



# HOLY LAND WITH FR. ALEKSA PAVICHEVICH

## JUNE 2-14, 2024

### Day 1 — Sunday, June 2, 2024

Meals: Dinner

Arrival to **Tel Aviv, Israel**. Transfer to **Nazareth** for dinner, orientation and overnight.

Hotel: Ramada Nazareth, Nazareth

### Day 2 — Monday, June 3, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Our pilgrimage will begin with visits to the sites around the “**sea**” of **Galilee**. The first visit of the day will be to **Magdala** to see the recently uncovered synagogue from the time of our Lord; then onto Genosar to see “**Jesus’ boat**”. From here on to **Tabgha** to pray at the place of the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes. After lunch, we will visit the ruins of **Capernaum**, the very town the Gospel writer calls “His own city” (Matt 9:1) to see the **remains of Peter’s house** and the synagogue where He preached. Adjacent to the ruins that are in custody of the Franciscans, there is a beautiful **church of the twelve Apostles** that we plan





to visit as well. Our last visit of the day will be to **Kursi**, the place where Lord healed the Gadarine demoniacs and where the herd of swine rushed into the sea and drowned. Hotel: Ramada Nazareth, Nazareth

### Day 3 – Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Our second day in Galilee, we will start in the town of **Nazareth**, where the good news to the World were announced by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and where Christ spent his young years with His Most-Holy Mother and the righteous Joseph. There are two important churches in town that share the glory and importance of the event. One is an Orthodox Church built over a well with a spring where according to local tradition the Archangel Gabriel appeared to

the Virgin Mary. Another shrine is the much larger Catholic foundation that is built over the remains of the house of the carpenter Joseph. Just before lunch, we will ascend to **Mt. Tabor**, the place of the Lord's glorious and wondrous Transfiguration. **Political situation permitting**, we will stop in **Burquin**, to pray at the church of "ten lepers" constructed adjacent to the site where the poor and sickly who were exiled were bound to live. Also, God willing, we'll visit Jacob's well in the city of **Nablus**, known in the Bible as **Shechem** and famous as the site of the conversation of our Lord with the Samaritan woman (John 4). For dinner and overnight we will arrive at **Bethlehem**. Hotel: St. Gabriel' Hotel, Bethlehem



### Day 4 – Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today we will start our day with a visit to the **Basilica of Nativity in Bethlehem**, founded on the spot of the birth of our Savior. From here we will

proceed to the **Shepherd's Field**, to a Greek monastery that is marking traditional spot of the apparition of Angels that brought good news about the Birth of Messiah to simple, but pious shepherds. Next stop will be in **Hebron**, to visit **Machpelah** (Genesis 25:9), or the **cave of the Patriarchs**. It is impossible to enter the cave itself, but we will visit an imposing structure built by Herod the Great above the spot of the burial of the Patriarchs. Just before our return to the hotel we will visit a very special place and learn from a filed archaeologist about the discoveries and recoveries of the Ancient Holy Places. In the area of a Jewish Kibbutz near Migdal Oz an ancient basilica above the cave was found. Is this the place that marks the spot mentioned in Acts 8 as the place of the baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch? Wait and see! We will discover the place and witness the history of the Faith and martyrdom ourselves. For dinner and overnight we will remain in **Bethlehem**. Hotel: St. Gabriel' Hotel, Bethlehem





## Day 5 – Thursday, June 6, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today we will transfer to the **Holy city** to visit the sites associated with our Lord's passion. Our first stop will be at the **church of the Holy Sepulcher**, a large ecclesiastical complex, that among other wondrous things, encompasses some of the most important places of the Christendom: the Golgotha, the stone of anointing and the Tomb of the Lord, place of His Glorious Resurrection. After our visit to the Church of the Resurrection, we will explore other sites associated with Lord's Passion: The Judgement gate, the Prison, Lithostrotos, and the sheep's pool or "**Bethesda**" – site where our Lord healed the paralytic (John 5). Our last stop of the day will be at the **Tomb of the Theotokos**, tucked away at the foot of Mt of Oliver in Kedron Valley. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in **Jerusalem**. Hotel: Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem



## Day 6 – Friday, June 7, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

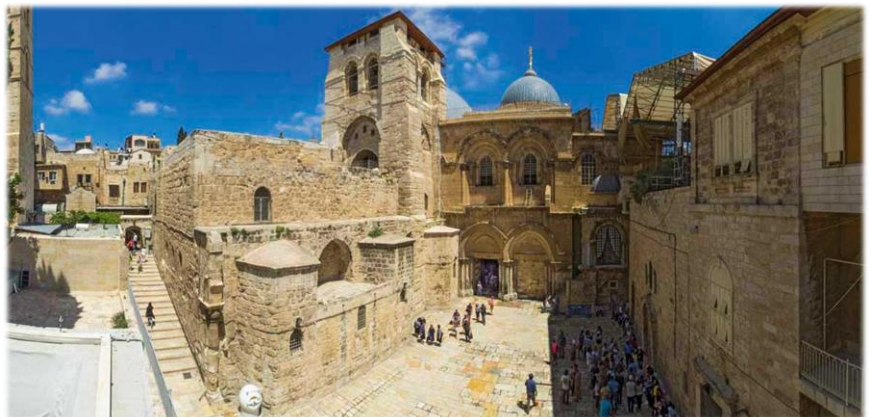
Our first visit of the day will be to the **Monastery of the Ascension** located on the very summit of the Mt. of Olives. The monastery built over the location of the Ancient monastic settlement contains several Holy Places, and in itself is a tribute to the challenging efforts to preserve and maintain the Holy Places in Palestine during the Ottoman rule. From here on we will start to descend to the Valley of Kedron following the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem toward His Saving Passion. Our first stop will be at the "**Tomb of the Prophets**", an interesting underground catacomb like structure, known as one

of the earliest places for the Christian worship in the Jerusalem area. Just down the road, there is a site known as "**Dominus Flevit**" or "**Lord wept**". From here the most beautiful panorama of the Holy City unfolds before your eyes and it is here that our Savior wept over the city and its inhabitants that so terrifyingly rejected their salvation. We will also visit the **Convent of St. Mary Magdalene** – a Russian Imperial foundation that houses the remains of the martyred grand Duchess Elisabeth. Practically adjacent to the site is the **Garden of Gethsemane**, the beginning point of Christ's Passions with splendid Basilica of Agony. After late lunch we will visit a fascinating exhibit dedicated to the Passion of our Lord, and time permitting we will see the **Monastery of the Holy Cross**, an imposing Medieval fortress like structure. Hotel: Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

## Day 7 – Saturday, Jun 8, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Early in the morning, we will go to the **Tomb of the Theotokos in Gethsemane** for morning Liturgy. Usually, morning office includes Mattins and Liturgy. After the service, we will return to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast your day in the old City at leisure. Alternatively, we'll be happy to invite you for a unique **Archeological journey**







through Jerusalem that will include visits to the excavations of the **City of David** with the dry tunnel, **Pool of Siloam**, **Davidson archeological Park** that surrounds the Temple mount, **Jewish quarter** of Jerusalem with **Roman cardo** and ancient **fortifications of pre-Babylonian Jerusalem**. After lunch you will visit the **National Museum of Israel**. It is the largest historical Museum of Israel that houses very interesting scale model of Jerusalem (as of 1 century AD) and spectacular collection of Antiquities covering all the Biblical periods. Hotel: Grand Hotel, Jerusalem.

## Day 8 – Sunday, June 9, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

In the morning we will check out from our hotel and will start travelling East, descending from Jerusalem toward the River Jordan. On our way to the Dead Sea we will stop at the Museum of the “Good Samaritan” built on the spot of the Ottoman inn and the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery. The collection of the museum provides an interesting insight into the history of the Byzantine monks of the Judean desert and the Samaritans. For lunch, we will stop by the Dead Sea. Those who desire will have an opportunity to swim. From there on we will travel to visit monastery of St. Gerasimos of Jordan. After border formalities we will cross into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Jerusalem. Hotel: Pilgrim hotel on Jordan River, Jordan.



## Day 9 – Monday, June 10, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

The first visit of the day will be to the site that recently was identified as the most probable place of “**Bethany beyond Jordan**” – the place of our Lord’s baptism, also not far from the hill from where according to tradition St. Prophet Elias ascended to Heaven in a fiery chariot. The area is historically very significant and marked with many

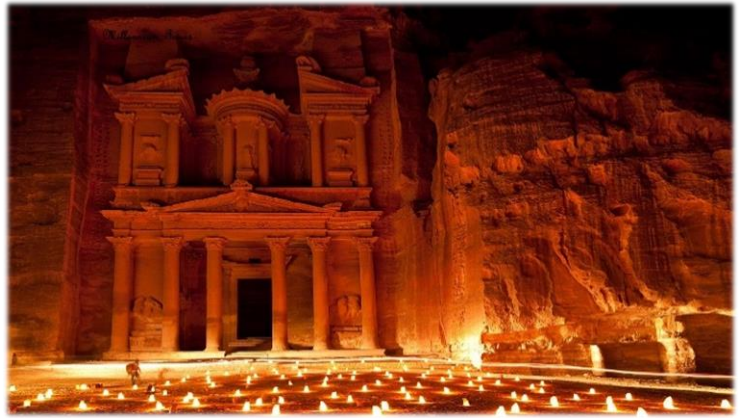


Byzantine ruins. The vicinity of the site is also closely associated with the Venerable Mary of Egypt and her cult is very prominent among local Christians. From Bethany, we will proceed to **Mt. Nebo**. The law-giver Moses observed the Promised Land from this mountain and this is the closest he ever got to the place where he so much desired to be. For lunch, we will return to **Madaba** – a little village housing Byzantine Churches with very important mosaics, among them, one depicting the map of the Holy Land. From here we will transfer to the “**rose city**” of **Petra** for dinner and overnight. Hotel: Petra Guest House, Wadi Musa

## Day 10 – Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Petra** is the most intriguing Nabatean city carved in rock cliffs. This is a historical monument really “one of its kind anywhere in the world.” We will spend most of the day exploring ancient ruins and temples, fortifications, theater, and other buildings carved into the rock. In the morning, prior to our main visit of the day, we will explore the site of **Little Petra**, located just some miles away from its more famous neighbor. For dinner and overnight we will remain in **Petra**. Hotel: Petra Guest House, Wadi Musa



## Day 11 – Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, and Dinner



This morning we will leave Petra and will be re-tracking our way back to Madaba. Along the way, we will stop to see **Shobak Castle** which was originally called Krak de Montreal or Mons Regalis, and was the first Crusader outpost beyond the Jordan River. King Baldwin I of Jerusalem built this mighty castle to guard the road from Egypt to Damascus. It resisted many sieges, but in 1189, it fell to Saladin's troops. The towers and walls are well preserved and decorated with carved Islamic inscriptions dating back to the 14th century. From here we will transfer to the deserted Byzantine camp-settlement of **Um Rassas**, with the remains of an important monastic complex where probably the only surviving column of an ascetic (stylite) still stands. Our last stop of the day will be at **Mukawir** – site of Herod's palace, where the sorrowful events of the end days of St. John the Baptist most likely took place. For dinner and overnight we will arrive to the Crown Plaza, Amman

## Day 12 – Thursday, June 13, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will leave Petra and will be re-tracking our way back North. It will take us most of the morning to travel through the desert and the Gilead Mountains to reach the **city of Jerash**. This city is the location of the largest and better-preserved ruins of one of the major cities of the historical and biblical Decapolis. For its state of preservation, this archeological park has gained the nickname of “Pompeii of the East”. For dinner and overnight we will transfer to Madaba. Hotel: Crown Plaza, Amman





## Day 13 — Friday, June 14, 2024

Departure back home.



### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR:

#### Price includes:

- Accommodation in good four star hotels on half board basis (Buffet Breakfast and Dinner daily)
- Several extra meals (several lunches along the way)
- Deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach for the transfers all along the tour, according to the program
- Road and local taxes for the tourist bus
- Tours as per the itinerary above
- Entrance tickets to the museums and donations for the entrance to the churches and monasteries as per itinerary
- Exit tax from Israel via Allenby bridge (approx. \$60 at the present)
- Whisper sets in Israel and in Jordan

*\* Please note that, the level of accommodations and services may be different from the expectations of similarly rated hotels in Western Europe or North America.*

#### Price does NOT include:

- Air Fare
- Personal medical/travel insurance
- Meals other than specified
- Beverages during meals
- Entrance fees other than specified
- Tips for driver, guide and hotel staff (suggested amount: total of \$12 per day per person)
- Anything not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

#### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The current cost of the trip is \$3,200 per person,

based on double occupancy in a group of at least 26 paying members. Single accommodations: additional \$1000 (total in single accommodations: \$4,200) and subject to availability. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of shekel/Jordanian dinar vs. the US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to: 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a Credit Card and for domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

#### REGISTRATION:

A \$800 deposit is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or other valid and unforeseen circumstances. The deadline for signing up for the trip is February 1, 2024. The entire amount is on March 1, 2024. Failure to pay in full by March 1, 2024 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance strongly recommended. If you decide to join the pilgrimage after the deadline, please contact tour coordinator regarding the availability.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY:

If you need to cancel after you signed up, please

note the schedule of charges in addition to the amount of non-refundable deposit:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 60 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 60 to 30 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 30 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

#### **SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

All special requests, concerns and suggestions must be submitted in writing to Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky no later than the date of the final payment (March 1, 2024).

#### **ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:**

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

#### **REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with any visas required by host countries.

#### **IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:**

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property, possible Covid quarantine and/or hospitalization and treatment. *Mandatory as per Israeli authorities*
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to COVID hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

#### **HINTS AND TIPS FOR YOUR TRAVEL:**

A valid passport is needed to travel to the Middle East. The passport must be issued at least three months prior to the departure and must be valid until your return. US citizens do not need a visa to travel to Israel. A group Visa to Jordan is obtained at the border free of charge. If you are not a US, Canada or EU citizen, please contact the Embassies or Consulates of Israel and Jordan to see if you need a visa to travel there.

#### **Security:**

Israel and Jordan generally are safe countries despite the abundance of news about domestic disturbance. Petty street crime such as pick pocketing is present, especially in large cities and in and around "tourist traps". Don't keep all your cash in one place, and carry important documents (like your passport) with you in a hidden pocket or secure bag. You don't want to be in a foreign land without money or travel documents. Expensive jewelry and fancy clothes are best left at home.

#### **Medication:**

Israel and Jordan have very good health systems and drugs are widely available at many pharmacies. Most of the clerks at the pharmacies speak fluent English. However, we still would recommend you to bring whatever medications that you think you may need, and especially prescription drugs. Please check with your doctor if you need

any vaccinations when traveling to that part of the world. Please bring anti-allergen remedies if you have a history of pollen allergy. In Israel, it is safe to drink tap water, unless noted otherwise. In Jordan and some parts of Palestine it is advisable to use only bottled water for drinking and brushing of teeth.

**Church and services:**

We are going to visit a lot of churches and cathedrals. While the dress code is generally loose, I want to encourage all to show moderation and respect. People in shorts and open shouldered outfits most likely won't be allowed in most monasteries and churches. Monastic and clergy will treat tourists and pilgrims very differently. While I understand your desire to wear shorts and something cool in a hot climate, I encourage you not to spoil the visit for the rest of the group. Several services are scheduled during the pilgrimage. However, at this time I'm not giving exact time or place of all of the services as that all is flexible and can change. The pattern of our days may be changed to fit the services in. Services are open to all who want to attend but are not mandatory. Those Orthodox travelers who would like to receive Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy should attend Confession (if such is your practice before receiving Holy Communion) before the pilgrimage as opportunities to hear your confession during the pilgrimage by clergy members of the group may be limited.

**Currency:**

Many of the stores in Israel and Jordan accept credit cards (mostly Visa or MasterCard, no Discover or American Express). However, if you plan to shop at the markets or at the souvenir stands you will need cash. Dollars and Euros are very widely accepted. However, if you feel that you need local currency, the easiest way to obtain it is to use the ATM machine. For ATMs use your debit card because you won't be charged any interest on cash withdrawals. On your credit card purchase or with your debit card cash withdrawal you get the best exchange rate, that of the day. It is a good idea to let your bank or credit company (the one that you'll be using a card) know that you are traveling overseas. Without such a notice, some companies may "freeze" your account in an attempt to prevent foreign card fraud.

**Dress code:**

Light, but longer pants and dresses are appreciated and buy more respect. Open sandals may be rather uncomfortable on the uneven terrain of the Archeological sites.

Copyright © 2001 - 2023 Palomnik, LLC dba Orthodox Tours.

All Rights Reserved.

1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850

Telephone: 001-607-797-1058

Member of the International Association of Travel Agents Network (IATAN)



## REGISTRATION FORM:

### ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

DATES: June 2-14, 2024

*To register please complete this registration form and return it along with your deposit check for \$800.00 made to PALOMNIK, LLC to: 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Please write "Holy Land March 2024" on the memo line.*

Full Name (as per passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Passport #

Passport expiration date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

***Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.***

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: