



PREPARATION & PACKING LIST, TESTIMONIES

Dear Friend,

SHALOM! The following information which will help you know how to plan for our “*Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*” Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, January 20-30, 2020. We’ve also included testimonies from some of our past pilgrims who wanted to share what they experienced!

Recommended books to read (available on Amazon):

In the Steps of Jesus by Peter Walker

How to Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus by Hela Crown-Tamir

Weather: Temperatures typically average 60 plus degrees during the day. Plan to bring clothing that you can “layer” by taking it off and/or putting it on to help you adapt to daily temperatures.

Dress: Plan to dress casual and comfortable jeans, slacks, etc. Ladies there is no need to bring dresses or skirts unless these are your personal preference. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes.

Prescriptions: If you use prescription medications and/or over the counter drugs keep them in your carry-on piece of luggage along with a change of clothes in the event your luggage doesn't arrive with you in Tel Aviv (this has never happened to any of our pilgrims to date but we want you to be prepared). Please check with the airlines if you are planning to bring a CPAP device on board with you.



Travel Itinerary: We are currently scheduled to depart at 6:05P on Monday, January 20, from Dulles Airport on Austrian Airlines Flight OS94, and arrive in Vienna, Austria, at 8:45A. We depart on flight OS857 January 21 at 10:25A arriving at Tel Aviv at 2:55P. We depart on Austrian Airlines flight OS860 on Thursday, January 30, at 6:15A, arriving at Vienna at 9:15A. We depart at 10:35P on flight Austrian Airlines flight OS93 arriving at Dulles at 2:55P. Plan to check-in at the airport 3 hours before our flight is scheduled to depart and go immediately to the gate of our departure. Call our pilgrimage cells at 703.470.1077 or 703.380.7009 if you encounter any problems. Please reconfirm our flight with airline 24 hours prior to our departure to check for any flight/schedule changes. You will receive your e-tickets approximately 30 days before departure.



Baggage: Please check with Austrian Airlines for their baggage requirements. We would encourage you to wear heavier clothing items like coats on the plane which you can store in the overhead bin to help keep your suitcase weight down.

Rest on the Plane: You may want to bring ear plugs to help you rest on the plane if you are sensitive to noise along with a face mask to block out light. If you have a regular schedule for drinking caffeinated coffee or tea you may want to decaffeinate prior to leaving until you are back into a normal routine after we arrive in the Holy Land.

Meals: We leave our hotel each morning by 8:00A following a delicious buffet breakfast. We typically stop for lunch by 1:00P (lunches not included in your package run \$10 - \$15 per day). One restaurant we visit offers an option of ordering a St. Peters Fish lunch that typically costs in the \$20 range. We return to our hotel every evening to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner. (Please note that alcoholic beverages like wine are available at dinner but not included in your pilgrimage package).

Restroom Breaks: We take regular restroom breaks throughout the day to make sure that our pilgrims are comfortable. If you have any special personal needs make sure to let us know.

Security: Political unrest in the Middle East is nothing new. While on pilgrimage our guide, driver and Imagine Travel (one of the oldest Christian owned travel agencies in the U.S. who has led tens of thousands of pilgrims to the Holy Land without incident) receive regular security updates from Israeli authorities. Our pilgrimages NEVER go near Gaza and are careful to avoid any other potential hot spots. A record 1.14 million overseas visitors came to Israel in the first quarter of 2019, up 14% from the corresponding period of 2018, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. After making seasonal adjustments, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports that there was an average of 391,000 visitors to Israel each month, in the first quarter of 2019, which equals a record of 4.7 million tourist per year, compared with a monthly average of 374,000 per month in the final quarter 2018, which represented an annual rate of 4.5 million tourists. In 2018, a record 4.12 million tourists came to Israel, up 14% from 2017, which was also a record, and up 42% from 2016. This will be our seventh pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We have never had any security concerns.

Gratuities: Gratuities are included in your pilgrimage package. You will have the opportunity to participate in a freewill “love offering” to bless our guide and driver. Envelopes will be placed on tables at breakfast and dinner on the day before we depart for home. The love offering plus the recommended gratuity will be presented to our guide and driver with a thank you card signed by all at our farewell Dinner Celebration.



Credit Cards: U.S. Currency and credit cards are accepted in most of the shops and restaurants we visit.



An exception could be in the Old City of Jerusalem if you choose to purchase something from a vendor. We recommend that you check in with your credit card companies to let them know the dates you will be traveling in the Holy Land. Our pilgrims typically do not convert U.S. dollars into Israeli currency.

