

Granite Springs Church Come and See: A Pilgrimage

November 2 – 12, 2022

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 2022

Wednesday, Nov. 2 Departure from San Francisco

D=IN-FLIGHT

The big day has arrived! This afternoon we'll meet at San Francisco International Airport, where we'll check in for the non-stop flight to Israel. Refer to the "Flight Schedule and Departure Instructions" for complete details.

Thursday, Nov. 3 Arrive Israel > Netanya

MEALS=IN-FLIGHT

We'll touch down in Tel Aviv this evening. Following customs formalities and baggage claim, we will meet our tour guide, Sufian, and board the waiting motorcoach for the drive to our hotel in Netanya.

Friday, Nov. 4 Netanya > Caesarea Maritima > Nazareth

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=RESTAURANT

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, we're ready to do some exploring! We'll travel to Caesarea, a majestic port built by King Herod and the harbor from which Paul sailed on his first missionary journey. Here we will have our first view of the Mediterranean Sea, which became a "water highway" for the early spread of the Good News to the Roman Empire. We'll then continue across the Jezreel Valley to Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. We will explore this old city, including the Church of the Annunciation and the remains of a first-century home at the Sisters of Nazareth convent. We'll have dinner at Bayat restaurant and then engage in conversation with the pastoral staff at the Baptist Church of Nazareth.

Saturday, Nov. 5 Nazareth > Mensa Christi > Sepphoris > Mount Arbel > Magdala > Tiberias

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

Today we will begin our exploration of the sites of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Our first stop is Mensa Christi ("The Table of Christ"), which commemorates Christ's restoration of Peter following the Resurrection. We'll visit Sepphoris (Zippori), where Jesus may have worked as a carpenter, and Mount Arbel, where we will have a spectacular view of the area. Then we'll stop at the first-century synagogue at Magdala, the traditional hometown of Mary Magdalene. We'll enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee before settling in at our hotel for a two-night stay and dinner.

Sunday, Nov. 6 Tiberias > Mount of Beatitudes > Chorazin > Caesarea Philippi > Kursi > Capernaum > Tabgha > Tiberias

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

Our day begins with an 8:00 a.m. worship service led by Pastor Adams at the Mount of Beatitudes, where we will reflect on the life of discipleship Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount. We'll then visit Chorazin and Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where Jesus asked his disciples "Who do you say I am?" Next, we'll visit Kursi, a possible location for the Demon-Possessed Man, and Capernaum—Jesus' hometown and mission headquarters. Our day concludes with Tabgha, where there is a chapel commemorating the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, and we'll return to Tiberias.

Monday, Nov. 7 Mount Tabor > Bet Shean > Samaria > Mount of Temptation > Jericho

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

Today we'll visit Mount Tabor, site of the transfiguration. Then we'll head to Bet Shean, the largest archeological site in the Holy Land. After these visits we'll travel to Samaria, the place of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, and on to the Mount of Temptation in the Judean Desert, where we'll visit the Greek Orthodox monastery (Monastery of the Temptation). Later this afternoon, we'll drive down the Jordan River Valley to Jericho, where we'll view the 11,000-year-old tower that has been discovered here. We'll also visit Herod's Palace and stop at the traditional site of Jesus' baptism. We'll end the day with dinner and an overnight stay in Jericho.

Tuesday, Nov. 8 Jericho > Qumran > Al-Eizarya > Jerusalem

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

This morning we'll visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We'll then visit Al-Eizarya, the biblical village of Bethany that is home to Lazarus' Tomb. We'll make a stop at the church/site of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, as we head towards Jerusalem. We'll get our first glimpse of the city at an overlook on Mount Scopus near Hebrew University and then visit the Israel Museum. Here we'll see a model of first-century Israel at the time of Christ and Shrine of the Book, which tells the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls. If it can be arranged, we'll have an audience with the Patriarch of Jerusalem to receive his blessing.

Wednesday, Nov. 9 Jerusalem

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

We begin our day walking through the Temple Mount and viewing the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. We'll then visit the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site. From here, we will explore the City of David excavations and have an opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel, which ends at the Pool of Siloam. Next, we will visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, where we will see a prison that is typical of the one Jesus might have been in during the night of his arrest and trial. We will also visit the Davidson Center's excavations of the Southern Stairs.

Thursday, Nov. 10 Jerusalem

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=HOTEL

Following the path of Jesus in his suffering, death, and resurrection, we'll start our day at the Mount of Olives, descending the road he traveled on Palm Sunday. We will pause for times of reflection at Dominus Flevit and the Garden of Gethsemane. Then we will enter the city near St. Anne's Church, where we will reflect on Christ's healing powers by the Pool of Bethesda and walk in his "Good Friday" steps down Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Our day concludes at the Garden Tomb, followed by dinner. Those interested may have the option of attending a midnight Greek Orthodox worship service at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Friday, Nov. 11 Jerusalem > Bethlehem > Herodium > Beit Sahour > Ben Gurion Airport

B=HOTEL

L=INDEPENDENT

D=TENT RESTAURANT

The morning will be at leisure, so we have an opportunity to sleep in and pack. We'll visit Jerusalem's Old City Market to shop for souvenirs and have an independent lunch before going to Bethlehem to visit the Shepherds' Fields, an olive-wood shop, and Church of the Nativity. We'll also visit the Herodium, Herod's palace near Bethlehem, and have our farewell dinner at a tent restaurant in Beit Sahour. After dinner, we'll transfer to Ben Gurion Airport to check in for our direct return flight which departs around 1:00 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 12 Return to San Francisco

MEALS=IN FLIGHT

We'll land at the San Francisco International Airport around 6:00 a.m. local time. We are certain that your pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been richly rewarding ~ and lots of fun!

(Meals included: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

Have a great trip – and thank you for choosing Witte Travel & Tours!



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