



# PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

APRIL 27 — MAY 9, 2020

## Day 1 — Monday, April 27, 2020

Arrival to Tel Aviv, Israel. Transfer to Nazareth for dinner, orientation and overnight.

## Day 2 — Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Our pilgrimage will begin with visits to the sites around the “sea” of Galilee. First visit of the day will be to **Magdala**, to see recently uncovered synagogue from the time of our Lord; then onto Genosar to see “**Jesus’ boat**”; from here on to **Tabgha** to pray at the place of the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes. After lunch, we will visit the ruins of **Capernaum**, the very town that the Gospel writer calls “His own city” (Matt 9:1) to see the **remains of Peter’s house** and the synagogue where He preached. Adjacent to the ruins that are in custody of the Franciscans, there is a beautiful **church of the 12 Apostles** that we plan to visit as well. Our last visit of the day will be to **Kursi**, the



place where Lord healed the Gadarine demoniacs and where the herd of swine rushed into the sea and drowned. Dinner and overnight in **Nazareth**.

### Day 3 - Wednesday, April 29, 2020



city of **Nablus**, known in the Bible as **Shechem** and famous as the site of the conversation of our Lord with the Samaritan woman (John 4). For dinner and overnight we will arrive to **Taybeh**.

Our second day in Galilee, we will start in the town of **Nazareth**, where the good news to the World were announced by the 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 larger **Catholic foundation** that is built over the remains of the house of the carpenter Joseph. Just before lunch, we will ascend to **Mt. Tabor**, the place of the Lord's glorious and wondrous Transfiguration. Political situation permitting, we will stop in **Burquin**, to pray at the **church of "ten lepers"** constructed adjacent to the site where poor sickly exiled were bound to live, and at Jacob's well in the

### Day 4 – Thursday, April 30, 2020

Today we will start our day with a Liturgy and a visit to the **Basilica of Nativity in Bethlehem**, founded on the spot of the birth of our Savior. From here we will proceed to the **Shepherd's Field**, to a Greek monastery that is marking traditional spot of the apparition of Angels that brought good news about the Birth of Messiah to simple, but pious shepherds. Next stop will be at St. Nicholas church in Beit Jala, an all-Christian suburb of Bethlehem. Under the church, pilgrims are shown a small cave where, according to the local tradition, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and the Bishop of Myra in Lycia have lived for several years during his pilgrim visit to the Holy Land. After lunch, we will travel to **Hebron**, to visit



**Machpelah**, or the **cave of the Patriarchs**. It is impossible to enter the cave itself, but we could visit an imposing structure built by Herod the Great above the spot of the burial of the Patriarchs. Our last stop of the day will be at Migdal Oz, an active archeological site associated with Acts 8 that describe miraculous meeting and the baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch by the apostle Phillip. For dinner and overnight we will remain in **Bethlehem**.



