

Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Jeff and Emily Cavins
January 9-23, 2024
with optional Jordan extension through January 27

registration at www.jeffcavins.com

Tuesday, Jan 9, 2024

Our group departs from various cities throughout the United States and more!

DAY 1: Wednesday, Jan 10, 2024

On arrival at **Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport**, we are met and transferred to our hotel on the shore of the **Mediterranean Sea**. The day is free until dinner followed by an orientation meeting and Mass.

Dinner and overnight - **Tel Aviv. D**

DAY 2: Thursday, Jan 11, 2024

Caesarea Maritima - Mount Carmel - Megiddo - Magdala

Heading north along the **Mediterranean Sea**, our pilgrimage begins at **Caesarea Maritima** where Jeff teaches in the Roman theatre. We pass **Mt. Carmel** and visit **Megiddo**, an active archaeological site overlooking the **Valley of Armageddon**. Our final stop for the day is at **Magdala** where we tour the excavation and celebrate Mass overlooking the **Sea of Galilee**. We settle into our kibbutz hotel on the shore of the **Sea of Galilee** for 4 nights.

Dinner and overnight - **Sea of Galilee B D**

DAY 3: Friday, Jan 12, 2024

Boat ride - Capernaum – St Peter's Primacy - Tabgha - Ancient boat

Our day begins with a boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee** ending at **Capernaum**. The hometown of St. Peter, **Capernaum**, has a lovely view of the **Sea of Galilee**. We celebrate Mass in a church built over Peter's house. At **St. Peter's Primacy**, we recall Christ restoring Peter after denying Him. **Tabgha** is nearby. It's church's mosaic floor commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Our last stop is to see the recovered 1st-century fishing boat.

Dinner & overnight - **Sea of Galilee B D**

DAY 4: Saturday, Jan 13, 2024

Mt of Beatitudes - Caesarea Philippi - Tel Dan - Golan Heights

Today begins overlooking the **Galilee** at the **Mt of Beatitudes**. We have Mass amidst the beautiful gardens before heading to the northern point of Israel. We pass through the **Hula Valley** on our way to **Caesarea Philippi** for an important teaching. We stop at **Tel Dan**, walking through the nature preserve before viewing **Abraham's Gate** into the ancient city. We see the rolling hills throughout the **Golan Heights** as well as views of **Mt. Hermon** throughout the day.

Dinner & overnight - **Sea of Galilee B D**

DAY 5 : Sunday, Jan 14, 2024

Mt. Precipice - Nazareth - Kfar Kedem - Cana

We see beautiful views from **Mt. Precipice** as we hear Jeff's teaching. Our Mass today is celebrated at the **Church of the Annunciation** in **Nazareth**. Our lunch is in a traditional goat hair tent at **Kfar Kedem** before experiencing 1st century living. We visit **Cana** to renew wedding vows. In the evening, we have a bonfire on the shore of the **Sea of Galilee** with our priests available for confession. Dinner is in our kibbutz' fish restaurant, a chance to try St Peter Fish!

Dinner and overnight - Sea of Galilee B L D

DAY 6: Monday, Jan 15, 2024

Mount of Transfiguration - Bet She'an - Sachne - Jerusalem

Departing the **Galilee**, we begin today on the **Mt. of Transfiguration** for Mass. Our next stop takes us further south to **Bet She'an**. This large archaeological site of an ancient Roman city also has marks from early Christians. The ancient tel alongside has Old Testament connections. Our lunch today is enjoyed at **Sachne**, a beautiful park with hot springs. The day finishes with our ascent to **Jerusalem** where we share a traditional Hebrew blessing.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B L D

