

Living Stones Pilgrimage 2021¹

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Terry Dance and Canon Vicars Hodge

13 to 19 Days Exploring the lands of the Bible²

Our Pilgrimage is in Three Parts:

- *A. Jordan (Petra) Extension³: April 5 – 10, 2021 (5 Days / 4 Nights)*
- *B. Living Stones Pilgrimage: April 9 – 21, 2021 (12 Day/11 Night)*
- *C. Jerusalem Extension⁴: April 21-23 (3 Days/2 Nights)*

Itinerary: Living Stones Pilgrimage 2021

Draft 1 as of: May 18, 2020⁵

1. Friday, April 9, 2021 TRAVEL DAY

We fly from Toronto to Tel Aviv on a non-stop overnight flight⁶ most likely with either Air Canada or El Al. Please plan⁷ to arrive at the airport 3 ½ hours before departure and meet the rest of the group at the gate. Pilgrims will be given nametags and information booklets before departure.

2. Saturday, April 10, 2021

ARRIVE IN ISRAEL AND TO NAZARETH

We arrive **Ben Gurion Airport**, are met by our driver and travel by Motor Coach⁸ to Nazareth in Galilee.

Galilee, the garden of Israel with beautiful green countryside and peaceful vistas, was the centre of Jesus' early ministry. Nazareth was his childhood home. Our drive north to Nazareth takes about 90 minutes.



Nazareth – The childhood home of Jesus

¹ Originally scheduled for May 22-June 3, 2020 and rescheduled because of Covid-19.

² How do you count days on a tour? The first day surely doesn't count as it is lost in travel. In most cases the last day is not a touring day either.

³ Full details of the Jordan Extension are given in a separate itinerary.

⁴ The itinerary for the Jerusalem Itinerary is included at the end of this document.

⁵ **Holy Land itineraries are always subject to change** – at first because details are still being sorted. After that adjustments are often necessary because 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 overly busy on a given day, we change up the sequence as needed to best utilize our time.

⁶ **Most of us will likely be travelling together** on either Air Canada AC80 at 4:30 PM or El Al #30 11:30 PM flights. We will determine which flight in January 2020 depending largely on prices. Both are excellent non-stop overnight services from Toronto to Tel Aviv. After Covid-19 crisis is over, we suspect there will be some changes in itineraries. We will likely be booking our flights sometime in December 2020 or January 2021 based on best value at the time.

⁷ **We urge you travel as 'light' as you find comfortable** – the less luggage you bring, the less you need to manage. This is a 10 ½ hour overnight flight. While aboard: drink water, stretch your legs once in a while, and do your best to sleep. Our program for the days ahead is demanding so it is a very good thing to try to arrive rested.

⁸ **Our motor coaches are Air Conditioned and is Wi-Fi equipped.** Over the years I have found the Wi-Fi on motor coaches to be inconsistent and frustrating. If you like to know where you are on the map, a smart phone with GPS and the **Maps.me app** is perfect. You preload it with local maps *before* you leave home and now you have a GPS driven map program with no need for Wi-Fi, Data, or roaming!)

In Nazareth we check into the [Golden Crown Old City Hotel](#). This will be our base for the next several days. The Golden Crown is in near to the principal holy sites of Nazareth in the Old City. We will be joined at dinner⁹ by those of our entourage who have been in Jordan for the past 5 days on our Jordan Extension. On arrival, we unpack, relax, and have dinner together.¹⁰

Canon Hodge will likely take those who wish on a brief after-dinner stroll to help you get your bearings. Getting to bed early tonight is highly recommended – tomorrow and every day that follows is full of adventures.

3. Sunday, April 11. 08:00 (Meet & leave from Lobby) NAZARETH, CANA & MT. TABOR



Basilica of the Annunciation

Our first touring day begins with breakfast¹¹ at 7:00 AM. We will see many Holy Places during this pilgrimage, often with historic stones of one sort or another. During this pilgrimage we will meet some of the **Living Stones**, members of local churches and the spiritual descendants of the first disciples of Jesus. The *Living Stones*, by their lives and witness make this land Holy, every bit as much as the historic, Biblical places.

At 8:00 AM our local guide, **Bassam Abdalla**, will meet us in the Lobby. Bassam is a skilled guide we have worked with before. Our guide

will show us to our bus and we will drive the short distance to the **Basilica of the Annunciation**. This huge and beautiful modern church sits over the ruins of two ancient churches, marking the traditional site of Mary's home, where the Angel Gabriel announced she would be mother of our Lord! We then walk a couple short blocks to **Christ Anglican Church**¹² where we will join in the 10 AM Holy Communion service. After worship we share lunch at the **Oil & Olive Restaurant**.

