

An Invitation to Join a  
Pilgrimage

# CONTEMPLATIVE JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

8 Days

16 February 2019

Departure Date

Nazareth • Tiberias • Mount Tabor  
Capernaum • Sea of Galilee • Cana  
Mount of Beatitudes • Tabgha  
Jordan River • Bethlehem  
Jerusalem • Ein Karem • Emmaus  
Renewal of Marriage Vows and  
Baptismal Vows • Passover Meal  
Experience • The Way of the Cross

With

Fr. Laurence Freeman, O.S.B.

Spiritual Director,  
World Community for  
Christian Meditation

The  
Pilgrims'  
Center  
Executive Resources, Inc.

February 16-23, 2019



*Pilgrimage is an ancient form of Christian spirituality. It reminds us of how the divine has penetrated deep into all creation and all time. Nowhere is this a more powerful experience than in the Holy Land where Jesus was born, taught, died, and rose to new life, changing the world forever and opening the portal between heaven and earth in new ways. I look forward to leading this pilgrimage to sacred sites with a group of like-minded pilgrims, reverencing the sacred places where we will meditate and pray together. For the Christian meditator, this outward pilgrimage must deeply enrich and open new wonders on the interior pilgrimage itself.*

*Laurence*

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**FR. LAURENCE FREEMAN, O.S.B.**

*Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk and the spiritual successor of John Main OSB. He is the Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. Author, retreat leader and international speaker, Fr Laurence sees the contemplative as the essential dimension of all spirituality.*

# Contemplative Journey to the Holy Land

February 16 - 23, 2019

*Daily meditation will be scheduled everyday before breakfast, during the Holy mass, and after dinner.*

## EUROPE/U.S. - TEL AVIV.

Saturday, February 16

**DAY 1** - Arrive in **Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport**. After immigration and customs formalities, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel in **Tel Aviv** for your overnight accommodation. Dinner at the hotel.

*NOTE: A coach will be arranged for the transfer of pilgrims to the hotel. Departure from Tel Aviv Airport will be at 4:30 p.m. For individual transfer to the hotel, taxis are available at the airport.* (D)

## TEL AVIV - NAZARETH - MOUNT TABOR - CAPERNAUM - TIBERIAS.

Sunday, February 17

**DAY 2** - Breakfast and checkout. Drive to **Nazareth**, the place where Jesus spent His childhood. Visit the **Basilica of Annunciation**, where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary announcing the birth of Jesus. Visit **St. Joseph's Church**, site of St. Joseph's workshop. Leave for **Mount Tabor** to visit the **Church of the Transfiguration**, site of the transfiguration of Jesus.

Head for the **Galilee** and visit **Capernaum**, the place where Jesus made His first disciples from among the humble local fishermen. Visit the **Church of St. Peter** which was built over the ruins of the house of St. Peter. Continue to **Tiberias** where you will be staying for three (3) nights. (B,L,D)



Top Photo: Basilica of Annunciation  
Middle Photo: Basilica of Annunciation  
Bottom Photo: Church of the Transfiguration



Top Photo: Church of the First Miracle

Middle Photo: Mount of Beatitudes

Bottom Photo: Church of the Primacy of Peter

## TIBERIAS - CANA - MOUNT OF BEATITUDES - TABGHA - TIBERIAS.

Monday, February 18

**DAY 3** - This morning, drive to **Cana**, where Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding feast, by changing water into wine. Celebrate mass at the **Church of the First Miracle**. Here, married couples will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

Return to **Galilee** and head for the **Mount of Beatitudes** to see the panoramic view from the top where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Proceed to **Tabgha**, the site where Jesus performed many miracles. Visit the **Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish**, built over the site where Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. End the day with a boat ride crossing the **Sea of Galilee**, where Jesus miraculously walked on the water. (B,L,D)

## TIBERIAS - TABGHA - JORDAN RIVER - BETHLEHEM - JERUSALEM.

Tuesday, February 19

**DAY 4** - This morning, check out of your hotel. Return to **Tabgha** to visit the **Church of the Primacy of Peter**, the site of the third appearance of Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection. Here, Jesus prepared a meal for His disciples on what is known as *Mensa Christi*. Depart for the **Jordan River** where St. John baptized Jesus. Here, you will have the opportunity to renew your baptismal vows at **Yardenit**.

Journey on to the holy town of **Bethlehem**, the birthplace of Jesus. Visit the **Shepherd's Field** where now stands the modern Church of the Sanctuary of the Shepherds. Next, visit the **Basilica of the Nativity** which houses the Grotto of the Nativity and the Altar of Christ's Birth.

A silver star marks the traditional place where Jesus was born. Beside it are two altars that face each other: the Altar of the Manger and the Altar of the Magi where the Three Wise Men paid homage to the newborn Son of God. See the **Chapel of St. Jerome**, formerly a cave where he translated the Holy Bible to Latin, known as the “*Vulgate*.”

(B,L,D)



## JERUSALEM.

Wednesday, February 20

**DAY 5** - Drive to the top of **Mount of Olives** to visit **Shrine of the Ascension**, where according to tradition, Jesus ascended to heaven. Proceed to the **Church of the Pater Noster**, built over the grotto where Jesus assembled His disciples and taught them the Lord’s Prayer. Here, you will find the Lord’s Prayer translated into more than 60 languages. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to arrive at the **Church of Dominus Flevit**, the spot where Jesus contemplated on the city of Jerusalem and lamented its future destruction, hence the name of the church which means, “*the Lord wept*.” Down the slope lies the **Church of All Nations** or Church of the Agony. The Catholic church enshrines a section of stone in the **Garden of Gethsemane** that is believed to be where Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest.

