

In the Footsteps of Jesus: A Study Tour to the Holy Land

15-Day Trip ~ January 6 - 20, 2017

visiting: Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and more



Hosted by

Pastor Gabi Aelabouni, Dr. Rod Schofield and Sara Wilson

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Berkeley, CA

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PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Berkeley, CA www.plts.edu

California Lutheran
UNIVERSITY

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

January 6-20, 2017

Program Cost †

\$3,729.00 per person – double occupancy

† Price is based on a minimum of 38 group members per motorcoach.

† A limited number of single rooms may be available for a supplemental cost of \$789.

Program Highlights

- Round-trip air transportation from San Francisco, including government taxes and fees in effect as of March 2016
- 12 nights accommodations in first class hotels with private bathroom facilities
- Breakfast and dinner each day; five lunches as noted
- Comprehensive sightseeing as noted in the itinerary, including applicable entrance fees
- Professional Tour Manager/Guide to accompany the group in Israel and the West Bank
- Transportation via deluxe private motorcoach
- Portage of one suitcase per person at hotels

Payment Schedule

- \$500 per person is due with reservation form
- An additional \$1000 per person is due July 15, 2016
- Final payment is due on October 1, 2016

Ah'lan wa Sah'lan! In Arabic, this phrase means "Welcome!" and is often used as an invitation. We'd like to offer you that invitation now: to join us on a journey to Israel and Palestine in January, 2017.

We'll spend time first in Galilee and then in Haifa, Jerusalem and the West Bank (Bethlehem and surrounding towns). We'll explore ancient sites from the Old and New Testaments, the settings for the events of the Bible. We'll also meet the people who live, work, and worship in these places today. We will break bread together and gather for worship and devotions. The trip will offer us new insight about the land and its people: the past, present, and future of the place in which Jesus lived and did his ministry. Our hope is that all participants will find a deeper connection to the roots of Christianity, and gain greater insight and understanding of the current situation in the Holy Land.

You will be led by tour guides native to the Holy Land, and by three hosts chosen by PLTS for their insights, knowledge of the area and connections to local organizations.

***Pastor Gabi Aelabouni** – was born and raised in the Galilee area, near Nazareth. He moved to the USA in 2001 to study theology and was ordained as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church. He currently services as a Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ft. Collins, CO.*

***Dr. Rod Schofield** - currently serves on the School Board for the Lutheran Schools in the Holy Land and is a member of the board of Opportunity Palestine. He formerly served on the Board of Directors for PLTS and has been in the Holy Land more than 30 times in the past 11 years.*

***Sara Wilson** - currently serves as Associate Director of Seminary Relations at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary*

RESERVATION FORM

Return to: PLTS Tour, c/o Trans World Travel, 734 Central Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Please make your check payable to Trans World Travel, Inc. and return to the above address.

Enclosed is my (our) reservation for Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary tour to The Holy Land departing on January 6, 2017, and a deposit check in the amount of \$500 per person. I understand that the completed form and deposit indicates my (our) acceptance of the General Conditions and Cancellation Policies stated in this brochure and the understanding that there can be future increases by the air carrier for fuel and/or government related taxes. We strongly recommend that all passengers consider the optional insurance that can include pre-existing medical conditions.

NAME(S): _____
(Print name(s) exactly as shown on Passport)

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ ROOMMATE: _____

Holy Land Pilgrimage ~ Preliminary Itinerary

Friday, January 6, 2017 – San Francisco Departure: Today we begin our journey to Tel Aviv. Meals and beverages will be served as appropriate during the overnight flight.

Saturday, Jan. 7 – Arrive Tel Aviv: Upon arrival this afternoon in Tel Aviv we will meet our tour guide, who will direct us to our motorcoach for the transfer to our hotel in Nazareth. Upon arrival at the hotel we will have dinner, unpack and relax. (D)

Sunday, Jan. 8 – Nazareth: We begin this morning in Nazareth by visiting the Basilica of the Annunciation and other places significant in the life of Jesus' family. We will also visit Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle, and Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. Later, we will meet with an organization working with Christian and Muslim Israelis - a majority in towns such as Nazareth, but a religious minority within Israel. In the evening, we'll return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Monday, Jan. 9 - Tiberias and Sea of Galilee: Today we will explore the area around the Sea of Galilee, where much of Jesus' ministry occurred. Highlights include Capernaum (where Jesus began his public life), Tabgha (the feeding of the 5,000), Mt. of Beatitudes, the Golan Heights, and Caesarea Philippi. We will gather for a Communion service at Tabgha, and end the day with a beautiful sunset cruise on the Sea of Galilee before returning to our hotel. (B, D)