Day 7: Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024

Mt. of Olives - Garden of Gethsemane - Mt. Zion – Temple Mt Area

So many New Testament events include the **Mt. of Olives**. From the top, we view the **Temple Mount** and the **Old City** across the **Kidron Valley**. Together we descend the **Palm Sunday Road** to **Dominus Fevit** for Jeff's teaching before continuing to the **Garden of Gethsemane** for Mass in the **Basilica of the Agony**, also known as the **Church of all Nations**. We cross the **Kidron Valley** to **Mt Zion** and visit the traditional site of the **Upper Room**. Entering the **Old City** via the **Zion Gate**, we walk to the **Davidson Center**, where our guides explain the ruins from the Roman destruction of **Jerusalem**. We sit on the **Southern Steps of the Temple Mount**, as **Jeff** teaches.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

DAY 8 9 Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024

Bethlehem - Church of the Nativity - Manger Square – Shepherd's Fields

The birthplace of Jesus, **Bethlehem**, has many sites for our pilgrimage journey. Our day begins with Mass at the **Church of St. Catherine**. Following Mass, we visit the **Church of the Nativity** and **Manger Square**. Jeff's teaching is at the overlook of **Shepherd's Fields**. We enjoy a local lunch together in a restaurant before shopping for souvenirs and olive wood carvings in a shop owned by Bethlehem Christians. This evening is an opportunity to share dinner with a Christian family in Bethlehem (Details provided later.)

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B L D

DAY 9 Thursday, Jan 18, 2024

Pools of Bethesda - Via Dolorosa - Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Perhaps the most meaningful event of the pilgrimage, today we walk the **Via Dolorosa**, Christ's way to the cross. We begin with a teaching at the **Pools of Bethesda**. The **1st Station of the Cross** is nearby. Each coach is led by their priest, sharing the cross they carry, ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Mass is at the **Latin Patriarchy**. In the afternoon, we visit the **Israel Museum** to see the **Model of 1st Century Jerusalem** and the museum about the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, the **Shrine of the Book**.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

DAY 10 Friday, Jan 19, 2024

Free Day

Today is free to explore the **Old City** or the **New City** of **Jerusalem** on your own! Many suggestions are available. You may want to return to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** or **Gethsemane** or visit someplace new. Perhaps walk the **Ramparts** on the walls of the **Old City**. Relax in a cafe and talk to the locals. A great experience is to be in the **Mahane Yehuda Market** as everyone hurries with their shopping, preparing for the arrival of Shabat. Mass location to be announced.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

DAY 11 Saturday, Jan 20, 2024

Jordan River - Qaser El Yehud - En Gedi - Qumran - Dead Sea

We leave **Jerusalem**, returning to the **Jordan Valley** and **Dead Sea** for the day. **Qaser El Yehud** is on the west side of the **Jordan River** near **Jericho**. It has long been held as the site of Jesus' baptism and where Joshua led the Nation of Israel into the Promised Land. We renew our baptismal vows together. At **En Gedi**, Jeff teaches. This oasis has been known since Old Testament times. We continue to **Qumran** to see where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered. Finally it is our chance to bob in the buoyant waters of the **Dead Sea**!

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

DAY 12 Sunday, Jan 21, 2024

City of David – Pool of Siloam – Western Wall - St. Peter in Gallicantu - Yad Vashem

South of the **Temple Mount** is the **City of David** and the **Pool of Siloam**. After Jeff's teaching, we reenter the **Old City**, passing through the **Jewish Quarter** to the **Western Wall**. We have Mass at **St. Peter in Gallicantu Church**, built over the house of the High Priest Caiaphas, the location where Jesus was held overnight during His trial. Jeff teaches in the courtyard. **Yad Vashem** is the Holocaust Memorial, a solemn experience but so very important.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

DAY 13, Monday 22, 2024

Ein Kerem - Valley of Elah - Old Jaffa - Begin Post-tour

Saying farewell to **Jerusalem**, we drive a short distance to **Ein Kerem**, Elizabeth's home town here John the Baptist was born. We climb the hill to the **Church of the Visitation** where the **Magnificat** in many languages adorns the courtyard wall. To the southwest, we find the **Valley of Elah**. Jeff gives our final teaching where David fought Goliath. After Mass at a site associated with **Emmaus**, we return to the shore of the **Mediterranean** to **Jaffa**. We say goodbye to our guides, drivers and each other in this ancient port city, known for centuries of leavings, before heading to the airport. **B**

Those continuing on the Post-tour to **Jordan** return to the hotel in Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight - Jerusalem B D

Day 14: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Pilgrims return home

We arrive back in the US and clear customs before continuing on any connecting flights home.

