



**Thursday, January 9 – Saturday, January 18, 2025
Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Andrew Bartosz**

The Essentials

Early Bird Price – Valid until October 1, 2024

**\$4,550 per person in a shared room if paid by check or cash
\$4,750 per person in a shared room if paid by credit or debit card**

Standard Price – as of October 2, 2024; Deadline for sign up November 7, 2024

**\$4,750 per person in a shared room if paid by check or cash
\$4,950 per person in a shared room if paid by credit or debit card**

Send checks, or money orders, to Peregrino, PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL 60018. Do not send checks via Certified Mail. First Class is sufficient.

\$1,000 supplement for a single room. Single rooms are not guaranteed and should be requested as soon as possible.

\$1,000 deposit required to register

Final payment due date: November 7, 2024

Credit Card payments can only be made on our website, not by phone.

Questions? travel@myperegrinotour.com or call 335-488-1473

Hablamos Español – llámanos a mándanos un correo.

See the Questions & Answer below for more specific information.

Itinerary

Day 1: Chicago - Tel Aviv

Depart Chicago O'Hare in the afternoon or early evening. After an overnight flight the group will arrive in Tel Aviv, Israel, in the afternoon the following day. The flight will likely have one layover. (The pilgrimage cost presupposes departure from O'Hare.)

Day 2: Tel Aviv - Caesarea - Haifa

Welcome to Israel! After arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in the afternoon, go through immigration, pick up your luggage, go through customs, and then meet up with your tour guide and bus. Your tour will begin by travelling up the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea, an hour north of Tel Aviv. Caesarea is an ancient port which is now a spectacular archaeological park full of Roman ruins. Herod the Great built the city in the century before Christ, and it remained the capital of Palestine for hundreds of years. There is a restored Roman theater, an aqueduct, a harbor, and a crumbling 12th century Crusader fortress. After Caesarea go to a Carmelite Shrine near Haifa where tradition says that Elijah, the great Old Testament prophet, slayed the false prophets of Baal. Overnight in Haifa at a hotel or at the Stella Maris Carmelite guesthouse overlooking Haifa Bay.

Day 3: Haifa - Acre - the Sea of Galilee

Breakfast at the hotel. The group will have Mass at Stella Maris church in Haifa. It incorporates in its nave a cave where the prophet Elijah may have lived as a hermit. After Mass make a quick stop to see Haifa's beautiful Bahai gardens. From Haifa travel north to the city of Acre (modern Akko), the last Crusader holdout before the Holy Land fell back into Muslim hands in the 13th century. Visit the enormous Crusader fort and related museum. From Acre travel east to the Sea of Galilee for a group dinner and lodging near the Sea of Galilee.

Day 4: Mount of Beatitudes - Capernaum - Jordan River

Breakfast at the Hotel. Travel to the Jordan river to renew our baptismal vows in the very same river where Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist. The group will also visit Capernaum, Christ's home-town early in his ministry, and the home to several of the apostles, including Peter and Matthew. Capernaum is the site of an ancient synagogue where Jesus gave his famous Eucharistic discourse in the Gospel of John Chapter 6. Capernaum also has the interesting remains of the house of St. Peter. The group will also visit Tabgha, where Jesus performed the miracle of the loaves and the fishes and where he gave St. Peter primacy over the Church. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 5: Nazareth - Cana - Mount Tabor

Breakfast at the hotel. Take the bus to Nazareth, the home of the Holy Family. Pray in the Church of the Annunciation, where the Archangel Gabriel told Mary she would conceive and give birth to the Son of God. Then head to Cana of Galilee for a brief visit. It's the site of the famous miracle where Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. After Cana, head to impressive Mount Tabor, the likely site of the Transfiguration. It has commanding views of the surrounding terrain and a mighty church. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: Bet She'an - drive to Jerusalem

Breakfast at the hotel. Take the bus south toward Jerusalem. We'll stop at Bet She'an, a wonderfully preserved Roman city and UNESCO World Heritage Site with a Roman theater and bathhouses. Then head to Jerusalem, perhaps visiting, if time permits, the enchanting Greek Orthodox monastery of Saint George, hidden in the middle of the desert east of Jerusalem. The day concludes with arrival to Jerusalem and accommodations in the old city or near its walls.

Day 7: Jerusalem

Breakfast at the hotel. A full day of sightseeing starts with a walking tour of Jerusalem and its environs. Do the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross), following the traditional path Jesus walked as he bore the cross to Calvary. Visit the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, the Crusader Church built over Calvary. You will pray at the Mount of Olives and visit the church of Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed so intensely the night before he was arrested. You will also have a chance to visit the Western Wall, so central to the Jewish faith. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 8: Dead Sea - Masada - Jerusalem

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave Jerusalem by bus and head to the Dead Sea, earth's lowest point on land. You can float on the salt laden water, if you wish, or just look at it and marvel at the vistas of the Judean Desert. The group will make a brief visit to the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in earthen vessels. We'll then travel to the impressive fortress of Masada, which reigns over the surrounding landscape. Masada is the fortress where 900 Jewish rebels made their last stand against Roman forces in 73 AD. Return to Jerusalem in the early evening.

Day 9: Jerusalem and Bethlehem

Breakfast at the hotel. The pilgrimage continues with a visit to Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus and King David, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The group will tour the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave established as the location where Jesus was born. A silver star under the altar, and a Latin inscription, mark the place of Jesus' birth: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS (Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary). Mass in a chapel adjoining the Church of the Nativity. The afternoon includes a visit to Shepherds Field on the edges of Bethlehem and a visit to Ein Karem, the birthplace of St. John the Baptist, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The evening will include free time for shopping and wandering the crowded streets of Jerusalem at your leisure.