We then drive to **Cana of Galilee**, the place of the first of Jesus' signs¹³. There will be opportunity here for those who are married to renew their vows in a chapel on-site. Next, we drive a short distance and



Mount Tabor

⁹ **Breakfast, Lunch and Supper are included every day in this Pilgrimage.** Typically, we have Breakfast and Supper at the Hotel, and Lunch at a local restaurant near the sites we are visiting that day. (Arrangements during the Jerusalem Extension are slightly different in that lunch is not included during that two-day extension.)

¹⁰ **You will be amazed at Israeli hotel buffet breakfasts and dinners.** Local cuisine, international food, and familiar dishes are usually offered – something for every appetite.

¹¹ 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.

¹² Optional: One evening during our time in Nazareth, Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun will come by our hotel and share a bit about the Anglican Church in this diocese and the ministry of his parish. You will find him engaging and full of insight into the lives of the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

¹³ The story is told in the Gospel of John, Chapter 2. "in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory...."

ascend **Mount Tabor** in Taxi's. On the summit we visit the Franciscan **Basilica of the Transfiguration**, which marks the traditional site of Jesus' transfiguration before Peter, James and John.¹⁴ From this singular small mountain, the view of the **Jezreel Valley** and the Lower Galilee region is spectacular. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth at the Golden Crown Hotel. After dinner tonight we will have a brief time together to review the program and get to know one-another.

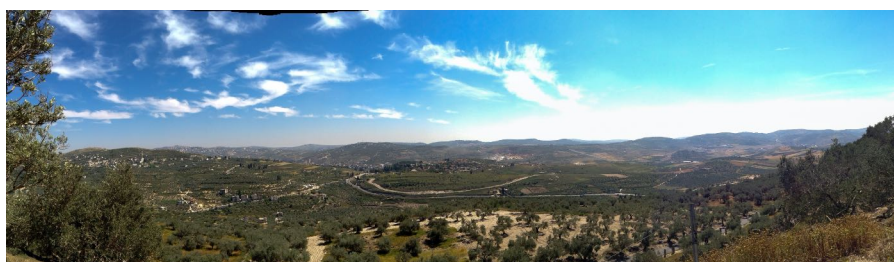
4. Monday, April 12, 2021 08:00 (On the Bus) NAZARETH, IBILLIN, MT. CARMEL

Today begins with a visit to **Nazareth Village**¹⁵, a first-century farm and village that allows us to step into the Bible and experience first-century life. Villagers, dressed in period clothing, engaging in the activities of daily life give a glimpse of the Nazareth that Jesus knew.

We then drive to the Town of **Ibillin**, centre of an amazing Christian ministry of peacemaking. [Fr. Elias Chacour](#), author of [Blood Brothers](#)¹⁶, makes his home here. We will have opportunity to visit the **Mar Elias School** he founded.



We then drive to **Muhraqa**, on **Mt. Carmel**. This is the location of the "Sacrifice of Elijah" as told in 1 Kings 18. At 480m above sea level, the view from the Carmelite Monastery at the summit is breathtaking. To the west is the Mediterranean Sea. Looking south from here, we are



The Jezreel Valley (Armageddon) from Mt. Carmel

overlooking the **Jezreel Valley** and the place described in Holy Scripture (Rev.16:16) as **Armageddon**. Returning to Nazareth, dinner and overnight at the Golden Crown Hotel.

5. Tuesday, April 13 07:30 CAESAREA PHILIPPI, MT. OF BEATITUDES, CAPERNAUM

Today's visits begin with a drive to the **Banias Nature Reserve** in **Upper Galilee**. This is the site of Biblical **Caesarea Philippi** where Jesus asked¹⁷: "Who do you say that I am?" We will take a little time for scripture, prayer and reflection in this beautiful and significant location. Next, the **Mount of Beatitudes** beside the **Sea of Galilee** where we will visit the beautiful convent Church & garden commemorating **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount**.¹⁸ We will have lunch here at **Mount of Beatitudes Guest House**.

¹⁴ Several mountains have been identified as the site of the Transfiguration. The story is told in Mt.17 and Mark 9. Which mountain is not specified - only that Jesus took them "to a high mountain." i.e. Mt. Hermon, the tallest peak in Israel, is thought by some scholars to be the correct location. Mount Tabor, closer to the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry was favored by Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem who wrote in AD348 that he preferred Mount Tabor to Mount Hermon.

¹⁵ Nazareth Village is part of the ministry of the [Nazareth Trust](#), a Christian ministry whose principal work, since 1867, is the Nazareth Hospital.

¹⁶ I heartily recommend Abu. Elias Chacour's classic book, [Blood Brothers](#) as an excellent pre-pilgrimage read. This little book is a compelling introduction to the *Living Stones* and the ministry of peacemaking.

