



FCC 2014 Holy Land Pilgrimage

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A ten day pilgrimage to the Holy Land

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Depart O'hare Int'l Airport, Chicago on our way to Tel Aviv, Israel.

First Christian Church, Bloomington Illinois

O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Illinois

Newark Liberty Int'l Airport Station, Newark,NJ

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Arrive at Ben-Gurion Int'l Airport where Ami Travel representatives greets you and introduces you to your upcoming trip in the Holy Land.

We proceed to the Galilee region, for dinner and overnight stay.

Ben Gurion Airport, Tel-Aviv

Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) is located in the southeast outskirts of Tel Aviv, near the city of Lod, 19 km (12 mi) from Tel Aviv's city centre,

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Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee

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Tour the Sea of Galilee region. Visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's House, the Mount of the Beatitudes and Tabgha-the site of the feeding of the multitudes. Then take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee and enjoy a St. Peter's fish lunch in Tiberias. Later, walk along the Jordan River and renew your baptismal promises. Dinner and overnight stay on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Mount of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee

The Mount of Beatitudes (Hebrew: Har HaSimcha) refers to a hill in northern Israel where Jesus is believed to have delivered the Sermon on the Mount. The traditional location for the Mount of Beatitudes is on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Gennesaret (Ginosar).

Tabgha, Sea of Galilee

Tabgha (Hebrew: Ein Sheva) is an area situated on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee in Israel. It is the traditional site 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) in Christianity.

Church of the Primacy of Peter, Sea of Galilee

The Church of the Primacy of St. Peter is a Franciscan church located in Tabgha, Israel, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. It commemorates, and allegedly marks the spot, of Jesus' reinstatement of Peter as chief among the Apostles.

Capernaum, Sea of Galilee

Capernaum (Hebrew: Kfar Nahum, "Nahum's village") was a fishing village in the time of the Hasmoneans. Located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The town is cited in the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of John where it was reported to have been near the hometown of the apostles Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, as well as the tax collector Matthew. One Sabbath, Jesus taught in the synagogue in Capernaum and healed a man who had the spirit of an unclean devil. This story is notable for being the only one common between the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Luke but not contained in the Gospel of Matthew. See Synoptic Gospels for more literary comparison between the Gospels. Afterwards, he healed a fever in Simon Peter's mother-in-law. According to Luke 7:1–10, it is also the place where a Roman Centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant. Capernaum is also mentioned in the Gospel of Mark (2:1), it is the location of the famous healing of the paralytic lowered through the roof to reach Jesus. According to the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus selected this town as the center of his public ministry in the Galilee after he left the small mountainous hamlet of Nazareth (Matthew 4:12–17). He also formally cursed the city, saying "You shall be brought down to Hades," (Matthew 11:23) because of their lack of response to his teaching.

Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee

Here, Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26), and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6).

Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee - Tiberias

Yardenit, Jordan River Valley

Yardenit Baptismal Site, is a baptism site located along the Jordan River in the Galilee region of northern Israel, which is frequented by Christian pilgrims.

Kibbutz Ginosar, Sea of Galilee

In the First Century AD there was a flourishing town known by Greek and Latin speakers as Gennesaret, with the version "Ginosar" appearing in the New Testament. The modern kibbutz takes its name from this ancient town, though it is not certain it is located on precisely the same site. During a severe drought in 1986 the level of lake dropped to reveal the frame of a fishing boat that has since been carbon dated to 100 BCE to 70 CE, and is now known as the Sea of Galilee Boat. Using innovative techniques the boat frame was rescued, the boat was placed in a special tank, and it is displayed in the Beit Yigal Allon Museum. Ginosar (Hebrew: גִּינוֹסָר), (Latin: Gennesaret), is a kibbutz on the western banks of the Sea of Galilee in Israel. Located north of Tiberias

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Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee

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This morning we ascend to top of Mt Tabor – site of the Transfiguration, continue to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah confronted the Pagan prophets. In the afternoon we will continue to Nazareth – site of Annunciation and home of Mary and Joseph and to the village of Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle and continue to Nazareth. Dinner and overnight stay on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Mt Tabor, Galilee

Matthew 17 tells us that Jesus brought Peter, James, and John his brother into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them as his face shone as the sun, and his raiment was white as snow. There also appeared to the disciples Moses and Elijah talking with him, when a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice out of the cloud said "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." [Matthew 17:1-13]. This event is also recounted in 2 Peter 1:16-18, Mark 9:2-9 and Luke 9:28-37. However, none of these accounts identifies the "high mountain" of the scene by name. The earliest identification of the Mount of Transfiguration as Tabor is by Origen in the 3rd century. It is also mentioned by St. Cyril of Jerusalem and St. Jerome in the 4th century.

