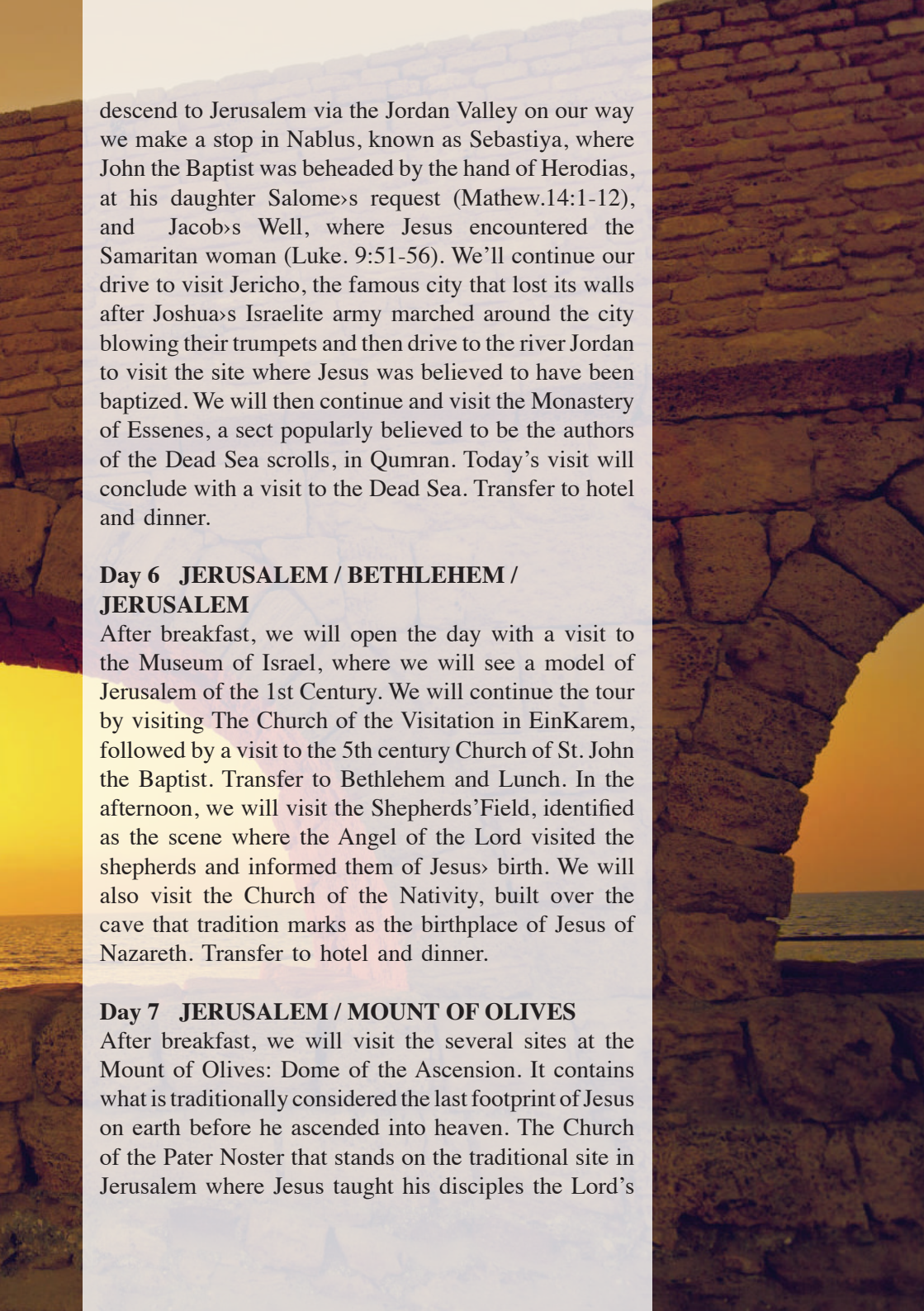
After Breakfast, we will visit the surroundings of Lake Tiberius or also known as Sea of Galilee. The Saviour spent much of his mortal ministry in this region. Here he called and ordained the Twelve Apostles, taught the Sermon on the Mount, healed a leper, calmed a storm; cast out of a young man a legion of devils, who then entered into swine that ran into the sea; raised Jairus's daughter from the dead; fed the 5,000 and the 4,000; commanded his disciples to cast their nets, by which they caught many fish; and appeared after his Resurrection to teach his disciples. Then we'll visit Church of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgah, the traditional site of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and the fourth resurrection appearance of Jesus.

