

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with **Bishop Terry Dance** and **Canon Vicars Hodge**
14 Amazing Days in the Lands of the Bible

Itinerary for Pilgrimage 2019

Draft 4 Updated: 2019/01/12¹

Tuesday, April 30 TRAVEL DAY

Afternoon Departure from Toronto. We will make flight arrangements soon – but not yet. (For example AC 084 Non-Stop to Ben Gurion)

Wednesday, May 1 p.m. ARRIVE IN ISRAEL AND UP TO JERUSALEM

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport mid-morning if possible (ie arrive 10:00 AM on AC#084) In about three weeks we will send out recommended flight details. First, we gather up our pilgrims who may have arrived on a couple different flights that arrive about the same time in Ben Gurion. We meet our driver and to Jerusalem (about an hour's drive.)

We check into the **Golden Walls Hotel**. This will be our base for the next several days. After settling in, we can explore a bit and have dinner together. After a long flight this time is to get our bearings. The Golden Walls is across the street from the ancient wall surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem – and only a 5 minute walk from the Damascus Gate. The rooftop balcony view from the Golden Walls is truly memorable. Canon Hodge will take those who wish on an brief after-dinner stroll into the Old City to help you get your bearings.) Getting to bed early tonight is highly recommended - every day that follows is full of adventures.

Thursday, May 2 08.00 JERUSALEM OVERVIEW



Our first touring day begins at 7:15 AM enjoying our first of the world-famous **Israeli Breakfast buffets**. Israeli hotels compete with each other in offering the most interesting and varied breakfast spreads. Expect a great morning meal consisting of fruit, vegetables, olives, numerous cheeses, pastries, and hot food.

Our Guide from *Albina Tours* will show us to our bus and we will begin our **Jerusalem Orientation Day**. From the summit of the famous

Mount of Olives – from where Holy City is spread out before us as a panorama.

¹ Holy Land itineraries are always subject to change – for reasons of local conditions and to take best advantage of our time. Beyond the leadership of Bishop Dance & Canon Hodge, we have expert local guides to accompany our visits. When our guides know that a particular site is crowded – we sometimes change up the sequence and make changes as needed to best utilize our time. Our motor coach is Air Conditioned and usually has WiFi connection.

We will see all the important points of reference: the **Temple Mount** with the *Al Asqua Mosque* and the **Dome of the Rock**, the walls and gates of Jerusalem, Mount Zion, the Kidron Valley, Dominus Flevit, the Holy Sepulchre.

We then walk down the Palm Sunday path, following the **Palm-Sunday route of Jesus**. (Those who wish can ride the bus to the bottom of the hill.) We explore the *Pater Noster Church* (traditional holds that this is where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer), *Dominus Flevit* Chapel (where Jesus wept over the city), The **Garden of Gethsemane** and the Church of All Nations. We will have Holy Communion either in the **Garden of Gethsemanie** or at the **Garden Tomb**.



Our bus then takes us to **St. Stephen's Gate** where we enter the Old City, visit the **Pool of Bethesda** and the amazingly well preserved **Crusader Church of St Anne**. We then walk the *Via-Dolorosa* (Way of the Cross) to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** (where Jesus was crucified and raised). We enjoy lunch at the **Bulghourji Restaurant** in the **Armenian Quarter** of the Old City.

After lunch we visit **Mount Zion** and the **Church of St Peter-in-Gallicantu**. (Where Peter rejected Jesus three times before the *gallicantu* "cock's-crow".) We end our day of visiting with a visit to the beautiful Garden Tomb. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**

Friday, May 3 07:30 JUDEAN DESERT AND THER DEAD SEA



Today is a change of pace. We leave the city and travel down the road to **Jericho**, through the **Judean Desert**, into the valley of the **Dead Sea**. We visit *Qasr el-Yahud* (once called **Bethany-beyond-the Jordan**) – the site where John the Baptist offered a baptism of preparation and repentance. Here at the place where Jesus was baptized, those who wish may **renew their baptismal covenant** with Bishop Dance and Canon Hodge. (Certificates available later.)