Megiddo, Jezreel Valley

Megiddo was a site of great importance in the ancient world. It guarded the western branch of a narrow pass and trade route connecting Egypt and Assyria. Because of its strategic location, Megiddo was the site of several historical battles. The site was inhabited from approximately 7000 BC to 586 BC (the same time as the destruction of the First Israelite Temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonians, and subsequent fall of Israelite rule and exile), though the first significant remains date to the Chalcolithic period (4500-3500 BC).

Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel

In mainstream Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thought, Elijah is indelibly associated with the mountain, and he is regarded as having sometimes resided in a grotto on the mountain. Indeed, one name for Mount Carmel is Jabal Mar Elyas Mount Saint Elias. In the Books of Kings, Elijah challenges 450 prophets of a particular Baal to a contest at the altar on Mount Carmel to determine whose deity was genuinely in control of the Kingdom of Israel; since the narrative is set during the rule of Ahab and his association with the Phoenicians, biblical scholars suspect that the Baal in question was probably Melqart.

According to the Bible in 1 Kings 18, the challenge was to see which deity could light a sacrifice by fire. After the prophets of Baal had failed to achieve this, Elijah had water poured on his sacrifice to saturate the altar and then he prayed; fire fell and consumed the sacrifice, wood, stones, soil, and water which prompted the Israelite witnesses to proclaim, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!". In the account, Elijah announced the end to a long drought; clouds gathered, the sky turned black, and it rained heavily.

Though there is no biblical reason to assume that the account of Elijah's victory refers to any particular part of Mount Carmel, Islamic tradition places it at a point known as El-Maharrakah, meaning the burning.

Carmelites

A statue of Elijah in the crypt of the monastery on Mount Carmel. According to Carmelite tradition, the crypt was originally the Cave of Elijah

A Catholic religious order was founded on Mount Carmel in the 12th century, named the Carmelites, in reference to the mountain range; the founder was a certain Berthold, who died at an unknown date after 1185, and who was either a pilgrim or crusader. The Order was founded at the site that it claimed had been the location of Elijah's cave, 1,700 feet (520 m) above sea level at the northwestern end of the mountain range; this, perhaps not coincidentally, is also the highest natural point of the mountain range. Though there is no documentary evidence to support it, Carmelite tradition suggests that a community of Jewish hermits had lived at the site from the time of Elijah until the Carmelites were

founded there; prefixed to the Carmelite Constitution of 1281 was the claim that from the time when Elijah and Elisha had dwelt devoutly on Mount Carmel, priests and prophets, Jewish and Christian, had lived "praiseworthy lives in holy penitence" adjacent to the site of the "fountain of Elisha" in an uninterrupted succession.

A Carmelite monastery was founded at the site shortly after the Order itself was created, and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of "Star of the Sea" ("stella maris" in Latin), a common medieval presentation of her. Although Louis IX of France is sometimes named as the founder, he was not, and had merely visited it in 1252. The Carmelite Order grew to be one of the major Catholic religious orders worldwide, although the monastery at Carmel has had a less successful history. During the Crusades the monastery often changed hands, frequently being converted into a mosque;[under Islamic control the location came to be known as "El-Maharrakah", meaning "place of burning", in reference to the account of Elijah's challenge to the priests of Hadad. In 1799 the building was finally converted into a hospital, by Napoleon, but in 1821 the surviving structure was destroyed by the pasha of Damascus. A new monastery was later constructed directly over a nearby cave, after funds were collected by the Carmelite Order for restoration of the monastery. The cave, which now forms the crypt of the monastic church, is termed "Elijah's grotto" by the Discalced Carmelites friars who have custody of the monastery.

One of the oldest scapulars is associated with Mount Carmel and the Carmelites. According to Carmelite tradition, the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was first given to Simon Stock, an English Carmelite, by the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Carmelites refer to her under the title "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" in honor of the legend, and celebrate 16 July as her feast day.

Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth

Nazareth is located in the hills in the center of the Galilee in Northern Israel. The modern city of Nazareth was built over the old village, and few archaeological remains are left from the times of Jesus. Nazareth is today a big city, populated by Christians and Muslims (in lower Nazareth) and Jews (in Upper Nazareth, called Natzeret-Illit). It is less than one hour drive east of Haifa. The older section near the Churches is crowded with small shops and narrow alleys. The City grew around this center towards the hills around, with more Arab villages around the city that are practically connected to the City.

Nazareth, Nazareth

Cana, Nazareth

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.

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Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee

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In the morning we drive to Magdala, to Mount Precipite, and continue along the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea where Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized, visit the Roman Theatre, Aqueduct and the Crusader remains. Continue via Jaffa to the Holy city of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Magdala

Magdala meaning "elegant", "great", or "tower" (viz. "great place"); Hebrew: Migdal, meaning

"tower"; Arabic: Qariyat al-Majdal) is the name of at least two places in ancient Israel mentioned in the Jewish Talmud and one place that may be mentioned in the Christian New Testament.

Mount Precipice, Nazareth

Mount Precipice also known as Mount of Precipitation, Mount of the Leap of the Lord and Mount Kedumim is located in Nazareth, Near the city of Nazareth Illit.

It is believed by many to be the site of the Rejection of Jesus described in Luke 4:29-30 - The people of Nazareth, not accepting Jesus as Messiah tried to push him from the mountain, but "he passed through the midst of them and went away.

Roman theater, Caesarea

Caesarea Maritima is a national park on the Israeli coastline, near the town of Caesarea. The ancient Caesarea Maritima city and harbor was built by Herod the Great about 25–13 BCE. The city has been populated through the late Roman and Byzantine era.

Aqueduct, Caesarea

To bring water to the city, Herod built Roman-style aqueducts. Aqueducts were built on an incline so the water could flow down to the place from the Mt. Carmel's springs, almost 10 miles away.

Crusader Ruins, Caesarea

When Baldwin I took the city in Feb 1101, during the First Crusade, it was still very rich, nevertheless. A legend grew up that in this city was discovered the Holy Grail around which so much lore accrued in the next two centuries. The city was strongly refortified and rebuilt by the Crusaders. A lordship was created there, as was one of the four archbishoprics in the kingdom (see Archbishop of Caesarea). A list of thirty-six Latin bishops, from 1101 to 1496 has been reassembled by 19th century papal historians; the most famous of these is probably Heraclius. After that the Latin "Bishop of Caesarea" became an empty title. Saladin retook the city in 1187; it was recaptured by the Crusaders in 1191, and finally lost by them in 1265, this time to the Mamluks, who ensured that there would be no more battling over the site— where the harbor has silted in anyway— by razing the fortifications - in line with their practice in other formerly-Crusader coastal cities.

Kibbutz, Caesarea

Jaffa, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Jaffa is the southern, oldest part of Tel Aviv-Jaffa (since 1950), an ancient port city in Israel. Jaffa is famous for its association with the biblical stories of Solomon, Jonah, and Saint Peter.

House of Simon the Tanner, Tel-Aviv - Jaffa

St. Peter resided in the house of Simon the Tanner in Jaffa (Acts 10 6): "He lodged with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side". In this house, St. Peter had a significant dream. According to tradition, the resurrection of Tabitha also happened on the roof of this house.

Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

St George Hotel Jerusalem, Jerusalem

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Morning to Bethlehem – Church of Nativity, Manger Square and the Shepherds' Fields. Continue our journey of faith in the Holy city. Afternoon we shall visit, view and experience: Recent excavations in the City of David and the recently discovered pool of Siloam. Mount of Olives; Garden of Gethsemane End the day at the Garden Tomb. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Bethlehem is a Palestinian city located in the central West Bank, about 10 kilometers south of Jerusalem. Its population is approximately 25,000 people.

Church of Nativity, Bethlehem

The Church of the Nativity is a basilica located in Bethlehem, Palestinian territories. The church was originally commissioned in 327 AD by Constantine and his mother Helena over the site that is still traditionally considered to be located over the cave that marks the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth. The Church of the Nativity site's original basilica was completed in 339 AD and destroyed by fire during the Samaritan Revolts in the sixth century AD. A new basilica was built 565 AD by Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor, restoring the architectural tone of the original. The site of the Church of the Nativity has had numerous additions since this second construction, including its prominent bell towers. Due to its cultural and geographical history, the site holds a prominent religious significance to those of both the Christian and Muslim faiths.

