

Sample Itinerary

Day 1 Fly

Evening departure and overnight flight

Day 2 Jerusalem *Meet, assist, & Transfer to hotel*

On arrival at the Ben Gurion airport you will be met and transferred by bus to your hotel.

Day 3 Jerusalem *Full day Jerusalem and Bethlehem tour*

Today we explore perhaps the most famous city in the world. Ancient, embattled, and for centuries a pilgrimage destination of the three great Western religions, the limestone buildings, historic architecture, and centuries of donations from the devout have created a very beautiful city.

Known as Al Khodz (the Holy) to the Arabs, to the Jews Yerushalayim (City of Peace), and Jerusalem to Christians, we spend four days in Jerusalem; there is much to do and see. Starting at the heart of the town, we visit the Old City and tour the Temple Mount, The Dome of the Rock, and The Wailing Wall. Continuing on to Bethlehem, we visit the Church of The Nativity and St. Catherine's Church (if there is time we will also visit The Pool of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church), returning to hotel in the late afternoon. En route back we will pause on the Mount of Olives for a spectacular view of ancient Jerusalem. Lunch en route (not included). Evening meal at the hotel (included).

Day 4 Jerusalem *Full Day Guided Dead Sea Tour*

Today we drive south from Jerusalem to spend the day exploring the western shore of the Dead Sea. We begin - at the beginning, and visit Jericho, reputedly the oldest town in the world, and famed for the story of its collapsing walls. Nearby is Hisham Palace. We continue to Qumran, site of the famous discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Josephus Flavius, the Jewish-turned-Roman historian, wrote the famous story of the deaths and suicides during the Roman siege of Masada. Today, from the walls of Herod's Palace you can still clearly see the outlines of the Roman besieging encampments and the ramp they built with local slave labor up which they marched to breach the walls. It is a deep memory for the Israeli people. An ancient persecution which has become symbolic of all the pogroms and horrors suffered by Jews down through the centuries, and particularly poignant following the holocaust. Today, the Israeli armed forces swear allegiance to the nation of Israel at dawn on top Masada. The symbolism is clear. Return to Jerusalem late afternoon. Lunch en route (not included). Evening meal at the hotel (included).

Jericho, Hisham Palace, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea, Mt. Olives

Day 5 Jerusalem *Full Day Nazareth & Galilee Excursion*

Today we drive to the Sea of Galilee (Yam Kinneret), via Nazareth, suggested birth place of Christ. We visit Tiberias, named in honor of the adopted son of the great Emperor and later Roman God Augustus (previously Octavius), who defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra at the battle of Actium in 29 BCE. Our next stop is Tabgha, and the Mount of Beatitudes. Scene of the Sermon on the Mount, the Multiplication of Loaves & Fishes, and the Post Resurrection Appearance, the Mount of Beatitudes is justifiably considered the most appropriately beautiful Christian sites. Nearby is Capernaum is our next stop, a town whose population along with that of Tabgha was condemned for their lack of faith by Jesus (Matthew 11: 20-24).

At some time en route there will be free time to purchase your own lunch. Stalls and restaurants offer a variety of Galilee fish. 'St. Peter's Fish' is a famous regional dish, and despite its rather commercial name it is actually very tasty. On the way back to Jerusalem, if there is time we will stop at Beit Shean

Israel's most extensive Roman remains. Late afternoon return to hotel. Evening meal at the hotel (included).

Day 6 Rome *Fly Rome*

Transfer to the airport. Meet and transfer to hotel on arrival.

Day 7 Rome *Full day Excursion to Assisi*

Today we drive to Assisi, a town immortalized for its association with St. Francis. On arrival our tour concentrates on the Piazza del Comune the St. Francis Basilica, which includes visits to the Lower Church and Tesorerisa, and the Convento di San Damiano, built on the site where the crucifix 'spoke' to St. Francis and where he wrote Canticle of the Creatures. There is much to see. If there is time, in addition to our guided tour you may have an opportunity to visit the 13th century Chiesa di Santa Chiara church which contains the blackened body of St. Clair, and the Byzantine Crucifix which instructed St. Francis to reform the morality of the church. One cannot help but notice the Rocca

Day 8 Rome *Papal Audience. Half Day Catacombs tour*

This morning we attend the Holy Father Audience in St. Peter's Basilica. After some free time for lunch we continue our exploration of The Eternal City with a visit to the Catacombs of San Calisto. With over 20 km of tunnels, the Catacombs of San Calisto are the most famous catacombs of them all, containing the bodies of seven popes martyred in the 3rd century and the sepulcher of over 500,000 people. There is free time to purchase your own lunch (not included). In the late afternoon we return to the hotel. Evening meal included.

Day 9 Rome *Free Day in Rome*

Today is entirely free for personal exploration or to relax in the 'Eternal City'. With a history of truly classical proportions, Rome's political, religious, architectural, and military achievements have dramatically influenced the development of Western society. You may wish to explore a selection of the many fabulous sites, which include the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. Evening meal included.

Day 10 Lisbon *Fly Lisbon*

Today we transfer to the airport, fly to Lisbon in Portugal, and transfer to our Lisbon hotel. Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 11 Lisbon *Full Day Fatima Excursion*

In the spring of 1916, eight-year old Lucia Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, were tending sheep when they reported seeing an angel. The holy visions recurred, and in May 1917 the children first claimed to see Mary herself. The Holy Mother is said to have revealed three prophecies to the children, widely interpreted at the time, and arguably accurate. But there was one prophecy – the third prophecy - that was sealed away by the Catholic Church and remains a controversial mystery to this Day. Lucia wrote down the third secret, sealed it, and entrusted it to Portugal's Bishop of Leiria, with instructions that it was not to be read until 1960. The Bishop turned the envelope over to the Vatican. Pope John XXIII reportedly opened the envelope when 1960 arrived, but refused to divulge its contents, saying, "This prophecy does not relate to my time." Pope John Paul II is said to have also read it, and refuses to reveal it on the grounds that its true spiritual message has been obscured by sensationalism. This legendary "third secret" has become something of a Holy Grail for theologians and prophecy buffs, speculating nuclear holocaust or some other terrible fate. The prophecies of Our Lady of Fatima, as they are commonly known, are among the few visions of Mary that the Catholic Church has accepted as genuine miracles, along with such sightings as those at Lourdes and Guadalupe. We visit the village of these miraculous events, including the massive White Basilica, and The Esplanade. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. Evening meal included.

Day 12 Madrid *Coach to Madrid*

Today we drive to Madrid in Spain. The journey is long, but the countryside is beautiful. There will be photo opportunities, tea stops, and free time in one of the towns in which to purchase our own lunches. Evening arrival in Madrid. Evening meal included.

Day 13 Lourdes *Coach to Lourdes*

Today we drive to Lourdes in France. The journey is long, but the countryside is beautiful. There will be photo opportunities, tea stops, and free time in one of the towns in which to purchase our own lunches. Evening arrival in Lourdes. Evening meal included.

Day 14 Lourdes *Full Day Lourdes tour*

For millions of men and women, Lourdes is the grotto where, more than a hundred years ago, the Virgin appeared to Bernadette, under whose fingers welled up the miraculous spring. In the heart of the Pyrenees, with a picturesque castle and spectacular mountain peaks, Lourdes has adapted itself to its mission of welcome, answering the demand of an ever-increasing number of visitors. 'The whole world comes to Lourdes...' Today we enjoy a full Day in one of the Christian world's most important pilgrimage sites. Evening meal included.

Day 15 Paris *Fly Paris. Paris 'Orientation Drive'*

On arrival in Paris we are met transferred to our hotel. En route we enjoy a 'Paris Orientation' tour along the Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe. The remainder of the Day is free to relax or explore Paris. Evening meal included.

