



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with His Eminence Archbishop Michael (Dahulich)

June 4 - 17, 2017

Day 1 – Sunday, June 4, 2017

Departure from the US.

Day 2 – Monday, June 5, 2017

Arrival in Tel Aviv. Transfer to Nazareth/Tiberias for rest, supper and overnight. On our way to Galilee [time permitting] we will stop to venerate the Tomb of St. Great Martyr George the Victory-bearer, who according to tradition was a native of this little town in Palestine.

Day 3 – Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Our first day in Galilee will begin by exploring the vicinity of “sea” of Galilee. We plan to visit a number of sites around the lake. To cover the territory in one day is impossible, but some of the most important sites are definitely on the list: we will visit Capernaum, where Jesus made his home during the years of His earthly ministry; Magdala with recently excavated synagogue dates to the early ministry of our Savior, Tabgha, with church of multiplication of loaves and fishes; and Kursi, the place where Lord healed the Gadarine demoniacs and where the herd of swine rushed into the sea and drowned.

Day 4 – Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Our second day in Galilee we will start in the town of Nazareth, where the good news to the world were announced by Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and where Christ spent his

young years with His Most-Holy Mother and the righteous Joseph. There are two important churches in town that share the glory and importance of the event. One is an Orthodox Church built over a well with a spring where according to local tradition the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary. Another shrine is the much large Catholic foundation that is built over the remains of the house of the carpenter Joseph. Later this morning we will stop in the little town of Cana – the place of the first miracle of our Lord (of turning water into wine) that announced the beginning of His service to the world. In the afternoon we will continue to Mt. Tabor, the place of the Lord’s glorious and wondrous Transfiguration.

Day 5 – Thursday, June 8, 2017

Today we will begin by attending early Liturgy at the Basilica of Nativity in Bethlehem, founded on the place of the birth of our Savior. After service and some light nourishment, we will continue to venture deep into Judean desert to venerate the most prominent fathers and spiritual leaders of Palestinian Monasticism – St. Sabba the Sanctified and Venerable Theodosios the Sanctified. The Lavra of St. Sabba is open for males only, so we have to warn our female pilgrims that they will be able to observe the monastery only from a “bird’s eye view” – from an observation deck in an ancient defense



tower nearby. For Lunch we will return back to Bethlehem and will continue with an exploration of a Greek Monastery on Shepherd's Field, which is marking traditional spot of the apparition of Angels that brought good news about the Birth of Messiah to simple, but pious shepherds. Later in the afternoon we will visit Bethany, one of the sites not too far from Jerusalem that Lord loved to visit because his friends Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus lived there. Here we will visit Tomb of Lazarus and Russian Ecclesiastical school for Palestinian Children.

Day 5 - Friday, June 9, 2017

We will start our day with a visit to Mt. Zion – to venerate the tomb of the righteous King David, the chapel marking the place of the Mystical Supper, and the Basilica of our Lady's Dormition, the Monastery of the Holy Cross and the Katamon for a visit of the Church of St. Righteous Simeon. After lunch we will visit Russian Orthodox monastery of the Ascension nested on the very top of Mount of Olives. Following the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem we will visit several sites situated on the slope of the Mountain. One of our stops will be at the site known as "Dominus Fleuit" or Lord wept. From here the most beautiful panorama of the Holy City unfolds before your eyes and it is here that our Savior wept over the city and its inhabitants that so terrifyingly rejected their salvation. Convent of St. Mary Magdalene – a Russian Imperial foundation that houses the remains of the martyred grand Duchess Elisabeth. In addition to the splendid church built in the upper part of the convent, there is a smaller cave church that tradition is named as the place of the prayer, or rather "sleeping" place of the disciples during his agony in the Gethsemane. Practically adjacent to the site is the Garden of

Gethsemane, the beginning point of Christ's Passions marked by splendid Basilica of Agony.

Day 6 - Saturday, June 10, 2017

Today will be dedicated to the exploration of the Holy sites associated with our Lord' passion within the Wall of Old City. We will start with a visit to the Holy Sepulcher – a Medieval Cathedral built atop of a Byzantine basilica that St. Helen had built to house the places of our Lord's Saving Passion and Crucifixion – Golgotha, the stone of anointing, the Tomb of our Lord – place of Lord's Resurrection, and several adjacent places depicted in the description of the Lord's Saving Passion. In the afternoon we will explore numerous sites along Via Dolorosa – "traditional" Medieval pilgrim path that follows the route that Christ walked carrying His cross to Golgotha. We will make several stops along the way to visit churches and places marked by Holy Tradition as being related to Passions of our Lord.

Day 7 - Sunday, June 11, 2017

We will start our day with Matins and Divine Liturgy in the church of the Holy Sepulcher. Office in the church of the Holy Sepulcher lasts from 11:30pm to about 3am. After the Midnight service we will return to the hotel. Those who are not able to attend the Midnight office may remain at the hotel. After late breakfast we will descent toward the Dead Sea. Along the way we will stop on the monastery of St. George of Khoziba, dramatically perched on cliff of the desert canyon, the "Good Samaritan' Inn" – splendid museum of Mosaics and Byzantine/Jewish/Samaritan mosaics, Monastery of St. Gerasimos of Jordan and the oasis city of Jericho. Around lunch time we will stop to eat and swim at one of the recreational areas along the Dead Sea.



