

St. Rita Parish

Clarklake, MI

The Holy Land Tour



FR. TOM HELFRICH
Spiritual Director



MAY 10 – 19, 2023

Best Catholic Pilgrimages
205 N . Michigan Avenue # 8100 Chicago IL 60601

WEDNESDAY – May 10 (Day 1): Departure USA

THURSDAY – May 11 (Day 2): Arrival Tel Aviv

Welcome to the Holy Land of the Holy Family! Upon arrival our professional tour escort will be waiting outside the restricted customs area to greet and assist you to your private deluxe motor coach for the drive to the hotel for check-in and dinner. Overnight Tel Aviv. (B/D)

FRIDAY – May 12 (Day 3): Jaffa – Caesarea - Haifa - Mt. Carmel

After breakfast we will visit Jaffa, Tel Aviv's older sister! It is here that the pilgrimage really begins ~ with the image of St. Peter and his view of the sea from Simon's rooftop! After visiting Jaffa, we travel north along the scenic coastline to Caesarea. It was here that Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized, and here Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa before his final journey to Rome. We continue to the third largest city in Israel, Haifa. We visit the Carmelite Monastery "Stella Maris." Here is Elijah's grotto and home of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We enjoy the breath-taking view from atop Mt. Carmel before we proceed to Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias (B/D)

Please note: Stella Maris visits may be limited throughout 2023 due to full renovation of the church. We have included Muhraqa Carmelite Monastery as an alternative visit if Stella Maris is 100% off limit.

SATURDAY – May 13 (Day 4): BR+M – Beatitude – Tabgha - Nazareth - Cana – Yardenit

Today we sail across the Sea of Galilee. We see the "Jesus Boat" uncovered in 1986 from the mud of the seashore. We explore Capernaum and see the new church built on St. Peter's house and visit Chorazim, which was cursed by Our Lord because the people did not follow His teaching. We drive to Mt. of Beatitudes where Our Lord preached the Sermon on the Mount. Then to Tabgha, Greek for Seven Springs, and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves and the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. We will then visit Nazareth and see Mary's Well where Angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to Our Lord Jesus. We see St. Joseph's Church and the Church of the Annunciation. We continue to Cana to visit the Wedding Church, sight of Jesus' first miracle. There will be an opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows. We stop at Yardenit on the River Jordan, the traditional baptismal site. Overnight Tiberias. (B/D)

SUNDAY – May 14 (Day 5): Bethsaida – Capernaum – Rest of Day at leisure

After breakfast we visit the village of Bethsaida in Galilee. This ancient town was destroyed in an earthquake and flood in the year 115, and its location remained unknown for almost 2,000 years. Bethsaida is one of the key sites of Jesus' activity in Galilee, and three of the apostles were born there: Peter, Andrew, and Philip. It is the site where Jesus performed several miracles, including restoring the sight of a blind man, feeding the multitudes and walking on water. Visit the two open-air chapels: one chapel donated by the Vatican overlooks the Sea of Galilee, and the second overlooks the Jordan River. Remainder of the day free. Dinner and overnight Tiberias (B/D)

MONDAY – May 15 (Day 6): Mt Tabor – Jericho – Dead Sea - Jerusalem

After breakfast we continue to Mt. Tabor and the Church of the Transfiguration. We will enjoy lunch before we proceed down the Jordan Valley towards Jericho, the oldest known inhabited city in the world. To the south is the Dead Sea and to the west are the Mt. of Temptation and the Judean wilderness. Continue to Dead Sea where we will enjoy a swim in the salty water of the Dead Sea's unique healing mineral water's Return to Jerusalem passing the good Samaritan Inn. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem (B/L/D)

TUESDAY – May 16 (Day 7): Jerusalem – Gethsemane - Bethany

After breakfast we begin our day in the Holy City with the unforgeable view from atop the Mount of Olives. Our visit includes the Church of Pater Noster and the Chapel of Ascension. We will walk down Palm Sunday Road to Gethsemane, to the Church of All Nations, where Jesus prayed before His Agony. We will visit the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Bethany, and the Room of the Last Supper over the tomb of David and next to the Church of Dormition, where our Holy Mother Mary fell into eternal sleep. Father will Celebrate Mass here. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B/D)