Tuesday, Jan. 10 - Lower Galilee: Today's journey takes us first to the Jordan River where we have the opportunity to participate in a renewal of baptism. Next, we'll drive through Magdala (home of Mary Magdalene) and visit the village of Eilaboun, a typical small Christian/Muslim village in Galilee where we will have lunch, meet local residents, and visit a Melkite church. Next we will travel through the beautiful Lower Galilee and arrive at our hotel in Haifa. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, Jan. 11 - Haifa: Today we explore Haifa, a city of 5 different ethnicities and religions living in harmony. A day filled with beauty and learning begins with a visit to Mount Carmel, where the prophet Elijah battled against the prophets of Baal. We will learn about the Baha'i faith during a stop at the beautiful Baha'i Temple and gardens, and we'll enjoy an authentic lunch and spend time at a local market. In the afternoon we'll have the opportunity for in-depth discussion at a nearby Jewish-Arab co-existence center. Later, we'll drive through the vista point of Stella Maris before returning to our hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure. (B, L, D)

Thursday, Jan. 12- Traveling to Jerusalem: During today's journey to Jerusalem we will stop at Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salaam (Oasis of Peace), an intentional community jointly established by Jewish and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. We'll have lunch and conversation with peacemakers who live their dream. We'll also make a stop at the Roman ruins of Caesarea-by-the-sea before arriving at our Jerusalem hotel late this afternoon. (B, L, D)

Friday, Jan. 13 – Jerusalem: This morning we will travel back in time as we visit the archeological excavations of the biblical city of King David and explore the ancient city of Jerusalem. If time permits, we will visit the "Machane Yehuda" marketplace to experience the atmosphere of preparation for Shabbat. After dinner we will take a late night stroll to the Western Wall, where you'll have a chance to write your personal prayers to God and put them in the Western Wall. (B, D)

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Jerusalem: We begin our day by visiting the grounds of the third most holy place in the Muslim tradition, Al-Aqsa Mosque, where according to the Quran, the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven. Later we will visit the Mount of Olives and tour Augusta Victoria Hospital with Rev. Mark Brown of the Lutheran World Federation after which we will have a catered lunch at the LWF Vocational Training Center and tour that facility. Later we will walk part of the Palm Sunday Road to visit the Garden of Gethsemane, and in the late afternoon we'll walk through the Armenian, Arab and Jewish quarters of Jerusalem's old city. (B, D)

Sunday, Jan. 15 - Jerusalem: For those who wish to participate this morning will begin with a very early breakfast and an early morning walk along the Via Dolorosa. At 9AM we will gather for worship at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer followed by a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Later we will visit Yad Vashem Holocaust history museum. From Yad Vashem, we will return to our hotel for a free evening. (B, D)

Monday, Jan. 16- Bethlehem: Today we explore "the little town of Bethlehem." We begin the day visiting sites commemorating the birth of Jesus – the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Field. We will also visit the DIYAR International Center, where we will enjoy lunch and a special talk led by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. This afternoon we will meet with local dignitaries and organizations to gain a deeper understanding of the current political and cultural situation in Palastine. This evening we will enjoy dinner with our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, Academic Director for University of Notre Dame at Tantur Ecumenical Institute, before returning to our Bethlehem hotel. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Jericho: Today begins with a visit to ancient Jericho, where we have the opportunity to travel by cable car to the Mount of Temptation and enjoy the panoramic view before enjoying lunch in the Old City of Jericho. This afternoon we will motor to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, where we'll have the unique opportunity to float in the Sea. Next we will see Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, before returning to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, Jan. 18 – Bethlehem: Today we plan to visit the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Beit Jala. Returning to Bethlehem, we will meet with local Israeli and Palestinian organizations before enjoying dinner in Bethlehem. This evening we will have the unique opportunity to celebrate Christmas with our Armenian brothers and sisters as we witness their Christmas Eve procession to Manger Square. We will return to our Bethlehem hotel for overnight. (B, D)

Thursday Jan. 19, 2017 – Bethlehem / Tel Aviv: This morning we will meet with Dr. Charlie Haddad, Director of Education, to discuss Lutheran education in the Holy Land and visit a Lutheran school. If schedules allow, we will also meet Bishop Munib Younan of the ELCJHL and President of the Lutheran World Federation. Later we will travel to Ramallah for a tour of the city and a visit to the Palestinian Authority governmental site and Arafat's tomb. This evening we'll enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant featuring a local dancing group before transferring to Tel Aviv Airport to board our overnight flight home. (B, D)

Friday Jan. 20, Tel Aviv / San Francisco: We arrive in San Francisco this morning. *Welcome home!*

Key: B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CANCELLATION BY TOUR MEMBER

CANCELLATIONS per person: All cancellations must be in writing and acknowledged by TWT. A \$150.00 administrative fee will be assessed for any cancellation plus all costs in cancelling a passenger and all other penalties assessed by airlines, hotels, cruise lines, tour operators, attractions, motor coach companies, etc. PLUS the following:

- 1) Cancellations postmarked within 180 days of departure, penalty up to 10% of tour cost per person.
- 2) Cancellations postmarked within 120 days of departure, penalty up to 20% of tour cost per person.†
- 3) Cancellations postmarked within 60 days of departure, penalty up to 50% of tour cost per person.†
- 4) Cancellations postmarked within 45 days of departure, penalty 100% of tour cost per person.†

†Additionally, unless a replacement is found, a cancelling tour member will also be charged for the single supplement fee of one's non-cancelling roommate.

PARTIAL OR COMPLETE

WITHDRAWAL AFTER TOUR BEGINS

Once the tour is in progress, no refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

CANCELLATION BY TWT

TWT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, in which case a full refund will be given. TWT also has the right to withdraw your membership at any time if your actions impose upon or disturb the other members of the tour. All additional costs to send a tour member home will be borne by the tour member.

INSURANCE

An optional insurance plan is available. We strongly urge all tour members to have insurance in the event of illness or death occurring prior to departure. Also, medical insurance is urged since some insurance companies do not cover an individual while abroad. Please note that this insurance will not cover pre-existing conditions unless enrollment for the insurance is done within a specified number of days of TWT registering you for the tour. If you lose or don't receive this insurance information, immediately contact your tour host or the Trans World Travel office: (847) 432- 2400.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Only items listed in the TOUR HIGHLIGHTS or WHAT TOUR INCLUDES section of the brochure are included.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip in Economy Class. Individual seating requests cannot be guaranteed due to airline seating policies. TWT must have your legal name. Reissuance ticket fees are subject to the policies of the individual airline contracted for your tour.

Passengers not traveling on the group's air itinerary are responsible for arranging their own transfers from their arrival airport to the group's first hotel or cruise ship and from the group's last hotel or cruise ship to their departure airport.

HOTEL CLASSIFICATIONS

We use 3 and 4-star hotels that are chosen on the basis of location, cleanliness and services and, when possible, are typical of the local area, or the best accommodations available in a particular city. All rooms have private bath and toilet facilities.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Excluded is any item or service not specifically indicated as included; such as cost of passports, visas where needed, portage at airports and/ or ship docks, gratuities on all cruise ships, tips to tour manager, motor coach driver, or guides, optional tours, and any other items of a personal nature including beverages with included meals. No responsibility is incurred by TWT for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passenger's belongings. Baggage, health and trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

DEVIATIONS

Deviations from the group itinerary will be quoted separately and require completion of a "Request for Deviation" Form. Changes are subject to a TWT deviation fee of \$100 per person plus any other travel related fees from airlines, hotels, etc.

TOUR DOCUMENTS

Tour documents will be mailed approximately two weeks prior to departure. Documents delayed because of late payment may require express shipment billed to recipient or C.O.D.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Occasionally, a change in a portion of your tour, accommodations, services, etc. may be necessitated due to: altered transportation schedules/equipment, weather conditions, labor strikes, road construction, or for other unforeseen reasons outside the control of TWT. Any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passengers.

RATES

All rates in this brochure are based on applicable tariffs in effect at the time of printing. Tour price can be increased due to the occurrence of currency fluctuations, the increase in fuel, increase in air tickets, various taxes, or any other increase connected with the tour package. Any cancellation due to any of the above changes is subject to the cancellation policy stated above.

LEGAL / HEALTH DOCUMENTS

For international travel, all U.S. citizens must have a current passport with 6 months validity remaining from your return date. For certain countries you will also need a properly dated visa. These documents are your responsibility and we urge you to apply for these documents as soon as possible. Smoking is prohibited aboard the motor coach.

RESPONSIBILITY

Trans-World Travel, Inc.
734 Central Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
Phone (847) 432-2400

The responsibility of Trans-World Travel, Inc. (TWT) is strictly limited. As a tour operator, TWT organizes, promotes and sells tour programs consisting of certain travel services, including, but not limited to, surface transportation, sightseeing excursions and hotel accommodations which TWT purchases or reserves from various suppliers. The suppliers providing travel services for TWT's tour programs are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of TWT or any subsidiary company. To the extent that TWT is involved in the sale of air transportation to you, TWT acts as an agent of the air carrier. For all other purposes, TWT does not act as agent for any party.

TWT is not responsible for the willful or negligent acts and / or omissions of such suppliers or any carrier or their respective employees, agents, servants or representatives including, without limitation, their failure to deliver or their partial or inadequate delivery of services. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers and/or carriers. By utilizing the travel service of the suppliers, you agree that neither TWT nor any subsidiary company or representative shall be liable for any accident, injury, property damage or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other travel services or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules.

These tour programs are planned in advance. If, between planning time and the actual tour operation, circumstances beyond TWT's control require changes, TWT reserves the right to vary itineraries and substitute components of tour programs. Remember that all travel documents, as well as compliance with customs regulations, are your (the tour member's) responsibility. The payment of the required deposit or any other partial payment for a reservation on a tour constitutes consent to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in this brochure. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing signed by an authorized officer of TWT. TWT is not responsible for typographical errors or errors of omission. 1/15