¹⁷ Matthew 16:13 and Mark 8:26-28

¹⁸ Matthew 5-7



springs drew the fish. We visit the **Church of the Caesarea Philippi**

Loaves & Fishes – traditional site of Jesus’ miracle¹⁹ of the “Feeding of the Five Thousand.” We will celebrate the **Holy Eucharist, at a chapel beside the Sea of Galilee.** A short walk from here

Nearby is the **Heptapegon**, Seven Springs, or **Tabgha** – the site where the men of Capernaum usually fished – because the



Mensa Christi - Church of the Primacy

is **Mensa Christi**, (Table of Christ), the **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter**. We have some time to pause by the water’s edge – at this place where tradition holds that Jesus, after his resurrection, prepared breakfast for the 11 and restored Peter to ministry (*Jn.21*).

After this we visit the Ruins of **Capernaum**, the town Jesus made his home base²⁰. Here, a beautiful modern Franciscan Church, protects the ruins of the **house church** 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 preached²¹. We then drive a short distance to **Kibbutz Nof Ginosar**, to see the recently excavated **ancient boat**²² and go out for a sail on **Sea of Galilee**. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth at the **Golden Crown Hotel**.



¹⁹ Matthew 14:13; Matthew 6:30; Luke 9:10

²⁰ Matthew 4:13

²¹ At the synagogue in Capernaum Jesus preached and cast out a demon. Mark 1:21

²² Some call this “The Jesus Boat” though I find this misleading. It is ancient, possibly dating from 1st C Palestine, and very likely similar to the ones used by Jesus’ fisherman-friends, but there is no evidence to suggest that this boat is “the boat.”

6. Wednesday April 14. 08:00 THROUGH SAMARIA & UP TO JERUSALEM

We check out of the Golden Crown and drive south through Samaria to **Nablus**. Nearby is **Tell Balata** (ancient **Shechem**) where we visit **Jacob's Well**²³. (This ancient, very deep well, is where Jesus met the Woman of Samaria.) The well is located in the ancient crypt of the recently completed Orthodox Church of St. Photina.

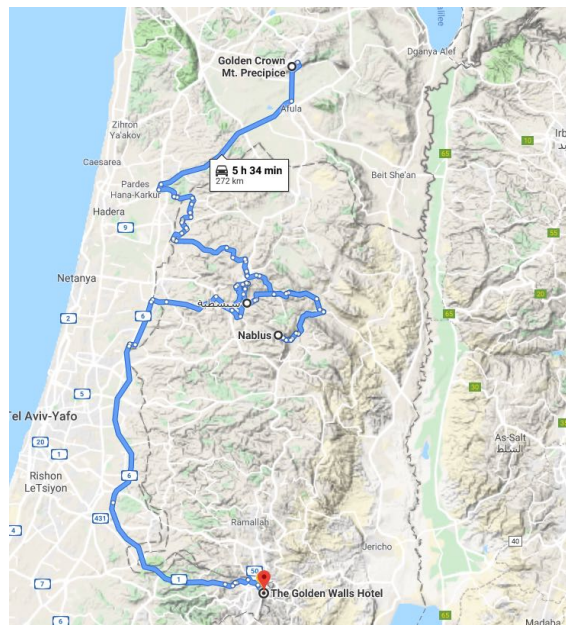
We then visit [St. Luke's Anglican Hospital](#). The ministry of the Anglican Church in the [Diocese of Jerusalem](#) includes hospitals, clinics, and numerous schools.



Jacob's Well at Schechem

Next we proceed to **Sebastia/Samaria**, once the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. On our way, we pass between **Mt. Gerazim and Mt. Ebal**. (blessings & curses Dt.11:29)

We enjoy lunch at the **Samaria Restaurant** on site and then tour the **Ruins of Samaria** archaeological site.



Following Jesus through Samaria – Day 6

We continue our drive south to **Jerusalem**, and check-in at the [Golden Walls Hotel](#). Settle in to your rooms and unpack as we will be here for the rest of our pilgrimage. This small hotel (120 rooms) features excellent food and outstanding hospitality. It has an amazing location – directly across the street from the northern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem. The evening view from the rooftop is spectacular. The hotel is a five-minute walk from the Damascus Gates, entry to the Old City. Over all, this is one of my favourite hotel properties in the middle east. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**.

7. Thursday April 15 08:00 THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM & EIN KAREM

Jerusalem Orientation: From the summit of the famous **Mount of Olives** – we overview of The Holy City spread out before us as a panorama. We will see 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**. This view from the Mount of Olives has enchanted pilgrims for three thousand years!

