A Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

with Father Chris Mann
Vicar of Christchurch

15-24 October 2013

A comprehensive 10-day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem and the Galilee
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In the Middle East, the reality on the ground is often far removed from what we see and read in the news. Places of pilgrimage are open and welcoming visitors. We have planned our programme for the autumn when you can expect the weather to be warm and excellent for touring. On our journey through the Holy Land we will have the opportunity to meet local Christians, to hear their stories and to pray with them, and to worship with the local Christian community in Jerusalem on Sunday morning.

Visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Caesarea, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and Qumran, as well as allowing free time for relaxation and our own exploration. We will walk along the Via Dolorosa, sail on the Sea of Galilee, float on the Dead Sea and ascend the Mount of Masada by cable car. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area. Each day of our pilgrimage will be very different from the previous one.

We will travel with optimism and enthusiasm as we participate in a new era of Holy Land pilgrimage and re-discover the joy and enrichment of being a pilgrim.

Tour Information

The cost of this tour is £1,685 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We stay in two family owned and managed hotels. In Jerusalem, the three star Golden Walls Hotel overlooks the Old City walls and is within walking distance of the Holy Sepulchre. In Tiberias, we stay at the four star Ron Beach Hotel in a wonderful situation right on the lakeside. The tour is on a full-board basis with buffet breakfast, lunch and table d’hôte evening meal included daily. Touring is in air-conditioned coaches and we will be accompanied by a local guide who will share leadership responsibilities and look after the formalities of hotel check-ins etc. All entrance fees are included. Flights are with EL AL Israel Airlines between London Heathrow and Tel Aviv. All airport and security charges are included and a complimentary visa is issued on arrival in Israel.

We have included most expenses in the tour cost but some items are listed separately. The travel insurance premium is £59. Everybody travelling should be insured but some may have annual or another suitable insurance. We have included an amount of £40 per person for a group gratuity fund which we will disburse locally to those who help us on our journey. Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £295. Any special requests should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable eight weeks prior to departure.

To make a reservation

To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £100 plus the insurance premium of £59, to our Pilgrimage Administrator. Please make cheques payable to ‘McCabe Pilgrimages’.

