



photo use courtesy www.goisrael.com



**HEART OF FAITH
INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE
ISRAEL
MARCH 4 — 16, 2013**



www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com

Day 1 ~ Monday, March 4, 2013**USA/EN ROUTE**

Depart **USA** flying overnight to **Israel**.

Day 2 ~ Tuesday, March 5, 2013**TEL AVIV**

Arrive **Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv**. Meet, assist and transfer to **Tel Aviv** for overnight. Participate in an **opening prayer and blessing service** to welcome joyful pilgrims of all faiths! Enjoy **dinner at the hotel**.

Grand Beach Hotel Tel Aviv (D)

**Day 3 ~ Wednesday, March 6, 2013****TEL AVIV/CAESAREA/HAIFA**

After a traditional Israeli breakfast we'll gather for a brief **orientation**—meet your brother and sister pilgrims as well as our guide, and receive important instructions regarding the pilgrimage. Depart for the northern part of the country.

Like it did for visitors to the region for over 4000 years, our journey starts at the **port of Jaffa**, the oldest functional seaport of the last four millennia; a city that played a very important role as a crossing between Egypt and Mesopotamia. Here, too, Jonah departed on his journey that took him into the belly of the big fish and Peter raised Tabitha from the dead.

Continue to **Caesarea**, visiting the beautiful restored **Roman Theater**. The **archaeological ruins** of this ancient Herodian port city were an important Byzantine center and Crusader stronghold.

Then, ascend **Mount Carmel** to the area where the prophet Elijah fought against the god Baal. Weather permitting, our daily prayer service will be in spectacular view of the **Jezreel Valley**, also known as the **Valley of Armageddon**.

An unforgettable evening awaits, enjoying **Druze hospitality for dinner** in a **traditional Druze village**. The Druze community is a religious minority that lives in harmony in Israel; an ethnic group known for their hospitality and warm welcome of visitors. The fascinating history of this group, its unique religion and ancient tradition of delightful hospitality allows us in to share in this special experience of their lifestyle with them.

Continue to **Haifa** for overnight.

Dan Panorama Haifa (B, D)

www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com



Day 4 ~ Thursday, March 7, 2013**HAIFA/LOWER GALILEE**

Begin the day with a view from atop **Mt. Carmel**. Planned is a special visit to the **Baha'i Gardens**. Learn about the Baha'i faith—one of the first great interfaith and mystical spiritualities of modern times.

Continue to the crusader town of **Akko** to view the ancient sea fortifications and underground chambers.

We arrive along the lower Galilee in **Nazareth**, the **boyhood home of Jesus**, paying a visit to the **Church of Annunciation** and the house of the **Virgin Mary**. Prayer gathering planned at the synagogue where Jesus first taught on the Sabbath (Luke 4:18).

Continuing to **Cana**, we will have a special interfaith opportunity for couples who wish to renew their vows to do so at the site commemorating Jesus' first miracle of turning water to wine during the marriage celebration.

Our evening finds us at Kibbutz Ginosar Guest House, on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. This lovely setting allows us to experience the tranquility of being right on the Kinneret (the Hebrew name for the Sea), and to see an established kibbutz—the kind of community that helped build modern Israel.

Kibbutz Ginosar Guest House (B, D)

**Day 5 ~ Friday, March 8, 2013****UPPER GALILEE**

This day is devoted to the beautiful and sacred city of **Safed**, one of the **Four Holy Cities** according to tradition. Safed is known for its **mysticism and Kabbalistic studies**. This town was a center of 16th century mysticism and is still a magnet for spiritual seekers.

Many artists are drawn to the beauty and mystical atmosphere of Safed. Enjoy the special ambience of contrasts, where ancient synagogues and modern art galleries exist side by side in the narrow, winding alleys. Explore the beautiful synagogues and visit the many artists' workshops and galleries found in the flourishing artists' quarter. Planned is a speaker on the mystical traditions of Judaism,

www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com



Return to Kibbutz Ginosar to **welcome Shabbat on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Roger Ross**, the successor to Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, one of the great modern Kabbalistic rabbis, and a father of the interfaith movement. Experience the mystical tradition around the arrival of the Sabbath Queen, and the tradition of “putting on the second soul” of the Sabbath. Share a **traditional Shabbat dinner** together.

Kibbutz Ginosar Guest House (B, D)s

Day 6 ~ Saturday, March 9, 2013

SAFED/UPPER GALILEE

The morning begins with our visit to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the site of Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount**. Here, we have a special meditation on the Beatitudes, or “Be-Attitudes” for life.

Like the fisherman of old, we cross the **Sea of Galilee** by boat, on the sea where Jesus walked on water. Together we enjoy a traditional **St. Peter's Fish** lunch.

At **Capernaum**, we visit the remarkable **Ancient Synagogue**. Capernaum is where Jesus spent a large percentage of his public life, including at **Tabgha**, the traditional site of the **miracle of loaves and fishes**, which provides an opportunity us to reflect on the miracles and abundance in our physical and spiritual lives today.

Our day ends at **Yardenit**, the present-day baptismal site on the **Jordan River**. Teachings and reflections on the significance and origin of water rituals and baptism in our different faiths culminate in an opportunity to be immersed or baptized in the River Jordan.

