

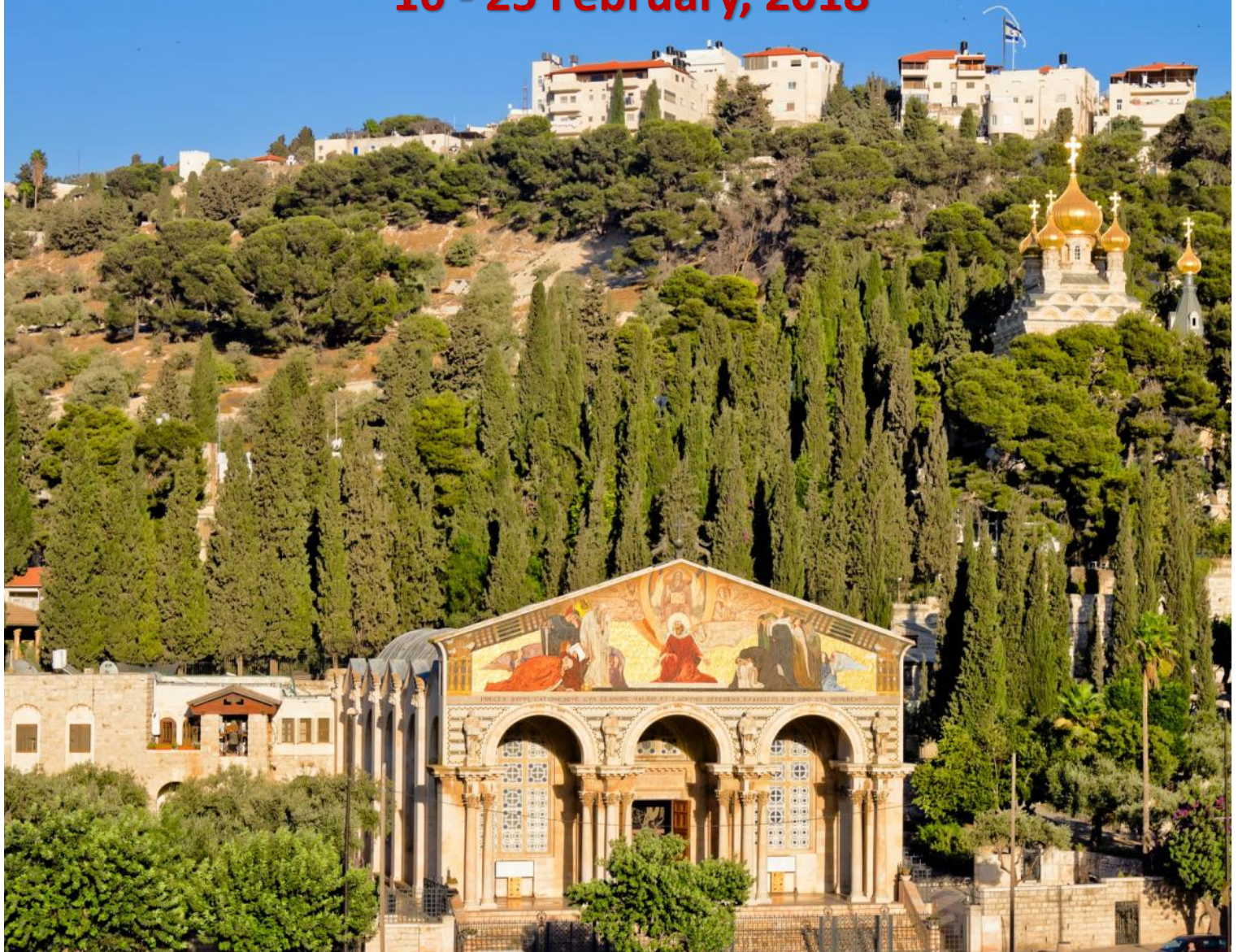
THE HOLY LAND

A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Jesus

Led by

**The Revd Gary Birchall
& The Revd Rob Lawrance**

16 - 25 February, 2018



LIGHTLINE
PILGRIMAGES

- The official and preferred pilgrimage partner for the Diocese of Jerusalem -

www.lightline.org.uk

We are delighted to be inviting you to join us on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018. Like thousands of Christians before us, We've found that pilgrimage has nourished and stimulated our faith in a unique way.