Jordan/Petra Extension January 23-27, 2024

Post Day 1: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Jerusalem - Pella - Tel El Hammam - Bethany Beyond Jordan

We depart **Jerusalem** for the **Shiek Hussein Bridge** near **Beit She'an**. Leaving our Israeli guide behind, we move to our Jordanian coach and meet our Jordanian guide. Dating back over 8000 years, **Pella** was reclaimed and rebuilt by Rome after a period of abandonment. It also figures in a mystery as a possible haven for Christians who fled during the destruction of **Jerusalem**, a question archaeologists have pursued. **Tel El Hammam** is associated with Old Testament **Sodom & Gomorrah**. We are privileged to visit the site with Emily Cavins who has participated in the dig & joins it again at the end of the post-tour. On the Jordanian side of the **Jordan River** is **Bethany Beyond the Jordan** or **Al-Maghtas**, also associated with Jesus' baptism. The expansive area has Roman and Byzantine church remains, chapels and hermit caves plus baptismal pools. Christian pilgrims have venerated this site throughout church history.

Dinner and overnight – Dead Sea **B L D**

Post Day 2: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Mt. Nebo - Madaba - Mosaic Factory - Petra

We first observed **Mt Nebo** from the Israeli side of the **Jordan River**. Today we are on top & view the **Promised Land** as Moses did. Not permitted to enter with his people, Moses died on **Mt Nebo**. We celebrate Mass in the church at the summit. The nearby city of **Madaba** is called the "City of Mosaics". The largest Christian community in **Jordan**, Byzantine mosaics are found throughout, many in private homes. Our target is the wonderful 6th century map of the Holy Land covering the floor of **St George's Church**. We drive to **Petra** on the **King's Highway** to be ready for tomorrow's visit.

Dinner and overnight – Petra **B L D**

Post Day 3: Thursday, January 25, 2024

Petra

The rose - red city of **Petra**, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the 7 world wonders as well as **Jordan's** most valuable ancient treasure & greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast city carved into the rock face by the Nabateans. We travel on foot down to and through the awesome "siq", an immense crack in the sandstone that winds for one kilometer between overhanging cliffs. **Petra's** most famous monument, the Treasury, appears dramatically at the end of the siq. Various walks & climbs reveal literally hundreds of buildings and other structures.

Dinner and overnight – Petra **B L D**

Post Day 4: Friday, January 26, 2024

Aqaba - Eilat - Timna - Avdat – Airport

We depart **Petra** early, driving south to the **Red Sea** port of **Aqaba**. Here we return to **Israel** and are met by our Israeli guide and coach. Passing through Israel's resort city, **Eilat**, heading north, our first stop is at **Timna Park** to see the full-size model of the **Tabernacle** that God instructed Moses to make. **Timna** is also where Solomon's copper mines were found. Further north we briefly stop at the rim of the **Ramon Crater** before seeing **Avdat National Park**. This hilltop ruin of the 2nd most important Nabataean silk route city includes a Byzantine church where we may have Mass. After a stop for our Bedouin lunch, we continue to **Tel Aviv** in time to check in for our return flights. **B L**

Post Day 5: Saturday, January 27, 2024

Home

Arriving in the US at our gateway airport, we clear customs and some continue on our connecting flights home.

Itinerary Information - Highlights

Highlights of the itinerary have been included. The listed details and order are subject to change. An "as traveled" itinerary will be provided to all passengers after the conclusion of the tour.