



# RTLA CHURCH

HOLY LAND-TURKEY-EFESUS

In the footsteps of Jesus and Paul Nov 02-Nov 12 (2023)



**Day 1: Nov 2/Thurs. LAX-Tel Aviv on a transatlantic flight:** Meals and entertainment on board the flight. Upon landing transferred to Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee.

## Day 2: Nov 3/Friday. Arrival Tel Aviv (Israel)



Upon arrival at Tel Aviv airport, you will be greeted by our representatives. Then transfer to the city center for a scenic drive with photo stops in the city and on the banks of Tel Aviv. We will then drive to the ancient port city of Jaffa, one of the oldest biblical cities in the world and an important seaport since ancient times. Then drive to the city of Tiberias and check in. **Dinner/accommodation at 4\***



Tiberias hotel (Leonardo Club or similar).

## Day 3: Nov 4/Saturday. Tiberias (On the Sea of Galilee)



After breakfast we then drive to the Mount of Beatitudes; a beautiful church from where you can enjoy a magnificent view of the northern part of the Sea of Galilee. We will continue to visit the ancient city of Capernaum; a 2nd century synagogue that shed light on the life of the community during the time when Jesus lived and where he



performed many miracles. After lunch we drive through the lush Jordan Valley and visit the baptismal site of Yardenit on the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized by John. After a time for the renewal ceremony of his baptismal vows we visit Kibbutz Ginosar for a boat ride on the calm waters of the Sea of Galilee. **Dinner/ overnight at a 4\* hotel in Tiberias (Leonardo Club or similar).**

## Day 4: Nov 5/Sun. The Sea of Galilee to Jericho - MASADA-Dead Sea



In the morning after breakfast with luggage we will continue through the Jezreel Valley to the Jordan River, which leads south to Jericho (Joshua 6:12-25), a flourishing oasis in the Judean Desert and the first city conquered by Joshua in the Promised Land. We will then go to Jericho and take our lunch there and visit the mount of temptation. In Matthew 4:8 we read how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and then went into the wilderness where he fasted and meditated for 40 days and 40 nights on the Mount of Temptations. While here, the devil tried three times to tempt Jesus to forsake God. We will then continue to Masada, an ancient fortress

located in the Judean desert in southern Israel. Ascent to Masada by cable car. Pass by the Dead Sea for an unforgettable experience in its buoyant waters and check in at the hotel by the Dead Sea.  
**Dinner/accommodation in a 4\* hotel at the Dead Sea.**

**Day 5: Nov 6/Monday. JERUSALEM and ancient city**



In the morning with luggage after breakfast we will continue to beautiful Jerusalem, one of the oldest cities in the world. We will start with a spectacular view of Jerusalem as Jesus saw it from the top of the Mount of Olives. There we will make a toast for having come so far to this sacred place. We will then descend to the Garden of



Gethsemane through Dominus Flevit with its ancient olive trees. We will enter the Old City through the Lions Gate and walk the Via Dolorosa, also called the Way of the Cross, Jesus' route from Pilate's courtroom to Golgotha, arriving at the Garden of the Tomb where we will have time for Holy Communion. Afterwards we will check in at our hotel. In the evening you can walk around the old city and visit landmarks near the Jaffa Gate and the famous Mamila open-air mall and stroll through the vibrant bazaars. **Dinner/ overnight in Jerusalem 4\* hotel Olive Tree or similar.**

**Day 6: Nov 7/Tues. JERUSALEM and ancient city**



In the morning after breakfast, we will drive along the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, part of the retaining wall of the Temple Mount. Continue to the Cardo, the main street of the old Jewish quarter of the Old City, which has been excavated and restored with stores and galleries that have opened along the street. We will also visit Mount Zion, the Upper Room, site of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb, and the Upper Room where the coming of the Holy Spirit happened (Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-25; Acts 2). We will finish the day with free time after noon. Then we will pack our bags for the next day we continue to Turkey.  
**Dinner/accommodation in Jerusalem 4\* hotel Olive Tree or similar.**

