

HOLY LAND 2023 ITINERARY

Friday July 7: Depart Newark Airport at 1:05pm on Air Canada Flight 8879. Arrive Toronto Pearson Airport at 2:41pm. After a 1 hour and 55 minute layover depart Toronto Pearson Airport at 4:35pm on Air Canada Flight 80.

Saturday July 8: Arrive at 10am to Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, the second largest city in Israel, located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, around 40 miles northwest of Jerusalem. At the airport you will meet your tour guide and bus driver for the Holy Land. Depart to **Caesarea**, a Roman city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, which was built in the 1st century BC by Herod the Great in honor of Augustus Caesar. Caesarea was the main seaport in the Holy Land at that time and became the capital of Judea. Saint Paul used this port for his trips to evangelize the world, then was imprisoned and tried there before being sent to Rome for his final trial. Caesarea was also home to Cornelius, the Roman centurion, who was the first gentile to become Christian. Visit the Roman theatre which is still in use today for concerts, the ruins of the hippodrome where they used to race chariots, the ruins of the aqueduct that Herod built to bring fresh water from Mount Carmel and other ruins of the city from the time of Herod, from the Byzantine era and from the time of the crusades. Go north along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to **Haifa**, the third largest city in Israel. Drive up **Mount Carmel**, home to the Carmelites, to visit the **Stella Maris Monastery**. Then you will be transferred to your hotel (Pilgerhaus Tabgha) on the Sea of Galilee in the lower Galilee area where Jesus started his public ministry and called his disciples. You will spend the next three nights there.

Sunday July 9: Start your day at the **Mount of Beatitudes** and visit the church that was built on the site where Jesus gave his sermon on the mount. In the Golan Heights visit the ruins at **Banias**, also known as **Caesarea Philippi**, where Jesus said to Peter that he is the rock on which the church will be built and then gave him the power to forgive sins and the keys to heaven. Banias also contains one of the three water sources that feed the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. Visit the **Chapel of the Primacy of Peter** that was built on the site where, after his resurrection, Jesus returned to share a meal with his disciples and asked Peter three times to feed his sheep. Go to **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during his ministry in Galilee. You will see the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus preached and the church built on top of Saint Peter's house where Jesus healed many people, including Saint Peter's mother-in-law and a paralytic man. Drive to **Magdala**, the hometown of Saint Mary Magdalene, to visit the ruins and recent excavations and the boat shaped church commemorating Jesus preaching to the crowds from a boat at the Sea of Galilee.

Monday July 10: Depart to **Cana** to visit the wedding church that was built on the site where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. Married couples can renew their marriage vows there. Go to **Nazareth**, the town where Jesus grew up, to visit the **Church of the Annunciation** that was built on the house of the Blessed Mother. You will also visit **Saint Joseph's Church**, built on the site where he had his workshop, the well where the Blessed Mother used to get her water and the church built on top of the synagogue where Jesus preached and was rejected. Drive up **Mount Tabor** to visit the **Church of the Transfiguration** that commemorates the site where the prophets Moses and Elias appeared to Jesus in the presence of his disciples Saints Peter, James and John. Enjoy a **boat ride in the Sea of Galilee** while hearing about the biblical events of Jesus walking on water and calming the storm.

Tuesday July 11: Check out of your hotel. Go to **Tabgha** on the west side of the Sea of Galilee to visit the **Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes** that was built on the site of the miracle when Jesus fed five thousand people with only five fishes and two loaves. Depart to the Mount of Beatitudes to **Domus Galilaeae**, an

international center built by the Neo-Catechumenal Way. Drive south along the Way of the Patriarchs. Go to **Jericho**. View the ruins of **Tel al Sultan**, the oldest walled city in history and the first city in the Holy Land that the Israelites conquered under the leadership of Joshua. View the **Mount of Temptation** where Jesus was tempted by Satan. See the **sycamore tree**, also known as Zacchaeus' tree, which he climbed to see Jesus. Drive to the **baptism site** on the **Jordan River** where you will have the opportunity to renew your baptismal vows in the same river where Jesus was baptized by Saint John the Baptist. Arrive at your hotel (Notre Dame) in Jerusalem where you are going to spend the next five nights.

Wednesday July 12: Depart to **Bethlehem** to visit the **Church of the Nativity**, the oldest preserved church in the world, which was built on the site where Jesus was born. Go to **Beit Sahour** to visit the **Shepherds' Field** where the angel appeared to the shepherds to tell them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Visit the **Israel Museum** where you will see the Dead Sea scrolls and other artifacts from different eras in the Holy Land. Drive to **Ein Karem** to visit the **Church of the Visitation** that was built on the site where the Blessed Mother visited her relative Saint Elizabeth and the **Church of the Nativity of John the Baptist** that was built on the site where he was born.

Thursday July 13: Depart to **Masada**. Take the cable car up to the last Jewish fortress that fell to the Romans during their first revolution. Go to **Qumran**, near the Dead Sea, and visit the ruins there. In that area the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Enjoy a **float in the Dead Sea**.

Friday July 14: Start your visit to **Jerusalem**, the largest city in the Holy Land. Drive up to the top of the **Mount of Olives** and walk down the mountain following the path of the Palm Sunday procession. Visit the site where Jesus spoke his last words to the disciples before ascending to heaven. Visit the **Church of the Pater Noster** that was built on the site where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. Visit the **Dominus Flevit Church** that was built on the site where Jesus cried for the fate of Jerusalem. Visit the **Church of All Nations** that enshrines the stone of agony and is encompassed by the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus was betrayed and arrested. Visit the **Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother**. Go to **Mount Zion**, outside the walls of the old city, to visit the **Upper Room** where the Washing of the Feet and the **Last Supper** took place. This is also where Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, and where the Holy Spirit descended on to them 40 days later, on the feast of Pentecost. Visit the **Dormition Abbey** that was built on the site of the house of the Blessed Mother, where she lived and died. View the **Wailing Wall**, currently the holiest site in Judaism. Visit the **Church of Saint Peter Gallicantu** that was built on the House of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the soldiers brought Jesus after arresting him. Here Saint Peter denied Jesus three times.

Saturday July 15: Enter the old city of **Jerusalem** through the Lions Gate, also known as Saint Stephen's gate. Visit the **Church of Saint Anne** that was built on the site of the house of the Blessed Mother's parents. View the ruins of the pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a crippled man. Go to the **Chapel of Flagellation** and the **Convent of the Sisters of Zion** to see what is left of the **Lithostrotos**, the court yard pavement where Pilate publicly judged Jesus. Walk the **Via Dolorosa**, the Way of Sorrows. Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** that was built on the site where Jesus was crucified, died, buried and resurrected. Depart to **Emmaus** where Jesus, after his resurrection, appeared to two of his followers who did not recognize him until he broke the bread. Attend your farewell dinner.

Sunday July 16: Check out of your hotel. Return to USA from Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv at 11:45am on Air Canada Flight 81. Arrive Toronto Pearson Airport at 4:25pm. After a 1 hour and 35 minute layover depart Toronto Pearson Airport at 6pm on Air Canada Flight 8882. Arrive Newark Airport at 7:31pm.