



## Re: Holy Land Pilgrimage

Thank you for your interest in scheduling your pilgrimage with us, Qumri Pilgrimages. We look forward to traveling in the Holy Land with you and your group from **October 8 – 19, 2021**. The first draft of your itinerary is also attached to this email.

### **Arrival and Departure Dates:**

You will need to leave the United States on **Friday, October 8**. Thus, arriving at Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on **Saturday, October 9**. Your departure flight from Ben Gurion will need to be scheduled in the afternoon / evening for **Tuesday, October 19**.

### **\*Please note – Very Important:**

Qumri Pilgrimages welcomes you to the Land of the Holy One! Our goal is for you to receive the full experience of your travels to the holy land.

For this reason, we have made a slight change in our pilgrimage policy. Each pilgrim must be present at the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv between 13:00 and 17:00 (1:00 pm & 5:00 pm) on the first day of your pilgrimage. Valuable information is shared in this first hour on the bus due to setting the tone for your visit. Therefore, the pilgrimage begins when you step on the bus at Ben Gurion.

On the last day of your pilgrimage, we recommend booking a late flight between 23:00 – 00:00 (11:00 pm – 12:00 am). There will be only two transportation shuttles for pick-up and drop-off based on your pilgrimage dates. Shuttle hours will be assigned depending on flight arrangements as a group.

We will meet you at Ben Gurion on **Saturday, October 9** between 13:00 and 17:00 (1:00 pm & 5:00 pm) and we will begin our journey together!

### **Group Size:**

I have found that the ideal number for travel is 35 with a minimum of 20 people. Personally, I am not comfortable with more than 45 in one group.

### **Extremely Important:**

Your Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your arrival date. If it is not, you will not be allowed into Israel. This is true for several countries, in addition to Israel.

### **Land Trip Cost:**

I have the best price for the land trip (airfare is not included). It is **\$2,295** based on double occupancy. There are a limited number of single rooms and there is a **\$540** supplement charge for these rooms. There is one complimentary spot on the pilgrimage for a clergy person if the number of pilgrims in the group exceeds 20. **(20+ Pilgrims = One complimentary) in a double room (Two separate beds).**

\*Please Note: The land trip portion of our trips is based on a package deal, therefore, are not pro-rated. That includes accommodation as well. If an Individual chooses to depart earlier than the rest of the group, he or she will be responsible to cover the full package price.

The land cost price includes the following:

- Accommodation on F/B basis (includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
- Transportation in comfortable air-conditioned bus
- Guiding Fee
- All entrance fees on your itinerary

- All guest speakers
- Portage at all hotels
- Tips for restaurant and hotel staff
- Bus driver tips

Excluded from price:

- Personal expenses such as: phone calls, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, laundry, and medical insurance are not covered.

### **Final Trip Cost:**

Many pilgrimage leaders choose to add an extra amount to our charges, perhaps \$100.00 or \$200.00 per person to have in reserve. Even when adding this amount, the trip is well priced. This money can be used at your discretion. I highly recommend that each trip have an organizer separate from the clergy in charge. This extra money could be used to offset some of the organizer's personal pilgrimage expense in exchange for handling the deposits, reservations, and print materials. Some leaders have provided a scholarship for an individual while other groups have contributed to a school, or project in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Another optional expense would be print materials not covered by the church or diocese.

### **Group Deposit and Cancellations:**

Since we now have groups booked 18 months or more in advance, to be fair to everyone involved, I am asking for a group deposit of \$1500 in addition to the regular pilgrim deposit (which is \$500.00 per person). This \$1500.00 deposit is nonrefundable if the group cancels within 11 months of the departure date, however it can be applied toward the pilgrimage costs when there is no group cancellation. When a group cancels it not only affects the hotel, food, transportation and tour plans but it also affects those groups who are waiting a year or more to go on their pilgrimage. They would all like to schedule earlier dates, but once individual pilgrims have begun committing to specific dates, usually based on their family or work schedules, they can rarely change their plans on shorter notice.

*A group cancellation becomes a loss to everyone.*

### **Payment Schedule:**

- A non-refundable deposit of \$ 500.00 per person is due on **July 8, 2021. (3 months prior)**
- A final payment of **\$1,795** for double occupancy and an additional **\$540** for single occupancy will be due by **September 8, 2021. (1 month prior)**
- Wire transfer Information to my bank in Jerusalem will be sent prior to both deadlines.
  - **\*\*NOTE: All wire transfers MUST be made in dollars to our dollar bank account(s).**

### **Individual cancellations:**

There is a \$500 non-refundable deposit paid by each pilgrim. After full payment the cancellation policy is:

- 90 days before departure: The \$500 deposit is non-refundable
- After full payment, there is no refund
- If we cancel the trip due to safety concerns, there is a full refund.

### **Travel and Medical Insurance:**

Pilgrims must have international medical insurance. Also, pilgrims are expected to have travel insurance to cover the cost of flight cancellations and trip cancellations for personal reasons. This is extremely important. After paying our deposits for lodging and food, we cannot be reimbursed for

cancellations nor can we reimburse people who cancel. However, a good trip insurance policy should cover the pilgrim's expenses.

**Accommodations:**

**Saint George's Guest House**

Nablus Road 20 P.O. Box 19018

Jerusalem 91190

Email: [stgeorges.gh@j-diocese.org](mailto:stgeorges.gh@j-diocese.org)

Tel: +972 2-6282627

**Oct 9 - 13 (4 nights)**

**Oct 16 - 19 (3 nights)**

**Sisters of Nazareth**

Casa Nova Street P.O. Box 50274

Email: [accueilnasra@live.fr](mailto:accueilnasra@live.fr)

Tel: +972-4-6553400

**Oct 13 - 16 (3 nights)**

My family and I are looking forward to meeting with each of you! It is our privilege to share the many faces of this Holy Land with you, our brothers and sisters in Christ! If you have questions or concerns, please call or email us anytime. I am looking forward to traveling with you and your group as your local tour guide while exploring this beautiful land.

Salaam,

*Iyad Qumri*