

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

May 1-12, 2018

Led by The Rev. Thack Dyson

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daphne, AL

The Rev. Thack Dyson will lead his second pilgrimage to the Holy Land on May 1-12, 2018. The group will depart for Tel Aviv on May 1 and return to the United States on May 12. The following is the proposed itinerary:

Tuesday, May 1: Depart from U.S.A. for Israel. Flights are being priced now and the airline will be identified once we can lock down the best group rate.

Wednesday, May 2: Arrive at Ben-Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. After border formalities are resolved, we will meet our guide and driver and begin driving southward toward the Dead Sea. On the way, we will drive past the Judean Desert to the lowest spot on the face of the earth (Dead Sea shore). We will arrive to the Daniel Resort Hotel in the late afternoon, have dinner and retire for the evening.

Thursday, May 3: Our first destination will be the Dead Sea area. We will visit the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve and Massada. We will stay overnight at the Daniel Resort Hotel near the Dead Sea and Massada.

Friday, May 4: We will continue our exploration of the Dead Sea region by visiting Qumran and Qaser El Yahud. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered near Qumran. Qaser El Hud is the traditional site of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan near Jericho. From there we will drive to Jerusalem and stay overnight at the Prima Kings Hotel.

Saturday, May 5: After breakfast, we will drive to the Mount of Olives overlooking the ancient and modern city of Jerusalem, the center of the biblical world. We will walk down the "Palm Sunday Road," via the Chapel of Dominus Flevit where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37), to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed on the night before his crucifixion. From there we will enter the Old City of Jerusalem through the Lion's Gate, walking from the Pools of Bethesda (John 5:2-9) and along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We will conclude the day with a visit to the Garden Tomb where we will worship and celebrate the Eucharist.

Sunday, May 6: Today we will have a full day tour to Samaria. We will leave Jerusalem driving southward into the land of the Tribe of Benjamin. Our first stop will be at the site of ancient Shilo. The City of Shilo held a central place in the history of the Jewish people. It was in Shiloh that the Tabernacle existed for 369 years and where Hannah cried out her famous prayer for a child (1 Samuel 2). From there we will travel to Herodium, located south of Jerusalem and east of Bethlehem, on the edge of the Judean desert. It was built by King Herod the Great between 23 and 15 BCE. From there we will continue on to Bethlehem, the royal city of David, where Jesus was born.

Monday, May 7: We will begin our day with a visit to Mount Zion on the south side of the Old City where we will visit the Upper Room where Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. From there we will drive to the new city of Jerusalem to the Israel Museum with the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) and the model in miniature of Jerusalem as it was during the 2nd Temple period. Our next destination will be Yad Vashem, the Holocaust History Museum and the Children's Memorial, the memorials to the victims of the Holocaust during World War Two.

Tuesday, May 8: Following breakfast, we will check out of the Prima Kings Hotel and drive north to the ruins of ancient city of Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10, 12). Caesarea was a city built by King Herod and later became the seat of government for the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, who sat in judgment over Jesus and sentenced him to be crucified. From there we will drive over the crest of Mount Carmel, where the prophet Elijah challenged the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our next stop will be Megiddo (Judges 5:1, 1 Kings 9:15), the Armageddon of the Revelation of John (Revelation 16) which by Christian tradition is the symbol of the final overthrow of evil by God. From there we will continue to drive to Mount Arbel, overlooking the Sea of Galilee from the west. We will stay the next three nights at the Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel on the Sea of Galilee. This was one of our more popular stops during the last pilgrimage in 2010.

Wednesday, May 9: We will begin the day on the western shore of the sea of Galilee with a visit to Magdala, the birthplace of Mary Magdalene. This was a prosperous fishing village at the time of Jesus. The archaeologists uncovered the remains of the village. A mosaic floor featuring a fisherman's boat was found this place. From here we will take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. We will celebrate the Eucharist during the crossing. On the northern shore, we will stop and visit the Mount of the Beatitudes, the scene of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), and the nearby ruins of Korazim (Matthew 11:20), one of the small cities that Jesus visited, but it's inhabitants did not listen to him. After lunch, we will travel to Capernaum where Jesus dwelt after he left Nazareth and where he performed many signs and wonders. We'll then visit Bethsaida, the hometown of the Apostles Peter and Andrew. Next, we will drive around to the eastern shore of the sea of Galilee to Kursi, the "Land of the Gardarenes," located on the Golan Heights' slopes.

