



St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC

ST. JOHN'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

March 1-11, 2021 11 Days

Optional extension to Jordan: March 11-14

Hosted by Pastor Rhodes Woolly and Michael Connor

gtd
Group Travel Directors



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

MON 01 MAR Depart U.S.

Depart Charlotte, NC on the overnight flight to Munich via Lufthansa Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

TUE 02 MAR Arrive Tel Aviv

Connect in Munich with the continuing flight to Ben Gurion Airport, where you will be met by your guide and driver. Transfer to hotel for check-in, dinner and overnight. Overnight at a hotel near Tel Aviv/Netanya (Meals in-flight, D)

WED 03 MAR Tel Aviv/Galilee

Drive to Caesarea Maritima and past the Roman Aqueduct. Continue to the valley of Megiddo. See the shaft and tunnel made by one of the twenty civilizations that built cities on this land. Meet with Fr. Chacour either in Haifa or Ibilin. Continue Nazareth and see the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. Arrive later today in Tiberias. Sea of Galilee Hotel (B,D)

THU 04 MAR Galilee

Today focus on Jesus' ministry around the Galilee area. This morning stop to see the Jesus Boat – a first-century boat discovered in the mud of the Galilee. Then embark on a boat ride across the peaceful Galilee waters. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum; this is where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others. Travel to Tabgha for visits to the Church of the Primacy of Peter, the Church of Multiplication, built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, and the Church of the Beatitudes for one of the most beautiful views of the Galilee. Continue to Banias Springs (Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus went to get away from the crowds), one of the three sources of the Jordan River. View Mt.



Hermon and the Golan Heights before returning to your lodging for dinner and overnight. Sea of Galilee Hotel (B,D)

FRI 05 MAR Galilee/Bethlehem

Travel to Hebron for a meeting with a local organization such as the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) or Hebron Rehabilitation Committee. Visit a Bedouin village: Susya or Um al Kheir. Continue to Bethlehem for hotel check-in and dinner. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse with overflow to the Grand Hotel (B,D)

SAT 06 MAR Bethlehem

Drive to Masada and ride the cable car up to the rocky plateau where the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors, and explore the various remains of this mountaintop village. The Dead Sea is 1373 feet below sea level and is the lowest point on earth. There will be time for a float in the briny waters. Then drive to Qumran to see the actual caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Visit Qasr al Yahud on the Jordan River - this is the western site where according to tradition Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Stop in Jericho. Return to Bethlehem Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse with overflow to the Grand Hotel (B,D)

SUN 07 MAR Bethlehem

This morning attend an Arabic worship service at Christmas Lutheran Church and enjoy some fellowship with the congregation. After lunch, meet with a settler at Efrat Israeli Settlement followed by a visit to Deheishe Refugee Camp where Palestinians have lived since 1948. Enjoy the balance of the day on your own. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse with overflow to the Grand Hotel (B,D)

MON 08 MAR Bethlehem/Jerusalem

Enjoy an early morning walking tour of the Old City, including a visit to the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Tour the region's only arts college, Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture. Meet with The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (subject to his availability), faculty, staff and students to learn how arts and cultural initiatives ensure that today's Palestinians have abundant life. This university also serves the needs of the broader community through a range of contextual and holistic programs via Dar al-Kalima's Outreach program for Older Adults, Youth and Families. DAK partners with Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the U.S. Enjoy lunch prepared by the students of the culinary program. Transfer to Jerusalem for a breathtaking first glimpse of the Golden City from atop the Mount of Olives. Here, too, is Augusta Victoria Hospital where you will meet with a representative of Lutheran World Federation which sponsors

the hospital. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. Golden Walls Hotel (B,L,D)

TUE 09 MAR Jerusalem

Early this morning visit the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif to view the golden Dome of the Rock, an important symbol of the Muslim faith (inside visits not permitted). Stop at the Western Wall. Continue to the Crusader Church of St. Anne and the ancient Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Stop at the Church of the Sisters of Zion (Ecce Homo) to see the original street level pavement from the time of Jesus. Arrive at the Church of Holy Sepulchre which houses the final five Stations of the Cross. At some point during the day, meet with the English-language pastor of Luther Church of the Redeemer (presently Rev. Carrie Ballenger) to learn about the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and see how the world's only Arabic-speaking Lutheran church ministers to its context. Golden Walls Hotel (B,D)

WED 10 MAR Jerusalem

Today is yours to explore Jerusalem. Gather tonight for a farewell dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. Golden Walls Hotel (B,D)

THU 11 MAR Jerusalem/Return to U.S.