Electronic Adapters: Two Prong Chargers for converting from 220 to 110 volts are used in Israel. you can get them at most electronic stores or order them via Amazon, etc.



Cell Phone: Wi-Fi is available in our hotels and on the bus. For international cell service please consult with your cell phone provider.

Dead Sea Lotions: If you purchase Dead Sea Lotions or any other liquid items that would be too large to check through airport security, make sure to pack them in your *checked baggage* when we depart Israel.

Listed below are items you are encouraged to take on our pilgrimage:

CARRY ON LUGGAGE

- Passport (make sure your passport is valid for 6 months after you leave Israel)
- Red Imagine Name Tags (Please Wear These When You Arrive at the Airport)
- Wallet or Security Pouch with Cash
- Prescription Medications
- Toiletries (must be 3 oz. or less and fit in a quart bag]
- An extra shirt, underwear, socks
- Extra glasses (if you wear them)

Bible, Journal and pens
Book for reading
Camera
I-Pad
Cell Phone
Electronic Converters/Adapters (Two Prong Chargers for converting from 220 to 110 used in Israel);
Snacks

RECOMMENDED LADIES LIST

Comfortable Walking Shoes
5 Shirts
5 Pants
3 Tank Tops for Layering
2 sweaters
1 Lightweight Coat (wear onto plane)
Lightweight Thermal Vest
Rain Gear
A Few Silk Scarves for Warmth and Color
Cheap Jewelry
Underwear and Socks
Pajamas
Bathing Suit, Cover-up, Flip Flops
Hat / Gloves / Ear Muffs
Comfortable Walking Shoes
Sunglasses
Umbrella (recommend small collapsible style)
Extra glasses (if you wear them)
Bible, Journal and pens
Sunscreen

RECOMMENDED MEN'S LIST

5 Shirts; 2 Long Sleeved, 3 Short
5 T-Shirts
3 Pants
2 Sweaters
Underwear / Socks
1 Light Weight Coat (wear onto plane)
Long Sleeved Windbreaker
Lightweight Thermal Vest
Hat / Gloves / Ear Muffs / Scarf
Pajamas
Comfortable Walking Shoes
Rain Gear
Bathing Suit, Flip Flops
Sunglasses
Umbrella (recommend small collapsible style)
Extra glasses (if you wear them)
Bible, Journal and pens
Sunscreen

The following are a sampling of testimonies we have received from our pilgrims who have come from churches of many denominations and worship traditions:

“I did not know what to expect before making this pilgrimage since I had heard so many differing experiences from others who have gone to the Holy Land. So, I went with no expectations and prayed that God would meet me in a new way! And He did just that. I can honestly say that I am changed because of having made this pilgrimage. Being in the places of the Bible and seeing what Jesus saw, walking where He walked and standing at the exact places where He performed miracles has opened the eyes of my understanding of His Word. He has given me a new hunger and thirst to rush to Him first thing in the morning. His word has come alive for me! Going to the Holy Land has deepened my relationship with Christ, and I am forever thankful.”

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“Fr. Dean and Glorianne Schultz were wonderful pilgrimage hosts. They partner with an excellent Israeli tour guide. I felt safe always. This trip not only allowed me to see the Holy Land sites but challenged me to go deeper in my walk with Christ. Before going, I had difficulty picturing or relating to what I read in the Bible. But now, I can picture Bible stories much more vividly than I was able to before, including the climate of a culture that I witnessed firsthand”!

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“On January 21, 2019, we began our 11-day pilgrimage to Israel with Pastor Dean and Glorianne Schultz. It’s been said that a pilgrimage to Israel is a life-changing event, but that’s an understatement. It’s impossible to imagine just how impactful this pilgrimage can be – and in so many ways. The travel brochure provides just an overview of the various places where Jesus walked; there are so many more amazing sites to see, hear, and experience along the way- such as the only natural spring at Nazareth, Jacob’s Well, Peter’s mother-in-law house, the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the Pool of Bethesda, the Room of the Last Supper, the Gethsemane Garden, the Easter Gate, and the Stations of the Cross. Oh, the Stations of the Cross – we did not observe the Stations on a church wall but rather on the streets of Jerusalem where Jesus walked. It’s astounding to know that all these special places still exist, and many more continue to be uncovered over time. I’ve got to believe that other members of our group still talk about our pilgrimage as I do. I truly believe that every Christian should have the opportunity to take this pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime”!