Head for **Mount Zion** to visit the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** which was built to commemorate the triple denial and repentance of Peter. This was originally the house of Caiphas where you can still see the prison cells and the pit where Jesus was probably kept. (B,L,D)



Top Photo: Grotto of the Nativity

Middle Photo: Church of the Pater Noster

Bottom Photo: Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu



Top Photo: Old City of Jerusalem  
 Middle Photo: Church of the Dormition Abbey  
 Bottom Photo: Church of the Visitation

## JERUSALEM (Old City).

Thursday, February 21

**DAY 6** - Early in the morning, enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** to trace the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** which was built over the site of the Calvary and the Tomb. The church also houses under its roof “*the place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull*” as well as the 10th to the 14th stations of the Via Dolorosa.

In the afternoon, visit the **Church of the Dormition Abbey**, traditional site of Mary’s assumption to heaven. Stop at the **Coenaculum** or the **Upper Room**, the place where Jesus and His disciples ate the Last Supper and where the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist was instituted. This was also the site where the Pentecost took place. **(B,L,D)**

## JERUSALEM - EIN KAREM - JERUSALEM.

Friday, February 22

**DAY 7** - Visit the picturesque hillside village of Ein Karem, meaning “the spring in the vineyard.” Visit the Church of St. John the Baptist, built on the traditional home of Zacharias and Elizabeth. Inside is the Crypt which houses the Grotto of the Benedictus, considered to be the place where John was born. Outside the Church, you will find the “Benedictus” translated in several languages. Up on the slopes of a rocky hill lies the **Church of the Visitation**, where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, an eventful meeting of the Mother of God and the mother of John the Precursor. In front of the Church is a wall with the “*Magnificat*” written in more than forty languages.

Return to the **Old City of Jerusalem** to visit the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus cured the paralytic. Beside it is the **Church of St. Anne**, traditional site of the house of Mary's parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim. End the day with a visit to the **Wailing Wall** or Western Wall, where Jews all over the world gather to commemorate the destruction of the first and second temple and pray for Israel's restoration. (B,L,D)



## JERUSALEM - EMMAUS - TEL AVIV.

Saturday, February 23

**DAY 8** - Check out of your hotel after breakfast. Leave for **Emmaus**, situated halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The village of **Abu Gosh** was first settled over 6,000 years ago. During the Crusader Period (about 1,000 years ago), the village was ascribed as the place where Jesus revealed himself after His resurrection – that is, Emmaus – and the Benedictine Monastery was built. Visit the **Monastère de la Résurrection**, one of the most beautiful buildings preserved from the Crusader Period. Impressive frescoes are painted on the inner walls, and a fountain flows from the crypt at the base of the monastery. Thanksgiving Mass to be arranged for the group. Early lunch at a local restaurant.

**NOTE:** For pilgrims with afternoon flights back to home destination, transfer to the airport will be at 12:30nn.

(B,L)



Top Photo: Church of the Dormition Abbey

Middle Photo: Church of St. Anne

Bottom Photo: Church of the Visitation



Top Photo: Garden of Gethsemane  
 Middle Photo: Abu Ghosh  
 Bottom Photo: Wailing Wall

## Tour Inclusions:

- Roundtrip airport transfers
- 4-star class hotel/Kibbutz accommodation on twin sharing
- Meals as specified in the itinerary  
 (B - Breakfast; L - Lunch; D - Dinner)
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Tours with entrances as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a local tour guide in Israel
- Services of a Filipino Tour Leader and Pilgrimage Chaplain all throughout the tour
- Tip Fund (for guides, coach drivers, restaurants, etc.)
- Porterage of one (1) piece of luggage at hotels

## Tour Cost Per Person (minimum 30 pax):

Land Only US\$ 2,665.00

### Optional:

Additional for Single Room US\$ 675.00

## Mode of Payment:

> Deposits and full payment in cash may be remitted via bank transfers to:

Account Name: **EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.**

Bank: **BANCO DE ORO**

Address: **BDO - Adriatico Branch, G/E, SM Supermarket, Malate, Manila, Philippines**

Savings Account No.: **10447-006129-0**

Swift Code: **BBNORPHMM**

*Note: Please email us a copy of the bank transaction when wiring funds.*

> Visa and Mastercard will be accepted subject to approval.

**\*Subject to change without prior notice!**



## Booking Conditions:

- 1) US\$ 300.00 deposit is required upon reservations together with a recent passport-size photo, photocopy of passport (valid for 6 months from date of departure) and Pilgrim's Profile.
- 2) Full payment in U.S. dollars is required before ticketing but in no case shall it be later than one month before departure date.

## Booking Conditions:

The following cancellation charges will apply:

- > 60 days before departure date - US\$ 300.00
- > 45 days before departure date - 50% of the Tour Cost
- > 30 days prior to departure date - Full tour cost will be forfeited.

## Conditions and Responsibilities:

### BASIC TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Airline Taxes, visa fees and documentation expenses, insurance, hospitalization and other medical expenses, tours and transportation during free periods, portage of extra pieces of luggage in excess of maximum allocation, drinks and beverages taken during meals, items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone, fax, room service, tips for drivers, guides, and other expenses not mentioned in the itinerary terms and conditions.

### THE PILGRIMS' CENTER

by EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.

has arranged for the various services to be performed under the responsibility of various contractors. Executive Resources, Inc., its employees or its subagents therefore only act as agents for the contractors providing the various services described in the pilgrimage and accept no responsibility or liability in connection with losses or accidental expenses due to delays of schedule, overbooking, defaults or "force majeure". All pilgrimage arrangements are subject to the general conditions specified by each contractor. Itineraries and prices are subject to change without prior notice. **When making a booking, the passenger acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions.**



Top Photo: Yardenit

\*\*\* RATES AND SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE! \*\*\*

**For reservations and more details, please contact:**

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