Kibbutz Ginosar Guest House (B, L, D)



Day 7 ~ Sunday, March 10, 2013

TIBERIAS/JERUSALEM

On this morning following the baptismal and water consecration rituals of spiritual dedication, while we are still on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, **Fr. Steven Porter offers Sunday Mass in accordance with Roman Catholic tradition.**

This morning we travel along the Jordan Valley to the ancient **Beit-Alpha Synagogue**, with its well-preserved mosaic floor of zodiac design. We continue towards Jerusalem along the Jordan River Valley to **Jericho** and the **Mount of Temptation**.

www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com



Ascending to the **Holy City of Jerusalem**, we enjoy a traditional special welcome atop **Mt. Scopus**, taking in the panoramic view of both Old & New Jerusalem, and experience why it is called “Jerusalem of Gold.”

Our celebration of arrival at this crossroads of the spiritual world continues with our evening Interfaith **Healing Service** (TBA.) Healings of Body, Mind & Spirit—and a preparation for our time in the holiest precincts of our faiths.

Dan Panorama Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 8 ~ Monday, March 11, 2013

JERUSALEM OLD CITY

This day brings us to the heart of our pilgrimage, at the site that is holy to all three faiths of Abraham. We begin the day with a visit to the site that is the focus of attention for Jews world over: the Kotel, or Western (Wailing) Wall. Place your written prayers in the cracks of the ancient stones that are all that remain of the great Temple, and be a part of the incredible prayer energy at the site. Go beneath the structures for an amazing walk through the **Western Wall Tunnel** experiencing more than 2,000 years of history.

Emerge at the beginning of the **Via Dolorosa**. Walk the traditional **Stations of the Cross**, through narrow alleys of the souq—the **oriental bazaars**—to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the holiest Christian shrine in the world, situated on the Hill of Golgotha (skull hill), a former execution site outside the city walls. According to Christian gospels, (and compatible to archeological discoveries), this is the **site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection**.

The beautiful architecture of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a combination of Crusader, Byzantine and Greek structures. Five Christian communities share the Church today: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Coptic and Syrian Orthodox, each with its own section inside the church. Experience the sacred in this place kept in a constant flow of prayer for over 1700 years.

Dan Panorama Jerusalem (B, D)



Day 9 ~ Tuesday, March 12, 2013

MASADA/DEAD SEA

Our morning drive takes us south through the **Judean Desert** to the **Dead Sea** – the lowest place on earth – almost 1,300 feet (400 meters) below sea level.

Float in the “unsinkable” mineral-rich Dead Sea waters. Minerals and mud from the Dead Sea are used around the world for their therapeutic value.

www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com



We ascend via cable car to **Masada**, the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their struggle against the Romans after the fall of the Second Temple, one generation after Jesus. Experience why this stronghold in the desert, excavated in the 1960's, holds inspiration for millions.

On our way back north, we visit **Qumran**, overlooking the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These are the oldest copies of the Hebrew scriptures—discovered along with scrolls pertaining to the ancient community known as the **Yahad**, (most likely Essene). Numerous objects depict the daily life and way of thinking of the Qumran's inhabitants, a sect devoted to austerity and purity.

Returning to Jerusalem, there is an option to attend the **"Night Spectacular" Sound & Light Show** at the Tower of David Fortress.

Dan Panorama Jerusalem (B, D)



Day 10 ~ Wednesday, March 13, 2013 JERUSALEM OLD & NEW CITY

We traverse the **Palm Sunday Road** to the sacred site of the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of All Nations**.

Ir David, or the **City of David**, perhaps "the" archeological site of the last 10 years is next; explore the **passageways and tunnels** from time of the King Hezekiah, ending at the **Pool of Siloam**, where Jesus performed the miracle of sight.

Next we ascend to the **Temple Mount**, revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims. Said to be Mount Moriah where Abraham offered up Isaac; it was the site of the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is the site of the **Al Aksa Mosque** and the **Dome of the Rock**; the third most important site in the Muslim world, and one of the oldest existing Islamic structures. The instantly recognizable building commemorates where the prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven.

Afternoon, we visit the unforgettable **Holocaust Memorial** at **Yad Vashem**.

Evening Healing Service (TBA) *"Healing of Memories"*

Dan Panorama Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 11 ~ Thursday, March 14, 2013 HEBRON/ABU GOSH/JERUSALEM

Early departure for the Palestinian territory in the West Bank. We visit Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus. Visit **the Shepherd's Field** and **the Church of the Nativity in Manger Square**, home also to the Mosque of Omar.

Continue through the Negev to **Hebron**, stopping at **Rachel's Tomb**. In Hebron we visit the **Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs**. Jews revere the **Cave of Machpelah** as the burial place of patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their wives; Muslims make pilgrimages to the mosque that was built over the burial cave in the 1100s.

www.heartoffaithpilgrimages.com

Afternoon return to **Jerusalem**.

Farewell Dinner—possibly in the Arab town of Abu Gosh.

Dan Panorama Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 12 ~ Friday, March 15, 2013

JERUSALEM/EN ROUTE

Day at leisure for shopping in the souq—or—an optional morning visit to the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, as well as a visit to the Scale Model of ancient Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple.

Afternoon time for packing.

Final blessing service before airport departure.

Evening **transfer to the airport** with assistance in **departure** for the **USA**.

Day 13 ~ Saturday, March 16, 2013

USA

Arrive United States later today.

NOTE: FROSCH TRAVEL, SANCTUARY CENTER, LLC., and the pilgrimage leaders reserve the right to make alterations to the daily schedule regarding changing of timing of group activities such as prayer gathering and services where necessary due to weather or other exigencies or opportunities.