



## Albina Tours Ltd

Established 1949

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## Trinity Church, Sarnia

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Anglican Church of Canada

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*The Rev. Canon Vicars Hodge, Rector*

# HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2017

**Tour Leader: The Rev. Canon Vicars Hodge**

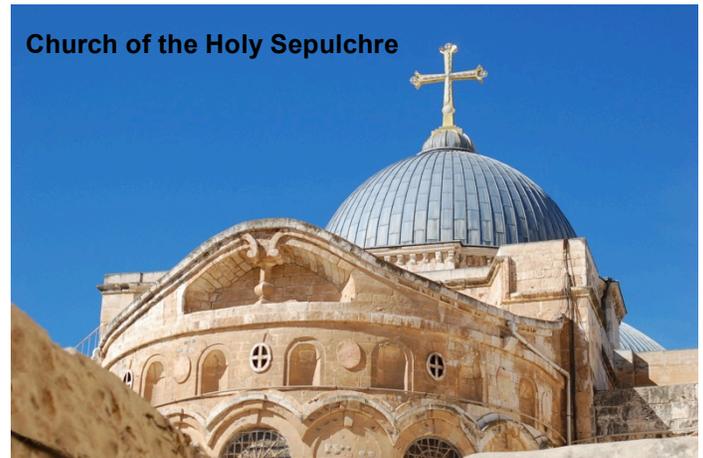
**Israel & Palestine:** April 28 – May 8, 2017

### With Optional Extensions:

- **Petra in Jordan:** May 8-10
- **See more of Jerusalem:** May 10-12

**Details:** [vhodge@trinity.sarnia.net](mailto:vhodge@trinity.sarnia.net)  
<http://trinitytour.org>

## Israel and Palestine



### Friday April 28 TO THE HOLY LAND

Depart from Canada (or the USA) to Tel Aviv.



### Saturday April 29 ARRIVE in JERUSALEM

We arrive at Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport, are met by Albina Tours personnel and are transferred to the Golden Walls Hotel, Jerusalem.

<http://www.goldenwalls.com>. We will stay our first four nights at this hotel, across the street from the ancient walls of Jerusalem. From the Golden Walls, it is just a five-minute walk to the Damascus Gate, one of the gates into the Old City and the biblical sites we shall be visiting. After we settle into our rooms we will share dinner together. Our daily rhythm is to have breakfast and Supper

meals at our hotels – and lunch at restaurants while out on our adventure. Middle-Eastern hospitality is legendary – and the Golden Walls is a wonderful place. After dinner, some may want to retire to their rooms early. Depending upon our time of arrival, we may have time and energy for a short early-evening walk to the Damascus Gate and about the souks (markets) of the Old City.

### Sunday, April 30 INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM AND WORSHIP

We drive to the **Mount of Olives** where we have an awesome panoramic view of the walled city of Jerusalem. As we look across the **Kidron Valley** we see the **Golden Gate**, the **Dome of the Rock** and the **Church of the**

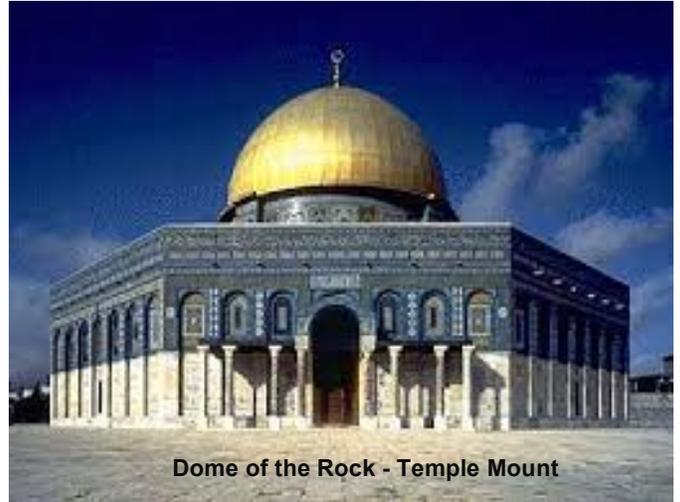


St. George's Anglican Cathedral

**Holy Sepulchre.** This is the perfect place to get the ‘big picture’ of the Old City. Then, starting on the summit of the Mount of Olives, we walk along the **Palm Sunday Route**, pausing at the **Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit Chapel** (where Our Lord wept over Jerusalem), and the **Church of All Nations** in the **Garden of Gethsemane**. At 11 AM we join the congregation of **St. George’s Cathedral for Holy Communion** – and we stay for Lunch at St. George’s Guesthouse. This is the first of several opportunities for interaction with the “*Living Stones*” - the local Christian Church. We then drive to West Jerusalem and the picturesque village of **Ein Karem** where we visit the **Church of John the Baptist** that marks his birthplace. We continue our orientation to Jerusalem visiting to the **Israel Museum** to view the large-scale model of ancient Jerusalem and to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the Shrine of the Book. We then return to the Golden Walls for dinner and overnight.