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“Just like our bodies and minds can become weary, so can our spirits. I left for this trip with a weary spirit in such need of rest and renewing. I was both worn and tired in my soul. This trip was such a refreshing and reviving time with other believers who have such a tender heart for the Lord. I have a new understanding of the deep love for Christ in other nations. There were so many groups of people from other countries who were overcome with emotion by the significance of what took place in the many sites we visited. A well needed and unforgettable experience and I am so thankful the Lord allowed me the privilege of being able to go on this trip. Thank you, Dean, and Glorianne!!! Praise His Holy Name”!

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“As I begin to process our trip and all that happened, I am overwhelmed with memories of the many places we visited, our worship times, our singing and the entire band of stalwart pilgrims visiting this Holy, Holy Land! There are two ways to visit Israel... as a simple tourist traveler, and with a group of Christians who are awed by it! I recommend the latter! What an experience. Friends said it would be life-changing and it was. Thanks, Dean and Glorianne for your great leadership and kindness”!

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“I wish there were more expressive words in the English language than fantastic for it was more than that. I took my slide show to my Bible study class and they were in awe. I would and will recommend this experience to all Christians that I know. Thanks for everything”.

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“What a tremendous blessing our pilgrimage to the Holy Land was to our whole family! We are still unpacking our souvenirs, looking at our photos and savoring all the memories. Perhaps the most moving experience I had was the worship and singing that we did every day. You even called us, the “Pilgrimage Choir.” I remember singing The Lord’s Prayer with a group of Japanese pilgrims at the Church of Our Father where Jesus taught his disciples to pray. That really brought home to me our unity in Christ with fellow believers from all over the world. Traveling with a one-year old granddaughter went more smoothly than I could imagine. To everyone’s delight, she took her first steps in Jerusalem at the Farewell dinner on the last night of our tour. What a memory!

Several of the sites we visited made a huge impression on me. Nazareth Village, a living history museum, opened my eyes to Jesus’ teaching on separating the sheep from the goats, shepherds leading their flocks, the significance of “roots and shoots” of the olive tree and most of all the parallels between the olive press and Jesus’ time in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Bible lunch we enjoyed there was delicious as well as authentic. Visiting Jacob’s well in modern day Nablus (Biblical Shechem), where Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) as well as the actual very DEEP well that the patriarch Jacob dug to water his flocks and herds made a huge impression on me when I saw the rope marks cut into the stone from drawing up a bucket over thousands of years. Visiting the kibbutz in Galilee and seeing the 2000-year-old preserved fishing boat from the Sea of Galilee in Jesus’ day was absolutely mind blowing! Stepping over the threshold of the first century synagogue where Jesus worshipped and taught in Magdala and knowing we could put our feet where He is known to have been was awe inspiring.

One of my most precious experiences was sitting on the balcony of our hotel room in Tiberias, reading my morning devotional and watching the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee where Jesus lived, taught and performed so many of his miracles then going down to the dining room for a fabulous breakfast buffet. I loved the Shakshuka and the fish salad.

Our Israeli tour guide, Ruby, was so knowledgeable, flexible about rearranging our itinerary to suit the various changes in the weather and fun. I learned so much about Israel in Bible times as well as the customs and conflicts in Israel today. I now have a much greater appreciation for the land and its various people than I had before the trip.

I also appreciate all the logistical arrangements for the entire pilgrimage so that we did not have to be concerned with managing luggage, finding places to eat, currency exchanges, reservations needed to visit holy sites, even arrangements for Holy Eucharist were all taken care of ahead of time. Vendors were pre-screened to ensure we had positive experiences and fair prices as we all picked up souvenirs on the trip.

One concern my family had before our trip was safety since much of the Middle East is so dangerous. We felt and were completely safe the entire time we were in Israel—safer than we are at home.

Fr. Dean’s teaching on the bus and at various holy sites enriched our time on this pilgrimage. I know my whole family has been changed by this pilgrimage. Our eyes have been truly opened to the Bible and to our Lord by this experience. We have all deepened our faith. I would travel with Fr. Dean and Glorianne to the Holy Land again in a heartbeat”.