WEDNESDAY – May 17 (Day 8): Bethlehem - Ein Kerem

After breakfast we visit Bethlehem and Shepherd's Field and Grotto. In Bethlehem we visit one of the oldest churches in Christianity ~ the Church of the Nativity, built over the birthplace of Our Lord. Father will celebrate Mass here. We will also see St. Catherine's built over the tomb of St. Jerome. Surrounding Bethlehem are the Shepherd's Fields, where the shepherds saw the Angels who heralded Jesus' humble birth. On our return to Jerusalem, we will visit the village of Ein Kerem, birthplace of St. John the Baptist and where the Virgin Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. We will visit the Church of the Visitation. Remainder of afternoon is free. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem (B/D)

THURSDAY – May 18 (Day 9): Via Dolorosa – Holy Sepulcher – Western Wall – St Ann's

After breakfast we will literally walk in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus on the Via Dolorosa to Calvary, #1 shrine of the Christian world. We will walk the path of Jesus and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We continue to the sacred Western Wall (or Wailing Wall) and visit the Dome of the Rock Mosque and the original Temple grounds. Father will celebrate Mass at St. Anne's Church and we will visit the Pool of Bethesda where Our Lord healed a paralyzed man. This afternoon we visit the Model City and the War Memorial. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner with wine. Overnight Jerusalem (B/D)

FRIDAY – May 19 (Day 10): Departure

After breakfast we depart to the airport for our flight home.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

The BEST of Catholic Tours - "Discover Our World"

TOUR CONDITIONS

Best Catholic Pilgrimages, Inc. (BCP) agrees to operate the tour(s) in this brochure with the following terms and conditions :

RESERVATION AND PAYMENTS:

An initial deposit per person as stated in the brochure is required to confirm your reservation. Balance is due on the date stated on the brochure, or no later than 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made less than 60 days prior to departure, full payment is due immediately. A \$100 per person late fee will be applied to any final payment not received timely. Airline tickets will not be issued until full payment is received. Any additional cost for airline tickets will be the responsibility of the individual.

FORMS OF PAYMENT:

Personal Checks are acceptable, if received 65 days prior to departure. Every reservation must be accompanied by a signed reservation Form. We reserve the right to re-invoice, in the event of human or computer error, euro increase, airline fuel/security surcharge increase, or under the minimum number of participants printed on the brochure.

CREDIT CARDS:

We accept credit cards. We require a signed completed credit card authorization form for accepting payments and final balance. The final balance, including any additional cost, will be invoiced for payment due 60 days prior to the departure date. We reserve the right to re-invoice, in the event of human or computer error, euro increases, airline fuel/security surcharge increase, or under the minimum group participants printed on the brochure.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Cost of passports, visa where required, portage at home airport, portage at airports where baggage handlers are unavailable, tips to motor coach drivers and guides, optional tours and any other items of a personal nature including beverages with included meals and mini-bar charges incurred in your hotel room. No responsibility is incurred by BCP for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings, or for lost airline tickets.

CANCELLATION BY BCP:

BCP reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, in which case a full refund will be given. This does not include air or land services booked on your own, separate from the published tour package. The above does not apply to insufficient participants due to a majority of participant cancellations, for reasons beyond our control. Please read changes in itinerary and/or hotels.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

BCP reserves the right to charge a \$50.00 per person administrative fee to anyone wishing to customize additional personal arrangements outside our published package and/or the published optional extension. Any airline penalties or fees charged for any changes for individual tickets, or re-issued tickets, are the responsibility of the passenger. Separate fees apply to cancellation.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

Your right to a refund if you change plans is limited. Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations will be accepted by phone but MUST be confirmed in writing. Once under deposit and confirmed, cancelled reservations are subject to any additional expenses incurred, including hotel charges, and/or any applied airline cancellation penalties. No refund can be made for cancellations less than 40 days prior to departure. Once ticketed, airline tickets are non refundable.

PARTIAL OR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AFTER TOUR BEGINS: Once the tour is in progress, no refund will be

made by BCP for ANY unused portion of the tour. BCP also reserves the right to withdraw your membership at any time if your actions impose upon or disturb other members of the tour. All additional cost to send a tour member home will be borne by the tour member.