### **Monday May 1 OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM – VIA DOLOROSA**

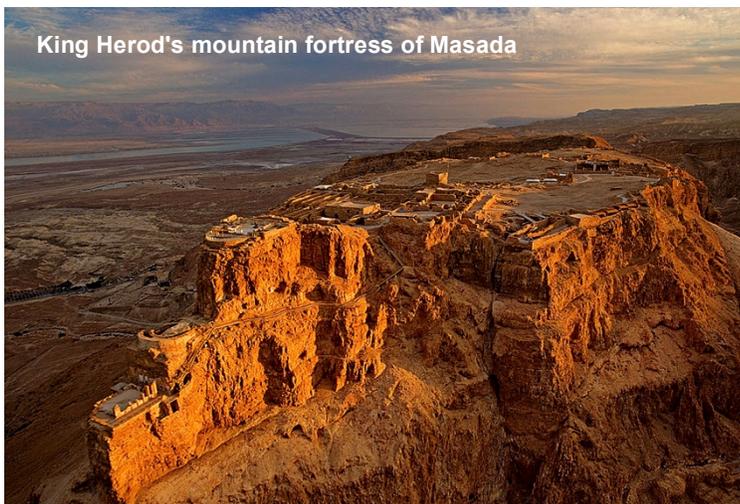
We enter the Old City through **Dung Gate** and visit the **Western Wall** before ascending **Haram esh-Sharif** or **Temple Mount** to view the **El Aqsa Mosque** and the **Dome of the Rock** (entrance to the actual Mosques is not allowed). We then visit the **Pool of Bethesda**, the crusader **Church of St Anne** and the **Lithostrotos** (stone pavement where Jesus was condemned by Pilate) before continuing along the **Via Dolorosa** through the narrow streets of the Old City to the traditional site of Jesus crucifixion, burial and resurrection: **The Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. We will lunch in the Armenian Quarter at the *Bulghourji Restaurant* and then visit the richly ornamented **Armenian Cathedral of St. James**. We then walk through Zion Gate to **Mount Zion** and visit the **Upper Room, Dormition Abbey**, and the **Church of St Peter in Gallicantu** (traditional site of the house of Caiphus, the High Priest’s.) Our afternoon concludes with **Holy Communion at the Garden Tomb**. We return to the Golden Walls for dinner. After Dinner we will meet with the Rev. Canon Husam Naom, Dean of Jerusalem and pastor of St. George’s Cathedral. He will help us understand the situation of the Christians of the Holy Land.



Dome of the Rock - Temple Mount

### **Tuesday May 2 THE JUDEAN DESERT, MASADA, THE DEAD SEA, JERICHO, BETHANY**

Today includes an excursion to **Masada** and the **Dead Sea** – the lowest point on earth at 1401 ft. below sea level. We drive into the **Judean wilderness** to Herod's desert fortress of **Masada**, which we ascend by cable car. Later we have an opportunity to float in the therapeutic waters of the **Dead Sea**. We then drive to the desert oasis of **Jericho**, and view the **Mount of Temptation**. After lunch in Jericho at the *Al-Rawda Restaurant*, we drive to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, **Qasr el-Yahud** where John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Here at the Jordan River we have the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows. The final part of our days journey is to **Wadi Qelt**, for a spectacular view of **St George's desert monastery**. On our return we stop at **Bethany** on the summit of the **Mount of Olives**, the village of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. We visit the Church and tomb of Lazarus. We return to the Golden Walls for dinner.



King Herod's mountain fortress of Masada

### Wednesday May 3 SAMARIA – SCHECHEM – JACOB’S WELL – SEBASTIA – YAD VASHEM



This morning we check-out of our Jerusalem Hotel. We then drive to **Schechem**, now **Nablus** and visit **Jacob’s Well** where Jesus met the Samaritan Woman. After visiting this site we will have a time to connect with local Christians either at **St. Luke’s Anglican Hospital** or **St. Phillip** or **Good Shepherd Church** (arrangements still being made.)

Continuing north, we have lunch in **Sebastia** at the *Samaria Restaurant*, before visiting the Old Testament era **Ruins of Sebastia**. We then return to West Jerusalem to visit the moving **Yad Vashem Memorial** to the Holocaust. We drive to **Bethlehem** and check into the **Manger Square Hotel** where we will

enjoy our Dinner and some opportunity to reflect on the things we have seen and done over the past days.