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The pilgrimage that I took in January of 2017 to Israel was like no vacation or trip that I have ever taken before. It was so incredibly inspirational - to be able to put myself into the time frame of when Jesus lived, and to see where He lived and walked, and to bring to life the many Bible stories that we have all learned about and to see how they all fit together was totally amazing. How cool it was to be baptized in the Jordan River as Jesus was, and to go for a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee as Jesus did so many times, and to see firsthand how a storm can come up so quickly because of the surrounding mountains and cause great distress with the disciples. It was such fun to swim in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, and, yes, to float in it. Wanting to enjoy the full experience, I rode a camel – certainly not the most comfortable means of transportation; I can empathize with the long journey of the 3 Kings. The experience of spontaneously singing in the open amphitheater in Caesarea, (as well as so many other places) in front of several different tour groups was fun, indeed, and then, to join in with a group from South Korea who were singing the Lord’s Prayer at the Mount of Olives where Jesus taught the disciples that prayer was extremely heartwarming and emotional. This pilgrimage was definitely “an experience of a lifetime” and one that I will never forget”!

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“Each day of the pilgrimage I was enlightened and felt the presence and quite frankly the journey so much more clearly of the Lord. I walked where he walked and saw where the prophets, disciples and the people of God and those against God walked, fought, suffered and were faithful and unfaithful to Him. The awe, and the emotion so many of us felt when coming around barren land to a divide in barren hills was so moving. As we came over that hill to see the city of Jerusalem and have our guide say, “YOU ARE HOME”. Who thought of Jerusalem as their home but of course she was so right. The place where God gave His son so that I might live in eternal life with HIM. The place where the son suffered beyond measure to save me. When I saw where He carried that cross, where that horrible crown of thorns was placed upon His head. When I saw what those thorns really were like it was more horrifying than I imagined. To see where He walked through the narrow streets to be spat upon, the picture becomes alive more than ever before and the humbleness I felt, and the awe is beyond what you can imagine. Jerusalem where I have been given NEW LIFE IN CHRIST! of course I was home! I have always loved and been moved by the “Twelve Stations of the Cross”. but when I walked it in Jerusalem it was a whole new walk. Pinch me! I walked where Jesus walked!!! I stood where he taught! what a blessing what huge gift of grace. Then there is the sorrow and guilt, appreciation, I felt as I saw what He did for me; Vicki. Upon going to Bethlehem, I was very amazed at the journey Joseph and Mary made to get the place of Jesus birth. Poor Mary! The Jordan river was a surprise. It wasn't very wide but to be there and picture John the Baptist serving God, baptizing Jesus as it was proclaimed to happen. Here 2,000 years later people are being baptized!!! Now it happens all over the world and I was just struck by how awesome the Holy Spirit of God is. One of my first thoughts as we traveled on our bus to Netanya was how there was no color, how barren the hills and land was being the King walked in His three years of ministry to carry out the word of the Prophets and teach His disciples and us today how to walk in His shoes and be fishers of men. This thought stayed with me every place we traveled throughout Israel. I know the stories but to be in the land is to truly understand far more the love of God and the suffering Christ went through, I thought I got it, but to be in that environment is so different, so much more enlightening. I have a whole new experience of walking with Jesus. To sing a song of worship at St. Anne's and hear people from different nations sing their song of praise (each group on this pilgrimage we could sing one song as they were in the church. knowing we were all praising the same God, the same King. A message to me a beautiful hint of what heaven will be like. It was so moving to me, we knew what the others were singing although we didn't know their language, we knew the language of love, and we knew one day we would all be together. I remember on group of what I believe were from a Ukrainian country smile and applaud after we sang our song. The face of Jesus was in their faces. I weep as I write this. Can you imagine standing at the top of Mt. Olive looking over the whole city of old Jerusalem then walking down Mt. Olive and suddenly being in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus felt such sadness “His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground” Imagine worshiping in a shepherd's cave, going to the where the Transfiguration took place, the sermon on the mount, the place where the dead sea scrolls were discovered. Imagine being on a boat in the Sea of Galilee. I can't believe I was walking in Nazareth. We went to a village set up like the village Jesus grew up in. We ate a meal like they would have eaten (quite healthy we would all be better if we ate like they did!). I simply can't stop talking, feeling, thanking God for giving me this gift of being part of His life in so many ways that were new. I give thanks for the journey and find it continues as I read my bible, so much I read before is new, so much more alive. There were so many moments, and places we went I want to share but I don't think I am supposed to write 20 pages. Maybe I already did. I simply close with thanks and praise that I have been given such a gift and I am encouraging all I know to go on this walk!!! I thank especially Glorianne and Father Dean for doing everything to make our trip spiritual, fun, and comfortable”.