

## Rev. Pamela Challis Holy Land Itinerary Revised

### **FRI 17 APR Depart USA**

A meaningful journey of learning and discovery begins today. Depart Los Angeles overnight, international flight to Tel Aviv. (Meals in-flight)

### **SAT 18 APR Arrive Tel Aviv**

Connect with a continuing flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival meet your guide and driver at Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer to your hotel for check-in the Tel Aviv/Netanya area. After time to refresh, gather for a welcome dinner. (Meals in-flight, D)

### **SUN 19 APR Tel Aviv/Galilee**

This morning travel the coast to Caesarea (Maritima), once the Roman capital of Palestine. See the Crusader fortifications, the Roman theater and aqueduct, and the harbor from where Paul was taken to Rome. In Jesus' boyhood town visit the Greek Orthodox Church, and Mary's Well. Proceed to Tiberias for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

### **MON 20 APR Galilee**

Today focus on Jesus' ministry around the Galilee area. This morning stop to see the Jesus Boat – a first-century boat discovered in the mud of the Galilee. Then embark on a boat ride across the peaceful Galilee waters. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum; this is where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others. Travel to Tabgha for visits to the Church of Multiplication, built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, and the Church of the Beatitudes for one of the most beautiful views of the Galilee. Return to your lodging for dinner and overnight (B, D)

### **TUE 21 APR Galilee/Bethlehem**

Check out of the hotel and drive to the Israeli settlement of Efrat where a resident will introduce you to his community. Visit Deheishe Refugee Camp. Afternoon walking tour of the Old City of Bethlehem visiting the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Bethlehem hotel check in for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

### **WED 22 APR Bethlehem**

Tour the region's only arts college, Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture. Meet with The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (subject to his availability), faculty, staff and students to learn how arts and cultural initiatives ensure that today's Palestinians have abundant life. This university also serves the needs of the broader community through a range of contextual and holistic programs via Dar al-Kalima's Outreach program for Older Adults, Youth and Families. Stop at Shepherds' Field where you will view Bethlehem as the shepherds might have on the night of Jesus' birth. Enjoy dinner in a Bedouin tent with traditional foods. Bethlehem dinner and overnight. (B, D)

### **THU 23 APR Bethlehem**

Walk along the Via Dolorosa stopping at a few Stations of the Cross. See the Crusader Church of St. Anne and the ancient Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Stop at the Church of the Sisters of Zion (Ecce Homo) to see the original street level pavement from the time of Jesus. Arrive at the Church of Holy Sepulchre which houses the final five Stations of the Cross. Afternoon visit to Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center <https://sabeel.org/> and conversation with founder The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek (*subject to his availability*) . (B,D)

### **FRI 24 APR Bethlehem/Jerusalem**

Meet with a representative from the Lutheran World Federation at the Augusta Victoria Hospital campus. Learn about the healing work being done. Savor the stunning panoramic view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of All Nations. Visit St. Peter's in Gallicantu, which recalls Peter's three denials of Christ. Visit the Western Wall, considered to be one of the holiest

sites in the Jewish tradition. (B,D) Note: You could join the Women in Black Vigil from 1P – 2P Check in to your hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. <http://womeninblack.org/vigils-around-the-world/middle-east/israel/>.

#### **SAT 25 APR Jerusalem**

Drive to Masada and ride the cable car up to the rocky plateau where the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors, and explore the various remains of this mountaintop village. The Dead Sea is 1373 feet below sea level and is the lowest point on earth. There will be time for a float in the briny waters. Then drive to Qumran to see the actual caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Stop in Jericho on your return to Jerusalem.

#### **SUN 26 APR Jerusalem**

Early morning visit to visit the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif, with the Al Aqsa Mosque (*no inside visits included*), second only to Mecca for Muslims. Worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer followed by a meeting with Pr. Carrie Ballenger, the English language pastor to learn about the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The afternoon is free for individual exploration. This evening gather for a farewell dinner at an Armenian restaurant near the hotel. After dinner travelers returning to the US will transfer to the airport for the return flight home. Those extending to Jordan will overnight at the hotel (B,D).

#### **MON 27 APR Return to USA**

Arrive home today with life enriching memories of your journey. (Meals in-flight)

*Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Itinerary subject to change.*

*Speakers subject to availability.*

#### **OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO JORDAN**

#### **MON 27 APR Jerusalem/Petra**

Transfer to the Allenby Crossing to Jordan and meet your Jordanian guide, driver and coach. Visit Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan, which has received recognition as the likely site where John baptized Jesus. Nearby visit the new Lutheran chapel. Continue through the vast desert to the village of Wadi Musa, which embraces the entrance to Petra – one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. (B,D)

#### **TUE 28 APR Petra**

Two thousand years ago the Nabateans carved a city out of rose red rock and it was rediscovered in 1812. Today you will discover the formerly lost city of Petra during a half-day guided tour. Begin by walking through the dramatic "ciq" or canyon that opens upon the Treasury, El Khazneh, one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh the visitor is surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures. Enjoy a full day of touring this amazing, once-hidden world. (B,D)

#### **WED 29 APR Petra/Tel Aviv/Departure (MAY RETURN FROM AMMAN)**

Depart on the northbound journey to the village of Madeba to see the ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. Drive to Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land and enjoy the dramatic view of the Jordan Valley, Jericho and the Judean hills beyond. Cross the Allenby Bridge to meet your guide and driver for the transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – stop en route for dinner. Arrive at the airport this evening for flight check-in and departure. (B, D)

#### **THU 30 APR Arrive U.S.**

Arrive home enriched by your encounters with the "Living Stones" of the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight)