A PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
HOLY LAND

2 - 12 March 2015
with the Revd Rob Powell

A comprehensive 11-day pilgrimage
Based in Jerusalem, Bethlehem & the Galilee
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Travel with us to the Holy Land and let the Bible come alive as we meet the people and see the places of the gospel stories. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area.

On our journey, we will visit places of pilgrimage and also meet the local Christian community, offering them our encouragement as we hear of the challenges they face.

Our pilgrimage is planned for March, when the weather should be mild, clear and sunny and not too hot. Visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nazareth, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee, with free time for relaxation and reflection. We will walk along the Via Dolorosa, have the opportunity to float on the Dead Sea, and sail across the Sea of Galilee.

There will be a fair amount of walking involved. This said, we are planning this pilgrimage to be accessible to all reasonably able-bodied parishioners. If you are worried about this aspect, please speak to the tour leader.

We are confident that this pilgrimage will not only be enjoyable, but also a spiritually enriching experience. Do join us!

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this tour is £1,760 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. In Jerusalem we spend three nights in the family-owned Golden Walls, where we will be the guests of the Nashashibi family. We then spend four nights in the Grand Park hotel in Bethlehem. In Nazareth we stay for three nights at the Villa Nazareth, a small (18 room) hotel in the centre of the town.

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, as well as airport and security charges.

Flights are with British Airways between London Heathrow and Tel Aviv. A complimentary visa is issued on arrival in Israel. We have also included an amount for the group gratuity fund which we will disburse locally to those who help us on our journey.

The travel insurance premium is £59. Everybody travelling should be insured but you may have annual or another suitable insurance.

Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £280. However, please see our note ‘Travelling Alone’ overleaf.

Any special requests should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable eight weeks prior to departure. Your final travel documents will be posted to you approximately two weeks before you travel.

Please note the tour programme may be subject to change due to local conditions.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £200 plus the insurance premium of £59, to the tour leader. Please make cheques payable to ‘McCabe Pilgrimages’.

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DAILY PROGRAMME

Monday 2nd March | JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND
An early start as we meet at London Heathrow Airport. British Airways flight BA 165 departs at 08:10 hours arriving in Tel Aviv at 15:35. Transfer on arrival to our hotel in Jerusalem. Three night stay at the Golden Walls Hotel close to the Old City and the Biblical sites we shall be visiting.

Tuesday | JEWISH QUARTER & MT ZION
We enter the Old City through Zion Gate and walk through part of the Jewish Quarter along to the Western Wall (where we also see the Bar-Mitzvah ceremonies) and view the Temple Mount with the El Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (note: we will ascend if the queues are short!). We finish our morning by the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of All Nations (the Church of the Nativity). We have 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. We end the afternoon on Mount Zion at the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu.

Wednesday | THE MT OF OLIVES & YAD VASHEM
We drive to the Mount of Olives where we have a 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. On the Mount of Olives we visit the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit Chapel, and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. We end the morning at the Garden Tomb (Holy Communion). We have lunch at St Andrew’s Guest House, then drive to West Jerusalem and the moving memorial to the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. We end the afternoon at the Church of John the Baptist in Ein Karem.

Thursday | BETHLEHEM
We drive to West Jerusalem and the Israel Museum to visit the model of Ancient Jerusalem and see the Dead Sea Scrolls. We continue to the Old City and have some free time in the souks (bazaars) of the Old City. We lunch at the Notre Dame Centre. We visit the Mukraka (associated with the Prophet Elijah) and drive via Hebron (past the Bahá’í gardens) before continuing to Nazareth. Three night stay at the Villa Nazareth hotel in the centre of the town.

Friday | SHEPHERDS’ FIELDS & MEET THE LOCALS
We drive to the Herodium (one of Herod’s desert fortress-palaces) and continue to Beit Sahour to visit the Shepherds’ Fields with time to shop in the olive wood co-operative. Lunch in the Shepherds Tent (Bedouin style!). In the afternoon we call at Bethlehem Bible College and the Lajee Centre (www.lajee.org) situated in Aida refugee camp.

Saturday | HEBRON & BETHLEHEM
We drive south to Hebron in the morning and visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs, where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were buried. We then have time to wander through the souk (market) and briefly visit a glass factory to see how the distinctive Hebron glass is made. We lunch at the al-Quds (Jerusalem) restaurant. In the afternoon, we meet with representatives of the Christian Peacemakers Team and visit the Holy Land trust (and meet with the Director, Sami Awad).

Sunday | JERICHO AND THE DEAD SEA
We drive into the Judean wilderness and the area of Jericho and the Dead Sea. We have an opportunity to float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea at Kalia beach. We then continue to the desert oasis of Jericho. There will be an opportunity for some shopping before lunch in Jericho at the al-Rawah garden restaurant. We take an orientation tour around the town (viewing the Mount of Temptation) and call at the Qasr al-Yahud baptismal site on the River Jordan before returning to Bethlehem.

Monday | COASTAL PLAINS TO NAZARETH
We leave Bethlehem and drive to the Galilee via the coastal plains. We spend time on the Mediterranean coast at the Roman capital of Caesarea, where we visit the restored amphitheatre and the aqueduct. We then drive up on to the Carmel mountain range and lunch at the Kater HaCarmel Druze restaurant. This afternoon we visit the site of Mukraqa (associated with the Prophet Elijah) and drive via Haifa (past the Bahá’í gardens) before continuing to Nazareth. Three night stay at the Villa Nazareth hotel in the centre of the town.

Tuesday | THE LAKESIDE MINISTRY
We drive to the Sea of Galilee. We begin our visits at the ruins of Capernaum. We then call at the site of Tabgha beside the Church of the Loaves and Fishes (Holy Communion at Dominutha). We then visit Mensa Christi (where Jesus appeared to his disciples after His resurrection) and drive up to the Convent of Beatitudes’ church and garden, commemorating the Sermon on the Mount. We have lunch here at the convent and then drive to Kibbutz Nof Ginnoas (where we see the ancient Jesus boat). We sail back across the Sea of Galilee to Tiberias before returning to Nazareth. En route we pause at the village of Cana.

Wednesday | MT TABOR & NAZARETH
We begin our day driving to Mount Tabor to visit the impressive Church of the Transfiguration on the summit (ascend in minibuses). We then return to Nazareth and spend time in the Nazareth Village, a recreation of life in the town in the 1st Century. We remain for lunch here (1st Century style). In the afternoon we visit the site of Megiddo (biblical Armageddon).

Thursday 12 March | HOMEWARD BOUND
We visit Mary’s Well (the Church of St Gabriel) and walk through the market to the Synagogue Church and then the Basilica of the Annunciation. We then depart for the airport. We then drive to Ben Gurion Airport for our return British Airways flight BA 164 departing at 16:40 and arriving back at London Heathrow Airport at 20:05. Lunch is not included today (as we will be travelling to the airport).
The McCabe Educational Trust

For many, meeting the “Living Stones” of The Land becomes a real highlight of their pilgrimage. The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage. On your pilgrimage you will meet some of these people. As “the haves” encounter the “have nots” the Trust has become a practical tool for one to help the other.

McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £15 voluntary donation to the Trust’s work is added to every pilgrim’s invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

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 Ageas Insurance Limited. Optimum Underwriting Limited is authorised and regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority and Ageas Insurance Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. 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 4256. 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 authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as are both Optimum Underwriting Ltd and Ageas Insurance Limited.

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.