CLAIMS:

Claims for refunds must be submitted in writing to BCP within 5 days of cancellation. Initial deposits are non refundable. Please allow a minimum of six weeks to process a refund. Refund requests for airlines tickets, travel vouchers, or associated penalties, or for absenteeism during sightseeing, meals or other unused services, are not granted by BCP. Please refer to "Cancellation and Refunds" and/or "Travel Insurance"

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Travel insurance is not included! Optional information regarding purchase of travel insurance will be sent upon your registration deposit, in the International Travel Tips. No insurance premium is included in the tour price. This is your responsibility. Go to ~ www.insuremytrip.com Travel Insurance including **Cancel for any Reason, must be purchased within 14 days of registration.**

SCHEDULES AND DELAYS:

All travel times are based on the last timetable and best information available will be presented at the time your ticket and itinerary prepared. We cannot accept responsibility for airline or train seating assignments, losses or accidental expenses due to delays or changes in schedule by the airlines, hotel over bookings or defaults, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantines, riots or insurrections, political disorders of any type, or other such similar causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger.

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR HOTELS:

Occasionally, the land portion of your tour may be altered due to transportation schedules, airline or other delays, weather, strikes, road construction, or war, quarantines, riots or insurrections, political disorders of any type, or other unforeseen reason. BCP reserves the right to substitute hotels or any other tour elements mentioned in the tour brochure, including the right to alter the itinerary to substitute another city or country, when more than one country is included on the itinerary, for a package of equal duration and value when the trip is within 91 days of departure. Cancellation policies remain in effect.

HOTELS: We use the Government rated Hotels that are chosen based on location, cleanliness, services, and when possible, are typical of the local area. All rooms have private bath and toilet facilities. In all cases, hotel management assigns your room. Location, view, and size may vary. Rooms assigned are on a "Run of the House" basis. Because air conditioning is not a standard feature of most hotels abroad, we cannot guarantee it.

SINGLE ROOMS: A limited number of single rooms are available at supplements for each tour. We cannot guarantee a single room will be available. It is your responsibility to have a roommate, or you will be billed a supplement for single occupancy. If your roommate cancels and we do not have another person requesting to share accommodations, you will be billed for the single supplement and are required to pay it. Occasionally there may be a shortage of single rooms, in which case you may be charged a higher supplement for a twin size room used as a single room.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The responsibility of BEST CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES (BCP) is strictly limited. As a tour operator, BCP organizes, promotes and sells tour programs consisting of certain travel services, including (but not limited to) surface transportation, sightseeing excursions, and hotel accommodations which BCP purchases or reserves from various suppliers. The suppliers providing travel services for BCP tour programs are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of BCP or any subsidiary company. BCP is not responsible for any act, error, omission, injury to person or property, loss, inconvenience, accident, delay, irregularity, upset, disappointment, whether physical or mental, or any other event which might be occasioned through or by reason of negligence, defect or default of any company and/or their employees, agents or servants, or facilities engaged in providing any of the services, accommodations or facilities in connection with these programs. It is expressly understood that BCP is not responsible for any delays in the departure of any flight or non-operation of any flight hereunder due to reasons beyond its control, and shall have no liability whatsoever regarding flight delays, including (but not limited to) liability for damage relating to shortened vacation. **BCP shall have the right to cancel or alter any scheduled itinerary, which, in its sole judgment and discretion, is justified for any reason, and to do so without liability for damage or liability for any loss to passengers. The payment for reservation on any tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in the "Tour Conditions" published herein.**

ADVERTISED SPIRITUAL LEADER OR PERSONALITY OR EVENT:

It is the intent of Best Catholic Pilgrimages, Inc. (BCP) to have every group accompanied by a priest or brother. However, if this is not possible, we reserve the right to substitute another person from the laity. In the event an advertised Spiritual Leader, Chaplain, or Personality (celebrity) cancels due to circumstances beyond their control, and therefore beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute another individual of our choosing and depart the trip as scheduled. No refunds will be given for cancellations based on a substitute for a particular Spiritual Leader, Chaplain, advertised personality, individual, or substitution for any special event including, but not limited to banquets, dinners, meetings, religious ceremonies, reception, etc.

TOUR PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL DEPARTURE AND BCP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE BILLING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY OR EURO-DOLLAR FLUCTUATIONS; ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES; INCREASED AIRLINE TAXES, FUEL SURCHARGES, AIRLINE FARE ADJUSTMENT OR MINIMUM GROUP PARTICIPANTS. Effective 2022

Best Catholic Pilgrimages Inc.
Toll Free: 1-800-908-BEST (2378)
info@bestcatholic.com
info@religious-travel.com