²³ See Genesis 33:18-20 and John 4:5-6. The first church at this site was built in AD384 (though we have written record of baptisms here in AD 331)



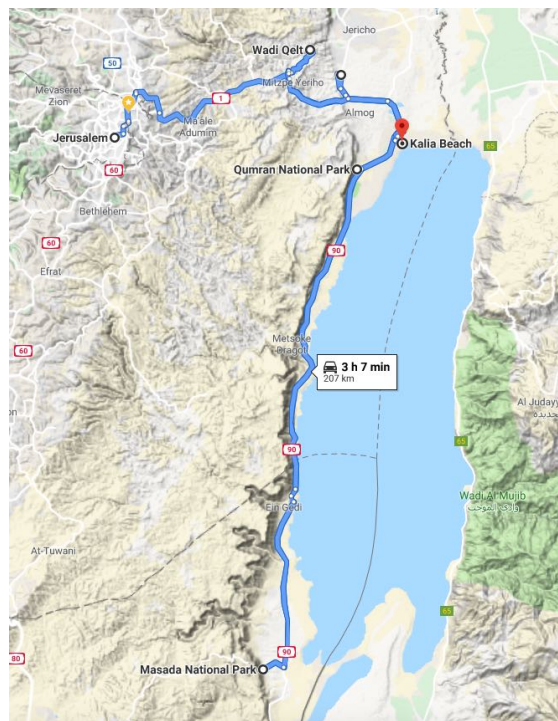
Ancient Olive Trees in the Garden of Gethsemane

We then walk²⁴ down **Mount of Olives**, following the **Palm-Sunday route of Jesus**²⁵. We explore the ***Pater Noster Church*** (tradition holds this to be where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer), ***Dominus Flevit*** Chapel (where Jesus wept over the city²⁶), and pause at the **Garden of Gethsemane** beside the **Church of All Nations**. **Holy Communion** will be celebrated in the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed in anguish²⁷ before his passion.

In the afternoon we drive to the Village of **Ein Karem** (Spring of the Vineyard), the birthplace of John the Baptist. We have lunch there at the **Sisters of Zion Convent**. 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 – and Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel.

8. Friday April 16, 2021

JUDEAN DESERT AND THE DEAD SEA



We have seen the “garden of Galilee” and some of urban Jerusalem; today we journey into the **Judean Desert**. 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*** (Biblical: **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 (Mark 1:9), those who wish may **renew their baptismal covenant** with Bishop Dance and Canon Hodge. (Certificates available later.). Next we visit **Qumran**, the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls lay hidden for nearly two thousand years. We then ascend to King Herod's famous desert fortress of **Masada** (by cable car.) Next we have lunch and those who wish have opportunity to swim (float) in the **Dead Sea** at **Kalia Beach**. Then we visit the Desert oasis of **Jericho**: view **Elisha's Spring**²⁸ and **Mount of Temptation**.

²⁴ This walk down the hill is paved – but a bit steep. Those who wish can ride the bus to the bottom of the hill and meet up with those who walk down at the Garden of Gethsemane.

²⁵ In all four Gospel accounts of Jesus “triumphal entry,” he descends from the Mount of Olives to enter Jerusalem. Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19:28ff; and John 12:12-19

²⁶ John 19:41-48

²⁷ Matthew 26, Mark 14:31-33, Luke 22

²⁸ Read the story in 2 Kings 2:19-22

Later in the afternoon, on our way back up to Jerusalem, we stop to overlook **Wadi²⁹ Qelt** and view **St. George's** desert monastery³⁰. This ancient monastery sits on the cliffs of the **Kidron Valley** along the path of the ancient road from Jericho to Jerusalem, the setting of Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan³¹. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**



Storerooms at Masada – in the background, The Dead Sea.

9. Saturday April 17 07:30

JERUSALEM: THE OLD CITY

Our guided program begins today entering the Old City through the **Dung Gate** to visit the **Western Wall**, then up to the **Temple Mount** or **Haram-es-Sharif** (Noble Sanctuary.) Here we view (from the outside) the beautiful **Dome of the Rock** and **Al Asqua Mosque**. Exiting from the Temple Mount, a few steps away is the **St. Stephen's Gate** entrance to the **Old City**. We next visit the **Pool of Bethesda** (John 5 - where Jesus healed the Paralytic) and the amazingly well-preserved Crusader **Church of St Anne**. We then walk and pray the **Via-Dolorosa** (Way of the Cross) to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** (where Jesus was crucified, died and was raised on the Third Day³²).



Dome of the Rock



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

We share lunch at the renowned **Bulghourji Restaurant** in the **Armenian Quarter** of the Old City. After lunch we visit the **Saints James Armenian Cathedral³³**. From there, a short walk takes us to **Mount Zion** and the **Church of St Peter-in-Gallicantu**, (where Peter rejected Jesus³⁴ three times before the *gallicantu* “cock’s-crow”.) We then visit the site of the Upper room and Dormition Abbey. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**.

²⁹ A Wadi is a dry riverbed. Wadi Qelt runs from near Jerusalem through the Judean Desert down to the Jordan River Valley near Jericho.

³⁰ The seasonal stream here has been identified by some scholars as the Brook Cherath, mentioned in 1 Kings 17:3 as one of the hiding places of the Prophet Elijah.

³¹ Luke 10:25

³² Told in all the Gospels and summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

³³ This cathedral is dedicated to two saints named James: **James, son of Zebedee** (aka James the Greater, one of the Apostles) and **James, the half-brother of Jesus** (aka James the Just). This is the principal church of the [Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem](#).

³⁴ Matthew 26:35

10. Sunday April 18, 2021 9:00 AM (or 5:45 AM) OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

Those who wish may join Canon Hodge and Bishop Terry for an **optional very-early morning visit** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. We *leave* the Golden Walls at **5:45 AM** and walk over – about half a mile – to observe the great cathedral church “wake up” for Sunday Worship.

Processions and choirs take their scheduled turns: ³⁵ 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 experience! On return to the Golden Walls we will have a few minutes to get a bit of breakfast before our ‘official’ program begins.



Coptic Worship (Holy Sepulchre) with some early-rising Canadian pilgrims.



An Ecumenical Gathering at St. George's Cathedral

Today's program includes worship and an opportunity to meet and speak with some of the Holy Land's Living Stones. **At 9:00 AM** our bus will take the short distance to [St. George's Anglican Cathedral](#)³⁶ where we will join the congregation for

the 9:30 AM service of Holy Communion³⁷.

We then drive to [Neve Shalom](#)³⁸ (Oasis of Peace), a cooperative village founded by Israeli Jews and Arabs to show that the two peoples can live side by side peacefully. They undertake educational work for peace and understanding. I find this place an encouragement. After a tour and lunch/lecture at **Neve Shalom** we drive back to Jerusalem and visit [Yad Vashem](#) Memorial to the Holocaust³⁹. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls. After dinner we will gather for a debrief of the day's visits.

³⁵ The Schedule, and every other detail of the life of this church (and the Basilica at Bethlehem), are ordered by the Status Quo issued in 1757 as a firman (decree) of the Ottoman sultan Osman III.

³⁶ **St. George's is the Cathedral of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem** and seat of the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. The cathedral serves both an English speaking ex-pat community and increasingly, an Arabic speaking congregation. This morning we attend the Arabic/English service.

³⁷ One evening during our time in Jerusalem I am hopeful that we can meet and talk with the Dean of Jerusalem, The Very Rev. Hosam Naoum. His schedule is very busy and this may not be possible. I have heard Dean Hosam on other occasions. If he is available this conversation will be very worthwhile.

³⁸ Founded in 1950 by Fr. Bruno, a Franciscan Priest, on land leased (99 years at 3 Pence/yr.) from the local Trappist Monastery.

³⁹ Because of our later than usual (9:00 AM) start this morning, our timeline will be tight and we will need to stay on schedule to fit in our visit to *Yad Vashem* before it closes at 5 PM.

11. Monday April 19, 2021. 08:00. BETHLEHEM AND VICINITY

Our day begins, driving to **Manger Square**, **Bethlehem** and entering through the door of humility into the newly restored **Basilica of the Nativity**. Beneath the Church, we visit the **Grotto of the Nativity** (traditional site of Jesus birth⁴⁰) and **St. Jerome's caves** where the Vulgate translation was made. 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 drive the short distance to the village of **Beit Sahour** where we visit the **Shepherd's Fields** (traditional location of the visit of the Angels to the shepherds) and there celebrate *Holy*



Manger Square, Bethlehem



In the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity

Communion. We break for Lunch at the **Shepherds' Valley Restaurant**, a terrific place with interesting ambiance. After Lunch, there is a shopping opportunity at the King's Store, a locally run **co-operative olive wood shop**. Our visiting today concludes with a stop at Herod's stronghold and burial place at **Herodion** – an artificial "mountain" near Bethlehem. From Herodion the view of the Judean Hills is spectacular – though the climb up to the top is a workout. Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the **Golden Walls Hotel**.

12. Tuesday, April 20, 2021 08:00 HEBRON AND TENT OF NATIONS

In the morning we set out for to the ancient Biblical city of Hebron. We will walk through the souk or market to the **Tomb of the Patriarchs**. Here Abraham purchased land⁴¹ (the **Cave of Machpelah**) and the Patriarchs and their wives are buried. Cenotaphs at the surface are commemorative markers for the actual graves which are in caves well below the surface level. Here lie the bones of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Leah. We will visit both the synagogue and the mosque at this site. The massive structure that houses the cenotaphs, mosque and synagogue was built by King Herod the Great and is similar in construction to the retaining wall of the second temple.

We will enjoy lunch at **Abu Shanab Restaurant** (one of the best in Bethlehem). Our day will also include a visit to **Tent of Nations** (a Palestinian Farm owned by local Christians) and other opportunities



Tomb of the Patriarchs

⁴⁰ Luke 2:1-20

⁴¹ The story of Sarah's death and the purchase of land for her burial place is told in Genesis 23

to learn about and dialogue with the *Living Stones* of the Holy Land. We return to **Jerusalem** for Dinner and overnight at the Golden Walls.

13. Wednesday, April 21, 2021 08:00 HOMEWARD BOUND

Those who are departing today check out of the Golden Walls and transfer by motor-coach to Ben Gurion for the flight home. (Air Canada's flight is at 11:45 AM. El Al departs at 2 PM). (Or, if you have chosen to remain in Jerusalem for two more days for the **Jerusalem Extension**, you would leave your luggage in the room where we will continue to stay – see below.)

OR

Jerusalem Extension: April 21-23 (3 Days/2 Nights)

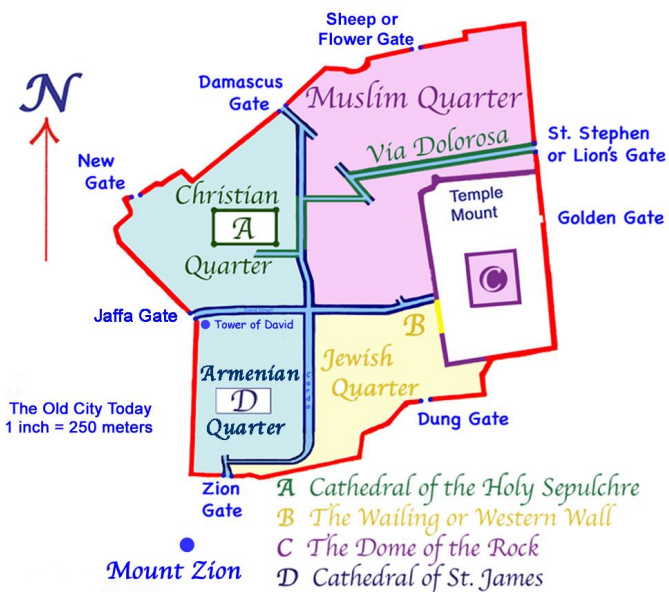
You may wish to stay for a couple more days for an optional **Jerusalem Extension**. For a very modest additional cost, stay for two more nights at the **Golden Walls Hotel**. Either follow +Terry & Vicars and Carole around as they explore the Old City some more – or strike out on your own. All hotel costs, including Hotel tips, Breakfast and Supper are included. Also included is the transfer by motor-coach to Ben Gurion Airport on June 5. Note: we will NOT have a local guide, tour-bus, or driver during this extension. Lunch and any site-admissions are NOT included. Full details of what is included are below and updated on our website. www.trinitytour.org



13. Wednesday, April 21, 2021 JERUSALEM EXTENSION

Breakfast and Supper at the Golden Walls. During the Jerusalem extension explore Jerusalem at your own pace, shop, or revisit places you want to see again. There are many other things to see and do in Jerusalem. (The City of David, the Citadel, the Wall's Walk, explore the souks, visit West Jerusalem, the Israeli Museum with the Shrine of the Book, the Rockefeller Museum, Garden Tomb, St. Mark's Church, Lazarus's Tomb in Bethany.) Vicars and Carole will do some exploring, mostly in the Old City, and you are welcome to accompany them.

The Old City of Jerusalem



14. Thursday, April 22, 2021 JERUSALEM EXTENSION



Jerusalem's Golden Gate

Continue to enjoy Jerusalem at your own pace, or follow Vicars & Carole and +Terry & Diane on their explorations of the Holy City. Walk the Via Dolorosa again – a bit slower! Remember: during the extension we do not have a Tour Guide, Bus or Driver. Breakfast and Dinner are at the Golden Walls. The Holy City is a fascinating place with many possibilities. Enjoy two days at your own pace.

15. Friday, April 23, 2021 HOMEWARD BOUND.

All good things must end, eventually! After breakfast, check out of the Golden Walls and transfer by motor-coach to Ben Gurion for the flight home. (Air Canada's flight is at 11:45 AM. El Al departs at 2 PM).

Please Note: This itinerary sets our plans as of the above date. Further amendments are to be expected as we continue the ongoing task of fine tuning the itinerary. Check our website regularly for updated information. www.trinitytour.org On our outbound flight to Tel Aviv (if not sooner) you will receive a booklet with an updated itinerary, maps, and other information. **Even then, due to local circumstances or situations, changes sometimes are necessary – switching days around or adding or substituting one site visit for another.** Most days during our pilgrimage, as we return to our hotel for the evening, we will review the itinerary for the following day.

Also Note: This is a *comprehensive pilgrimage*. Over the course of 11 days of touring we visit most of the important sites for Christian Pilgrims – and we will meet and interact with many of the people of this complex land. It is a challenging task to compile the itinerary for a Holy Land pilgrimage. Some want every moment of every day packed with the adventure while others prefer a bit slower pace. The pace of this particular pilgrimage is a slightly slowed down from some of my earlier programs. Nevertheless, this itinerary is comprehensive – after all pilgrimage to the Holy Land is not inexpensive. I have tried to include enough for each day to be “good value.” Nobody needs to do everything that is offered. The level of *your* engagement is entirely up to you – and when you feel a need for a rest, sit for a little while... or return to the bus ahead of the group. Vicars+

One more thing: This Pilgrimage requires a good deal of walking. To fully participate you need to be sufficiently fit for the physical exertion of walking up to 10,000 paces some days. Other days the walking will be less. You don't need to be an athlete – but you must be able to walk. Many use walking sticks or canes. (A motorized scooter can be rented in Israel – and transported under the bus. This would enable someone with mobility challenges to participate in much of the pilgrimage, however, some sites that are only accessible by foot.) The ground is sometimes uneven. It is important to have two pair of good walking shoes in your kit and an extra pair of socks in your day-bag. Another important tip is to travel light – the more you bring, the more you need to lug around and manage. Every time I go to the Holy Land I take less kit. Our tour package includes almost everything you need except air-fare, beverages, and personal expenses⁴²! (You will observe that similar packages often do not include tips and lunches.)

⁴² See the full list of what is Included and NOT Included at the end of this itinerary.

Prices and Details: **Living Stones Pilgrimage 2021**

12 Days / 11 Nights in the Holy Land

<u>Total Group Size</u>	<u>Fee PP US Dollars⁴³ Sharing Dbl Room⁴⁴</u>	<u>Single Supplement</u>
22 - 23	\$3875	\$884
24 - 28	\$3750	\$884
29 - 33	\$3500	\$884
34 - 38	\$3300	\$884
39 - 49	\$3200	\$884

Note: Price is based on group size. As of May 19, 2020 we have 25 confirmed for the 2021 Pilgrimage. (These are the ones who were forced to reschedule by the Covid-19 crisis.) During the next 10 months or so I expect we will likely add at least 10 more. So, a reasonable estimate is for somewhere between 38 to 35 participants, including leaders. It is possible we will fill the tour (our max is 49)

Payment Schedule Living Stones Pilgrimage 2020	
Date	Amount due US\$
On Reservation	\$200
Sept. 1, 2020	\$300
Nov. 15, 2020	\$500
January 1, 2021	\$500
Feb. 10, 2021	Full Balance

Why book a place ASAP ?

We have been advised to expect Israeli hotels to be **fully booked** for 2021 (because of the many groups being rescheduled from 2020.).

As a consequence, our tour operator has advised us to be prepared for the possibility that hotels may ask for deposits earlier than usual. So the payment schedule to the left may need to be adjusted.

If you hope to make a pilgrimage with us please reserve your place soon. With this much pressure on room availability, and 25 of our 49 spaces already spoken for, you really need to reserve a place. By booking now, you really only risk the cancellation fee if you change your mind....

Cancellation/Refund Policy

If WE cancel the tour⁴⁵, we will send full refunds to all, less any funds expended already by us. (That usually means a full refund for those who cancel by January 1, 2021.

If YOU cancel your participation, the first US\$200 of fees paid is non-refundable⁴⁶. After December 1, 2021 the cancellation fee rises to \$500 as by then we will have expended funds on non-refundable deposits to tour operators and hotels and other expenses.

What is included:

Meet, Assist and Transfers at arrival and departure from Israel. Accommodations at Hotel (11 nights) with

⁴³ **Prices are based** on quotations in hand, \$US/\$CAD at about \$1.33-\$1.35, and Jordanian entry and exit visas remaining at the prices in effect today. If there are changes in these costs which we are unable to control, or if other unforeseen increases occur, we will be in touch with all concerned to discuss options. Note: we have firm quotes in hand for all major costs except currency exchange and government fees so we do hope the prices quoted will stand.

⁴⁴ **Price is per person, based on Double Occupancy.** If you are travelling alone, we may be able to introduce you to another person who is travelling alone in order that you might share a room and avoid the single supplement. Reserve early and let us know your desires here and we will accommodate you if possible.

