Via Emmaus Tours
— Walking. Talking. Sharing. Knowing —

Tel: +972-2-6271636 || Fax: +972-2-6271492 || operations@viaemmaustours.com
Addar Mall, Suite 416/417 || 1 Asfahani Street, Jerusalem, Israel || P.O. Box: 81324

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

An Ecumenical Journey Through the Living Stones of the Holy Land

11 Days / 10 Nights

Jerusalem • Ramallah • Bethlehem & Beit Jala • Hebron • Nazareth • Galilee

A Customized Itinerary Prepared For
Rev. Timothy J. Keyl & Rev. Scott Howard

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Day 1 Arrival in Jerusalem

Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, where you are met and assisted through arrivals. From the airport it is roughly a one-hour drive up to Jerusalem. After checking in to the hotel, the remainder of the day is left free to rest and recover from the journey, with time to take in a first view of the city.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 2 The Old City of Jerusalem & the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The day is spent within the walls of the Old City, which is traditionally divided into four quarters — Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Armenian. Walking the narrow streets and markets gives a sense of how these communities live side by side within a single square kilometre, and of the layers of history beneath the present city.

The day's walk begins at St. Stephen's Gate (the Lions' Gate) on the eastern wall of the Old City. Just inside stands the Church of St. Anne, a beautifully preserved Crusader church traditionally honored as the birthplace of the Virgin Mary and celebrated for its remarkable acoustics. In its grounds lie the Pools of Bethesda, where the Gospel of John recounts Jesus healing the paralyzed man.

From here the route follows the Via Dolorosa — the Way of the Cross — pausing at each of the Stations as it winds through the Muslim and Christian Quarters toward Calvary. The Via Dolorosa ends within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where the final Stations are gathered. Built over the site identified since the fourth century as the place of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the church is shared among several Christian communities — among them the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic (Franciscan), Armenian Apostolic, Coptic, Syriac and Ethiopian — whose use of the building is governed by a long-standing arrangement known as the Status Quo.

From the Holy Sepulchre it is a short walk onward to the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, consecrated in 1898 and today the seat of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The church holds services in several languages, and its bell tower offers one of the finest panoramic views over the Old City. The group will meet with Bishop Imad for an introduction to the life and witness of the Lutheran church in the region.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 3 Mount of Olives & Ministries of Service

The morning includes a visit to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Vocational Training Center, which has provided trade and technical training to Palestinian young people since 1949 in fields such as carpentry, auto-mechanics, telecommunications and design. From there the route continues to the Mount of Olives and the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). Built between 1907 and 1910 and operated by the LWF since 1950, AVH is a leading provider of specialized care — including cancer treatment and dialysis — for Palestinian patients from East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. From the summit of the Mount of Olives there is a sweeping view across the Kidron Valley to the Old City and the Temple Mount. A walk down the hillside passes a series of sites associated with the final days of Jesus, including the Church of the Pater Noster, the chapel of Dominus Flevit, and the Garden of Gethsemane with the Church of All Nations.

The afternoon is given to understanding the contemporary situation more closely. A tour will be organized with the Green Olive Settlement Tour, and at night a meeting will be organized with the Gender Justice Ministry of the ELCA of the MENA region.

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Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 4 Ramallah

Travelling north, the day begins in Ramallah, the administrative centre of the Palestinian Government. A visit to the School of Hope, a Lutheran school of the ELCJHL, offers a window into education in the community and a chance to meet students and staff.

The group will also meet with the Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, a Palestinian Lutheran pastor and theologian known for his writing and teaching on faith in the local context. The afternoon offers a choice of museums that reflect Palestinian culture and history: the Mahmoud Darwish Museum, dedicated to the celebrated national poet; the Yasser Arafat Museum; or the Palestinian Museum near Birzeit.

Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 5 Bethlehem

The day is devoted to Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, and begins just outside the town at Beit Sahour. Here lie the Shepherds' Fields, recalling the night when, according to the Gospel of Luke, the angels announced the birth of Christ to shepherds keeping watch over their flocks — the first to receive the good news. A small church and the quiet surrounding fields make it an evocative place to begin the day.

From Beit Sahour the route climbs into Bethlehem to Manger Square, where the Church of the Nativity stands over the grotto traditionally honored as the place of Jesus' birth. One of the oldest continuously used churches in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is shared — like the Holy Sepulchre — among the Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Roman Catholic communities. Pilgrims descend beneath the altar to the Grotto of the Nativity, where a silver star marks the site associated with the birth.

The itinerary then turns to the cultural life of the city with a visit to Dar al-Kalima University, an institution of the Diyar Consortium founded by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. Dar al-Kalima is Palestine's first university dedicated to the arts, culture and design, and offers insight into how creativity is nurtured within the community.

In the evening, over dinner, the group will learn about the Diaconal Ministry of the ELCJHL, which coordinates the church's social and service work across its congregations and institutions, by Pr. Ashraf (confirmation pending).

