



A Journey to the Holy Land

## *Grace Cathedral – San Francisco* *A Journey to The Holy Land*

Led by The Rev. Mark Stanger  
Local Guides Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri  
12 Days: May 26 - June 6, 2023

*Updated on October 22, 2022*

**May 27-31**                      **Saint George's Guest House, Jerusalem**  
**May 31-June 3**                **Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth**  
**June 3-6**                        **Saint George's Guest House, Jerusalem**

### **FRIDAY, MAY 26, DAY 1: DEPART U.S.A**

On our way to the Holy Land

### **SATURDAY, MAY 27, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT / TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM**

Arrival to Tel Aviv airport where you will be met by your guide, Canon Iyad Qumri, transfer to our accommodation in Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House      Tel: ++972 2-6283302

### **SUNDAY, MAY 28, DAY 3: WESTERN WALL / DOME OF THE ROCK / WORSHIP AT SAINT GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL / HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM**

Pentecost Sunday at Saint George's Cathedral, the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic. We then 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. Lunch. Drive to Mt. Scopus to see the different dramatic settings of the Scripture.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

**Guest Speaker: Lecture on Islam**

### **MONDAY, MAY 29, DAY 4: OLD CITY / CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION**

**Group Photo.** Briefing for the Holy Sepulcher. We then walk the Cardo to the Constantinian Entrance of the Holy Sepulcher. Lunch, continue our visit to the Holy Sepulcher.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

**Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – A Palestinian Perspective**

### **TUESDAY, MAY 30, DAY 5: SHEPHERD'S FIELD / BETHLEHEM**

We depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds' Field, visit a 1<sup>st</sup> century cave dwelling. Lunch is in Beit Sahour (Shepherds' Field), 'And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night'. Church of the Nativity located in Manger Square. It is 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

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, DAY 6: JERICHO / NAZARETH**

Wadi Qelt early morning to watch the sunrise and also get the feel for the desert. Depart for Jericho to hike up Mt. of Temptation and view Tell Jericho. We begin our trip northwards via the Rift Valley to Nazareth. In Nazareth we visit 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 then visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation where we will have an opportunity to have an introduction to the Icon. We then follow on foot the path to the Latin Church of the Annunciation, the traditional site of the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, telling her she would conceive Jesus, the Emmanuel.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

Tel: 972-4-6554304

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 1, DAY 7: SEPPHORIS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI**

Depart for Zippori, Sepphoris, where we explore the excavations of the Roman/ Byzantine city. Lunch in a Druze village. We continue to Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas) "And 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?" "

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

**A treat you will not want to miss!!!**

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 2, DAY 8: SEA OF GALILEE / JORDAN RIVER / CAPERNAUM and BEATITUDES**

Today we depart for the Sea of Galilee-Lake Kinnereth. Stop at the Jordan River for the renewal of Baptismal vows. We then visit Capernaum where we see the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, Lunch is by the Sea of Galilee, followed by a visit to Tabgha (Heptapegon), the Loaves and Fishes Church and the Chapel of St. Peter's Primacy. Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 3, DAY 9: BURQIN / NABLUS / TAYBEH**

Depart for Burqin. Jesus had passed through Burqin on his way to Jerusalem from Nazareth, and as he was passing by the village he heard cries for help from ten lepers who were isolated in quarantine in a cave. On to Nablus to visit St. Photini Greek Orthodox Monastery, the church built over Jacob's well. St. Photini is the name given to the Samaritan woman whom Jesus visited at the well asking her for water. Lunch in Taybeh, visit Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town in this area. In the fourth century the Emperor Constantine and his mother St. Helena built the church of St. George in the village and the ruins of the Church are still found on a hill in the town. Taybeh is also the home of the only Palestinian brewery in the Middle East.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

**Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues- An Israeli Perspective**

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 4, DAY 10: WORSHIP AT SAINT ANDREW'S CHURCH / ISRAEL MUSEUM**

Sunday Eucharist at Saint Andrew's Church in Ramallah, the liturgy is celebrated in English and Arabic. Lunch, Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* are housed. We also visit a 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

### **MONDAY, JUNE 5, DAY 11: BETH-PHAGE / DOMINUS FLEVIT / GETHSEMANE**

Depart for Beth-phage and Mt. of Olives to walk down the Palm Sunday Road ending at the Garden of Gethsemane. Lunch, Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Peter denied Jesus three times.

Dinner in Jericho at the Qumris

Overnight at Saint George's Guest House

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 6, DAY 12: WAY OF THE CROSS & EMMAUS**

Good Friday to Easter. Early this morning we walk and pray the Way of the Cross. Later we depart for Emmaus Nicopolis. We celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine Church.

Afternoon at leisure

Transfer to the Tel Aviv airport for our return flight to the USA

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#### **For More Information**



**The Rev. Mark Stanger**



[mark.stanger@gmail.com](mailto:mark.stanger@gmail.com)



(415)-374-0869

Qumri Pilgrimages <https://www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com/>



Our intentions 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 biblical world.

Our itinerary includes many traditional biblical 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 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, an Arab Palestinian Christian, has twenty-five years experience with pilgrimage groups. He 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 their sons Sami and Rami, both graduates of colleges in the U.S., assist with our pilgrimage arrangements. Iyad and Rami are official guides licensed by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. Our pilgrimage leader, the Rev. Mark Stanger has accompanied Grace Cathedral pilgrimage groups for twenty years.

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

**price per person for double accommodation: \$2650.**

**price per person for single accommodation: \$3250.**

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

Remaining balance (i.e., minus the deposit) per person due by April 10:

double accommodation    \$2150

single accommodation    \$2750

Cost includes: meals, transportation in our own bus, guiding fees, entrance fees, guest speakers, portage at guest houses, tips for meals, guest house staff, bus driver, 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 2-5 pm on Saturday, 27 May. We travel together from there "up to Jerusalem" and begin orientation as we go. Plan to depart from Tel Aviv Ben Gurion (TLV) around midnight Tuesday 6 June—or—early hours Wednesday 7 June.

\*\*\* Please check **N O W** that you have a valid passport with expiration date February 2024 or after.