A Journey to the Holy Land

offered by Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Under the Direction of Rev. Canon Mark E. Stanger
Local Guide and Instructor: Canon Iyad Qumri

July 3 – 13, 2020

Our goals for this pilgrimage:

- A closer encounter with the Jesus of the Gospels and the witness of the disciples in Jerusalem and Galilee throughout the ages;
- Personal transformation and spiritual renewal as a pilgrim, rather than as a mere tourist/sightseer;
- Solidarity with the struggling Christian churches in that region;
- First-hand encounter with the difficult contemporary political and social situation;
- Deepened knowledge of the history, geography and culture of the lands of the bible.

Our itinerary will include many traditional pilgrimage sites and other places of interest.

Daily reflection and prayer in common. Opportunity to meet local people. Delicious food and drink, sights, sounds, smells, impressions.

We will enjoy modest, comfortable and serene accommodations in updated traditional pilgrim houses close to the local people and culture. Rooms have private baths and air conditioning.

Our local guide, Iyad Qumri, a Christian Palestinian Arab, is known all over the Anglican Communion as a favorite guide for the best Holy Land experience. Iyad is a lay canon of St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem, and an honorary canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Iyad and his wife Simone are Jerusalem natives and his sons Sami and Rami, both graduates of colleges in the U.S., help with our pilgrimage arrangements and assisting us while there. He has been licensed for over twenty years as an official guide by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

Our pilgrimage leader, the Rev. Mark Stanger, retired in late 2018 from his two decades of service as a priest and canon of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. He has visited the Holy Land almost two dozen times since 1978, has led several groups from Grace Cathedral, and was invited to lead four course groups for St. George’s College, Jerusalem. Mark served as the Diocese of California’s and Grace Cathedral’s Missionary to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem living and working there for almost three years, accompanying pilgrim groups from the Episcopal Church and the larger Anglican Communion.

A QUICK GLIMPSE

The focus of our journey is introductory: mainly devotional and informational, to get closer to the bible text and world and the person of Jesus. But we also investigate the contemporary issues in conversation with local guest speakers. We see for ourselves some of the "facts on the ground" which are crucial to beginning to understand and appreciate the challenges facing local communities there. We have very full days but never rush. (We also have a lot of fun!) Many pilgrims return to visit again. We do a good deal of walking.

We have wonderful accommodations. In Jerusalem our home is the classic St. George’s Guest House, located on the grounds of St. George’s Cathedral and St. George’s College (an adult education center for the Anglican Communion). It is a lovely refuge just a short walk from local shopping and the historic Old City. St. George’s serves a rich breakfast buffet and full dinners. In Galilee we stay at the Roman Catholic French Sisters of Nazareth Guest House. The place is immaculate, compact but very updated rooms with private baths, climate control, rooftop terrace, right in the center of town, just steps from market, ATM, shops, Basilica of the Annunciation. Gracious family-style dinners, simple breakfasts.

**ITINERARY – this is a rough guide, not a contract:**

**12-Days: July 2 –13, 2020**

- **July 3-6**  
  Saint George’s Guest House, Jerusalem
- **July 6-9**  
  Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth
- **July 9-13**  
  Saint George’s Guest House, Jerusalem

**THURSDAY, JULY 2, DAY 1: DEPART U.S.A**

**FRIDAY, JULY 3, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT / TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM**

Arrival to Tel Aviv you will be met by your guide, transfer to our accommodation in Jerusalem.  
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House Tel: 972-2-6283302

**SATURDAY, JULY 4, DAY 3: HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM / HERODIUM**

Introductions, walk down to Damascus Gate to get the feel for the distance and our neighborhood, up to Mt. Scopus, view the Judean desert, Mt. of Olives, view the city of David. Lunch. Visit Herodium some 12 km. south of Jerusalem, on a hill shaped like a truncated cone that rises 758 m. above sea level, the palace-fortress built by King Herod. Enjoy breathtaking views, overlooking the Judean Desert and the mountains of Moab to the east, and the Judean Hills to the west.  
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House  
**Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – A Palestinian Perspective**

**SUNDAY, JULY 5, DAY 4: WESTERN WALL / DOME OF THE ROCK / WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE’S CATHEDRAL / ISRAEL MUSEUM**

