

WHEN: March 2-14, 2018

- Depart USA on Fri. Mar. 2, 2018; Arrive in Tel Aviv on Sat. Mar. 3, 2018
- Depart Tel Aviv on Wed. Mar. 14, 2018 (after 11 PM); Arrive in USA on Thurs., Mar. 13, 2018

WHO IS LEADING:

Iyad Qumri is a Palestinian Anglican Christian who was born and raised in Jerusalem. He is a licensed guide who has been leading tours of Israel and Palestine since 1997 and is thoroughly familiar with Biblical pilgrimage sites. Iyad is fluent in English, Arabic and Hebrew. Iyad and his wife Simone have 2 sons who both attend college in the U.S.

The Rev. Cannon John Peterson is the former General Secretary of the Anglican Consultative Council, former Dean of St. George's College in Jerusalem, and dear friend of St. Mary's.

The Rev. Andrew Merrow, in his 33rd year as Rector of St. Mary's Arlington, has served the church in a wide variety of service including the Board of Trustees of Virginia Theological Seminary where he also taught Liturgics for 25 years.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Explore the Old City of Jerusalem, its markets and its shrines including the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher).
- Visit towns where Jesus lived or visited: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Jericho, Caesarea Philippi, Mount of Beatitudes, Nablus, and Emmaus.
- Walk the Palm Sunday Procession.
- Feel the Life of the Judean Dessert, the Dead Sea, and the Jordan River.
- Worship with Christians in ancient and modern churches.
- Learn more about the political realities of this complex landscape from knowledgeable Israeli, Christian and Arab speakers.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST:

The land-cost of the pilgrimage is \$2,950 per person (double occupancy) or \$3,510 (single occupancy). The price covers all accommodations, 3 meals per day, transportation in a comfortable touring bus that is ours for our entire stay, entrance fees, speaker fees, guide fees, a gift to St. George's College, a gift to the Sisters of Nazareth Convent, and tips.

Personal expenses such as airfare, phone calls, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, laundry, and medical / travel insurance are the responsibility of each pilgrim.

Payments:

A **Non-Refundable** deposit of \$500 per person is due with your completed Registration Form. Your deposit guarantees your place on the pilgrimage.

A final payment of \$2,450 per person for double occupancy and \$3,010 for single occupancy is due on **Jan. 2, 2018**.

Checks should be made payable to St. Mary's with "2018 Pilgrimage" in the Memo Line. Please mail checks to Cameron Merrow; 5814 26th St. N; Arlington, VA 22207

Individual Cancellations:

The \$500 deposit paid by each pilgrim to reserve your place is **non-refundable**.

After full payment the cancellation policy is:

- 90 days before departure: One half refund minus deposit
- 60 days before departure: One quarter refund minus deposit

Air Travel

Pilgrims are responsible for making their own airline reservations.

Plan to arrive at Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv (TLV) on Mar. 3, 2018. Pilgrims arriving on Mar 3, 2018 between 11 AM – 4 PM will be met by a tour leader and accompanied to the Guest House. Pilgrims arriving earlier or later, please see Airport Transportation Options below.

To ensure your full participation in the final day's itinerary, please plan to depart after 11 PM on Mar. 14, 2018. This is really important. FYI, it is common for international flights to depart TLV in the middle of the night or early morning.

Airport Transportation Options:

Option #1: Upon request to Cameron Merrow, a driver will meet you as you exit luggage and customs. He will be holding a sign with your name and take you to the Guest House. The cost is \$100 for up to 3 people. US dollars or credit card are accepted. Please **PAY AT THE GUEST HOUSE**. You may tip the driver in cash.

Option #2: Use the shared taxi called Sherut (sher-ROOT) located at the curb outside the International Arrivals hall. The cost is around \$20 per person. It holds up to 8 passengers and each one is dropped off at their address of choice. US dollars are accepted.

Both Options are completely safe. The Sherut also provides a way to see some of the many neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

Insurance

Pilgrims must have international medical insurance. Pilgrims are also encouraged to have travel insurance to cover the cost of flight cancellations and trip cancellations for personal reasons.

Physical Activity

We will be walking regularly up and down hills and often on cobblestones, bumpy, or non-level surfaces. We will also be standing for periods of up-to-60 minutes. Please contact Cameron Merrow at cdmerrow@gmail.com with questions on physical activity.

