



A Journey to the Holy Land

Episcopal Diocese of Maine - Portland, ME

A Journey to The Holy Land

Led by The Right Reverend Thomas J. Brown & Professor Deirdre Good
Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri
12-Days: January 28 - February 8, 2027

Updated February 13, 2026

Jan 29-Feb 1 Saint George's Guest House
Feb 1-4 Sisters of Nazareth
Feb 4-8 Saint George's Guest House

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, DAY 1: DEPART USA
On our way to the Holy Land

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT / TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM

On arrival at Tel Aviv, you will be met by your guide, Canon Iyad Qumri, transferred to our Accommodation in Jerusalem.
Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, DAY 3: HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM / HERODIUM
Introductions. In the morning, we will drive to Mt. Scopus where we will look at the different dramatic settings of the Scripture. Then we will look at the many different

Jerusalem, visit Herodium some 12 km. South of Jerusalem, on a hill shaped like a truncated cone that rises 758 m. above sea level, stood Herodium, the palace-fortress built by King Herod. Visit the 1st-century synagogue a pre-70 CE structure located within the mountaintop fortress, adapted by Jewish rebels from a Roman dining hall (triclinium). It had a breathtaking view, overlooking the Judean Desert and the mountains of Moab to the east, and the Judean Hills to the west.

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – A Palestinian Perspective

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, DAY 4: WESTERN WALL / DOME OF THE ROCK / ST. ANNE'S CHURCH / RAMALLAH / ISRAEL MUSEUM

We depart for the Western Wall. Visit the Dome of The Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Then visit a 12th-century Crusader-built St. Anne's Church that is renowned for its exceptional acoustics. A crypt inside marks the traditional birthplace of Mary. Adjacent to it are the archaeological ruins of the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus is said to have healed a paralytic, showcasing both Roman-era healing baths and earlier water reservoirs. Sunday Eucharist at Saint Andrew's Church in Ramallah, the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic. Lunch. Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* are housed. We will also visit a scale model of the Old City of Jerusalem, describing the city as it would have been during Jesus' time.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, DAY 5: JERICHO / NAZARETH

Wadi Qelt early in the morning to get the feel for the desert, depart for Jericho to hike up Mt. of

Temptation and view Tell Jericho, 20-minute meditation on Mt of Temptation, Lunch. drive through the Rift Valley to Nazareth. In Nazareth we will visit Mary's Well, the site of the only spring-fed fountain in the city, and most likely the place where Mary would have gone to draw water. We then visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation where we will have an opportunity to have an introduction to the Icon, we then follow on foot the path to the Latin Church of the Annunciation, the traditional site of the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, telling her she would conceive Jesus, the Emmanuel.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

Tel: 972-4-6554304

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, DAY 6: JORDAN RIVER / CAPERNAUM / BEATITUDES / TABGHA / MAGDALA

Today we depart for the Sea of Galilee-Lake Kinnereth. Stop at the Jordan River for the renewal of Baptismal vows, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, we then visit Capernaum where we see the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, Lunch, visit to Tabgha (Heptapegon), The Loaves and Fishes Church and the Chapel of St. Peter's Primacy. *Magdala* was an ancient Jewish^[1] city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, 5 km (3 miles) north of Tiberias. In the Babylonian Talmud it is known as **Magdala Nunayya** (Aramaic: Tower of the Fishes'). It is believed to be the birthplace of Mary Magdalene.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, DAY 7: SEPPHORIS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI

In the morning, we drive a short distance to Zippori (Sepphoris), where we explore the excavations of the Roman/Byzantine city. Lunch. Depart for Caesarea Philippi (Banias):

‘And Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am? “

Dinner and overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth

A treat you will not want to miss!!!!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, DAY 8: BURQIN / NABLUS / TAYBEH

Depart for Burqin. Jesus had passed through Burqin on his way to Jerusalem from Nazareth, and as he was passing by the village, he heard cries for help from ten lepers who were isolated in quarantine in a cave. Nablus to visit (St. Photini the Greek Orthodox Monastery), St. Photini lived in first century Palestine, she was the Samaritan woman who Christ visited at the well asking her for water, the church built over Jacob’s well where will tour the church and drink from the Well, Lunch in Taybeh, visit Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town, in the fourth century the Emperor Constantine and his mother St. Helena built the church of St. George in the village, the ruins of the Church are still found on a hill in the town. We will also visit the brewery.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House

Guest Speaker: Lecture on Islam

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, DAY 9: SHEPHERD’S FIELD / BETHLEHEM

We depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds’ Field, visit a 1st century cave dwelling, Lunch is in Beit Sahour (Shepherds’ Field), ‘And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night’, Church of the Nativity located in Manger Square. It is the oldest church in Christendom, constructed by Constantine in AD 326 and the traditional site of the Nativity.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – An Israeli Perspective

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, DAY 10: BETH-PHAGE / DOMINUS FLEVIT / GETHSEMANE

Walk the Palm Sunday Procession. We will stop at Pater Noster and Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over the city. It is known as *Dominus Flevit* [Latin for “The Lord wept”]. Afterward, we will walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, this church was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Peter denied Jesus three times). Lunch, Dead Sea, where you will have the option to swim – or really, float (Rocky Beach).

Dinner at the Qumris in Jericho

Overnight at Saint George’s Guest House

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, DAY 11: WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE’S CATHEDRAL / CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER

Sunday Eucharist at Saint George’s Cathedral, the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic. Lunch. Walk to the Cardo to the visit the Church of the Resurrection.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House
Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – An Israeli Perspective

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, DAY 12: WAY OF THE CROSS / EMMAUS

Stations of the Cross, **Silent reflections at the Empty Tomb**, after breakfast we will depart for Emmaus Nicopolis. We celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine Church. Lunch, **FREE AFTERNOON**. After dinner we are transferred to Ben Gurion airport for our return flight.

For More Information

please contact our coordinator:



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