**Day 7: Nov 8/Wednesday. ISTANBUL (Turkey) - city between two continents (Asia and Europe).**

In the morning after breakfast, with luggage we will drive to Tel Aviv airport and board our flight to beautiful Istanbul. Upon arrival we will be met by a company representative and drive to the shores of the Bosphorus Sea, where we will have our special welcome lunch at a local traditional seafood restaurant by the sea. We will then take a short sightseeing tour of the city around the old city walls of Istanbul. Today's tour begins with a visit to the ancient spice bazaar where you can enjoy traditional Turkish delicacies. We will then cross the ancient Galata Bridge over the Golden Helmet to our lunch spot. In the afternoon we will check in at our hotel. **Accommodation/lunch/dinner 5\* hotel Istanbul. Hilton/Hyatt Regency or similar.**

**Day 8: Nov 9/Thursday. ISTANBUL (Turkey)**



After breakfast we will start to enjoy and explore Istanbul. In Istanbul, every region has a different mystery and with its 2500 years of history, its unique nature, vibrant nightlife, food, culture and many more features are waiting to be discovered. We will visit the Ancient Hippodrome, which was one of the largest chariot racing grounds of the Byzantine Empire. We will take a short walk to the Blue Mosque completed in 1616, it is a triumph of harmony, proportion, and elegance. The mosque was part of a complex that also included tombs, fountains, kitchens, and a Turkish bath. Its colorful 260 windows allow sunlight to reach the interior. This makes the interior unusually light. The blue Iznik tiles covering the walls

have given the mosque its popular name, Blue Mosque. After a short walk, visit Hagia Sophia, the Church of the Divine Wisdom and testimony to the sophistication of the 6th century. The great building was built over two earlier churches and inaugurated by Emperor Justinian in 537. The immense dome is an architectural marvel, as it seems to float above your head. In addition to admiring the architecture, you will also see the



wonderful mosaics in the upper galleries. It now serves as a mosque. You can also experience every aspect of Ottoman architecture as you walk through the streets of Istanbul, which have a different story around every corner. We then drive to the Grand Bazaar, one of the oldest bazaars in the world and have free time to enjoy a coffee along the picturesque promenades of the old city. In the afternoon we will return to the hotel and pack for departure the next day to Pergamon and Kusadasi, Ephesus. **Accommodation/lunch/dinner 5\* hotel Istanbul. Hilton/Hyatt Regency or similar.**

**Day 9: Nov 10/Friday. Pergamon, Kusadasi.** After breakfast we will drive north and visit Pergamon, an important capital city in ancient times. Pergamon is home to two of the most famous archaeological sites in the country: most of Pergamon's buildings and monuments date from the time of Eumenes II (197-159 BC), including the famous library, the theater terrace on the hillside in a spectacular location, the main palace, the Altar of Zeus and the propylon of the Temple of Athena. In the early Christian era, the church of Pergamon was an important center of Christianity and was one of the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse. Then we will drive to Kusadasi to enjoy the hotel and the shores of the Mediterranean. The ancient coastal city of Kusadasi is a picturesque and lively port. The city center has beautiful restaurants in front of the Mediterranean shopping centers to enjoy an afternoon while the sun goes down.