We then travel to King Herod's famous desert fortress of **Masada** (ascend by cable car) Next is an opportunity to swim (float) in the Dead Sea at **Kalia Beach**. Then we visit the Desert oasis of **Jericho**: view **Mount of Temptation** (without climbing up), and enjoy a late lunch in Jericho at the **Al-Rawda Garden Restaurant**

In the afternoon we drive to the overlook at **Wadi Qelt** and view **St. George's** desert monastery. This ancient monastery sits on the cliffs of the **Kidron Valley** along the path of the ancient road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**

Saturday, May 4 08.00 BETHLEHEM AND VICINITY



Our day begins visiting Herod's stronghold and burial place at **Herodium** – an artificial “mountain” near Bethlehem.

Next, we will visit the **Al-Shurooq School for the Blind in Beit Jala** – a ministry of Christians to children of every background who are visually impaired. We then to to **Manger Square, Bethlehem** and enter the newly restored **Basilica of the Nativity**. Beneath the Church, we visit the **Grotto of the Nativity** and **St. Jerome's caves** where

the Vulgate translation was made.

We break for Lunch at the **Shepherds' Valley Restaurant**, in the village of **Beit Sahour**. We visit the Shepherd's Fields (traditional location of the visit of the Angels to the shepherds) and there celebrate *Holy Communion*. *In the afternoon there is a shopping opportunity at a locally run co-operative olive wood shop.* Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**

Sunday May 5 8:00 AM STONES AND LIVING STONES

Those who wish may join Canon Hodge and Bishop Terry for an **optional early morning visit** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. We leave the Golden Walls at **6 AM** and walk over – about half a mile – to observe the great cathedral church wake up to Sunday Worship. Processions and choirs take their scheduled turns: colourful vestments, incense, worship and music mark the ancient liturgies of the Armenians, Orthodox, Latins, Copts, Ethiopian, and Syriac Churches. This optional experience is worth missing some sleep to partake!

Our guided program begins with an **8:00 AM departure**. We enter the Old City through the **Dung Gate** and to visit to the **Western Wall** and then up to the **Temple Mount**, or Haram-es-sharif, and view (from the outside) the beautiful **Dome of the Rock** and **Al Asqua Mosque**.



Our bus will then take us to **St. George's Anglican Cathedral** where we will join the congregation for the 11:15 AM service of Holy Communion. After worship we meet with the Dean, Canon Husam Naom, and have lunch **St. George's Guest House**.

In the afternoon we drive to the Village of *Ein Karem*, the birthplace of John the Baptist. We visit the **Franciscan Church of John the Baptist** and the **Church of the Visitation**. These churches commemorate John's Birth and the Virgin Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

We will then visit the outdoor large-scale Model of Ancient Jerusalem at the **Israel Museum** and visit there the Shrine of the Book where are kept some of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**

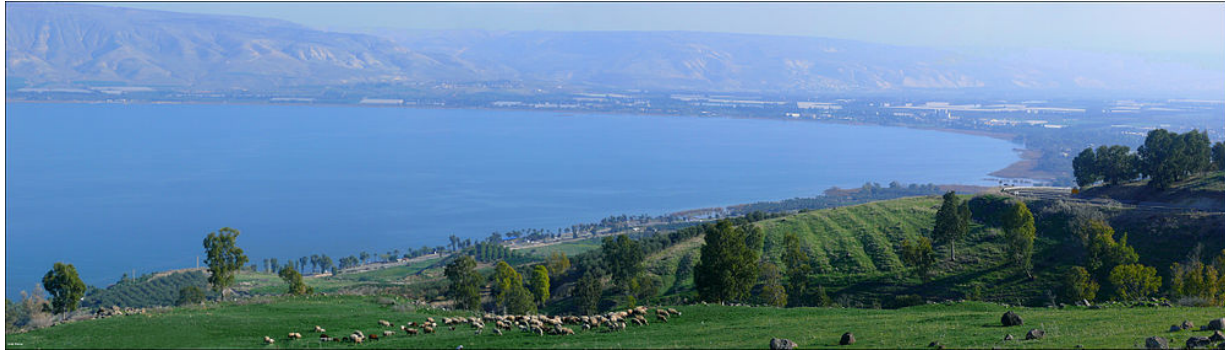
Mon. May 6 08:00 THROUGH SAMARIA TO GALILEE



We check out of the Golden walls and drive north to **Nablus** (ancient **Schechem**) where we visit **Jacobs Well**. (This is where Jesus met the Woman of Samaria.) We walk through the market of Nablus to visit **St. Luke's Anglican Hospital** and **St. Philip's Anglican Church**.

