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Join Father John Ikponko in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Jordan

12 days, 10 Nights, From February 26-March 8 of 2024

Feb 26: USA – TEL AVIV.

Feb 27: USA – TEL AVIV

Arrive at Tel Aviv international airport, meet, assist, continue to your hotel in Nazareth. Overnight

Feb 28: NAZARETH- HAIFA



Breakfast at the hotel. This day will be entirely dedicated to visit Nazareth. We start walking till St. Mary's Fountain. Then to the Basilica of the Annunciation built over the House of Virgin Mary. Visit the Grotto, the Upper Basilica, St. Joseph's Chapel, the Museum and the Biblical village. Continue to visit the International Center of Mary, inaugurated in 2012 that allows you to discover the life of Nazareth at the first century.

Walk through the old streets of Nazareth and the Old Market until the church of the Synagogue. leave to the eastern slopes of Mount Carmel crossing the fertile plain of Esdrelon. Ascend to the site of MUHRAQA, where Prophet Elijah challenged the false priests of Baal. Enjoy an extraordinary view of the biblical Jezreel Valley and the remains of the Canaanite city of Megiddo. Travel through the Druze villages to the western slope of Mount Carmel to visit the Shrine of Stella Maris, birthplace of the Carmelite Order, which contains a natural grotto where Prophet Elijah was hidden. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Port of the city of Haifa and visit part of the Persian Gardens that belong to the Bahai sect. Return to your hotel, dinner and overnight.

Feb 29: TIBERIAS – THE SEA OF GALILEE – CAESAREA PHILIPPI (BANIAS)



After breakfast, leave to Mount of Beatitudes to recall the Sermon of the Mountain. Continue to Tabgha (Heptapegon) for a visit to the Church of the Multiplication of Fish and Loaves, admiring the well conserved Byzantine mosaic from the fifth century. Then visit the small chapel of the Primacy of St. Peter before heading to Capernaum, the Town of Jesus for a detailed visit of its ruins: the remains of the House of Peter, the "Insula Sacra" and the White Synagogue. Then, you will experience a boat ride crossing along the Sea of Galilee.

In the afternoon, drive to Upper Galilee until Banias, one of Jordan River's streams and the site of Caesarea of Philippi, where Jesus confirmed St. Peter as Head of the Church. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

March 1: MOUNT TABOR – CANA OF GALILEE



Breakfast at the hotel. Ascend by taxis to Mount Tabor for a visit to the Basilica of the Transfiguration built over two earlier sanctuaries: byzantine and crusader. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Jezreel Valley in Lower Galilee. Continue to Cana of Galilee, the place of the first miracle. Visit and renew the matrimonial vows. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

March 2: JORDAN VALLEY JERICHO DEAD SEA QUMRAN BETHLEHEM

After breakfast, drive through the Jordan Valley to Jericho, the oldest city in the world for a visit to Tel El-Sultan, the site of the biblical Jericho and view of Mount of Temptations. Descend and continue to River Jordan where we will have the opportunity to renew your baptismal vows. Enjoy a bath in the salty waters of the Dead Sea.

In the afternoon, continue to Qumran for a visit to the ruins of the Essenes Monastery and view the Caves of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Then drive through the Judean Desert, passing by the Good Samaritan Inn to Jerusalem for a first contact with the Holy City from Mount Scopus. Arrive to your selected hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

March 3: BETHLEHEM – NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM – EIN KAREM.



*Breakfast and start our visit to the Church of the Nativity with the Birth Grotto, the Manger, the Chapels of St. Joseph and St. Jerome and the Basilica of St. Catherine. Leave then to **the Shepherds' Field** to visit its natural caves and the rests of the byzantine monasteries. In the afternoon, leave to the new city of Jerusalem passing by the Hebrew University and the Building of the Parliament for a short stop. Proceed to Ein Karem, and visit the Churches of the Visitation and the Birth of St. John the Baptist.*

March 4: MOUNT OF OLIVES AND MOUNT ZION



After breakfast, drive to Mount of Olives for a visit to the Ascension Chapel and then to Pater Noster Church. Walk down to the small Chapel of Dominus Flevit and enjoy a panoramic view of the Holy City with all its major shrines. Continue to the Garden of Gethsemane for a visit to the Church of Agony (called also of All Nations) and Mary's Tomb in the Josaphat Valley. In the afternoon, explore Mount Zion: St. Peter in Gallicantu, David's Tomb, the Last Supper Room (The Cenacle) and the Dormition Abbey. Then entering Zion's Gate, walk through the

Armenian Quarter, the Cardo Maximum and the Jewish Quarter ending at the Wailing Wall. Back to your hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

March 5: OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM



After breakfast, transfer to the Lions' Gate and enter the Old City for a visit to St. Anne Church and the Pool of Bethesda. Continue then walking through the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher for a detailed visit to Mount Calvary, the Holy Tomb and St. Helen Chapel. In the afternoon, free time for rest and/or personal activities. It could be dedicated to walk one more time through the narrow streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. Farewell dinner at a traditional Bedouin Tent Restaurant. Overnight at your hotel.

March 6: BETHLEHEM-ALLENBY BRIDGE MADABA-MOUNT NEBO.

Cross the border to Jordan, transfer to Madaba to visit the Orthodox Church which hosts the famous mosaic map of the Holy Land from the sixth century. Ascend to Mount Nebo, from where Moses saw the Promised Land and visit the remains of the Byzantine church. Rest of the day we will do a panoramic tour in Amman. Drive to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

March 7: AMMAN – PETRA – AMMAN



After breakfast, drive through the Kings Highway to Petra, the Rose City, capital of the Nabateans, excavated totally in the red rock of the mountain. Walk through the Siq (a narrow passage) to the first monument: the Treasury Temple. Visit also, the House of Justice, the Royal Tombs, and the Theater.

In the afternoon, back to Amman, dinner and overnight at your hotel.

March 8: AMMAN- USA.

At the early morning transfer to Amman international airport, board your flight to USA.