Day 8 - Monday, June 12, 2017

Free Day - You may enjoy your day at leisure. Alternatively, we are happy to offer to you an archeological tour of the most significant historical sites of Jerusalem – the city of David, the Hezekiah' tunnel, Pool of Siloam, Western Wall, Jewish quarter along with fantastic Museum of Israel with scale model of Jerusalem from 1st AD and the exhibit on the Scrolls of Qumran.

Day 9 - Tuesday, June 13, 2017

This morning we will check out from the hotel and will transfer to Jordanian Border. After border formalities, we will go to the site that recently was identified as the most probable place of "Bethany beyond Jordan" – the place of our Lord's baptism, also not far from the hill from where according to tradition St. Prophet Elias ascended to Heaven in a fiery chariot. The area is historically very significant and marked with many Byzantine ruins. The vicinity of the site is also closely associated with the Venerable Mary of Egypt and her cult is very prominent among local Christians. Today we will start our day with a visit to Mt. Nebo. The law-giver Moses observed the Promised Land from this mountain and this is the closest he ever got to the place where he desired to be so much. Then we will visit Madaba – a little village housing Byzantine Churches with very important mosaics, among them, one depicting the map of the Holy Land. This will be our last stop before our transfer to Petra. Dinner and overnight in Petra

Day 10 - Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Petra is a most intriguing Nabatean city carved

in rock cliffs. This is a historical monument really "one of its kind anywhere in the world." We will spend most of the day exploring ancient ruins and temples, fortifications, theaters and other buildings carved in the rock. In the afternoon we will explore the site of Little Petra, located just some miles away from its more famous "neighbor". For overnight and Dinner we will remain in Petra.

Day 11 - Thursday, June 15, 2017

This morning we will depart from Petra back to Amman. Along the way, we will stop to see Shobak Castle which was originally called Krak de Montreal o Mons Regalis, and was the first Crusader outpost beyond the Jordan River. It was built by King Baldwin I of Jerusalem to guard the road from Egypt to Damascus. It resisted many sieges, but in 1189, it fell to Saladin's troops. The towers and walls are well preserved and decorated with carved inscriptions dating from 14th. From Shobak we will continue to the deserted Byzantine camp-settlement of Um Rassas, with the remains of an important monastic complex where probably the only surviving column of some ascetic (stylite) still stands. Our last top of the day will be Mukawir – site of Herod's palace, where the sorrowful events of the end days of St. John the Baptist most likely took place. At the end of the day we will arrive to Madaba for dinner and overnight.

Day 12 – Friday, June 16, 2017

This morning we will travel North to visit the Archeological Park in Jerash, which is the site of some of the largest and better preserved ruins of one of the major cities of the historical



and biblical Decapolis. For its state of preservation, this archeological park has gained the nickname of “Pompeii of the East”. Dinner and overnight in Madaba.

Day 13 – Saturday, June 17, 2017

Departure from Amman back home.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILGRIMAGE:

Financial arrangements:

Price for the pilgrimage is USD2600 per person, based on double occupancy in a group with a minimum of 25 participants

Single supplement: USD600

[AN OPTION FOR ISRAEL PART ONLY]:

USD1850* per person, based on double occupancy in a group with a minimum of 25 participants

Single supplement: USD500

Please note: option “Israel part only” reflect a reduce rate for the first part of the trip as presented, and does not include any private transfers or additional hotel stays]

Price includes:

- Accommodation in good Tourist-Class Hotels on half board basis (Buffet Breakfast and Dinner daily)
- Several extra meals (several lunches along the way)
- Deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach for the transfers all along the tour, according to the program

- Road and local taxes for the tourist bus
- Tours as per the itinerary above
- Exit tax from Israel at the Allenby Bridge crossing
- Entrance tickets to the museums and donations at the religious sites as per itinerary
- Whisper sets

** The hotels that we offer for this tour are good tourist hotels and in some places are the best available. Please note that, the level of accommodations and services may be different from the expectations of similarly rated hotels in Western Europe or North America.*

Price does NOT include:

- Air Fare**
- Personal medical/travel insurance
- Meals other than specified
- Beverages during meals
- Entrance fees other than specified
- Porterage, gratuities and extras
- Anything not specifically mentioned in “Price includes”
- Tips [guides, bus drivers, hotel staff (suggested amount is \$7/day)]

Financial arrangements:

The current cost of the trip is \$2,600 per person, based on double occupancy in a group of at least 25 paying members. Single accommodations: \$600 and subject to availability. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due

to significant difference in exchange rate of shekel/Jordanian dinar vs. the US dollar at the time of the final payment. Our hope is that the price of the tour will remain the same. In any case you'll be informed right away of any possible financial changes or adjustments.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to: 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a Credit Card and for domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

A \$700.00 deposit is required when you sign up for the trip. ***The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or other valid and unforeseen circumstances.*** The deadline for signing up for the trip is February 15, 2017. The entire amount is due 90 days prior to departure. Failure to pay in full by March 4, 2017 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds. If you decide to join the pilgrimage after the deadline, please contact tour coordinator regarding the availability.