Driving north, we pass between **Mt. Gerazim and Mt. Ebal** (blessings & curses Dt.11:29) to visit the ruins of **Samaria** – the ancient capital of the Northern

Kingdom of Israel. We enjoy lunch at the **Samaria Restaurant** on site and then tour the archaeological site of the ruins of Samaria. We then continue north to Galilee, and check-in to our hotel. Dinner & overnight in Tiberias at the **Leonardo Club Hotel**



Tue. May 7 08:00 DRIVE TO NAZARETH

Our day begins with a visit to **Cana of Galilee**, the place of the first of the “Signs” Jesus. Then, we ascend **Mount Tabor** and visit the **Basilica of the Transfiguration**. From this singular small mountain the view of the **Jezeel Valley** and the Lower Galilee region is spectacular. Next we drive to the town of Jesus’ childhood, **Nazareth**. We lunch there at the **Holy Land Restaurant**. **After this we will visit Mary’s Well** (Orthodox), **Old Synagogue Church** (Melkite), and the magnificent **Basilica of the Annunciation** (Latin.) Dinner & overnight in Tiberias at the **Leonardo Club**

Wed . May 8 08.00 MAGDALA CENTER AND CHURCH

Today’s visit is to the place called the *Heptapegon* or Seven Springs or **Tabgha** – the site where the fishermen of Capernaum usually fished – because the springs drew the fish. We visit the **Church of the Loaves & Fishes** – traditional site of Jesus’ miracle of the feeding of the 5000. We will celebrate the **Holy Eucharist by the lakeside at Tabgha**. *We then spend an hour walking to the waters edge – the place where tradition holds Jesus, after his resurrection, prepared breakfast for the 11. Here He restored Peter to ministry (Jn.21).* We visit the **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter** (Mensa Christi.) A short distance away is the **Mount of Beatitudes** where we will spend some time visiting the beautiful convent Church & garden commemorating **Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount**. We will have lunch here in Tiberias at **Mount of Beatitudes Guest House**.

After lunch we visit the Ruins of **Capernaum**, the town Jesus used as his home base. The beautiful modern Franciscan Church here is built over the ruins of the **house church** that is believed to have been the **home of Simon Peter**. We also visit the ruins of the **Synagogue at Capernaum** – built atop the earlier synagogue where Jesus preached. We then drive a short distance to *Kibbutz Nof Ginosar* and go out for a sail on **Sea of Galilee**. Dinner & overnight in Tiberias at the **Leonardo Club**

Thu. May 9 08.00 ANCIENT CAPITAL CITIES / MEDITERRANEAN COAST

We drive along the Mediterranean Coast stopping at **Acco**: During the Crusades this was **Acre**, the headquarter of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. We then continue south and stop at the Roman Provincial Capital of **Caesarea Maritima**. This is the place where Peter came to preach the Gospel to Cornelius



the Centurion – and the first Gentile Christian. And here, some years later, was held prisoner before being sent in chains to Rome. We see the restored amphitheatre, and the ruins of its aqueduct, artificial harbour. We enjoy lunch at the seaside **Portcafe Restaurant** at Caesarea.

After lunch we continue our journey south to Jerusalem and to Tantur Ecumenical Institute where we will lodge for two nights. **Dinner and overnight at Tantur.**

Friday, May 10 08:00 A DUAL NARRATIVE DAY

An amazing opportunity, using the resources of **Tantur Ecumenical Institute**, to go a bit deeper. We will spend time in **Bethlehem** and **Hebron** and visit the **Tomb of the Patriarchs**. Here Abraham purchased land (the *Cave of Machpelah*) and the Patriarchs and their wives are buried. Cenotaphs at the surface level commemorate – Where Abraham & Sarah; Issac & Rebecca; Jacob & Leah are buried. We will visit both the synagogue and the mosque at this site. Our day will be full of opportunities to learn and explore. Further detail will follow.