Pilgrimage Accommodations and Meals

We will be staying in traditional, clean, modest, and comfortable places which are appropriate for a pilgrimage. These accommodations reflect the local culture and also the traditions of welcoming Holy Land pilgrims.

In Jerusalem our home is the St. George's Pilgrim Guest House, located on the "close" (enclosed campus) of St. George's Cathedral, which includes the cathedral church, the diocesan offices, bishop's residence, St. George's School, and St. George's College. The Guest House is part of the hospitality ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Located just a ten-minute walk to the Old City of Jerusalem, St. George's is a welcome oasis with a beautiful garden, comfortable rooms, excellent food, and a helpful and friendly staff. Each room has its own bathroom, TV, heat and a/c.

Breakfasts offer both traditional local foods and Western fare, served buffet style. Dinners are varied each evening.

In Galilee our home is in the heart of Nazareth at the Sisters of Nazareth Guesthouse. The rooms are a bit smaller than St. George's, but have been fully updated, have private bathrooms, climate control, and are noted for their very clean upkeep. There is a lovely courtyard and a rooftop terrace for pilgrims to enjoy. The sisters offer a complimentary aperitif before dinner, which is served family-style. Breakfasts are simple, usually consisting of delicious bread (home made), jams, cheese, fruit, hardboiled eggs, juices, and coffee.

All meals are included throughout the pilgrimage. Breakfasts and dinners will be served at St. George's or at the Sisters of Nazareth. Lunches are in local restaurants along the way. If you have dietary restrictions, please indicate that on your Registration Form.

Water

Tap water at the Guest House and the Sisters of Nazareth is potable. Due to the dryness of the climate, everyone must have a water bottle with them at all times. Bottled water will always be available on the bus for \$1.00 each.

Electrical and Electronics

The electrical current in Israel is 220AC. Electrical plugs are shaped differently in Israel. Most U.S. phone and camera chargers only need a simple plug adaptor (see internet or local travel store). If you bring a hair dryer, you will need a transformer and an adapter plug. However, inexpensive dual voltage hair dryers are available in the U.S. and in travel stores. Dual voltage items must be switched over to our 220AC and can then be used with only an adapter plug.

Money

The local currency is the Israeli Shekel, available at the airport or from the nearby ATM's in both Jerusalem and Nazareth. Some merchants will accept credit cards and U.S. dollars are often accepted. It is wise to bring at least 50 US \$1 bills for drinks and small purchases.

Internet

There is free wireless Internet throughout St. George's Guest House, along with two public computers with printers. There is wireless Internet at the Sisters of Nazareth in the public areas.

What to Wear

Women – In respecting the cultural norms of all the religions present in the Holy Land, women are asked to wear clothes that cover their knees and elbows. Wear long pants, jeans, capris and skirts; and tops with long sleeves or ¾-length sleeves. When visiting churches, women wear scarves or shawls on their head. Mornings and evenings will be cool and a sweater or light jacket will be needed. Do not wear shorts, tank tops, or sleeveless blouses.

Men – Wear long pants, jeans or khakis and a mix of long and short-sleeved shirts. Mornings and evenings will be cool and a sweater or light jacket will be needed. Do not wear shorts.

Everyone - will need a hat, sunglasses, and sturdy walking shoes with non-skid soles that can handle cobblestones. If you plan to swim in the Dead Sea (a once-in-a-lifetime experience), please bring a swimsuit. Also do not forget sunscreen!

Laundry

Many pilgrims hand wash a few items in their bathrooms; they usually dry overnight. There is, however, an excellent and inexpensive same-day laundry service available at St. George's Guest House.

Photography and Cameras

Care should be taken not to photograph any military or police personnel or installations. Visitors should also be discreet about taking photographs in Jewish Orthodox areas and of Jewish Orthodox people. Most sacred sites will indicate whether photography is permitted. Bring extra memory cards and batteries from your home country, as these items are very expensive in Jerusalem.

Extending your Pilgrimage

On Mar. 14, Checkout time at the Guest House is 11 AM and space is provided to store our luggage while we are finishing up our day's schedule.

Pilgrims, who want to extend their time in the Holy Land either by adding days prior to the scheduled pilgrimage or adding days immediately after the pilgrimage, please notify Cameron Merrow. The cost for a single room is \$110 per night and for a double room \$150 per night.