In the event that you need to cancel after you have signed up, the charges in addition to the full amount of the deposit are*:

- 50% of the tour cost, 90 to 45 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 45 or fewer days prior to the departure

Special requests:

All special requests, concerns and suggestions must be submitted in writing to Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky no later than the date of the final payment (March 4, 2017).

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule.

Rules on the road:

- It is strongly suggested for a traveler to obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage regarding personal property;
- be aware that all medical needs will be sole responsibility of the traveler;
- act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment;

- make arrangement to have sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected happenings.

The places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that one may be accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas are limited. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times.

The Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is appropriate.

Please note: The Director of the trip (Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky) does not hold any legal responsibility concerning any of the arrangements. He plays only the role of a coordinator.

Passport and Visa:

A valid passport is needed to travel to the Middle East. The passport must be issued at least three months prior to the departure and must be valid until your return. US citizens do not need a visa to travel to Israel. Group Visa to Jordan is obtained at the border free of charge. If you are not a US, Canada or EU citizen, please contact the Embassies or Consulates of Israel and Jordan to see if you do need a visa to travel there.

Security:

Israel and Jordan generally are safe countries despite the abundance of news about domestic disturbance there. Even in the West Bank tourists are ***not*** considered to be targets. In Israel you should be careful around any conservative religious quarters of Muslims and Jews alike. Petty street crime such as pick pocketing is quite widely spread, especially in large cities and in and around "tourist traps". Don't keep all of your cash in one place, and carry important documents (like your passport) with you in a hidden pocket or secure bag. You don't want to be in a foreign land without money or travel documents. Expensive jewelry and fancy clothes are best left at home.

Medication:

Israel and Jordan have very good health systems and drugs are widely available at many pharmacies. Most of the clerks at the pharmacies speak fluent English. However, we still would recommend you to bring whatever medications that you think you may need, and especially prescription

drugs. Please check with your doctor if you need any vaccinations when traveling to that part of the World. Please bring anti-allergen remedies if you have a history of pollen allergy. It is very easy to become dehydrated on trip like this because the climate is hot and dry. Make sure to drink lots of liquids (pure water is the best choice). So, please be prepared adequately and don't take your chances with heat and sun. In Israel it is safe to drink tap water, unless noted otherwise. In Jordan and some parts of Israel it is advised to use only bottle water for drinking and brushing of teeth.

Church and services:

We are going to visit a lot of churches and cathedrals. While the dress code is generally loose, I want to encourage all to show moderation and respect. People in shorts and open shouldered outfits most likely won't be allowed in most monasteries and churches. Monastic and clergy will treat tourists and pilgrims very differently. While I understand your desire to wear shorts and something cool in a hot climate, I encourage you not to spoil the visit for the rest of the group. Several services are scheduled during the pilgrimage. However, at this time I'm not giving exact time or place of all of the services as that all is flexible and can change. The very pattern of our days may be changed to fit the services in. Services are open to all who want to attend, but are not mandatory. Those Orthodox travelers who would like to receive Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy must attend Confession before the pilgrimage as opportunity to hear your confession during the pilgrimage by clergy members of the group may be limited.

Currency:

Many of the stores in Israel and Jordan accept credit cards (mostly Visa or MasterCard, no Discover or American Express). However, if you plan to shop at the markets or at the souvenir stands you will need cash. Dollars and Euros are very widely accepted. However, if you feel that you need local currency, the easiest way to obtain it is to use the ATM machine. For ATMs use your debit card because you won't be charged any interest on cash withdrawals. On your credit card purchase or with your debit card cash withdrawal you get the best exchange rate, that of the day. It is a good idea to let your bank or credit company (the one that you'll be using a card) know that you are traveling overseas. Without such a notice some companies may "freeze" your account in an attempt to prevent foreign card fraud. Whenever you shop, especially at the markets and in the Arab stores, make sure to bargain. As a rule you can reduce the price by about 30-50% and often you can make even a much better deal. Be persistent and pay no attention to raging emotion – that's part of the culture and the way of conducting trade business.

Dress code:

Although you will see a lot of tourist wearing shorts and sleeveless t-shirts, in parts of Israel and Jordan such outfits may be considered offensive. Light, but longer pants and dresses are appreciated and buy more respect. Open sandals will be very uncomfortable on the uneven terrain of the Archeological sites and may be considered provocative in a non-tourist settings of the West Bank and parts of Jordan (This recommendation applies to both - men and women).

Be sure to bring:

An alarm clock; alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wet wipes; Kleenex; film and extra batteries for your camera (at the tourist places they are widely available but significantly more expensive); comfortable shoes for a lot of walking (do not start the trip with new shoes). Electric outlet adapter is necessary if you plan to use any electric gadgets from the US. Hat or a head cover, sun protection lotion and a bottle of water (can be purchased along the way) are absolutely "must have" things on this trip.

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