Dinner and overnight at Tantur

Saturday, May 11 07:30 AM THE NEGEV & ARABA DESSERTS TO PETRA



Today we will drive through the red-brown rocky desert region that makes up the southern half of the modern State of Israel. The **Negev** is dusty mountains crossed by *wadis* (dry riverbeds that spring to life after a rain.) Vegetation is sparse – though we will likely see *nubian Ibex* and other wildlife. This journey will take us past **Beersheva**, (Where Abraham and Isaac

dug wells Genesis 21 and 25), see the amazing vista at *Sde Boker* (Ben Gurion's Grave), and continue on to **Mizpe Ramon** and the breathtaking **Ramon Crater**, and the **Desert of Zin**. We then pass into the *Arabah Valley* – that stretches from the Dead Sea south to the Gulf of Aqaba. Just north of **Elat**, we will cross the border from Israel into the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We are met there by our Jordanian Guide and continue on to *Wadi Musa*, the village of *Petra*.

Dinner and overnight at the *Petra Old Village Resort Hotel*.

Sunday, May 12

08:00

THE ROSE RED CITY OF PETRA



Breakfast in the hotel. We spend our day in **Petra**, an historic ancient city famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Another name for Petra is the Rose City due to the color of the stone out of which it is carved. Known as the capital city of the *Nabateans* and currently a symbol of Jordan. Petra, well known in Biblical history, became 'lost' – at least to western eyes. In

1812, Petra was "found" by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. (Of course the locals would say it was never lost.) It was described as "*a rose-red city half as old as time*" in a Newdigate Prize-winning poem by John William Burgon. UNESCO has described it as "**one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage**". The impressive eastern entrance leads steeply down through narrow gorge called *The Siq* ("the shaft"), a natural geological feature formed from a deep split in the sandstone rocks and serving as a waterway flowing into *Wadi Musa*. At the end of the Siq stands Petra's most elaborate ruin, *Al Khazneh* (popularly known as "the Treasury"). A little farther from the Treasury is a massive theatre, so placed as to bring the greatest number of tombs within view. At the point where the valley opens out into the plain, the site of the city is revealed with striking effect. An amphitheatre has been cut into the hillside and into several of the tombs during its construction. Here are hundreds of elaborate rock-cut tombs with intricate carvings. There are **obelisks, temples, sacrificial altars and colonnaded streets**, and high above, overlooking the valley, is the impressive **Ad-Deir Monastery** – a flight of 800 rock cut steps takes the more adventurous of us there. Lunch is on-site at **Petra Basin Restaurant** offering International Cuisine / Open Buffet – Dinner and Overnight at *Petra Old Village Resort Hotel*

Monday, May 13

CASTLES, MOUNTAINS & MOSAICS

Breakfast in the hotel. Check-out and transfer to visit **Kerak**: known for its **famous crusader castle** and amazing views of the landscape. The castle is one of the three largest castles in the Levant Area.



We then proceed to **Madaba**: Best known for its **spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics**. Visit the **Saint George Church** famous for the **6th century mosaic map of the Holy Land**. Lunch at a local Restaurant in Madaba offering Arabic Traditional Cuisine. Continue to visit **Mount Nebo**: the mountaintop memorial, recalling that from here Moses and the Israelites looked down, across the Dead Sea and the Jordan River, into the Promised Land. We will be captivated by the view – the same view that God granted Moses of the land he would never enter.

Proceed to hotel in **Amman Century Park Hotel** for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, May 14 HOMEWARD BOUND

In the morning we check out of our hotel and proceed by Air Conditioned Motorcoach to the **Allenby Bridge** border crossing back into Israel. We change buses at the border and proceed to **Ben Gurion** airport at **Tel Aviv** for our flight home.

Please Note: This itinerary is set as of today. As we move closer to the actual travel date we will continue to fill in the details, adding opportunities for meeting with the Living Stones, and fine tuning the itinerary. Check our website regularly for updated information. www.trinitytour.org At arrival at Tel Aviv (if not sooner) you will receive a booklet with an updated itinerary, maps, and other information. **Due to local circumstances or situations, changes sometimes are necessary – switching days around or adding or substituting one site visit for another.** Every night during our pilgrimage, as we arrive at our hotel for the evening, we will review the itinerary for the following day.