We will be going to places you have read and heard about in the Bible. Starting besides the waters of the Sea of Galilee we will visit sites you have heard of such as Nazareth and Capernaum, others where you will discover intriguing connections with Jesus and faith.

Then we will journey south through the hills of Samaria, down to the Jordan valley passing places where John the Baptist worked, and Jericho, before ascending up through the hills of the Judean desert and over the crest of the hill to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born and where we will spend two nights.

We then proceed to Jerusalem and stay within the mediaeval city walls, within walking distance of key places and we will explore the Jerusalem sites of Jesus life and death and resurrection.

Inevitably, the hills and landscape are little changed, but the modern towns and cities, and the huge challenges of the contemporary political and religious debates will also be there in front of our eyes. We will learn more of the history of the last hundred years as well, which also has huge impact for many making this pilgrimage. We hope to hear from people committed to work for peace in the present "realities".

We are delighted to say that we will be travelling with Lightline Pilgrimages, a Christian travel company who work exclusively with Christian pilgrim houses, restaurants, and tour guides, and which is the "official and preferred" pilgrimage operator for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.

This isn't the cheapest option, but I believe it's the most ethical way to travel. Not only does it support our Christian brothers and sisters in a very practical way, but also through its partner on the ground, Lightline can open doors to the different communities we will encounter.

Do join us!

Gary Birchall Rob Laurance

Lightline Pilgrimages is the official and preferred pilgrimage operator for the Diocese of Jerusalem

Our Itinerary

Day 1, Friday 16th February

We gather at London Luton Airport for our morning flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival we are met by our guide and then transferred to our Pilgrim Guest House by the Sea of Galilee, arriving in good time to freshen up before dinner.



Day 2, Saturday 17th February

We begin our pilgrimage after an early start by driving to Nazareth, the town associated with the beginning of the Gospel message to see how the Good News is both remembered and lived out today. We will visit the site of the only spring in town, where Jesus' mother will have drawn water, the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Synagogue Church. We then drive to the nearby village of Cana, the site of Jesus' First Sign, changing water into wine. After a break for lunch we drive across the Jezreel Valley (the biblical scene of Armageddon) to Mount Tabor and ascend to the summit to visit the Church of the Transfiguration. Return to our guest house in to relax before dinner. Overnight stay by the Sea of Galilee.



Day 3, Sunday 18th February

Today will be devoted to a leisurely exploration of the area that was the base for Jesus' ministry by the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. We begin with the celebration of the Eucharist on the shores of the lake at Tabgha. We then proceed to visit sites associated with the call of the first disciples, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, and the village of Capernaum. We will also sail on a modern-day version of the kind of boat used for fishing at the time of Jesus. We finally visit the exciting excavations of Magdala, the home town of Jesus's friend and Mary Magdalene. The excavations here have revealed a fishing port, homes, shops, and remains of a first century synagogue. Return to our guest house in good time to freshen up before dinner and overnight stay.





Day 4, Monday 19th February

Leaving Galilee after an early breakfast we will head south through the heart of the West Bank, noting as we drive some of the 'facts on the ground' about the Occupation, as we come to the city of Nablus. Here we will visit Jacob's Well, where the Fourth Gospel tells us of Jesus' encounter with the woman drawing water. From Nablus we drive east, down to the Qasr al Yehud on the River Jordan, to the site believed to be close to where Jesus was baptised by John, where we will renew our baptism vows. We will stop for a view of the Mount of Temptation and the Greek monastery that clings precariously to the side of the mountain before breaking for lunch in the oasis city of Jericho. In the afternoon we leave Jericho and drive west, up through the hills of the Judean Wilderness and up the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives towards Jerusalem, before heading on to Bethlehem for the first of two nights stay in the city in which Christ was born. On arrival we will visit the Church of the Nativity before checking in

