

February 22 - March 4, 2024

Holy Land Pilgrimage



Dear Friends,

My name is Fr. Chris Eckrich, and I am a Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska.

I was ordained in 2016, and have a great passion for bringing people to encounter Christ. While I was in the seminary, I was afforded the opportunity to spend three weeks in the Holy Land, and it changed my entire perspective of the Bible, and in particular, the person of Jesus Christ. No longer was this just a literary figure, who I knew to be real ... now it was tangible. I had seen His home country, encountered vistas similar to His, and been privileged to spend time in the place He gave His life for us. It was a truly life-changing experience.

Our pilgrimage will take us to the epicenter of our faith at the onset of this holiest time of the year. Journeying upon the footsteps of Christ during the season of Lent will enable you to see our faith in a more real way, and help you understand the insatiable love that God has for us. Here is where He became incarnate. Here is where He taught us the truths of our faith ... what it means to be human according to HIS design. Here is where He gave His life for us, and here is where He won for us our salvation. The season of Lent helps us remove our distractions, so we can more clearly understand this mystery, and grow closer to Him. I can't think of a better place or time to grow closer to Him than in these holy places during this sacred time.

It is my great joy to accompany you on this, your own, pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, so you too can encounter our Saviour in a profound and tangible way.

Sincerely,

Fr. Chris Eckrich



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Petra - the Treasury



February 22, 2024 - Thursday Traveling to Amman, Jordan

Our wonderful and life-changing adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Amman, Jordan.

Enjoy inflight entertainment and meal service as you start your once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage.

February 23, 2024 - Friday Amman

We arrive in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Upon arrival, we transfer to our lodging for an evening in Amman.

Enjoy a welcome dinner, retire to our rooms, and be ready for an early rise in the morning. D

February 24, 2024 - Saturday Petra

Early this morning, we turn southward toward the amazing mountain fortress of Petra, known to be inhabited by the Edomites - the descendants of Esau.

We travel on the King's Highway, where to the west, we view the hills bordering the Dead Sea. This is the area of the hilltop palace/fortress of Machaerus, where John the Baptist was beheaded. Arriving in Petra, we begin our tour with a walk through the "Siq," an immense crack in the Nubian sandstone, to the city of Petra, carved out of rose-red rock. The Treasury, El Khazneh, is one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh, we are surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures.

The evening is spent at a nearby hotel, and dinner is served in their cozy restaurant. B | D

February 25, 2024 - Sunday Mount Nebo, border-crossing, Israel

We drive to Mt. Nebo, believed to be the

Sea of Galilee



site of the tomb of Moses. Enjoy the spectacular view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Study the panorama as we read the scripture of God showing Moses the "Promised Land" before He brought him home to heaven.

We travel west toward the Allenby Bridge and view the Plains of Moab to the North, the area where the tribes of Israel camped before crossing the Jordan, and we picture the place where Jesus was baptized.

Crossing the Jordan River into Israel, we say goodbye to our Jordanian tour guide and hello to our Israel tour guide.

We drive to the outskirts of Tel Aviv and enjoy the sunset over the "Great Sea," with a time of prayer and thanks for the special blessings ahead, a prayer for the people of this land.

Dinner at our hotel before we enjoy a good night's rest. B | D

February 26, 2024 - Monday Caesarea, Megiddo, Nazareth

After breakfast, we travel along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We will see the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct and then drive to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal.

Next, we travel through the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the Armageddon Battlefield, where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization.

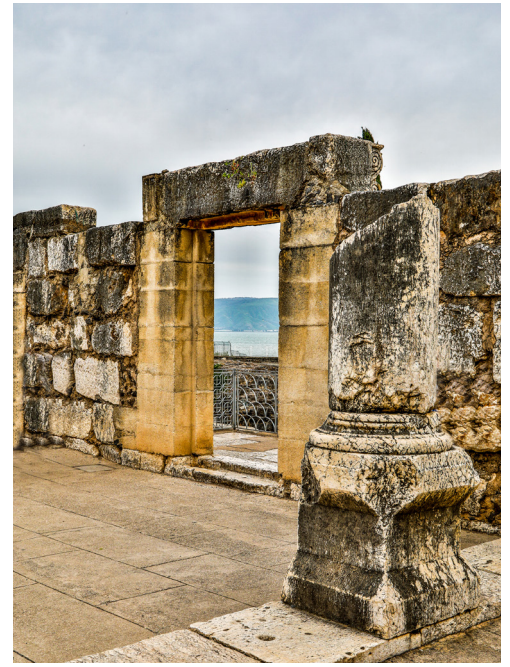
We continue through the area of Cana and Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. Visit the Church of Annunciation.

Dinner and overnight lodging for the next two nights at the Sea of Galilee. B | D

February 27, 2024 - Tuesday Capernaum, Magdala, Sea of Galilee Boat Ride, Mt. of Beatitudes

Following breakfast, we visit the possible

Capernaum



site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes in Bethsaida.

We continue to Tiberias for a St. Peter's Fish Lunch, followed by a visit to the ancient Fisherman Boat and a relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee. A brief scripture reading and devotional on board bring to life the experiences of Jesus and the fishermen disciples.

In Capernaum, we view the excavations of the seaside village and Peter's home, followed by a visit to Magdala, the hometown of Mary Magdalene. The recent excavation of the First Century Synagogue and the well-preserved village makes Magdala one of the most interesting Biblical sites in Israel. B | L | D

February 28, 2024 - Wednesday Mt. Tabor - Masada - Dead Sea

We begin our day with a visit to Mt. Tabor. Next, we follow the fertile Jordan Valley, and our guide will point out the agricultural restoration of the "Land of Milk and Honey" and Israel's intricate irrigation development.

We pass ancient Jericho and view from a distance this city famed as the oldest in the world. To the east of Jericho along the Jordan River Valley (Qeser El Yehud) is the Israeli side of Bethany Beyond the Jordan. In this area, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, Elijah, and Elisha crossed the Jordan, as well as the children of Israel, led by Joshua, entered the Promised Land.

If time allows (otherwise, tomorrow), we will take a cable car ride to the mountaintop fortress of Masada. Here our guide will treat us to the history of the famous zealot stand.

Our lodging for the evening is at the Dead Sea - the lowest place on earth.

Spend time in the special spa and enjoy a dip in the Dead Sea for a relaxing float before dinner.

B | D

The Dead Sea



Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Garden of Gethsemane



February 29, 2024 - Thursday Ein Gedi, Dead Sea Scrolls, Abraham's Tent

After a hearty breakfast, we proceed to Ein Gedi, "Spring of the Goat," an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Because of its warm climate and abundant supply of water, the site developed a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves. This is where King David hid from Saul and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites through praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat.

Next, we will visit Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

This afternoon we will take part in the Genesis Land dinner in Abraham's Tent, where we enjoy a trip back in time: a reliving of life in the time of the Patriarchs, complete with costume, dramatic presentation, and authentic food.

Our lodging for the next four nights will be in Jerusalem. B | D

March 1, 2024 - Friday Around Jerusalem, Bible Times

Conditions permitting, we will visit the Temple Mount, with commentary on the Temple Periods and the variety of belief systems, past and present, that make this area so valuable.

Next, we will visit the Wailing Wall and then the fascinating Rabbinical Tunnels leading us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give a clear understanding of the amazing construction of the Temple Mount, giant stones, water supply, and Roman street where our Lord was led to judgment. Before exiting the tunnel, we see the immense cornerstone rejected by the builders.

We move on to the Judgment Hall of Pilate, hear of those who conspired against Him, and are reminded of His brutal beating and humiliation. From here, we will also be able to see the Pool of Bethesda, Stephen's Gate, and St. Ann's Church.

This afternoon we will visit the Southern Wall Excavations. This southern side of The Temple was the main entrance for the common folk. From here, Jesus entered the Temple Mount and drove out the vendors and money exchangers who were exploiting the people. It is also likely that this is the place where Peter stood and preached and where thousands were saved and baptized on the Day of Pentecost.