Day 16 Paris *Full Day Paris tour*

After breakfast we embark on a Full Day Guided Tour of Paris. Our first stop is the Ile de la Cite and Point Zero from which all distances in France are measured. Ile de la Cite was first inhabited around 200 BCE by the Celtic tribe 'Parisii' whose settlement has become today's Paris. We visit the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral. If there is time on route to the Eiffel Tower we will visit Sainte Chapelle, located inside the Palais de Justice, with its 13th C. stain-glass window. Following free time for lunch (not included), we view the Mona Lisa at the Musee du Louvre, where the

Day 17 Paris *Free Day in Paris*

Today is entirely free for personal exploration of Paris.

Day 18 London *Fly London*

On arrival in London we are met and transferred to our hotel, enjoying en route a three hour comprehensive guided 'no stops' orientation tour of London. Drive past Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, The Mall, the Horseguards Parade, Hyde Park, Westminster Abbey, Parliament, the Thames, through St. James, Covent Garden, Mayfair, Knightsbridge, and Kensington. Check into the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free. Evening meal included.

Day 19 London *Full Day London tour*

After breakfast we depart by coach for a full Day guided tour of London. Our first stop is at the British Museum. Considered the grandmother of museums containing the collections, letters, and artifacts of those who shaped the knowledge of our modern world; Sir Isaac Newton, Galileo, Sir Richard Burton, Charles Darwin, Captain Cook, Adams, Babbage, Cromwell, and an unequalled global collection of historical artifacts. Our guide will include in the commentary such items as the Elgin Marbles, Rosetta Stone, Egyptian Mummies (as available), etc. Our second visit is The Tower of London where we also view the Crown Jewels. 'The Tower' is notorious in British history, the last place of imprisonment for numerous condemned kings, queens, and traitors, and scene of the murder (by drowning in a keg of beer) of two young brothers, heir's apparent to the British throne, by the soon to be King Richard III. The British crown jewels are a rare, cumulative imperial collection of a lost age. Resplendent and glittering, one is reminded of the deep routes of tradition that hold the nation together. Return to the hotel late afternoon. Evening meal included.

Day 20 London *Free Day in London*

ToDay is entirely free for personal exploration and relaxation. The sites are numerous and of diverse interest. Britain has long and glorious past. Westminster Abbey contains the tombs of many illustrious empire builders, and the honors done them offer insight into British culture. In addition to Westminster Abbey sites include The Tate and National Galleries, Victoria & Albert Museum, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, Hampton Court, Windsor Palace, or Kew Gardens. Farewell Meal in the hotel.

Day 21 Fly *Tour Ends*

Group transfer to Heathrow Airport.

Included Services

ISRAEL: Meet, assist, and airport transfers in a luxury coach. Accommodation in 4 star Jerusalem hotel on room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Three full days exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified Israeli guide to escort sightseeing itinerary as above. All entrance fees to quoted sites. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish.

ITALY: Meet, assist, and airport transfers in a luxury coach. Accommodation in 4 star Rome hotel in twin share, room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Two full days exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified Italian guide to escort sightseeing itinerary as above. All entrance fees to quoted sites. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish.

PORTUGAL: Meet, assist, and airport transfers in a luxury coach. Accommodation in 4 star Lisbon hotel in twin share, room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Full day exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified Portugese guide to escort sightseeing itinerary as above. All entrance fees to quoted sites. Luxury coach to Madrid. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish.

SPAIN: Accommodation in 4 star Madrid hotel in twin share, room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Luxury coach to Lourdes. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish.

FRANCE: Airport transfer in a luxury coach in Lourdes. Accommodation in 4 star Lourdes and 4 star Paris hotel in twin share, room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Full days exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified Lourdes guide and full days exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified Paris guide to escort sightseeing itinerary as above. All entrance fees to quoted sites. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish. Paris transfer to airport.

ENGLAND: Meet, assist, and airport transfer in a luxury coach. Accommodation in 4 star London hotel in twin share, room, breakfast, and evening meal basis. Full days exclusive use of luxury coach, driver, and qualified London guide to escort sightseeing itinerary as above. All entrance fees to quoted sites. Transfer to airport. Hotel portorage. All tips / backshish.