### Thursday May 4 BETHLEHEM – BASILICA OF THE NATIVITY – HERODION

Today we explore Bethlehem, Jesus birthplace. We begin with **Manger Square** and a visit the **Basilica of the Nativity**, **Grotto of the Nativity** and **St Jerome’s Caves**. We will visit the **Al-Shrouq School for the Blind** in Beit Jala. Then we will visit the **Shepherds’ Fields** where we will celebrate **Holy Communion**. Lunch in Beit Sahour at the *Shepherds’ Valley Restaurant*. After lunch we visit Herod’s mountain palace & fortress **Herodion**. We return to Bethlehem at days end and before dinner have time to shop in an olive wood shop. Dinner and overnight at the Manger Square Hotel only a couple blocks from the Basilica.



### Friday May 5 CAESAREA MARITIMA & MEDITERRANEAN COAST – ACRE

Checking out of our Bethlehem Hotel, we drive north along the Mediterranean Coast to the Roman capital of **Caesarea Maritima**. Here we visit the restored amphitheatre, aqueduct, and city where Cornelius, a Roman Centurion became the first gentile Christian. We lunch in Caesarea at *Portcafe Restaurant*. In the afternoon, we drive to Acre, once the headquarters of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. Acre or Acco is a UNESCO World Heritage site. We then drive to Tiberias on the **Sea of Galilee** for dinner and check-in at the lakefront **Ron Beach Hotel** where we will enjoy three nights of excellent hospitality. <http://www.ronbeachhotel.com>



**Saturday May 6**      **SEA OF GALILEE -- CAPERNAUM – CAESAREA PHILIPPI**

Today we visit the sites associated with Jesus' life and ministry around the **Sea of Galilee**. We drive from Tiberias a few miles to **Tabgha** (Seven Springs) and visit the **Church of the Loaves and Fishes**. We visit **Mensa Christi** (The Table of the Lord) where Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. There we will share in **Holy Communion** on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. We then visit the ruins of **Capernaum** – seeing the ancient synagogue and Peter's home. We will lunch by the lake at *St. Peter's Restaurant*. In the afternoon, we drive to Baniyas (**Caesarea Philippi**) and see one of the sources of the Jordan River. Returning through the Golan Heights, we finish the day with a **sail on the Sea of Galilee**, docking at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Sunday May 7**      **NAZARETH – MT. TABOR**

Our day begins with a visit **Cana**, site of Jesus first miracle. Then we join with local believers for the 10 AM worship at **Christ Church in Nazareth**. We drive to nearby **Nazareth Village**, an excellent reconstruction of 1st Century Galilean life. After lunch in Nazareth at the *Holy Land Restaurant*, we walk from Gabriel's Church (**Mary's Well**), via the Synagogue Church to the **Basilica of the Annunciation**. We then drive to **Mount Tabor**, navigating its winding road by taxis to reach the beautiful **Basilica of the Transfiguration** with its magnificent views over the **Plain of Armageddon**. After Dinner at the Ron Beach Hotel, we will spend a little while together reflecting on the shared memories of the past 9 days.



**Monday, May 8**      **HOMEWARD BOUND - or - TRAVEL TO JORDAN**

We check out of our Galilee hotel. For some in our party, this morning is their transfer to **Ben Gurion Airport** for the return journey home. Others will continue to on with our journey to the **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** and the **Lost City of Petra**

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# Petra Extension

## Monday, May 8 TRAVEL TO JORDAN: MADABA, MT. NEBO, PETRA

In the morning travel to Jordan, crossing the border on the **Allenby Bridge** and proceeding first to **Kerak Castle** or **Kerak-in-Moab**, one of the largest Crusader Castles in the eastern Mediterranean. Built in the 1140's it continued to play a key role, controlling the trade between Arabia, Egypt, and Syria-Palestine until the 19<sup>th</sup> C. We then drive to **Madaba** (Best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics.) We will visit several sites in Madaba (details being worked out.) Likely visits include: **Mimar** the Institute of Mosaic Art and Restoration, a walking tour at **Artisan Street**, Archeological Park (encompassing several Byzantine Churches, remains of the Roman road that stretched through the city in ancient times) and **The Martyr's Church. Saint George Church.** There we will see the historically important and 6<sup>th</sup> century **Madaba Mosaic Map** of the Holy Land. We also plan to visit the Madaba Museum, a quaint little museum is set in a series of heritage houses linked by a courtyard space. **John the Baptist Church** a 19<sup>th</sup> century Catholic Church sits atop a series of subterranean rooms and caves which are **still being excavated.**



After we have our lunch in Madaba we visit Mount Nebo and the mountaintop memorial of Moses with its captivating views of the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea and The River Jordan. From this place God gave Moses a glimpse of the Promised Land which he would not enter. We then proceed to Wadi Musa and **Petra Guest House Hotel** (4Star) for check-in, dinner and overnight.