Those who wish may stay in the city marketplace for shopping, while others may choose to spend the remainder of the day surrounding the birth of Christ with a visit to Bethlehem. B | D

March 2, 2024 - Saturday Israel Museum, House of Caiaphas

After a filling breakfast, an interesting and educational time awaits us today at the Israeli Museum.

Take a walk through collections of century-old Israeli artifacts, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, and then enjoy a guided walk through an accurately detailed model of Biblical Jerusalem. This model will help put into perspective all that you have seen over the previous days of touring.

Next, we will visit the House of Caiaphas, where Jesus was beaten and spit upon. See a pit where He may have been held for the evening and the ancient hillside steps He walked as He was taken to be condemned.

You may enjoy time on your own this afternoon.

Dinner at our hotel. B | D

March 3, 2024 - Sunday Jesus' Steps, Last Days, Way of Suffering, Garden Tomb

Today we walk where Jesus walked, beginning the day with a panoramic view of the city, Mount Moriah, and the Dome of the Rock from atop the Mount of Olives

and then the Garden of Gethsemane. How many have wished to be whisked back in time to get a glimpse of our Lord or hear His voice, if only for a moment?

To walk between the ancient olive trees, read the scriptures of Jesus' prayer, and take time for personal reflection is important here. Passing by the Protestant Cemetery, we visit the "Upper Room" just outside the Zion Gate where the disciple John, whom Jesus loved, laid his head on His breast and where later Thomas cried, "My Lord & my God."

While walking along the Via Dolorosa, we are reminded of His way of suffering, along with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Our guide will explain the differing opinions on the route that Christ was led and the actual place of crucifixion and burial site.

The climax of the day is the area of Golgotha (the place of the skull) and the Garden Tomb, where we celebrate the resurrection with communion and a time of praise. B | D

March 4, 2024 - Monday Traveling home

All too soon, our journey has come to an end. Transfer to Tel Aviv airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. Inflight meals.

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



To register contact:

Executive Travel

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 Fax: 402-435-2735
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/CATISR24/>

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$3,495
 Per person in a single room: \$4,795

*Limited number of single rooms available.
 Triple rooms are not available on this trip.*

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on October 20, 2023, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payment made after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!

SAVE 3.5%!

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

Level 4: This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are recommended.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 35 travelers. Should the number fall below 25, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded.

Included:

- 10 nights during the tour in Jordan and Israel at hotels mentioned or similar
- 10 x breakfast
- 1 x lunch (February 27, 2024)
- 10 x dinner
- All transportation as per tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour guide in Jordan and Israel
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones where required
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and hotel staff
- Tour host Fr. Christopher Eckrich
- All local taxes and fees as per May 1, 2023
- Jordan Visa*

***Visa/Passport requirements (per 5/1/2023) - American citizens:**

A visa is issued on the spot at the arrival in Amman airport. A visa is not required for Israel. Your passport must be valid for at least six months longer than your return date. It is the traveler's responsibility to make sure all documentation needed to enter Jordan and Israel is as per current regulations. We recommend you check www.travel.state.gov at least 90 days prior to your departure.

Not Included:

- Airfare. See attached insert
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Hotel Accommodations (standard rooms):

- Geneva Hotel, Amman, or similar
- Hayat Zaman, Petra/Wadi Musa, or similar
- Medi Terre Hotel, Netanya, or similar
- Mt. of Beatitudes Guest House, Sea of Galilee, or similar
- David Resort Hotel, Dead Sea, or similar
- Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem, or similar

Final accommodations are confirmed with the delivery of your travel documents, 30 days prior to departure.

JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

February 22, 2024	Omaha* - Chicago	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
February 22, 2024	Chicago - Washington (IAD)	2:40 PM - 5:29 PM
February 22, 2024	Washington (IAD) - Amman	10:00 PM - 4:55 PM (February 23, 2024)
March 4, 2024	Tel Aviv - Chicago	12:50 AM - 5:35 AM
March 4, 2023	Chicago - Omaha*	9:05 AM - 10:33 AM

\$1,725 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Please reach out to us to assist you. A small supplement may occur.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating (upgrades) can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