## Day 5 – Friday, May 1, 2020

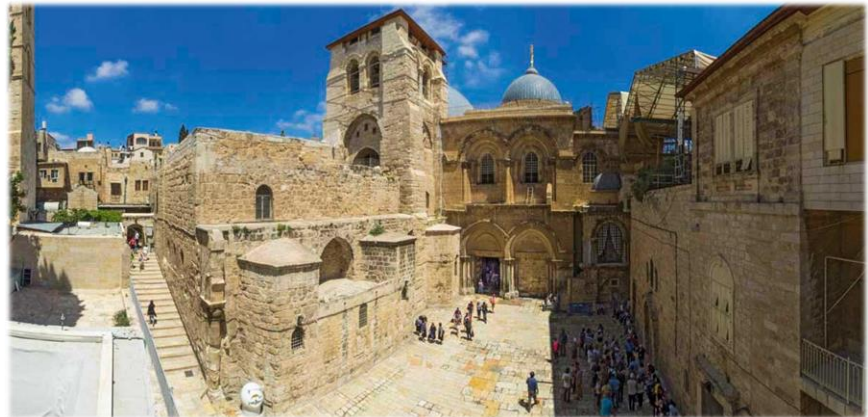


Today we will start at the **Monastery of our Lord's Ascension on Mt. of Olives**. We will continue our day by descending Mount of Olives, to the **Valley of Kedron** following the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem and His Saving Passion. Our first stop will be at the **"Tomb of the Prophets"** an interesting underground catacomb like structure, known as one of the earliest places for the Christian worship in the Jerusalem area. Just down the road, there is a 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. Practically adjacent to the site is the **Garden of Gethsemane**, the beginning point of Christ's Passions with splendid **Basilica of Agony**. After lunch by the Old City we will visit an engaging and educational exhibit dedicated to the Lord's Shroud and will discuss the passion and burial practices of Antiquity. Moving on we will stop to visit Monastery of the Cross, one of the oldest and most impressive in all of Jerusalem and, time permitting, we will stop at the Monastery of St. Onufrius built on the "potter's field", the place that is named Hakeldama in the Gospel. We will return to **Bethlehem** for dinner and overnight.

## Day 6 – Saturday, May 2, 2020

Today we will transfer to the **Holy city** to visit the sites associated with our Lord's passion. Our first stop will be at the **church of the Holy Sepulcher**, a large ecclesiastical complex, that among other wondrous things, encompasses some of the most important places of the Christendom: the Golgotha, the stone of anointing and the Tomb of the Lord, place of His Glorious Resurrection. After our visit to the Church of the Resurrection, we will explore other sites associated with Lord's Passion: the Judgement gate, the Prison, Lithostrotos, and the sheep's pool or "Bethesda" – site where our Lord healed the paralytic (John 5). Dinner and overnight at the hotel in **Bethlehem**.



## Day 7 – Sunday, May 3, 2020



Early in the morning, we will arrive to the **Tomb of the Theotokos in Gethsemane for Sunday morning office** that includes Matins and Divine Liturgy. Service will last till about 8:00am. After the service, we will proceed for breakfast. The rest of the day will be at leisure. For those of you who would like to participate, we are happy to offer an **Archeological journey through Jerusalem** that will include visits to the excavations of the City of David, with the dry tunnel, Pool of Siloam, Davidson Archeological Park that surrounds the Temple mount, Jewish quarter of Jerusalem with Roman cardo and ancient fortifications of pre-Babylonian

Jerusalem, and the National Museum of Israel with an interesting scale model of Jerusalem (as of 1 century AD) and spectacular collection of Antiquities covering all of the Biblical periods. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in **Bethlehem**.

## Day 8 – Monday, May 4, 2020

Today we will start in **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 girls**. On our way toward the Dead Sea we will stop at the Museum of the “Good Samaritan” built on the spot of the Ottoman inn and the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery. Collection of the museum provides an interesting insight into the history of the Byzantine monks of the Judean desert and the Samaritans. From here we will travel to visit monastery of St. Gerasimos of Jordan, and the city of Jericho, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the World. After border formalities we will cross into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. **Dinner and overnight at the Russian Pilgrim house in Bethany beyond the Jordan**.

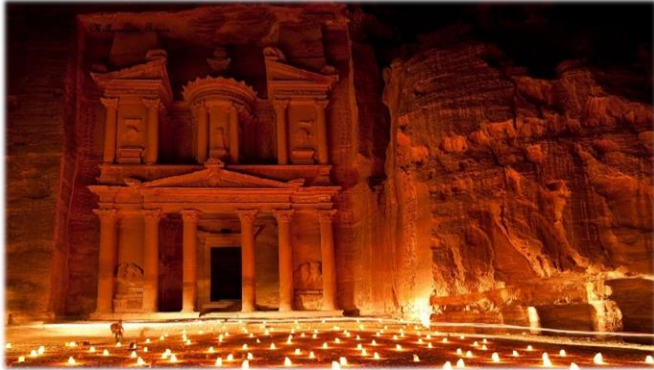
## Day 9 – Tuesday, May 5, 2020

This morning we will check out from the hotel and cross the border with Jordan. Our first visit of the day will be 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. From Bethany, we will proceed 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 so much desired to be. For lunch, we will return to **Madaba**



– a little village housing Byzantine Churches with very important mosaics, among them, one depicting the map of the Holy Land. From here we will transfer to the “**rose city**” of **Petra** for dinner and overnight.