Manger Square, Bethlehem

Manger Square is an important city square in the center of Bethlehem. It takes its name from the manger where Jesus is said to have been born which, according to Christian dogma, is in the Church of the Nativity, possibly the oldest existing church in the world, which surrounds the square. Also around Manger Square is the Mosque of Omar (the city's only mosque) and the Palestinian Peace Center. Streets with names connected to Jesus, including Star Street and Nativity Street, lead into the Square.

Shepherds' Fields, Bethlehem

East of Bethlehem is the Christian village of Beit Sahour (or Bait Sahur), which includes the Shepherds' Fields: the fields identified since ancient times with the shepherds who saw the Star of Nativity.

Pool of Siloam, Jerusalem

The Pool of Siloam is mentioned several times in the Bible. Isaiah 8:6 mentions the pool's waters, while Isaiah 22:9 ff. refers to the construction of Hezekiah's tunnel.

For Christians, the Pool of Siloam has additional special significance: it is mentioned in the Gospel of John as the location to which Jesus sent "a man blind from birth" in order to complete the healing of the man.

Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

City of David , Jerusalem

The City of David is the Israeli name for an ancient core of settlement in Jerusalem dating back to the Bronze Age. and which is now a major archaeological site. It is on a narrow ridge running south from the Temple Mount in the predominantly Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem. It was a walled city in the Bronze Age and, according to tradition, it is the place where King David built his palace and established his capital. The City of David enjoyed the defensive advantages of its position by the Tyropoeon Valley to its west, since largely filled in; by the Hinnom valley to the south, and the

Kidron Valley on the east.

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

The Mount of Olives or Mount Olivet (Hebrew: Har HaZeitim) is a mountain ridge east of and adjacent to the Jerusalem's Old City. It is named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes. The southern part of the Mount was the necropolis of the ancient Judean kingdom.

Gethsemane, Jerusalem

Gethsemane ("oil press") is a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem most famous as the place where, according to the gospels, Jesus prayed and his disciples slept the night before Jesus' crucifixion.

Gethsemane, Jerusalem

The Church of All Nations, also known as the Church or Basilica of the Agony, is a Roman Catholic church located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, next to the Garden of Gethsemane. It enshrines a section of bedrock where Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. (Mark 14:32-42)

The Garden Tomb Jerusalem, Jerusalem

The Garden Tomb is a rock-cut tomb in Jerusalem which was unearthed in 1867 and has subsequently been considered by some Christians to be the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. The Garden Tomb is adjacent to a rocky escarpment which since the mid-nineteenth century has been proposed by some scholars to be Golgotha (it is also known as Skull Hill, Gordon's Calvary, and Conder's Calvary. In contradistinction to this modern identification the traditional site where the death and resurrection of Christ are believed to have occurred has been the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at least since the fourth century. Since 1894 the Garden Tomb and its surrounding gardens have been maintained as a place of Christian worship and reflection by a Christian non-denominational charitable trust based in the United Kingdom named The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association.

Western Wall, Jerusalem

The Western Wall Tunnel is an underground tunnel exposing the full length of the Western Wall. The tunnel is adjacent to the Western Wall and is located under buildings of the Old City of Jerusalem. While the open-air portion of the Western Wall is approximately 60 metres (200 ft) long, the majority of its original length is hidden underground. The tunnel allows access to an additional 485 metres (1,591 ft) of the wall.

Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

St George Hotel Jerusalem, Jerusalem

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Today you will drive to Massada, site of the Jewish zealots' last stand against the Romans. Later, drive to Ein Gedi to experience the salty water of the Dead Sea. Continue our journey to the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Visit Jericho; view the Tel, Zacheus's Tree, Elisha's spring and the Mount of Temptation. Later visit Bethany-Tomb of Lazarus. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Judean Desert, Judea

Masada National Park - Masada, Dead Sea

Masada (Hebrew metzadā "fortress") is an ancient fortification in the Southern District of Israel situated on top of an isolated rock plateau (akin to a mesa) on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. Herod the Great built palaces for himself on the mountain and fortified Masada between 37 and 31 BCE. According to Josephus, the Siege of Masada by troops of the Roman Empire towards the end of the First Jewish–Roman War ended in the mass suicide of the 960 Sicarii rebels and their families hiding there.