We depart for the Western Wall near Elharam Esh Sharif (The Dome of The Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque), St. Anne’s Church and the pools of Bethesda. Sunday Eucharist at St. George’s Cathedral, the liturgy celebrated in English and Arabic, the language of our Arabic Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and the whole Middle East. Lunch. study a giant outdoor scale model of the Old City of Jerusalem, describing the city as it would have been during Jesus’ time.  
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House  
**Guest Speaker: Conversation on Islam**
MONDAY, JULY 6, DAY 5: JERICHO / NAZARETH
Wadi Qelt early morning for quiet desert sunrise in the Judean wilderness, Eucharist, then to Jericho for breakfast and to hike up Mt. of Temptation and view Tel Jericho. Head north via the Rift Valley to Nazareth. Lunch. In Nazareth we begin at Mary’s Well, the site of the only spring-fed fountain in the city, and most likely the place where Mary would have gone to draw water. We visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, and follow on foot the path to the Roman Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, both traditional sites of the Angel Gabriel’s appearance to Mary, announcing she would conceive Jesus, the Emmanuel.
Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth  Tel: 972-4-6554304

TUESDAY, JULY 7, DAY 6: SEA OF GALILEE / JORDAN RIVER / CAPERNAUM & BEATITUDES
An entire day focused on the ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee-Lake Kinnereth. Stop at the Jordan River for the renewal of Baptismal vows. Then to Capernaum to visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter’s House. Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes and celebrate Eucharist. Lunch, followed by a visit to Tabgha (Heptapegon), the Loaves and Fishes church, and the Chapel of St. Peter’s Primacy. Meditative boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, DAY 7: SEPPHORIS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI
Sepphoris, where we explore the excavations of the Roman / Byzantine city, the capital of Galilee at the time of Jesus. Lunch in a Druze village in the Golan Heights, beautiful drive to Caesarea Philippi (Banias) – “Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’”
Meet with Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun at Christ Church in Nazareth.
Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth
A treat you will not want to miss!!!!

THURSDAY, JULY 9, DAY 8: BURQIN / NABLUS / TAYBEH
Depart for the 4th century church at Burqin recalling Jesus on his way to Jerusalem from Nazareth passing through Samaria, stopping to heal ten lepers. On to Nablus to visit the Greek Orthodox church built over Jacob’s Well. St. Photini is the name given to the Samaritan woman with whom Jesus spoke at the well asking her for water. Eat the most famous Palestinian sweet, kanafeh, for which Nablus is known. Lunch in Taybeh, the only all-Christian town in the Palestinian Authority, visit the evocative ruins of the fourth century church of St. George on a hill in the town. Taybeh is also the home of the first Palestinian brewery.
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.
Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – An Israeli Jewish Perspective

FRIDAY, JULY 10, DAY 9: SHEPHERD’S FIELD / BETHLEHEM
Leave Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds’ Field (Beit Sahour), visit a 1st century cave dwelling. ‘And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night’, Lunch. Church of the Nativity located in Manger Square, the oldest Church in Christendom, constructed by Constantine in AD 326 and the traditional site of the birth of Jesus.
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, DAY 10: CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
Walk the Cardo to the Constantinian Entrance to the Church of the Resurrection to the Holy Sepulcher, Lunch. Optional Vespers at St. James Armenian Cathedral.
Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.
SUNDAY, JULY 12, DAY 11: BETH-PHAGE / DOMINUS FLEVIT / GETHSEMANE
We enact a portion of the traditional Palm Sunday procession and the events of Maundy Thursday. Depart for Beth-phage and Mt. of Olives walk down the Palm Sunday Road ending at the Garden of Gethsemane. Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, this church was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Peter denied Jesus three times. Lunch. Dinner in Jericho at the Qumris. Overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

MONDAY, JULY 13, DAY 12: WAY OF THE CROSS / EMMAUS
Good Friday to Easter. Early this morning we walk and pray the Way of the Cross in the streets of the Old City, ending at Calvary and the Tomb. Breakfast at St. George’s. Bus to Emmaus Nicopolis to celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine Church. Evening transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departing flights.

Total land cost (i.e., without airfare):

price per person for double accommodation: $2400.
price per person for single accommodation: $3000.

Non-refundable deposit to reserve your spot $500 per person.

Remaining balance (i.e., minus the deposit) per person due by May 11, 2020:

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Cost includes the following: meals, transportation in our own bus, guiding fees, all entrance fees for places mentioned in the itinerary, guest speakers, portage at guest houses, tips for meals and guest house staff, bus driver tips, and farewell dinner. Personal expenses such as beverages and laundry are not covered.

*** Please book your own air travel (not included in cost quoted above).
- Plan to arrive at Ben Gurion airport Tel Aviv (TLV) between 1 and 5 pm on Friday, July 3. Our group travels together “up to Jerusalem” and begins orientation as we go.
- Plan to depart from Tel Aviv Ben Gurion (TLV) around midnight Monday 13 July / early Tuesday 14 July.

*** Please check NOW that you have a valid passport with expiration date March 2021 or after.