Thursday, May 10: That morning we will drive North into the Golan Heights to reach the Upper Hula Valley to visit the Tel Dan Nature Reserve near Mount Hermon. We will then visit the site of Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 6:13-17:13), where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. We will then visit Gamla, an ancient Jewish city in the Golan Heights. We will stay to watch the sunset over the Sea of Galilee and then return to the hotel for dinner.

Friday, May 11: We will check out of the Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel and drive to Nazareth, a town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew up. We will pass through Cana in route where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). While in Nazareth, we will visit the Church of the Annunciation and then continue our drive towards Tel Aviv. Our last stop will be the old city of Jaffa, where the Apostle Peter received God's command to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

Saturday, May 12: We will check out of the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel Aviv and drive to Ben-Gurion Airport for the homebound flight from Israel to the United States.

Our hope is to have 20-25 pilgrims register for this pilgrimage. Below is the price list (**not including air fare**) based on the number of folks who register. The cost of air fare will be published shortly.

TOUR NAME: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daphne AL –

ISRAEL TOUR PERIOD: May 02. – 12., 2018

BOOKING STATUS: No rooms booked

RATES IN US\$ PER PERSON SHARING A DOUBLE / TWIN BED ROOM:

NOTE: Kindly see below for the meaning of signs *, **, ***

FULL PAYING PAX*	RATE FOR TOUR PACKAGE	TRANSPORTATION
15-19 persons	US\$ 2055.-	Midi bus (36 seater)
20-25 persons	US\$ 1855.-	Midi bus (36 seater)
26-30 persons	US\$ 1760.-	Large Bus (53 seater)
31-35 persons	US\$ 1730.-	Large Bus (53 seater)
36-40 persons	US\$ 1690.-	Large Bus (53 seater)
41-44 persons	US\$ 1650.-	Large Bus (53 seater)
Single Supplement **	US\$ 870.-	

*Full paying pax **Single supplement

HOTELS:

-Full paying pax sharing a Double or a Twin Bed Room -Free of charge person sharing a Double or a Twin Bed Room -Additional payment for a person staying alone in a room

LOCATION	DATES	No. OF NIGHTS	BOARD	HOTEL
Dead Sea	02.-04.05.2018	2	HB	Daniel Resort Hotel
Jerusalem	04.-08.05.2018	4	HB	Prima Kings
Galilee	08.-11.05.2018	3	HB	Nof Ginosar Kibbutz
Tel Aviv	11.-12.05.2018	1	HB	Metropolitan Hotel

HB: including breakfast & Dinner;

RATES INCLUDING:

- Meet and assist by Immanuel tours representative upon arrival & departure;
- Sightseeing as per our outlined itinerary attached (order of visits subject to change)
 - Government licensed English Speaking tour guide
 - Luxury air-conditioned coach throughout;
 - Entrance fees including: National Park Ticket: UNLIMITED entries, cable car at Massada, Mt. Carmel, Capernaum, “Jesus Boat” Museum, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Bethsaida, Magdala Center, Israel Museum, St. Peter in Gallicantu, City of David, Davidson Center, Pools of Bethesda, Burnt House, Tel Shilo,
- 10 Nights hotel accommodation at the above hotels;
- Meal arrangements: Half Board (breakfast & dinner at hotels) starting with dinner on day of arrival and ending with breakfast in hotel on day of departure;
- One lunches included: St. Peter’s Fish lunch by the Sea of Galilee;
- One DINNER OUT – Notre Dame Roof Top Restaurant
<http://www.notredamecenter.org/>
- Immanuel Tours welcome kit: map, hat, backpack+ 1 small mineral water bottle (upon arrival).

- Pilgrim certificate

RATES NOT INCLUDING:

- Medical coverage & travel insurance
- International and Domestic flights
- Airport tax
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Lunches (except for 2 that are included – mentioned above)
- Tips to guide driver and hotel staff
- Any services not mentioned above
- Beverages of any kind

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This quotation is subject to hotels' availability. In case of unavailability at the time of booking price may change.
- Total amount of single rooms should not exceed 10% of total amount of rooms
- Tips/Gratuities for tour guide/driver/hotels' staff: In Israel, it is customary to tip hotel personnel, guides and drivers. Our recommendation is: Guide – USD 4 to USD 6 per person per day Driver – USD 3 to USD 4 per person per day Hotel's staff: USD 2 per person per night

Please contact Thack Dyson or his administrative assistant, Terri McMillan, at 251-626-2421 or email Thack at tdyson1996@aol.com, for more information or to reserve a place on this trip. **The deadline for registering is March 15, 2018.**