Qumran -

"Thus says the Lord, I have made this water wholesome; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." 22. So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

Dead Sea, Dead Sea

The Dead Sea, also called the Salt Sea, is a salt lake bordering Jordan to the east, and Israel to the west. Its surface and shores are 427 metres (1,401 ft) below sea level, Earth's lowest elevation on land. The Dead Sea is 306 m (1,004 ft) deep, the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. With 34.2% salinity (in 2011), it is also one of the world's saltiest bodies of water. It is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean. This salinity makes for a harsh environment in which animals cannot flourish, hence its name. The Dead Sea is 50 kilometres (31 mi) long and 15 kilometres (9 mi) wide at its widest point. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary is the Jordan River.

The Dead Sea has attracted visitors from around the Mediterranean basin for thousands of years. Biblically, it was a place of refuge for King David. It was one of the world's first health resorts (for Herod the Great), and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of products, from balms for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilizers. People also use the salt and the minerals from the Dead Sea to create cosmetics and herbal sachets.

Mount of Temptation, Judean Desert

Mount of Temptation is in the Judean Desert where Jesus was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:8). It is generally identified with Mount Quarantania, a mountain approximately 366 m (1 200 feet) high, located about 11 km (6.8 mi) north-west of Jericho.

Matthew 4:8-11

"8. Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9. and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' 10. Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." 11. Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him."

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem - Bethany

The Tomb of Lazarus is a traditional spot of pilgrimage located in the West Bank town of al-Eizariya, traditionally identified as the biblical village of Bethany, on the southeast slope of the Mount of Olives, some 2.4 km (1.5 miles) east of Jerusalem. The tomb is the purported site of a miracle recorded in the Gospel of John in which Jesus resurrects Lazarus.

John 11:1-44

"1. Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,* 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' 4. But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' 5. Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6. after having heard that Lazarus* was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' 8. The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' 9. Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' 11. After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' 12. The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' 13. Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. 15. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' 16. Thomas, who was called the Twin,* said to his fellow-

disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' 17. When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus* had already been in the tomb for four days. 18. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles*away, 19. and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' 23. Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' 24. Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' 25. Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.* Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 27. She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,* the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' 28. When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' 29. And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' 33. When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' 35. Jesus began to weep. 36. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' 37. But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' 38. Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' 40. Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' 41. So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' 43. When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' 44The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

St George Hotel Jerusalem, Jerusalem

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We walk into the old city of Jerusalem. Experience the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Armenian quarters. A special visit to the Temple Institute, where artifacts of the Temple are being created. See the Western Wall, the Temple ruins and the Temple Mount. Later stroll through the colorful bazaars of the old city to the Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress: Pilate's Judgment Hall, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Continue our journey along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Later, visit recent excavations in the City of David and the recently discovered pool of Siloam. End the day at the Garden Tomb. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Lions' Gate, Jerusalem

St. Anne's Church, Jerusalem, Jerusalem

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 healing.

St. Anne's Church, Jerusalem, Jerusalem

The Church of St. Anne is a Roman Catholic church, located at the start of the Via Dolorosa, near the Lions' Gate

Antonia Fortress, Jerusalem

The Antonia Fortress was a military barracks built around 19 BC by Herod the Great in Jerusalem on the site of earlier Ptolemaic and Hasmonean strongholds, named after Herod's roman patron Mark Antony. The fortress was built at the eastern end of the great wall of the city (the second wall), on the northeastern side of the city, near the Temple Mount and the Pool of Bethesda.

Pilate's Judgment Hall, Jerusalem

In the canonical gospels, Pilate's court refers to the trial of Jesus in praetorium before Pontius Pilate.

Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem

The Via Dolorosa 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. The winding route from the Antonia Fortress west to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—a distance of about 600 metres (2,000 feet)—is a celebrated place of Christian pilgrimage.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

The site is venerated as Golgotha (the Hill of Calvary), where Jesus of Nazareth was crucified and is said also to contain the place where Jesus was buried (the Sepulchre). The church has been a paramount – and for many Christians the most important pilgrimage locations.