Those returning to the USA will have an early morning transfer to the Tel Aviv airport. Arrive home today enriched and enlightened by your time spent in the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability.

JORDAN EXTENSION

THU 11 MAR Jerusalem/Petra

This morning transfer to the Allenby Crossing to Jordan and meet your Jordanian guide, driver and coach. Visit Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, which has received recognition as the likely site where John baptized Jesus. Continue through the vast desert to the village of Wadi Musa, which embraces the entrance to Petra - one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. Petra Guesthouse (B,D)

FRI 12 MAR Petra

Two thousand years ago the Nabateans carved a city out of rose red rock and it was rediscovered in 1812. Today you will discover the formerly lost city of Petra during a half-day guided tour. Begin by walking through the dramatic "ciq" or canyon that opens upon the Treasury, El Khazneh, one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh the visitor is surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures. Enjoy a full day of touring this amazing, once-hidden world. Petra Guesthouse (B,D)

SAT 13 MAR Petra/Dead Sea

Depart on the northbound journey to the village of Madeba to see the ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. Drive to Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land and enjoy the dramatic view of the Jordan Valley, Jericho and the Judean hills beyond. Proceed to the Marriott Dead Sea Resort where day rooms have been reserved until departure to the airport about midnight. (B,D)

SUN 14 MAR Amman/Return to U.S.

Check in for 2:30AM flight departure connecting in Munich with the return flight to Charlotte. (Meals in-flight)

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due October 28, 2020. Final payment is due no later than December 28, 2020. The fee for late payment is \$50 per traveler. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to October 27, 2020 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; October 28, 2020 - February 14, 2021 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; February 15, 2021 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than October 28, 2020. A minimum fee of \$100 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ☒ **AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Charlotte via Lufthansa or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ☒ **ACCOMMODATION:** Nine nights accommodation in Christian guesthouse, superior tourist and first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- ☒ **MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily and one lunch as outlined in the itinerary.
- ☒ **GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- ☒ **SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- ☒ **PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- ☒ **EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv.
- ☒ **GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$130 per person has been included).
- ☒ **TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$765 per person).
- ☒ **ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

COST SUMMARY

***\$4039**

Group Flights From Charlotte

Tour Gratuities (\$130).....Included

Airport Taxes (\$765).....Included

*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room (in addition to base tour cost).....\$750

Extension to Jordan.....\$1099

Includes: additional airfare for return from Amman; two nights in superior tourist class hotel with day rooms at the Marriott Dead Sea Resort; breakfast and dinner daily; transfers and transportation; sightseeing entrance fees; luggage handling of one piece per person; English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Jordan to departure from Jordan; gratuities to drivers and guides; border taxes for both Israel and Jordan; Jordanian Entry Visa: included in the price and arranged by Group Travel Directors. Single Room Supplement = +\$330.

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Charlotte (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of April 2019, a minimum of 26 travelers (11 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens visiting Israel/Palestine; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#210301 OR CLIP AND MAIL

St. John's: Holy Land • March 1-11, 2021 • (G#210301) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Name as it appears (or will appear) on passport:

1. _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ ☐ I will pay the supplement for a single room. ☐ Sign me/us up for the Jordan extension.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- ☐ I/We will take the group flights from Charlotte.
- ☐ I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- ☐ I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL PROTECTION (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

- \$ _____ \$648 per person **inclusive of travel protection** for the main tour only.
- \$ _____ \$697 per person **inclusive of travel protection** for the main tour and extension to Jordan.
- \$ _____ \$400 per person **without travel protection**.
- I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre- existing waiver.

Form of Payment

- ☐ Check
- ☐ Charge my deposit(s) to
- Credit Card # _____
- Exp _____
- Security Code _____
- Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#210301.

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 14 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174 (refer to plan #47346). Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included

* a maximum of \$4500 per person

** a maximum of \$6250 per person

Cost of this optional GTD

Travel Protection is

\$248 per person

(\$297 with

the optional

extension).