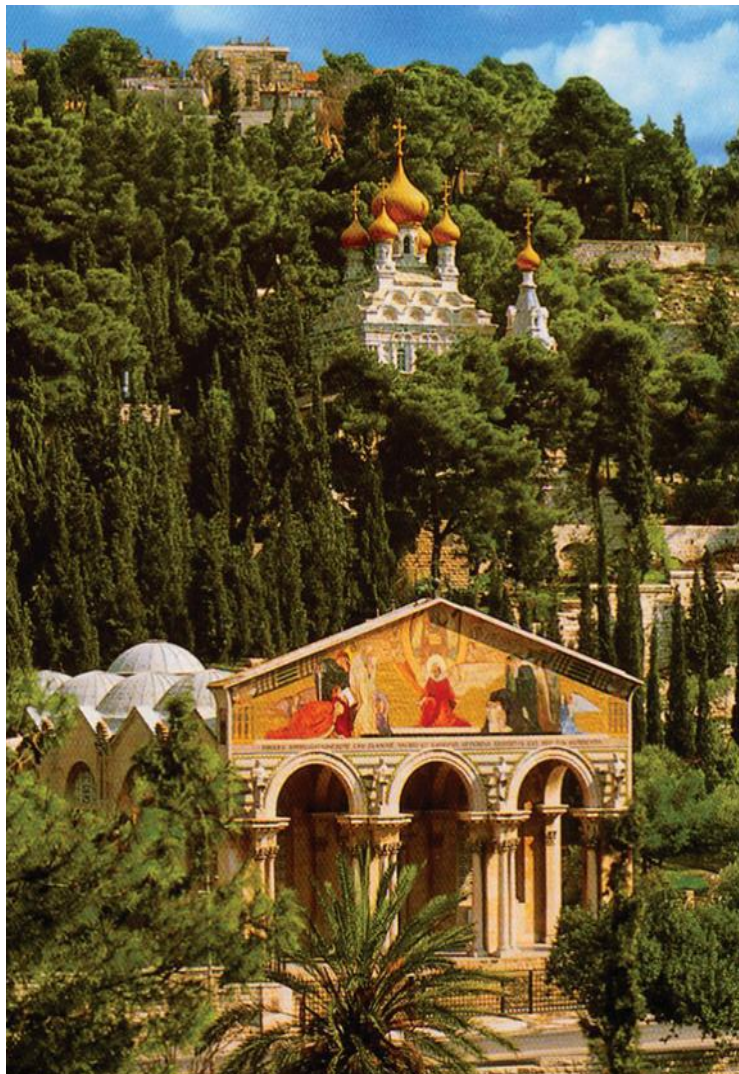


to our hotel. Dinner and overnight stay by Manger Square in Bethlehem.

Day 5, Tuesday 20th February

Today will be devoted to discovering more about Incarnation and the gift of life in all its abundance. We will begin with an early visit to the Shepherds' Fields and then to a remarkable institution run by the Christian community of the 'little town - St Vincent Creche/Orphange - the only facility of its kind in the West Bank offering Christian love and compassion to over forty abandoned babies and small children. After a break for an early lunch we will combine the depth of religious history of the Holy Land with a clear indication of the modern day political problems by visiting Hebron to see the Tomb of the Patriarchs and see how the Old City centre has been divided and impoverished by the results of the occupation. We will have the chance to enter both the mosque and the synagogue, as well as walking in the souk. Late afternoon we return to Bethlehem. Dinner and overnight stay in Bethlehem.





Day 6, Wednesday 21st February

We leave Bethlehem after breakfast and drive to Jerusalem and proceed to the summit of the Mount of Olives, to trace Jesus' Palm Sunday journey from Bethphage down the mountain, stopping at two churches on the way, before reaching the Garden of Gethsemane, and the profoundly moving Church of the Agony. After a break for lunch we drive to Mount Zion, where the earliest Christian community lived in the days following the resurrection. Here we visit the traditional site of the Last Supper and the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu, built at the top of an ancient set of steps which leads up from the City of David to what is believed to have been the residence of the Jewish High Priest. Many believe that Jesus himself was led up these steps to his trial by the authorities after his arrest. Here we recall not only Jesus' incarceration over the last night of his life but, also, Peter's faithless threefold denial of Jesus. We then continue to check-in to our hotel within the walls of



the Old City. Time to relax and settle in before dinner. Overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 7, Thursday 22nd February

We begin our day by entering the Old city by the Dung Gate to visit the Western Wall, a section of retaining wall of the Temple Mount that dates back to Solomon's Temple, the holiest site in Judaism and if permitted we hope to ascend the Temple Mount to view the Dome of the Rock and Al Aksa Mosque. We then proceed to the Israel Museum in West Jerusalem to see a model of Jerusalem based around the time of Jesus and the Shrine of the Book to view the Dead Sea Scrolls. After a break for lunch we bring our day to a close by visiting the village of Ein Karem, believed to have been the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth and thus the site of the birth of John the Baptist and of the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary, when Magnificat was first sung. Continue to our Jerusalem hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 8 Friday 23rd February