Overnight: Beit Jala

Day 6 Beit Jala, Aida Camp & the Separation Wall

The morning begins at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Beit Jala, a programs of the ELCJHL that promotes environmental awareness, biodiversity and care for creation through education and conservation projects.

The day continues with a visit to Aida Refugee Camp, established in 1950, and to the adjacent Walled Off Hotel — a hotel and gallery created by the artist Banksy alongside the separation barrier, with exhibits on the history of the area. The group will also visit Wi'am, the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, which works on community mediation, reconciliation and youth programs.

Overnight: Beit Jala

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Day 7 Hebron & the Tent of Nations

A drive south leads to Hebron, one of the oldest cities in the region and a place of deep significance for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. At its centre is the Cave of the Patriarchs, known to Muslims as the Ibrahimi Mosque, traditionally held to be the burial place of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah. A walk through the Old City and its market illustrates the complex realities of life in the city today. Pending the overall security situation a tour with EAPPI may be organized.

In the hills southwest of Bethlehem the group visits the Tent of Nations, an educational farm run by the Nassar family on land the family has held for generations. Guided by the motto "We refuse to be enemies," the project brings together volunteers and visitors from around the world around sustainable agriculture and non-violent engagement with the land.

Overnight: Beit Jala

Day 8 Sunday Worship & Fellowship

The morning is set aside for Sunday worship with a local Palestinian Lutheran congregation, sharing in the liturgy and music of the church and worshipping alongside the local community. The remainder of the day is unhurried, with time for fellowship, rest, or continued conversation with hosts — including, for those who wish, time in local host homes.

Overnight: Beit Jala

Day 9 Nazareth & North to Galilee

Leaving the Bethlehem area, the journey heads north to Nazareth, the town where Jesus grew up. The Basilica of the Annunciation, one of the largest churches in the Middle East, is built over the traditional site of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary; nearby stands the Church of St. Joseph. A walk through the old town and market gives a feel for the Galilean city. Onwards we will visit as well the Greek Orthodox Church of Annunciation.

On the road toward Galilee the group the route takes in Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration, where the climb to the Franciscan Church of the Transfiguration at the summit is rewarded with a sweeping view over the Jezreel Valley. The day ends with the descent to the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight: Galilee

Day 10 The Sea of Galilee & Beit She'an

The day is spent around the Sea of Galilee, the setting for much of Jesus' ministry. Visits include Capernaum, with the remains of its ancient synagogue and the house traditionally identified with Peter; the Mount of Beatitudes, associated with the Sermon on the Mount; and Tabgha, remembered for the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and the restoration of Peter. The day also takes in Magdala, the lakeside town of Mary Magdalene, where recent excavations have uncovered a first-century synagogue and the streets of a fishing village from the time of Jesus, and the Yigal Allon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar, home of the "Ancient Galilee Boat" — a remarkably preserved first-century fishing vessel recovered from the lakebed in 1986. A boat ride on the lake is included.

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On the way the group stops at Beit She'an, one of the most extensive archaeological sites in the country. Once the leading city of the Decapolis and known in Roman times as Scythopolis, its excavated streets, theatre, bathhouses and colonnades give a vivid picture of urban life in the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Overnight: Galilee

Day 11 Departure

After breakfast, and depending on flight times, there may be opportunity for a final visit or some free time before the transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for return flights home — carrying with you the people, places and conversations of the journey.

Overnight: — (return travel)

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Based On:

Casanova Guest House	Jerusalem	April 27 – May 01, 2027	04 Nights
Abraham Guest House	Beit Jala	May 01 – 05, 2027	04 Nights
Pilgerhaus Guest House	Tiberias	May 05 – 07, 2027	02 Nights
		Total of Nights	10 Nights

NET & Non-Commissionable Price per Person in US Dollars:

Number of Participants	Midi-Bus (39 Seats)		
	15 – 19 + 2	20 – 24 + 2	25 – 29 + 2
Double Occupancy	2560	2320	2110
Single Supplement	830		

The above rates include:

-10 nights' accommodation on HB Basis (Breakfast & Dinner).
-English speaking guide as per your program.
-Deluxe transportation as per your program.
-All entrance fees as per your program.
-Porterage fees at all hotels.
-Audio guiding system.

The above rates do not include:

-Any personal expenses such as telephone calls, beverages, laundry, and medical insurance.
-Anything not mentioned above.
-Tips for guide, bus driver, hotels and restaurants.
-Lunches at local restaurants not mentioned above.

Complimentary Spot:

-As mentioned above in a shared room.

Supplemental Packages:

-Daily lunches at local restaurants at 270 USD per person as per your program; first and last days aren't included.
-Festive Farewell Dinner options are available upon request basis.
-Tips Package at 170 USD per person covering the guide, bus driver, hotel and restaurant staffs.

Sincerely,
George Khoury



Director
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