



Explore the World~Excavate its Treasures

Armenian Christmas Pilgrimage Holy Land - January 13-22, 2020

January 13, Monday: Arrival

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

January 14, Tuesday: 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.

The Chapel of Ascension marks the site where Jesus ascended to heaven forty days after His Resurrection.

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

January 15, Wednesday: The Dead Sea and the Wilderness of Judea

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 10th millennia BCE.

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, enjoy swimming and floating in the Dead Sea.

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.

January 16, Thursday: Jerusalem

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.

The Wailing Wall: In Judaism, the Western (Wailing) Wall is venerated as the sole remnant of the Holy Temple. It has become a place of pilgrimage for Jews, as it is the closest permitted accessible site to the holiest spot in Judaism, namely the Foundation Stone, which lies on the Temple Mount.

Church of the Dormition; Soorp Prkich Convent - Armenian Cemetery – Genocide Monument; House of High Priest Caiaphas (Mark 14:53-65)

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January 17, Friday: Jerusalem

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).

Monastery of the Holy Archangels; Visit to the Holy Translator's School; Gulbenkian Library; Seminary. Meeting with Patriarch

January 18, Saturday: Bethlehem

This morning we will depart to Bethlehem in order to participate in the festive welcoming of the Armenian Patriarch to Bethlehem, Grand Entrance.

9:00 – Leave the hotel headed to Bethlehem

10:15 – Continue heading to the church of Nativity

11:00 – Arrive at the manger square in Bethlehem, Official Solemn entry to the church of Nativity presided by His Beatitude Archbishop Nurhan Manoogian.

11:30 – Official reception of the congregation and personals by the Patriarch, in the Armenian Monastery of the Church of Nativity

2:00 pm – Vespers followed by Jrakaluytz Badarak (till 6:00 pm)

Return to hotel for dinner and relaxation time

Bus will depart at approximately 10 pm to return to Bethlehem for Midnight services.

10:00 pm – Beginning of the Midnight Service (services are until 06:00 Next morning)

03:00 – Around this time the blessing of the water will take place.

January 19, Sunday: The Way of The Cross, The Jewish Quarter

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.

Holy Sepulcher

Community Christmas Celebration-OPTIOANL

January 20, Monday: 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).

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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.

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).

January 21, Tuesday: Free day in Old City.

Christmas Celebration in Evening

January 22, Wednesday: Departure to the USA

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