

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND

with the Revd David Humphries

4th - 14th May 2010

A comprehensive 11-day pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Galilee



McCabe Pilgrimages



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In the Middle East, the reality on the ground is often far removed from what we see and read in the news. Places of pilgrimage are open and welcoming visitors. We have planned our programme for the spring when we expect the weather to be ideal for touring. We will have the opportunity to worship with a local congregation on the Sunday morning and on our journey through the Holy Land seek out the local Christian community and offer them our support and encouragement.

Visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and Qumran, as well as allowing free time for relaxation and private exploration. We will walk along the Via Dolorosa, sail on the Sea of Galilee, float on the Dead Sea and ascend the Mount of Masada by cable car. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area. Each day of our pilgrimage will be very different from the last.



We will travel with optimism and enthusiasm on our pilgrimage through the Holy Land and re-discover the joy and enrichment of being a pilgrim in the Land of the Bible.



TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this tour is £1,585 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We stay in two family owned and managed hotels. In Jerusalem, the three star Golden Walls Hotel overlooks the Old City walls and is walking distance from the Holy Sepulchre. In Tiberias, the four star Ron Beach Hotel is in a wonderful situation right on the lakeside. The tour is on a **full-board basis** with buffet breakfast, lunch and table d'hote evening meal included daily. Touring is in air-conditioned coaches and we will be accompanied by a local guide who will share leadership responsibilities and look after the formalities of hotel check-ins etc. All entrance fees are included. Flights are with **EL AL Israel Airlines** between London Heathrow Airport and Tel Aviv with connecting flights from Belfast Airport included in the cost. All airport and security charges are included and a complimentary visa is issued on arrival in Israel.



We have included most expenses in the tour cost but some items are listed separately. The travel insurance premium is £49. Everybody travelling should be insured but some may have annual or another suitable insurance. You should budget for an amount of £45 per person for a group gratuity fund which we will disburse locally to those who help us on our journey. Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £225. Please, however, see our note "Travelling Alone" overleaf. Any special requests should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable 8 weeks prior to departure.



TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £100 plus the insurance premium of £49, to the tour leader. Please make cheques payable to 'McCabe Pilgrimages'.

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DAILY PROGRAMME

Day 1 Tuesday (4th May)

We depart from Belfast Airport on British Midland. Flight BD 83 departs at 0845 hours arriving 1005 hours. Connecting EL AL flight LY 316 departs at 1535 hours arriving 2210 hours. **On arrival we transfer to the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem where we stay for six nights.**

Day 2 Wednesday

This morning we ascend the Mount of Olives – the place where Jesus began his triumphal entry into Jerusalem – and pause to enjoy the glorious panoramic view of the Old City. Our walk down the hillside begins at the Church of the Ascension and continues to the Church of the Pater Noster and the Benedictine Convent of the Sisters of Zion. We then move on to the Franciscan Basilica of Dominus Flevit, traditionally the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. En route to the Garden of Gethsemane we pass the distinctive landmark of the Russian Orthodox Mary Magdalene Church, and arrive at the Church of All Nations, designed in flamboyant Byzantine style with a beautiful mosaic façade. We then cross the Kidron Valley to St Peter in Gallicantu, before leaving Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem, passing Rachel's Tomb.

We have lunch at Casa Nova in Manger Square. In the afternoon we visit The Basilica of the Nativity and the Shepherds Fields with a shopping stop to purchase olive wood carvings.

Day 3 Thursday

This morning we go to Mount Zion where we visit the Tomb of King David, as well as the Coenaculum and the Syrian Church of St. Mark - two possible sites of the Last Supper. We then walk to the



Wailing Wall and Temple Area mosques continuing to the Crusader Church of St Anne, the Pool of Bethesda and the Lithostrotos, regarded as the place where Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death, now within the Ecce Homo convent built on the site of Herod's Antonia Fortress where Jesus was called before Herod after his arrest. Lunch at the convent.

In the afternoon follow the Via Dolorosa from the Church of the Flagellation, passing the Stations of the Cross, to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built upon the probable site of the Crucifixion. We end our day at the Garden Tomb, identified as a possible Crucifixion and Resurrection site by General Gordon. Here we will have an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together, in the peaceful surroundings of the Garden.

Day 4 Friday

Today we take an excursion to the Dead Sea and Masada, which we ascend by cable car. We learn about Masada's colourful and violent history and enjoy the magnificent views, then we continue to Ein Boqeq and lunch at the Lot hotel where there will be an opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on the surface of the earth. Our return to Jerusalem takes us via Qumran – the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947.



Day 5 Saturday

Today is a free day – an opportunity to explore the Old City or re-visit some of the places which are of particular interest.

Day 6 Sunday

This morning we attend worship at the Cathedral Church of St George. We drive down to Jericho for lunch in a Garden Restaurant with views of the Monastery of the Temptations. This afternoon we visit the Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany and the Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home where we learn what everyday life is like for one group of Christians in the Holy Land.

Day 7 Monday

We leave Jerusalem and drive to the Mediterranean coast to the Roman capital of Caesarea, where we visit the restored amphitheatre. We continue to nearby Mount Carmel, where Elijah called down fire upon the



altar to confound the Prophets of Baal. Lunch at a Druze restaurant on Mount Carmel. We continue to Megiddo, the site of many battles of ancient times and the place identified with the final Armageddon and on to Tiberias. **Four night stay at the Ron Beach Hotel on the lakeside in Tiberias.**

Day 8 Tuesday

We begin our day at the Baptismal site of Jesus on the River Jordan then drive around the lake to Capernaum, the focus of much of our Lord's ministry and where he called his disciples. Here we see some fascinating ruins, including the house of St Peter and a 4th century synagogue. We proceed to Tabgha, the traditional site of the Feeding of the Five Thousand (where we celebrate the Eucharist on the lakeside) and visit Mensa Christi chapel before ending our morning on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Lunch at the Beatitudes convent and in the afternoon we enjoy a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee back to our hotel, with a pause for devotions.

Day 9 Wednesday

Today we visit the synagogues and craft shops in the ancient Jewish city of Safed, considered one of the major holy cities of Israel. We drive north past Hazor, King Solomon's defensive stronghold, to the Golan Heights. From here we enjoy glorious views of snow-capped Mount Hermon. Lunch at Kfar Blum kibbutz. Afternoon visit to Caesarea Philippi (also called Baniyas) where Simon Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.

Day 10 Thursday

We ascend Mount Tabor in taxis to visit the Basilica of the Transfiguration and enjoy magnificent views over the plain of Armageddon. We continue to Nazareth where we visit Nazareth Village before lunching at St. Margaret's Guest House. This afternoon we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and synagogue before returning to Tiberias visiting Cana, scene of Jesus first miracle, en route.

Day 11 Friday (14th May)

We depart on our return EL AL flight LY 315 which leaves at 1015 hours arriving back at Heathrow at 1335. Connecting British Midland flight BD 90 departs at 1735 arriving in Belfast at 1855 hours.

