

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
Journey to the Holy Land
Feb 22 – March 6

Day 1 Wednesday, February 22 **Depart from Richmond Airport**

Day 2 Thursday, February 23 ***Arrival in Israel***

Arrive in **Tel Aviv** around 4 pm on Monday afternoon. Be met by our guide at Ben Gurion Airport after customs and baggage claim. Proceed to hotel to check in. **Herod's Hotel in Tel Aviv (D)**

Day 3 Friday, February 24 ***Along the Mediterranean Coastline and on to Galilee***

We then depart Tel Aviv heading north along the coast to **Caesarea** and its Roman antiquities. On to **Megiddo** and continue to **Cana in the Galilee**. Stop at **Nazareth**. View the **Basilica of the Annunciation** and **Church of St. Joseph**. **Nof Ginosar Hotel in Tiberias. (B, D)**

Day 4 Saturday, February 25 ***The Hills of Galilee and the Cradle of Christianity***

After breakfast, board a **boat** and enjoy a **boat ride** around the **Sea of Galilee**. Travel to the **Mount of Beatitudes** where we celebrate Holy Communion. **Lunch at Mount of Beatitudes**. Drive to Tabgha and see the traditional site of the "**Feeding of the Multitudes**". Visit the **Church of Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes** and **Capernaum**. Visit Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene. **Nof Ginosar Hotel in Tiberias (B, L, D)**

Day 5 Sunday, February 26 ***Beauty and History***

Travel to **Caesarea Phillipi**, one of the sources of the Jordan River. Appreciate the beauty of this enchanting spot located in a Nature Reserve at the foot of **Mt. Hermon**, believed by some denominations to be the site of Jesus' transfiguration. After lunch, we stop at **Assaf Boutique Winery**. **Nof Ginosar Hotel in Tiberias. (B, D)**

Day 6 Monday, February 27 ***Living Stones in Palestine***

Today we visit with former Archbishop Elias Chacour (twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize). We visit **Biram** (Chacour's home town) and take a tour with author and journalist Jonathan Cook. We visit classes and teachers at **Mar Elias Schools and tour the MEEI campus**. Finally, we visit the **Melkite Sermon on the Mount Church in Ibillin** built with gifts from around the world. **Drive to Bethlehem late in the day. St. Gabriel Hotel in Bethlehem (B, D)**

Day 7 Tuesday, February 28 ***Bethlehem Tour***

Today we worship at **Christmas Lutheran Church (10:30 am)** then have lunch and visit the gift shop and arts program at **Diyar/ICB**, a Lutheran-based, ecumenically-oriented organization serving the whole Palestinian community. We will see the **Shepherds' Fields, Manger Square**, and the **Church of the Nativity**. **St. Gabriel Hotel in Bethlehem (B, D)**

Day 8 Wednesday, March 1 ***Living Stones in Bethlehem***

We spend the day with Salameh Family visiting the **Aida Refugee Camp, Al Rowwad Center**, and meeting Laurie and Estephan, founders of the **Seraj Library Program** for an extended library visit and program. **St. Gabriel Hotel in Bethlehem (B, D)**

Day 9 Thursday March 2 *Living Stones that Work for Peace*

Visit **Wi'am**, the Palestinian conflict resolution center to learn about its work, political socio-economic situation, and how there can be hope for a future of justice, peace and reconciliation. The **Walled Off Hotel** in Bethlehem. Visit the **Tent of Nations**. **St. Gabriel Hotel in Bethlehem (B, D)**

Day 10 Friday, March 3 *In and Around Jerusalem*

Today, we visit the **Chapel of the Ascension**, the **Church of Pater Noster** and the **Dominus Flavit Church**. We stop at the **Garden of Gethsemane** for worship at the foot of the Mount of Olives near the magnificent **Church of all Nations (Basilica of Agony)**. Next, we go on to the **Garden Tomb** and then to **Mt. Zion**. We also see King David's tomb, the **Room of the Last Supper**, the **Dormition Abbey**, and **St. Peter in Gallicantu Church**. **St. George's Hotel in Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 11 Saturday, March 4 *The Old City of Jerusalem*

We begin the day with a visit to **Al Aqsa Mosque**. We then walk to the **Western Wall, the Christian Quarter**, walk along the **Via Dolorosa** and the **Stations of the Cross** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. Lunch in the Old City. Worship in the **Garden Tomb**. **St. George's Hotel in Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 12 Sunday, March 5 *Kings and Rebels in the Desert of Judah*

This morning, we depart Jerusalem and drive east through the Judean Desert to the caves of **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We also visit the oasis of **Ein Gedi** and **Masada**, Herod's fortress of majestic beauty overlooking the Dead Sea. We finish our day with a float in the Dead Sea. **St. George's Hotel in Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 13 Monday, March 6 *Jordan River, Jericho and Jaffa*

Visit **Qasar El Yahud**, the place the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on their way to the Holy Land and where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Lunch in Jericho. Drive to Tel Aviv. Tour **Jaffa** and see the **Gate of Hope Monument - Farewell dinner**

Day 14 Tuesday, March 7 *Return home*

We depart from Tel Aviv on Sunday, at 12:20 am and arrive at Dulles International Airport in Washington, DC at 5:20 am. Williamsburg Chauffeur Services will return us to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, possibly in time for the 11:00 worship service!

All dates and times are subject to change, but we will do our best to make sure you see it all!