Additional

coverage pro-

vided as need-

ed; the full cost

of your tour must

be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable

fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

PRE-EXISTING
medical conditions and other
circumstances are covered
when travel protection is purchased
within 14 days of registration.
Contact Travel Insured for more
info. 800-243-3174



This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. Fairmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being Intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician; the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment; due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed the U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for this destination was Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution); please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

For more information, contact:

Michael Connor
St. John's Lutheran Church
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email: mjconnor1982@gmail.com

OR

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Minneapolis, MN 55431-2593
tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
fax: 952-881-6276
email: groups@gtd.org
www.gtd.org

Our Purpose

To provide the St. John's community opportunities for:

- Pilgrimage. We'll visit biblical sites related to the life of Jesus and other Old and New Testament events. The Bible will come alive as never before as we look more carefully at the stories of faith and make space for personal and community meditation through prayer and worship.
- Partnership. We'll spend quality time with our ministry partners at Christmas Lutheran Church and Dar al Kalima University, enjoying Bible with a women's group from the church and a meal cooked by our friend, Dar al Kalima chef/teacher Bassem Hazboun.
- People. We'll meet with "living stones" in urban and rural Palestine, spending time in locations that are off-the-beaten-path for most tourists. We'll spend time with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim residents to consider their perspectives on life under occupation.

Your invitation

We're excited to invite you to a special St. John's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, March 1-11, 2021. Join us as we journey into the stories of our faith, walking where Jesus walked, boating along the Sea of Galilee, quietly sitting where crowds listened to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The itinerary is outlined in this brochure, but suffice it to say, you'll be amazed at how the story of faith will come alive in new and exciting ways.

A special feature is the chance to spend time with our friends and partners in Palestine. St. John's has a unique relationship with Christmas Lutheran Church (our partner congregation in Bethlehem) and Dar al Kalima Lutheran University. Through these partnerships, we'll have access to a deeper part of the story and the chance to form relationships that could last a lifetime. We'll also encounter some of the "living stones" that make up daily life in Palestine. Time will be spent with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian residents to consider life under occupation, enjoying conversation that goes far beyond the average nightly newscast. And for those who can't get enough, an optional extension trip to Petra is available.

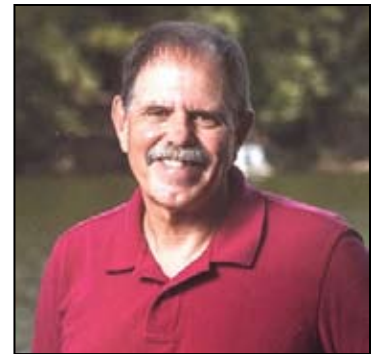
There will be many highlights of the pilgrimage, but we're sure food will be near the top of the list, especially while we're in Bethlehem enjoying meals prepared by Chef Bassem Hazboun. Bassem was the lead chef at the 2014 St. John's culinary event. What a treat!

Interested? More details are on our website, stjohns-salisbury.org. Click "Pilgrimage to the Holy Land." If you have further questions, please contact Mike Connor, mjconnor1982@gmail.com. We hope you can join us!

- Pastor Rhodes Woolly and Mike Connor

Your Hosts

Dr. **Michael Connor** first visited Israel and the West Bank in October 2012 as part of a mission trip arranged by Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) and Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem. He was inspired by community initiatives led by Dr. Rev. Mitri Raheb to provide hope and purpose in Palestine. Dr. Connor currently leads the Palestine Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury, North Carolina, which partners with Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. In 2017, Dr. Connor spent three months in Palestine and Israel as a volunteer Ecumenical Accompanier, providing "protective presence" for people like bedouin shepherds and schoolchildren in the South Hebron Hills area of the West Bank. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme is under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. Dr. Connor is a retired biostatistician with over forty years of professional experience in health care analytics and research. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, and master's and doctor of public health degrees in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Rhodes Woolly first visited the Holy Land in 1995 on a seminary study tour, but interest was piqued several years later when he met Father Elias Chacour during a conference in Virginia. "I'll never read the Beatitudes in the same way," he says, referring to Chacour's translation of Jesus' sermon into Aramaic, his native language. Since then, he's enjoyed exploring the interaction between Word, land, context, and history. Global mission has always been an interest for Rhodes, especially his local congregations' partnerships in Tanzania, Guatemala, India, and, more recently, Rwanda because of his son's experience there with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Part of his interest comes from graduate work in International Studies and an early career as a lobbyist in Washington, DC. Since 1996, he has served in full-time parish ministry, carefully incorporating grass-roots mission engagement along the way. He is currently the senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC. Rhodes is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University, the University of South Carolina, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and is currently in a doctoral program at Emory University.