## Day 10 - Wednesday, May 6, 2020



**Petra** is the 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, theater, and other buildings carved into the rock. In the morning, prior to our main visit of the day, we will explore the site of Little Petra, located just some miles away from its more famous neighbor. For dinner and overnight we will remain in **Petra**.



## Day 11 – Thursday, May 7, 2020

This morning we will leave Petra and will be re-tracking our way back to **Madaba**. Along the way, we will stop to see **Shobak Castle** which was originally called Krak de Montreal or Mons Regalis, and was the first Crusader outpost beyond the Jordan River. King Baldwin I of Jerusalem built this mighty castle 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 Islamic inscriptions dating back to the 14th century. From here we will transfer to the deserted Byzantine camp-settlement of **Um Rassas**, with the remains of an important monastic complex where probably the only surviving column of an ascetic (stylite) still stands. Our last stop of the day will be at **Mukawir – site of Herod's palace**, where the sorrowful events of the end days of St. John the Baptist most likely took place. For dinner and overnight we will arrive to **Madaba**.

## Day 12 - Friday, May 8, 2020

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**”. On our way back we will have a drive-through tour of Amman, and will arrive back to **Madaba** for an early dinner.



## Day 13 – Saturday, May 9, 2020

Departure back home.



## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR:

### 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
- Entrance tickets to the museums and donations for the entrance to the churches and monasteries as per itinerary
- Exit tax from Israel via Allenby bridge (approx. \$50 at the present)
- Whisper sets

\* 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
- Tips for driver, guide and hotel staff (suggested amount: total of \$8 per day per person)
- Anything not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The current cost of the trip is \$2,890 per person, based on double occupancy in a group of at least 30 paying members. Single accommodations: additional \$850 (total in single accommodations: \$3,790) 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. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

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.

### REGISTRATION:

A \$700 deposit is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless 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 December 31, 2019. The entire amount is on January 27, 2020. Failure to pay in full by January 27, 2020 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance strongly recommended. If you decide to join the pilgrimage after the deadline, please contact tour coordinator regarding the availability.

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

If you need to cancel after you signed up, please note the schedule of charges in addition to the amount of non-refundable deposit:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 60 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 60 to 30 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 30 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 (Jan. 27, 2020). All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/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 responsibilities concerning any of the arrangements. He plays only the role of an agent/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. A 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 need a visa to travel there.

**Security:**

Israel and Jordan generally are safe countries despite the abundance of news about domestic disturbance. 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 does exist, especially in large cities and in and around "tourist traps". Don't keep all 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) 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 advisable 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. The 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 should attend Confession before the pilgrimage as opportunities 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 emotion – that's part of the culture and the way of conducting trade business.

**Dress code:**

Although you will see a lot of tourists 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; memory cards 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.

## YOUR HOSTS:



ELISSA BJELETICH, author and Ancient Faith Radio podcaster  
[https://www.ancientfaith.com/contributors/elissa\\_bjeletich](https://www.ancientfaith.com/contributors/elissa_bjeletich)

AND



FR. ILYA GOTLINSKY, parish priest and adjunct professor of the Church and Biblical History at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Fr Ilya is also the founding director of the OrthodoxTours that brings you this pilgrimage  
[www.orthodoxtours.com](http://www.orthodoxtours.com)

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## **ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

**DATES: APRIL 27 – MAY 9, 2020**

*To register please complete this registration form and return it to along with your deposit check (\$700.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC. Please write "Holy Land May 2020" on the memo line. Please mail this form and your deposit check to: Palomnik, LLC, 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton, NY 13905*

Full Name:

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Passport #

Issue and expirations date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Would you prefer to make your own flight reservations, or would you like us to help you to find the best airfare?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: