

Holy Land Full Itinerary

Fr. John Vianney

MONDAY, MAY 23

Depart from LAX to Cairo for a “Pilgrimage of a Lifetime.”

TUESDAY, MAY 24- CAIRO (D)

Arrival in Cairo, where we will be met by English speaking guide and transferred to your hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight. Remainder of day at leisure.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 - CAIRO (B,L,D)

We begin our day with a drive to **Giza** with our private Egyptologist / tour guide and visit to the **Sphinx**, **Great Pyramid**, and the **Royal Burial Chambers**. Continue to **Memphis**, capital of the Pharaohs during the Old Kingdom. Visit the recumbent **statue of Ramses II and the 80-ton Alabaster Sphinx**. Lunch en route. Continue to **Sakara** to see the prototype of the pyramids, the **Step Pyramid**, built for the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser by the exalted architect Imhotep. Continuing south, visit the **Pyramid of Dahshour**. King Senefru, father of King Cheops, built this pyramid, also known as the **Red Pyramid**, approximately 4,600 years ago. Many scholars consider it to be more glorious than the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Return to Cairo to visit a **Papyrus Institute**. In Cairo we will be transferred to a **boat on the Nile River for our Welcome Dinner Party**.

MASS: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in **Zamalech**

THURSDAY, MAY 26 - CAIRO (B,L,D)

After breakfast, drive toward cities of Pithom and Ramses II called “Qantir” the capital of Ramses II, where we will visit the Temple of Ramses II and the tombs of the Kings of the 21st and 22nd Dynasty. Box lunch is provided today.

Back to Cairo to visit the Ben Ezra Synagogue and continue to visit St. Mary Maadi Coptic Church where it is believed Moses was found. One of the strange phenomena is that they found bible floating on the Nile (few years ago) on the page that blessed Egypt my people. Tonight, you will enjoy dinner in a typical Egyptian restaurant.

MASS: In a private room at the hotel.

FRIDAY, MAY 27 - Cairo - ST. CATHERINE (B,D)

Drive to the **Egyptian Museum of Antiquities** for a private, detailed, guided tour. Among other fascinating exhibits, see the treasures of the tomb of **Tutankhamen** and walk around the mummies and examine them from all angles, gaze into their incredibly well preserved 3,000-year-old faces. **Depart Cairo and drive to the Suez Canal**. Take the tunnel under the Suez and arrive at the **Sinai Peninsula**. Enroute, visit Eyoun Moussa (Moses' Spring), Hamam Pharaoh, Church of Wadi Feiran. Drive to **St. Catherine** for dinner and overnight.

SATURDAY, MAY 28 - EILAT (B,D)

Wake up at 3:30AM and climb the **Mountain of Moses**. According to tradition, it was on this mountain that Moses received the **Ten Commandments**. It lies south of St. Catherine's Monastery and rises to a height of **7,497 feet**. From the top, experience the spectacular sunrise as the dawn breaks over this land of penetrating beauty and mystery. *This hike is only for people who are very fit and experienced in hiking.* Descend for breakfast at the hotel. Visit the **Monastery of St. Catherine**, which sits at an altitude of 5,150 feet on the reputed site of the “**Burning Bush**.” Commissioned by Emperor Justinian, the monastery was built between the years 527 and 565. Depart St. Catherine for **Taba**, on the **border with Israel**. Cross into Israel and continue to your hotel in **Eilat, on the Red Sea**. Afternoon at leisure to shop and explore. Dinner at hotel.

MASS: In a private room at the hotel.

SUNDAY, MAY 29 - TIBERIAS (B,D)

Depart **Eilat** towards Timna Valley and climb on **King Solomon's Pillars**. Continue to **Masada**. Take the cable car to the top of the rock and visit the Roman palaces, storehouses, synagogues and bathhouse, which witnessed the Jewish resistance to the Romans approximately 2,000 years ago. Driving along the **Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley**, we arrive in **Tiberias** for Mass, dinner and overnight.

MONDAY, MAY 30 - TIBERIAS (B,D)

Take a **private boat ride across the Sea of Galilee** and arrive in **Kibbutz Genosar** and visit the fisherman's boat found in 1986, dated back to the days of Jesus. Continue to **Capernaum** to visit **Peter's House**. Later, visit Tabga, the **Church of the Multiplication** on the **Mt. of Beatitudes**, where the **Sermon on the Mount** took place. Drive along the West Bank of the Sea of Galilee to the **Jordan River** where John baptized Jesus. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight. **MASS: Mount of the Beatitudes**

TUESDAY, MAY 31 - JERUSALEM (B,D)

Drive to **Nazareth** and visit the **Church of the Annunciation and St. Joseph's Grotto**. Drive to Megiddo to see the site of the **Armageddon**, King Solomon's Stables. Drive to the ruins of the ancient Roman city of **Caesarea**. Visit the **Roman Theater and the Aqueduct**. Then climb the Judean Hills to the most beautiful city in the world, **Jerusalem**, for dinner and overnight. **Mass: Nazareth, Church of Annunciation.**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 01- JERUSALEM (B,D)

Drive to the **Mount of Olives** and **Garden of Gethsemani**. Enter the Old City, to the *Pool of Bethesda*. Walk the **Via Dolorosa** to the Holy Sepulchre Church. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. **Mass: Mt of Olives, Dominus Flevit.**

THURSDAY, JUNE 02- JERUSALEM (B,D)

Visit Caiphas' House, Mt. Zion, David's Tomb and the **Last Supper Room**. Enter the Old City through the Zion Gate and start a **walking tour of the Old City**. Walk down the stairs to the **Western Wall**. Visit the "Temple Steps", with the original steps that led to the entrance of the Temple 2000 years ago & the **Wall Excavations**, also known as the Rabbinical Tunnels, Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. **Mass: Church of Peter in Gallicantus.**

FRIDAY, JUNE 03 - JERUSALEM (B,D)

Continue to the **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial for a visit. Drive to **Ein Karem** for a visit to the Church of St. **John the Baptist**. Then on to the **Shrine of the Book** to see the exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls and see a model of Jerusalem in the days of Jesus. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **Mass: Church of St. John the Baptist.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 04- (B,D)

Depart Israel, short drive to the village of Emmaus for a visit and Mass. Continue to Mini Israel, and a unique birds-eye view of more than 300 models of buildings and sites of Israel. You will be transferred to **Airport in Tel Aviv** for your flight to Frankfurt. Dinner and overnight in Frankfurt hotel.

SUNDAY, June 05- (B)

After a restful night sleep, we return to the airport for our connecting flight home with fond memories of a wonderful Pilgrimage and new friends made along the way. Shalom.