

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land July 21-30, 2023

### **Day 1: Arrival (July 21)**

Upon arrival at the Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, you will be met by your local Armenian guide, and transferred to your hotel in Jerusalem

Overnight in Jerusalem

### **Day 2: Bethlehem**



**Nativity Church/Grotto of Jesus' Birth , Jesus is Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)**

**Armenian Monastery-Church of the Nativity, Shepherds Visit Jesus (Luke 2:8-20)**

**3 Magi (3 Wise men/3 Kings) (Matthew 2:1-12), Escape to Egypt/Return to Nazareth (Matthew 2:13-23; Matthew 2:13-18; Matthew 2:19-23)**

**Meeting with the Patriarch**

– **Overnight in Jerusalem.**

### **Day 3: Jerusalem- Attend Holy Badarak, Armenian Quarter/Patriarchate**

#### **Feast of the Transfiguration**

- Celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration (Vartavar) in the Armenian Patriarchate. This feast is considered a feast of the throne of St. James. Since St. James, the brother of Christ, is the founder of the Brotherhood and Monastery of St. James, it is tradition that he was ordained bishop on the feast of the Transfiguration. For this reason, the throne of St. James is adorned with Episcopal vestments. This is one of the few times in the year that this takes place.

– **Overnight in Jerusalem.**

### **Day 4: The public ministry of Jesus Christ around The Sea of Galilee/ The area of Nazareth**

– Boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee.**

– **The Mt. of Beatitudes:** The Beatitudes are the eight blessings Jesus gave during the Sermon on the Mount. We will visit the suggested location of this mount (Matthew 5).

– **Tabgha:** It is traditionally accepted as the place of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-46) and the fourth Resurrection appearance of Jesus (John 21:1-24) after his Crucifixion.

– **Capernaum:** The town is cited in the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of John where it was reported to have been near the hometown of the apostles Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, as well as the tax collector Matthew. Jesus selected this town as the center of his public ministry in the Galilee after he left the small mountainous hamlet of

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Nazareth (Matthew 4:12–17). He also formally cursed the city, saying “You shall be brought down to Hades” (Matthew 11:23), because of their lack of response to his teaching.

– LUNCH

– **Cana:** Cana is best known as the place where, according to the Fourth Gospel, Jesus performed his first public miracle, the turning of a large quantity of water into wine at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11) when the wine provided by the bridegroom had run out.

– **Nazareth:** The Church of the Annunciation was established at the site where, according to Roman Catholic tradition, the Annunciation took place. Greek Orthodox tradition holds that this event occurred while Mary was drawing water from a local spring in Nazareth, and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was erected at that alternate site. We will visit both sites.

– **Mount Tabor** is located in Lower Galilee, 11 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. It is believed by many Christians to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28-39).

– **Overnight in Jerusalem.**

### **Day 5: The Way of The Cross**

We will start our day at the eastern gate of the Old City of Jerusalem, The Lion’s Gate, walking through the Moslem Quarter.

**The Pools of Bethesda:** The fifth chapter of the Gospel of John describes such a pool in Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. It is associated with the healing of the crippled person by Jesus.

**The Via Dolorosa** is also known as The Way of the Passion of Christ, or The Way of the Cross, is a street, in two parts, within the Old City of Jerusalem, held to be the path that Jesus walked, carrying his cross, on the way to his crucifixion, and ultimately, his bodily resurrection from the dead three days later.

**Church of the Holy Sepulcher**

**Stone of Unction** (John 19:38-40)

**Jesus Placed in Tomb** (Mark 15:42-47; Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

**Resurrection (inside of Tomb)** (Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-7; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9)

**Golgotha**

**Crucifixion** (Mark 15:25-39; Matthew 27:35-44; Luke 23:32-43; John 19:18-27)

**Mary watches Jesus’ Crucifixion** (John 19:25-26)

**Armenian Chapel of Helena**

**Crypt of the Finding of the Cross**

**The Chapel of the Second Calvary**

**Saint Gregory’s the Illuminator’s Chapel**

Overnight in Jerusalem.

### **Day 6: Mount of Olives, The Garden of Gethsemane**

**The Garden of Gethsemane:** Located at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, it is most famous as the place where after the Last Supper Jesus prayed the night before his arrest and crucifixion.

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**Chapel of Ascension: Dome of the Ascension**

**(Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53)**

Marks the site where Jesus ascended to heaven forty days after His Resurrection

**Church of Pater Noster-Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)**

**Church of All Nations-Agony (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22: 39-53)**

**Tomb of Our Lady - Virgin Mary**

Panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem from the peak of Mount of Olives.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 7: Early Morning badarak at Holy Sepulcher -4 am (optional)**



Return to hotel for rest, in afternoon:

**The Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem** is one of the four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. It is home to the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem at the St. James Monastery, which occupies most of the quarter. We will have a tour of the quarter and visit different holy shrines the most famous and important of which is the Cathedral of St. James. Which is dedicated to two Christian saints: James the Greater (one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus) and James the Just (brother of Jesus).

**Tour of St. James Cathedral and chapels with in the Cathedral**

**Monastery of the Holy Archangels**

**Visit to the Holy Translator's School**

**The Room of the Last Supper (Cenacle):** Since at least the fourth century AD, it is a structure identified as the Cenacle, the site of the Last Supper, and has been a popular Christian pilgrimage site on Mount Zion.

**Soorp Prkich Convent - Armenian Cemetery – Genocide Monument**

**House of High Priest Caiaphas (Mark 14:53-65)**

Overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 8: The Dead Sea and the Wilderness of Judea**

**The Tomb of Lazarus** is located in the village of Bethany, a few miles east of Jerusalem. We will descend into the tomb and see the place where Jesus called Lazarus to come forth.

**The Baptismal Site:** Also known as “Qasr El-Yahud”. It is the traditional spot where the baptism of Jesus took place (Matthew 3:13-17). According to tradition, it is also the place where the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River and Elijah the Prophet ascended to heaven.



**Jericho:** The city may be the oldest continuously occupied city in the world. Archeology dates the city back to the 10<sup>th</sup> millennia BCE. (Healing of the blind beggar near Jericho: Luke 18:35, Zacchaeus' Sycamore tree: Luke 19:3-5)

**The Mount of Temptation:** A view to the mountain which is said to be the hill in the Judean Desert where Jesus was tempted by the devil after his baptism (Matthew 4:8). We will climb the mountain and visit the Monastery of Quarantal, built on the slope of Mt. of Temptation,

**Dead Sea:** weather permitting, optional swimming and floating in the Dead Sea.  
Overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 9: Abu Gosh (Church of the Resurrection/Emmaus and Church of the Arc of the Covenant)**

**Emmaus:** Emmaus was an ancient town located approximately 7 miles northwest of present-day Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke records that Jesus appeared to two disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Today, the ancient town is known as Abu Gosh in the heart of which is located a crusader period church built on the spring by which, and according to the local tradition, the resurrected Jesus rested with the disciples and opened the scriptures.  
Jacob's Well (Nablus)

Sebastia (Church of St. John the Baptist/Archeological site)

**Ein Karem (Visitation and birth place of John the Baptist and St. John in the desert)**

Overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 10:**

**Early morning**

Airport Transfer-Departure to the USA.