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**Daily Programme**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 15 October</strong></td>
<td><strong>JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND</strong></td>
<td>We meet at London Heathrow Airport. EL AL flight LY316 departs at 15.35 arriving in Tel Aviv at 22.20. Transfer on arrival to our hotel in Jerusalem. Six night stay at the Golden Walls Hotel close to the Old City and the Biblical sites we shall be visiting.</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>AN INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM</strong></td>
<td>We start with a visit to the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives and the church at Bethphage, the starting point of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Continue to the top of the mount for a wonderful panoramic view of the walled city. As we look across the Kidron Valley we see the Golden Gate, the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We visit the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit Chapel, and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. Celebrate the Eucharist among the olive trees. After lunch at St Andrew’s Guest House, we drive out to West Jerusalem to call at the village of Abu Guosh (a possible site of Emmaus) where we visit the Benedictine monastery and Crusader church. We continue to the Israel Museum to visit the model of Ancient Jerusalem and the Dead Sea scrolls.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>TEMPLE MOUNT &amp; VIA DOLOROSA</strong></td>
<td>We enter the Old City through Dung Gate and walk to the Western Wall (where we also see the Bar-Mitzvah ceremonies) and ascend the Temple Mount to view the El Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. We finish our morning by the Pool of Bethesda and celebrate the Eucharist for healing in the Church of St Anne. After lunch at the Ecce Homo convent (above the Lithostrotos), we follow the Via Dolorosa through the lanes of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA</strong></td>
<td>A free day in Jerusalem or join a full-day OPTIONAL excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea. We drive into the Judean wilderness to Herod’s desert fortress of Masada, which we ascend by cable car. There will be an opportunity to float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea before lunch in the Lot Hotel. On our return to Jerusalem we call at Qumran (where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered) and Wadi Qelt, for a spectacular view of St George’s desert monastery. Cost £50 including lunch. We will book you on the excursion unless you indicate otherwise on the booking form.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td><strong>BETHELHEM</strong></td>
<td>We begin our day on Mount Zion where we visit the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu (possible site of the High Priest’s house) and celebrate the Eucharist. We then cross into Palestinian territory to visit Bethlehem and call at the Fields of the Shepherds, and have time to shop in the olive wood cooperative. Lunch at the Bethlehem Rehab Centre. In the afternoon, our visits include Manger Square and the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity and St Jerome’s Caves.</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM</strong></td>
<td>Some may wish to rise early and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the early morning to witness the variety of liturgy. We then have the opportunity to join with the local congregation at St George’s Cathedral, within walking distance of our hotel. We remain here for lunch. In the afternoon we drive to visit the Yad Vashem Memorial to the Holocaust in West Jerusalem. We end the afternoon in picturesque village of Ein Karem where we spend time visiting the churches of John the Baptist and the Visitaton.</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE JORDAN VALLEY</strong></td>
<td>Leaving Jerusalem, we drive to Bethany where we see the church and the tomb of Lazarus and visit Jeel al-Amal Boys’ Home, supported by the McCabe Educational Trust. We then continue to the desert oasis of Jericho where we visit see the Mount of Temptation. Lunch is at al-Rawdah garden restaurant. In the afternoon we continue our journey through the Jordan Valley to Tiberias, calling en route at the baptismal site of Qasr el-Yahud on the River Jordan. Three night stay at the Ron Beach Hotel by the Sea of Galilee with visits to places associated with Jesus’ early life and ministry.</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>NAZARETH</strong></td>
<td>We ascend Mount Tabor in taxis to visit the Basilica of the Transfiguration and enjoy magnificent views over the plain of Armageddon and celebrate the Eucharist. We continue to Nazareth where we visit Nazareth village (a reconstruction of 1st Century Galilean life) and have lunch. We visit the Basilica of the Annunciation together with the excavations. We return to Tiberias passing Cana, scene of Jesus’ first miracle, en route.</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE LAKESIDE MINISTRY</strong></td>
<td>Today we visit the sites associated with Jesus’ life around the Sea of Galilee. We drive to the north of the lake and visit the ruins of Capernaum, Jesus’ Galilean base. We also call at Mensa Christi chapel on the lakeside and the Church of the Multiplication at Tabgha (where we celebrate the Eucharist on the lakeside) before ascending the Mount of Beatitudes, commemorating the Sermon on the Mount. We lunch in the Beattitudes convent. We then drive to Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar, from where we sail into the Judean wilderness into Jerusalem.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 24 October</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOMEWARD BOUND</strong></td>
<td>We celebrate the Eucharist at dawn by the lakeside before breakfast. We drive to Caesarea Maritima to view the excavations, the theatre and the aqueduct. We continue to Jaffa on the Mediterranean Coast for an early lunch at Abu Nasser restaurant. Then on to Ben Gurion Airport for our homeward flight LY317 which departs at 16.15 arriving back at London Heathrow Airport at 20.50.</td>
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Our Pilgrimage

We are planning this programme with the expectation that we will be able to visit all of the places included in our itinerary. If it becomes inadvisable to visit any particular place we will amend our programme accordingly. There are countless other sites we could include in our itinerary given more time and the Holy Land is a country where many alternative places to visit are equally as interesting as those we include. If the British Foreign Office advised against travel to the region we would cancel or postpone our visit and all monies paid would be refundable on request.

TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive single room supplements. McCabe Pilgrimages will accept individual bookings on a ‘guaranteed share’ basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation. If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if available, the normal supplement will be payable.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the time of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. A visa is issued free of charge on entering Israel and there are currently no further requirements for entering the Palestinian territories. If you are holding a non-British passport, or require further advice, please consult the McCabe office. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

McCabe will arrange comprehensive travel insurance cover for each passenger unless otherwise indicated on the booking form. We have negotiated the premium (see ‘Tour Information’ section inside for rate) which as well as offering full medical and baggage cover also gives cover against loss of deposits. Cover is arranged by Preferential Insurance Services Ltd and is underwritten by Optimum Underwriting Limited as underwriting agents for Groupama Insurance Company Limited – each aforementioned organisation is authorised and regulated by The Financial Services Authority (FSA). The policy wording sets out full details of cover and will be sent to you with your confirmation invoice. This document also acts as your insurance certificate so that your booking reference number is also your insurance policy number.

A special feature of the McCabe insurance is that there is no age limit. Please note it is a requirement that all insured persons must adhere to the Medical Health Requirements section on page 5 of the Policy wording document (which we will send you with your confirmation invoice). If you answer yes to any of the questions asked within this section you must contact the HELPLINE 0843 208 1461. This is a confidential service that will decide whether or not this insurance is appropriate for you. If they decline to offer cover, or if you are unhappy with any aspect of the cover, you can return the policy within 14 days of issue and receive a full refund. In cases of difficulty, we have specialist insurers we can introduce you to.

McCabe Travel Ltd is an appointed representative of Preferential Insurance Services Ltd which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as are both Optimum Underwriting Ltd and Groupama Insurance Company Ltd.

AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain’s leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association’s Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.