Western Wall, Jerusalem

The Western Wall, Wailing Wall or Kotel (Hebrew: HaKotel HaMa'aravi) is located in the Old City of Jerusalem at the foot of the western side of the Temple Mount. It is a remnant of the ancient wall that surrounded the Jewish Temple's courtyard, and is arguably the most sacred site recognized by the Jewish faith outside of the Temple Mount itself.

The Temple Institute, Jerusalem

The Temple Institute, known in Hebrew as Machon HaMikdash, is an organization in Israel focusing on the controversial endeavor of establishing the Third Temple. Its long-term aims are to build the third Jewish temple on the Temple Mount, on the site currently occupied by the Dome of the Rock, and to reinstate sacrificial worship. It aspires to reach this goal through the study of Temple construction and ritual and through the development of actual Temple ritual objects, garments, and building plans suitable for immediate use in the event conditions permit its reconstruction.

Temple Mount, Jerusalem

The Temple Mount, is one of the most important religious sites in the Old City of Jerusalem. It has been used as a religious site for thousands of years. At least three religions are known to have used the Temple Mount: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, Jerusalem

Ramat Rachel is a kibbutz located south of Jerusalem in Israel, as an enclave within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. Overlooking Bethlehem and Rachel's Tomb (for which the kibbutz name is named) and situated within the Green Line,

Zion Gate, Jerusalem

Zion Gate (Hebrew: Shaar Zion, is one of eight gates in the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem

The Last Supper Room - Cenaculum, Jerusalem

The Cenacle (from Latin cenaculum), also known as the "Upper Room", is a room in Jerusalem traditionally held to be the site of The Last Supper. The word is a derivative of the Latin word cena, which means dinner. In Christian tradition, based on Acts 1:13, the "Upper Room" was not only the site of the Last Supper (i.e. the Cenacle), but the usual place where the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem, and according to the Catholic Encyclopedia "the first Christian church".

Thus the Cenacle is considered the site where many other events described in the New Testament took place, such as:

the Washing of the Feet

some resurrection appearances of Jesus

the gathering of the disciples after the Ascension of Jesus

the election of Saint Matthias as apostle

the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost

Protestant Cemetery, Jerusalem

King David's Tomb is a site viewed as the burial place of David, King of Israel, according to a tradition beginning in the 12th century. It is located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, near the Hagia Maria Sion Abbey. The tomb is situated in a ground floor corner of the remains of the former Hagia Zion, a Byzantine church. Older Byzantine tradition dating to the 4th century identified the location as the Cenacle of Jesus and the original meeting place of the Christian faith.

Saint Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem

The Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu is a Roman Catholic church located on the eastern slope of Mount Zion, just outside the Old (walled) City of Jerusalem. The church takes its name from the Latin word "Gallicantu", meaning cock's-crow. This is in commemoration of Peter's triple rejection of Jesus "... before the cock crows twice." (Mark 14:30)

Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

St George Hotel Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Invalid date

Morning visit Yad Vashem the Holocaust Memorial; Shrine of the Book housing the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Jerusalem Model. Ein Karem – site of the Visitation and birthplace of St John the Baptist at leisure. In the afternoon your guide directs you to places you may visit at your own pace, or do your last shopping. Back to our hotel for the overnight stay.

Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Yad Vashem is Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem is located on the western slope of Mount Herzl on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, and adjacent to the Jerusalem Forest.

The Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem

The Shrine of the Book, a wing of the Israel Museum in the Givat Ram neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel, houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947–56 in 11 caves in and around the Wadi Qumran.

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

According to the Bible, Mary went "into the hill country, to a city of Judah"[9] when she visited the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth. According to Catholic tradition and dogma, this Mary brought forth the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Theodosius (530) says that the distance is five miles from Jerusalem to the place where Elizabeth lived, the mother of John the Baptist. The Jerusalem Calendar (dated before 638) mentions the village by name as the place of a festival in memory of Elizabeth celebrated on the twenty-eighth of August.

Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

St George Hotel Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Invalid date

Morning transfer to Ben-Gurion Int'l airport. Same day arrival back to O'hare Int'l Airport, Chicago.

Ben Gurion Airport, Tel-Aviv

Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) is located in the southeast outskirts of Tel Aviv, near the city of Lod, 19 km (12 mi) from Tel Aviv's city centre,