**Accommodation and lunch/dinner at 5\* luxury hotel in Kusadasi. Hilton/Hyatt Regency or similar.**

**Day 10: Nov 11/Saturday. Ephesus.**



After breakfast we will head out to explore Ephesus, (the first Church of the Seven - Revelation 2:1-7), the best-preserved Greco-Roman city in the world. Famous throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis. As we pass through the gates of Ephesus, one of the first monuments we see is the Temple of Hadrian. We then head to the Celsus Library, the best-preserved structure of its kind. The inscription on the side of the front staircase of the building says that the library was built by Julius, in honor of his father. Celsus was the Roman governor of Asia Minor in the early 2nd century AD. The



façade of the library is adorned with four statues that personify virtue, wisdom, destiny, and genius. The Great Theater dates to Hellenistic times. In the 1st century AD, it was successfully rebuilt, enlarged by the Romans to a seating capacity of 25,000. This is where Paul was known to preach and is still used for classical performances today. The Marble Way runs between the Library of Celsus and the Great Theater, it is part of the sacred way. Then we will see the remains of the Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Next, we will visit the Basilica of St. John; it is believed that the evangelist St. John preached to the Ephesians and lived his last years here, buried on the southern slope of Ayasoluk Hill. In the late afternoon, we will have free time for shopping in Kusadasi and packing for our return home. **Lunch/dinner at luxury 5\* hotel in Kusadasi. Hilton/Hyatt Regency or similar.**

**Day 11: Nov 12/Sunday.** Return home after breakfast with luggage we will drive to Izmir airport for an internal flight to Istanbul for a connecting flight back home LAX. (Bags checked all the way to LAX)

**END OF OUR SERVICES / We hope you have enjoyed our exceptional services.**

**NOTES:** \*Please note that the tour sequence and sites visited may change due to circumstances at the discretion of Selah Rest and its representatives or the guide.

**SERVICES INCLUDED:**

- Roundtrip international flights between LAX/IST/TLV/LAX (Economy Class).
- Domestic flight from Izmir to Istanbul return day.
- Meals (Breakfast and Dinner) throughout the itinerary.
- Meal Lunches included (only in Turkey), one beverage at lunches/dinners non-alcoholic.
- 9 nights hotel accommodation as indicated below:
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in 4\* hotel in Tiberias.
- 1 night 4\* hotel accommodation in the Dead Sea
- 2 nights 4\* hotel accommodation in Jerusalem
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in 5\* hotel in Istanbul
- 2 nights accommodation in 5\* Luxury Resort Hotel in Kusadasi
- Transfers and excursions in luxury air-conditioned buses with FREE WIFI on board.
- Complimentary waters throughout the tour in Turkey.
- Professional English-speaking local guides throughout the tour.
- Entrance fees to sites and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for guides, drivers and hotels.

	<b>PRICES</b>
Per Person sharing in Double Room	\$3750
Non-Refundable Deposit. See Cancellations	\$500
Total payments Sept 2, 2023	
Single Supplement	\$989

**Flights Turkish Airlines:**

**The price does not include:**

- Personal expenses. Drinks & lunches in Israel. Visa and border fees. Optional excursions. Travel and medical insurance. Anything not mentioned in the itinerary.

Agreement between:

Javier Buelna  
RTL A

Oscar Merlo  
Selah Rest LLC

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**General Information:**

- Prices are subject to change if confirmation and deposit of 500.00USD (X Pax), is not received by the deadline,
- Full payment (X Pax) is due by September 02, 2023.
- Deposit can be made to:
  - SELAH REST LLC. CHASE Acc#911337159 Routing #322271627
- Payments made with American Express, Visa and Mastercard will incur an additional 4% surcharge on the amount due, which must be accompanied by a copy of the card and a valid photo ID of the cardholder and a signed credit card authorization form.
- Travel and medical insurance is mandatory provided by Allianz Travel via Selah Rest for itinerary trip and has a coverage of \$25,000.00+ as well as includes baggage and hotel coverage in case

of emergency. Cost is additional and will vary from \$40.00 to \$250.00 per Pax, depending on age of Pax.

**Cancellations and Regulations:**

- Deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- 60 days prior to departure to Israel (final deadline 9/1/23) 25% of total trip cost is non-refundable.
- 46-59 days prior to departure to Israel 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.
- 01-45 prior to departure to Israel or no-show, 100% of the trip cost is non-refundable.

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