We leave Jerusalem after an early breakfast and drive down to the Dead Sea and south along the shores of the Dead Sea to Mount Masada to visit Herod's impressive fortified palace which is reached by cable car. On descending Masada we then drive to the lowest point on earth's surface where we will have the opportunity to bathe in the unique mineral laden waters of the Dead Sea. After a break for lunch we start our drive back to Jerusalem and on route we will stop to view the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd and the nearby Essene Monastery where the scrolls may have originated. We return to our hotel in good time to freshen up before dinner. Overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Day 9, Saturday 24th February

This morning we will leave our hotel after breakfast and make our way to St Stephen's Gate (The Lion Gate) to visit the beautiful Crusader Church of St Anne's and the Pools of Bethesda before beginning the Way of Cross along the narrow winding streets of the Via Dolorosa including the Ecce Homo Arch and convent, the Lithostratus "the pavement". View from the roof of the Antonia Fortress the Temple Areas. We proceed through the Souks and over the roof of the Holy Sepulchre and



down through the Ethiopian Monastery to the Holy Sepulchre. Visit the Basilica built over the tomb on Calvary. After some time for reflection we will break for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the town of Abu



Ghosh, one of the possible sites of Emmaus, before returning to Jerusalem for some free time. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Day 10, Sunday 25th February

After packing our bags we will drive to St George's Cathedral and join members of the local Anglican community for Sunday Worship. We then leave Jerusalem and drive down to the Mediterranean to visit Jaffa, ancient Joppa where we will have a late lunch and time to explore this beautiful artists colony before heading on to the airport for our journey home, to tell all those whom we meet about what has happened to us on the road...

Please note this complex touring programme may be subject to minor local amendments

INCLUSIVE HOLY LAND TOUR COST - £1995

All Lightline tours are carefully calculated to include all items necessary to complete your tour at the advertised price.

- ✓ **Scheduled flights on Easyjet from London Luton**
London Luton - Tel Aviv EZY 2083 08:05 / 15:00
Tel Aviv - London Luton EZY 2084 17:55 / 21:30
Please note the above flight times are local and are subject to change
- ✓ **All airport departure & passenger taxes (UK & Israel).**
- ✓ **Accommodation at following selected guest houses & hotels:**
All hotels and guest houses are fully air-conditioned with en-suite facilities
Galilee - Pilgerhaus (Benedictine Guest house by the Sea of Galilee)
Bethlehem - Casa Nova Guest House (by Manger Square in Bethlehem)
Jerusalem - Gloria hotel (within the walls of the Old City)
- ✓ **Full board basis (breakfast, lunch & dinner throughout).**
- ✓ **All entrance fees and local government taxes.**
- ✓ **Qualified English speaking guide throughout the tour.**
- ✓ **All touring in modern air-conditioned tourist coaches.**

THE ONLY ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE ARE:

Single room supplement (*limited availability*) £445, travel insurance, gratuities £85, and any items of a personal nature (*laundry & drinks etc*).

TRAVELLING ON YOUR OWN

A large proportion of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive "single room" supplements. Please indicate this on your booking form (share twin-bedded room) and we will accommodate you with a person of the same sex also travelling alone and would also like to share a room. If we are unable to accommodate you in a shared twin, we will place you in single room at only half the cost (50%) of the usual single supplement. If you require Single accommodation (if available) you should request this when booking and the appropriate supplement will apply.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & HEALTH

A full valid 10 year passport is necessary for all our tours. Check **NOW** that it is valid for the duration of your tour and validity runs for a further 6 months after your return to the UK. British passport holders will be issued a visa free of charge on arrival in the Holy Land. Holders of other passports please contact Lightline Pilgrimages on 01992 576 065 for advice. No inoculations are required, however we advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

Please read the booking conditions and complete the enclosed booking form and send it, with a deposit of £250 and insurance premium (if required) per person to:

Lightline Pilgrimages Ltd

Coopersale Hall Farm Epping CM16 7PE

ENQUIRIES: 01992 576 065



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