⁴⁵ I cannot think of any reason why we would cancel. We already have 25 people including leaders booked for this pilgrimage – so we are over our minimum of 22 already.

⁴⁶ For those who booked for 2020 and are now travelling in 2021, some of your funds are already paid in non-refundable deposits to tour operators and so the cancellation fee will be US\$500.

Porterage. Transfers and tours by modern A/C Motor Coach. Breakfast and Dinner at Hotels, 10 lunches on tour, Entrance fees, Tips⁴⁷, English speaking private guide.

What is not included:

Air Fare⁴⁸, Beverages. Personal expenses. Travel Insurance. Optional donations made at charities visited. Anything not mentioned in the itinerary.

⁴⁷ **Fees include gratuities** to the Tour Guide(s), Bus Driver, Lunch Servers, Hotels for Porterage and other Services.

⁴⁸ **Air Fare has been about CAD\$1500 return for the past few years.** We start watching prices carefully in December and once the price seems right, we try to book all our flights at the same time. Assistance is provided.

Prices⁴⁹ and Details: **Jerusalem Extension 2021**

The fee for the Jerusalem Extension is \$375 (Minimum 18 people) sharing a Double Rooms.) **Single Supplement: \$152**

Payment Schedule Living Stones Pilgrimage 2020	
Date	Amount due US\$
On Reservation	\$100
Jan 1, 2021	\$150
Feb 10, 2021	Full Balance

Cancellation/Refund Policy

If WE cancel the tour⁵⁰, we will send full refunds to all. If YOU cancel your participation, the first \$200 of fees paid is non-refundable. After Jan 1, 2021 the cancellation fee is \$500 . After that, some of our funds will have been paid to expenses and tour operators overseas and only partial, pro-rata refunds are possible.

What is included:

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departure, Golden Walls Hotel (2 nights) with Porterage. Breakfast and Dinner at Hotel, some Tips.⁵¹

What is not included:

Air Fare and meals in-transit, Beverages. Lunches. Personal expenses. Travel Insurance. Optional donations made at charities visited. Anything not mentioned in the itinerary.

See next page for a word about Air Travel

⁴⁹ We have been advised by our tour operator to expect a price increase for Hotels in 2021. This price will therefore likely go up a bit. We will advise once we have firm numbers.

⁵⁰ **By January 15 we must have a minimum of 22 people (including leaders) confirmed for the 12 Day, Living Stones Pilgrimage or else we would cancel.** In the unlikely event that we need to cancel, we would notify all confirmed people and refund deposits. Of course if the principal tour was cancelled, so would the extensions.

⁵¹ The Jerusalem Extension fee includes gratuities for: hotel staff including porterage & hotel meals, airport transfer driver. Lunch and Lunch tips are NOT included during the Jerusalem Extension. .

A Word of Explanation about Air Travel on Pilgrimage

Basically everything you need on this pilgrimage tour is included, the only exceptions as noted above.

Our goal is to make Holy Land Pilgrimage possible for as many as possible -- and for this reason we are really serious about trying to keep the cost affordable. We have compared prices of our pilgrimage with many others over the years -- and we are consistently less expensive when all the factors are included. We have included just about everything in the package (even lunches and tips which many tours leave out.)

You will note that Air Fare is not included. This saves everyone time and money. But we have quite deliberately not included airfare. Some time back groups got a substantial discount when you bought a block of tickets at the same time - today most airlines seem to prefer to deal with people individually over the internet. Group discounts seem to have largely disappeared. Our experience is that we get very good prices on tickets buying tickets directly -- about 3-4 Months before departure. If we included Air Fare, we would need to build in some margin for error as ticket prices fluctuate daily. So, Airfare is separate.

Here is how we do it:

About 4 months before departure we start sorting out possible flights. We then contact all who have registered for the pilgrimage and work with them to get them booked on the best flights for their departure city. We do try to get everyone on the same trans-Atlantic flight or on a couple flights with similar arrival times to make the logistics easiest. British Air and Air Canada were the best options on our 2015 pilgrimage. In 2017 we used Air Canada and in 2019 El Al. One year we flew Polish Air! Once we have made our choice of preferred flights we will be in touch with all of those who are booked. Some of you are old hands at booking flights online and will just do it yourself. Others might like some help with that and if so we will gladly assist.

What will it cost?

At present, direct return flights through Toronto -- are in the range of **C\$1,400 to C\$1,500. (I suspect that airfare in 2021 will be higher than we are presently used to.** Some smaller discount airlines will go out of business during the Coronavirus crisis. There will be fewer flights, with people sitting farther apart. I think we can expect airfares to increase.)

By doing it this way we will all save some money.

If you have questions please contact me:

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