St. Peter's Church in Capernaum, built over the remains of 1st-3rd century dwellings, among which Peter and his mother-in-law lived together with many of the other early disciples and the Synagogue where Jesus taught. The morning visit will end with a boat ride on the lake. Lunch.

In the afternoon, we will be transferred to Baniyas, archaeological site of the former roman city of Caesarea Philippi that was mentioned in the gospels of Matthew and Mark, where we will see the source of river Jordan and we will renew baptismal promises. Transfer to Hotel and Dinner.

Day 5 TIBERIUS / JERICHO / JORDAN RIVER

After Breakfast, we will visit the Wedding Church of Cana, where we will commemorate Jesus' first entrance in public life at the marriage of Cana in Galilee with one of his reported miracles, the first in the Gospel of John, where he turned water into wine. We will than



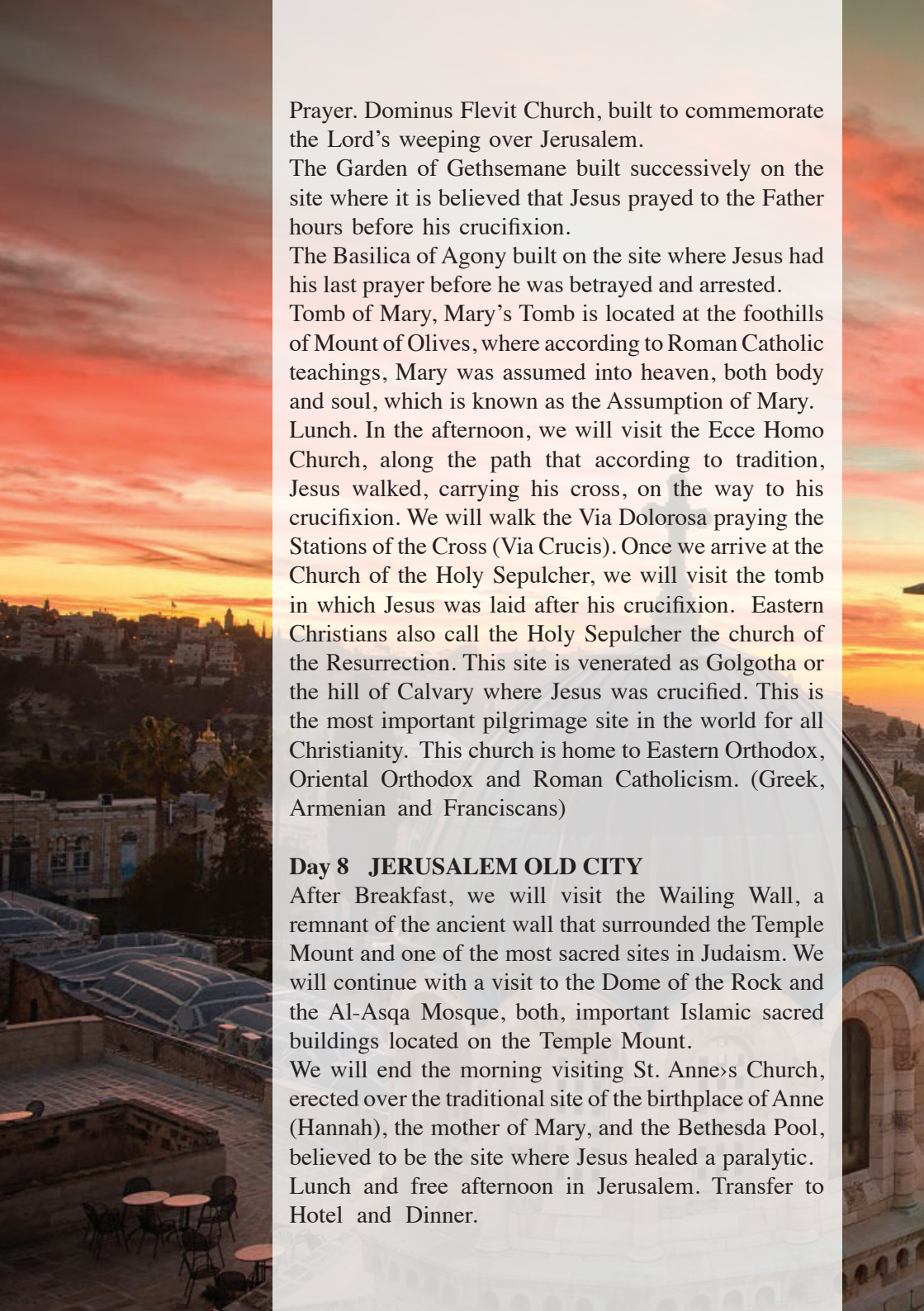
descend to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley on our way we make a stop in Nablus, known as Sebastiya, where John the Baptist was beheaded by the hand of Herodias, at his daughter Salome's request (Mathew.14:1-12), and Jacob's Well, where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman (Luke. 9:51-56). We'll continue our drive to visit Jericho, the famous city that lost its walls after Joshua's Israelite army marched around the city blowing their trumpets and then drive to the river Jordan to visit the site where Jesus was believed to have been baptized. We will then continue and visit the Monastery of Essenes, a sect popularly believed to be the authors of the Dead Sea scrolls, in Qumran. Today's visit will conclude with a visit to the Dead Sea. Transfer to hotel and dinner.

Day 6 JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM / JERUSALEM

After breakfast, we will open the day with a visit to the Museum of Israel, where we will see a model of Jerusalem of the 1st Century. We will continue the tour by visiting The Church of the Visitation in EinKarem, followed by a visit to the 5th century Church of St. John the Baptist. Transfer to Bethlehem and Lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the Shepherds' Field, identified as the scene where the Angel of the Lord visited the shepherds and informed them of Jesus' birth. We will also visit the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave that tradition marks as the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth. Transfer to hotel and dinner.

Day 7 JERUSALEM / MOUNT OF OLIVES

After breakfast, we will visit the several sites at the Mount of Olives: Dome of the Ascension. It contains what is traditionally considered the last footprint of Jesus on earth before he ascended into heaven. The Church of the Pater Noster that stands on the traditional site in Jerusalem where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's



Prayer. Dominus Flevit Church, built to commemorate the Lord's weeping over Jerusalem.

The Garden of Gethsemane built successively on the site where it is believed that Jesus prayed to the Father hours before his crucifixion.

The Basilica of Agony built on the site where Jesus had his last prayer before he was betrayed and arrested.

Tomb of Mary, Mary's Tomb is located at the foothills of Mount of Olives, where according to Roman Catholic teachings, Mary was assumed into heaven, both body and soul, which is known as the Assumption of Mary.

Lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the Ecce Homo Church, along the path that according to tradition, Jesus walked, carrying his cross, on the way to his crucifixion. We will walk the Via Dolorosa praying the Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis). Once we arrive at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, we will visit the tomb in which Jesus was laid after his crucifixion. Eastern Christians also call the Holy Sepulcher the church of the Resurrection. This site is venerated as Golgotha or the hill of Calvary where Jesus was crucified. This is the most important pilgrimage site in the world for all Christianity. This church is home to Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholicism. (Greek, Armenian and Franciscans)

Day 8 JERUSALEM OLD CITY

After Breakfast, we will visit the Wailing Wall, a remnant of the ancient wall that surrounded the Temple Mount and one of the most sacred sites in Judaism. We will continue with a visit to the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Asqa Mosque, both, important Islamic sacred buildings located on the Temple Mount.

We will end the morning visiting St. Anne's Church, erected over the traditional site of the birthplace of Anne (Hannah), the mother of Mary, and the Bethesda Pool, believed to be the site where Jesus healed a paralytic.

Lunch and free afternoon in Jerusalem. Transfer to Hotel and Dinner.

Day 9 JERUSALEM / MOUNT ZION

Breakfast and visit to the Sanctuary of Emmaus, one of four sites where Jesus was thought to have appeared after his resurrection. In the afternoon, we will visit The Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu, located on the eastern slope of Mount Zion and the Cenacle, also known as the «Upper Room», not only the site of the Last Supper but the usual place where the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem, and according to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, the first Christian church. We will finalize the day visiting The Church of Dormition, a grand German Benedictine Abbey located on top of Mount Zion commemorating the memory of Virgin Mary in the traditional site of her death.

Day 10 TEL AVIV/HOME

Transfer to Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. Assistance to check in, we will arrive home on the same day!



Rates include:

- Round Trip economy class airfare from departing airport(s)
- Hotels on Hb Basis: 7 nights (open buffet breakfast, open buffet dinner)
- Air conditioned bus.
- Farewell dinner
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees: Caesarea National Park, Capernaum, Tel Jericho, Pater Noster, St. Peter in Gallicantu, St. Ann& Pool of Bethesda, Ecce homo, Ascension, Boat ride, Taxi Mt. Tabor, and Qumran National Park
- 1 free trip for the spiritual director
- Meeting and assistance at Arrival - Ben Gurion Airport
- Porterage Included in all hotels
- Parking fees where applicable
- Whispers during the whole trip
- Daily masses
- Porterage at airport

Rates do not include:

- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Medical Insurance
- Anything not mentioned above
- Gratuities for guide / driver



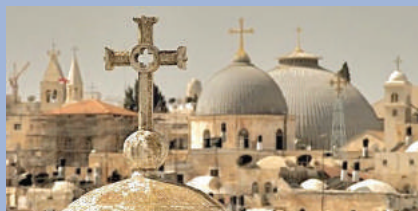
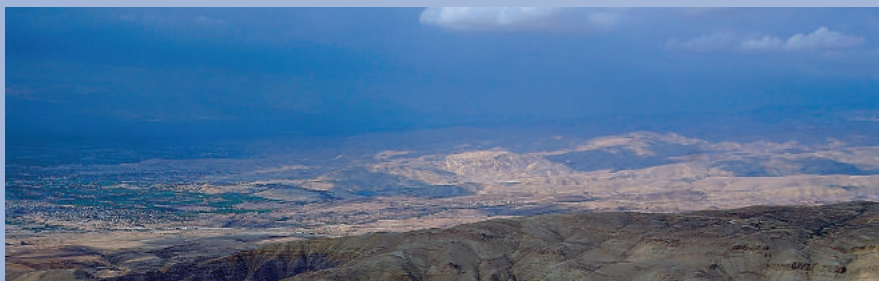
Please contact us for programs and prices!

* Prices are based on the time of the year, the airline, and whether it's half board (breakfast and dinner) or full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner, and tips!).

Keep us in your prayers!

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THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

PILGRIMS MAP of the HOLY LAND

THE LANDS OF MARY, JESUS, AND THE ANCESTORS OF ISRAEL

- The Lands of Mary, Jesus, and the ancestors of Israel
- The Lands of the Ancestors of Israel
- The Lands of the Ancestors of Israel
- The Lands of the Ancestors of Israel

Scale: 1:500,000

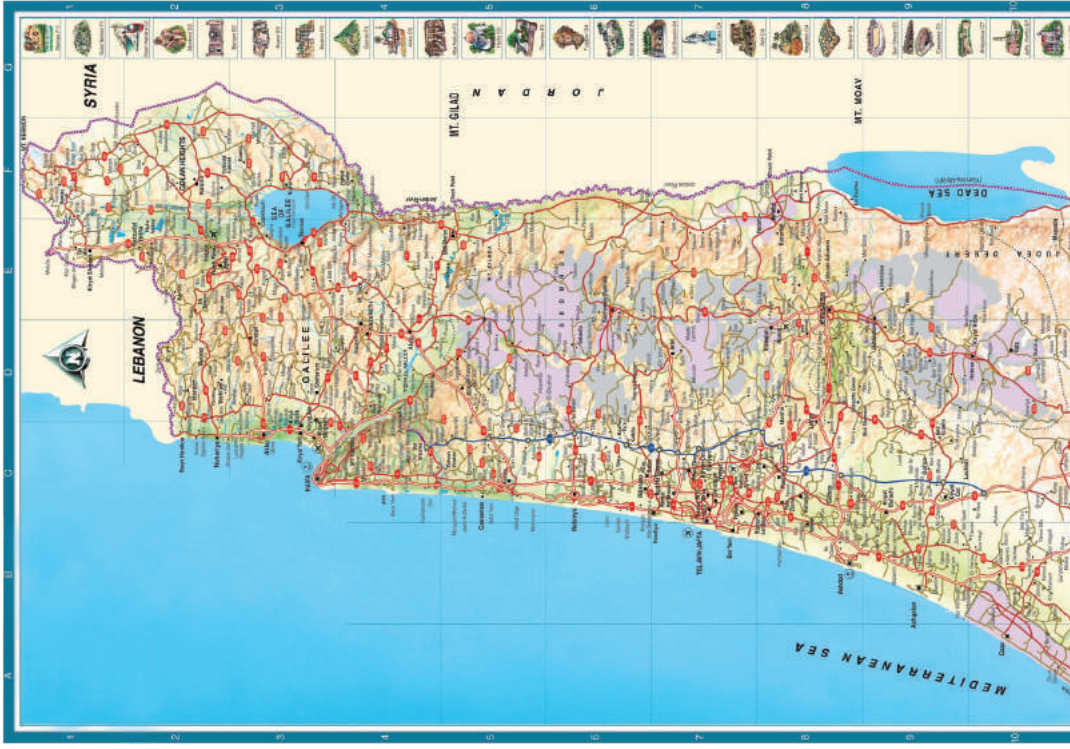
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- The Lands of the Ancestors of Israel
- The Lands of the Ancestors of Israel
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