## Tuesday, May 9 THE ROSE-RED CITY HALF AS OLD AS TIME

Breakfast in the hotel. We will spend our day visiting Petra: a historical and archaeological city famous



for its rock-cut architecture and water distribution system. Sometimes called the Rose City due to the color of the stone out of which it is carved, Petra (Ramqu) was the capital city of the Nabateans. It is the primary tourist destination in Jordan. Lost from western eyes from about 1400, Petra was visited in 1812 by Swiss adventurer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. It was described as "*a rose-red city half as old as time*" in a Newdigate Prize-winning poem by John William Burgon. UNESCO has described Petra as "*one of the most precious cultural properties of man's*

*cultural heritage.*" The impressive eastern entrance leads steeply down through a dark, narrow gorge called the Siq (the shaft), a natural geological feature formed from a deep split in the sandstone rocks and serving as a waterway flowing into Wadi Musa. At the end of the narrow gorge stands Petra's most elaborate ruin,

Al Khazneh (popularly known as “the Treasury”). We will spend the day exploring this incredible historic heritage site and then return to the Petra Guest House for dinner and overnight.

### Wednesday, May 10    **HOMeward BOUND – OR – RETURN TO JERUSALEM**

We have breakfast in the hotel, check-out and transfer to Allenby Border entry point to Israel and Palestine. We then drive to Ben Gurion Airport via Jerusalem. Those of us who are continuing for the optional “Jerusalem at Leisure Extension” are dropped at the Golden Walls Hotel for check in. The bus will continue, taking those returning to Canada today to Ben Gurion Airport for departure.

## Jerusalem at Leisure Extension

### Wednesday May 10    **FREE IN JERUSALEM**

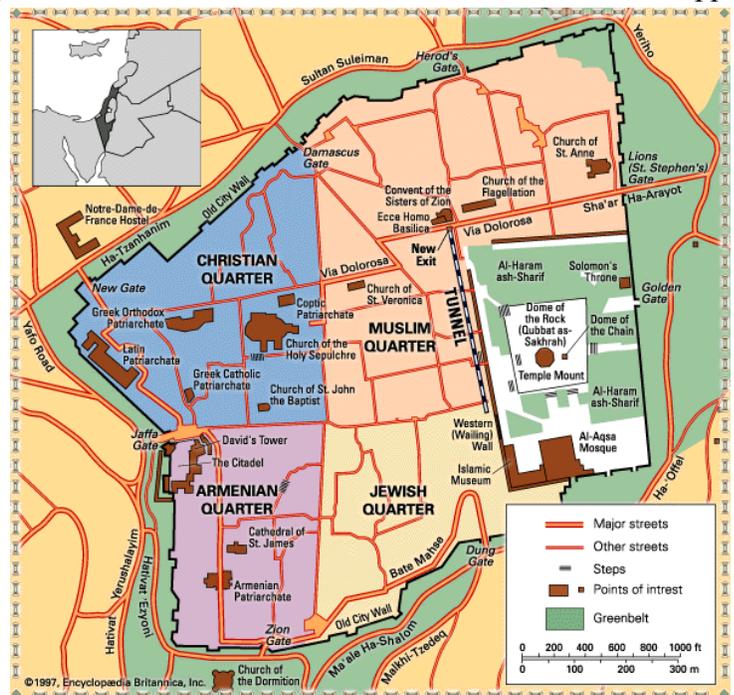
**Two full days ‘at leisure’ in Jerusalem.** We stay at the Golden Walls Hotel where our breakfast and supper are provided. Some will want to shop the souks or explore the city on their own. Others will want to accompany Canon Hodge on his explorations. He plans to spend some time walking the Via Dolorosa and returning to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

### Thursday, May 11    **FREE IN JERUSALEM**

There are some other Old City sites on his ‘bucket list.’ Vicars will continue to visit some of the less known hidden treasures of the Old City.

### Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>    **HOMeward BOUND**

We check out of our rooms and are taken from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport for our return flight.



**Please Note:** This itinerary is sets our plan as of August 11, 2016. As we move closer to the actual travel date we will be fleshing out the details, adding opportunities for meeting with the Living Stones, and fine tuning the itinerary. Check our website regularly for updated information. At arrival at Tel Aviv you will receive a booklet with an updated itinerary and other information. Due to local circumstances or situations, changes sometimes are necessary – switching days around or adding or substituting one site visit for another. Every night during our pilgrimage, as we arrive at our hotel for the evening, Canon Hodge will explain the itinerary for the following day.