Day 10: Departure for Chicago

Your pilgrimage ends with transport in the morning to Tel Aviv for a late morning flight back to Chicago with one layover.

January 9-18, 2025 Holy Land Pilgrimage Questions and Answers

Registration presumes familiarity with the policies and deadlines contained in this document

How much does the pilgrimage cost?

The early bird special price is \$4,550 U.S. dollars per person if payment is made by check. As of October 2, 2024, the price increases to \$4,750 per person if paid by check. The price presupposes double occupancy. The single room supplement is \$1,000. Singles are limited and should be requested soon after registering. Triples are also available. The above prices increase by \$200 if paid by credit or debit card.

What about tips?

Each pilgrim should bring \$150 cash, U.S., for at-will tips for the bus driver and guides on the tour. Bringing this cash in fives, tens, and twenties will make tipping easier.

When is payment due?

A deposit of \$1,000 per person will be your registration, securing your place on the trip. The final payment must be received by 5 p.m. on November 7, 2024.

Can I pay with a credit card?

Yes, you can pay online through myperegrinotour.com. You can pay directly with your credit card information, or via PayPal or Venmo. Go to the "Pending Tours" page and access your specific pilgrimage by entering your trip's username and password.

Peregrino Tours cannot receive credit card payments over the phone. If paying by check, please make checks payable to "Peregrino" and send to PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL 60017. Please do **not** send your check via certified mail. Regular first-class mail is fine.

Can I pay the deposit via credit card and the balance by check, or vice versa?

Yes. We will notify you of the prorated increase for the portion that is paid by credit card.

What does the cost include?

Round trip flight Chicago - Tel Aviv, all airline taxes and fuel surcharges, bus transfer to and from airport to hotel, coach bus per itinerary for the entire pilgrimage, lodging in clean, private-bath three and four star hotels, all museum entrance fees, audio headsets, all guides, all breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 2 dinners.

Our Holy Land pilgrims often stay at Pilgrim Guesthouses. A Guesthouse is a Catholic hotel, typically managed by nuns or committed lay people, whose specific purpose is to accommodate pilgrims to the Holy Land. Guesthouse rooms are modern, clean, comfortable, and have private bathrooms and good wifi. A Guesthouse will not have amenities such as a pool, spa, gym, late night bar, etc... The rooms may, or may not, have televisions. Each Guesthouse is a bit different, but all are comfortable, modern, and clean. Numerous Guesthouses can be seen online.

What does the cost *not* include?

Not covered are incidental hotel costs like mini-bar purchases, meals not specified in the itinerary, taxi fares, any museums not on the itinerary, personal gratuities for your priest and guides, and the carrying of luggage from airport baggage claim to the bus, and to and from the bus to the hotels. Although most transport on the pilgrimage will be by bus, we recommend bringing extra cash for taxis and always sharing taxi rides.

What is the cancellation policy?

All cancellations must be made in writing by the same person(s) who registered for the trip. The following penalties are applicable if you cancel:

From date of registration until November 7, 2024, \$500 of your total registration cost is non-refundable.

As of November 8, 2024, 100% of the tour cost is non-refundable but *may be* transferable to another person going on the same tour.

Any changes to the cost of the pilgrimage *after* the date a pilgrim cancels will be immaterial to any insurance claims made by the cancelling pilgrim. Insurance is a contract between the purchaser and the insurer. Peregrino responds directly to insurers regarding insurance matters.

Is there a registration form?

There is no registration form. Peregrino Tours tries to make registration as easy as possible. Your registration will be accomplished when you make your \$1,000 deposit. When we confirm receipt of your deposit we will ask for the name, address, phone, and e-mail of each pilgrim. Please indicate the parents or legal guardians of minor travelers. You will be officially notified of your registration via e-mail when your online payment is made or when your check clears. If paying by check, please allow 10 business days for us to confirm your registration via e-mail and please send us your contact information on, or with, the check.

Do I need a passport?

Yes, you will need a passport to travel to Israel. Passports are required for everyone, even children and infants. The expiration date of the passport must be beyond six months after the date of re-entry into the U.S. A copy of the photo page of the passport must be received at holyland2025@myperegrintour.com via a photo or a scan.

Paper copies of passports can also be sent to Peregrino, PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60017. The copy of the passport and its information will be shared with no one. All documentary or digital traces of the copy of the passport will be destroyed at the conclusion of the tour.

Do I need to obtain a visa?

U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Israel for fewer than 90 days.

Is there any chance the trip would be cancelled?

In the remote possibility that the trip is cancelled due to lack of sufficient numbers or an act of God, the entire cost of the trip will be reimbursed. An extraordinary event such as an airline strike, weather event, or international incident will not necessarily cause the trip to be cancelled. Trip insurance would provide total protection against such unlikely eventualities. The Middle East is geo-politically unpredictable, but Israel is a secure, safe, and stable country with a long history of safe and successful tourism. All who register must presume that the trip will not be cancelled.

I'd like to go, but I don't have a roommate to share the cost. What can I do?

You can either pay the single occupancy supplement of \$1,000 or be willing to be assigned a roommate if one is available. That will depend, of course, on the number of solo travelers of the same sex, but Peregrino will keep track of who needs roommates and coordinate as needed. If a roommate is available but is refused, the traveler will be required to pay the single supplement. And if there is an odd number of pilgrims and no roommate can be found for a single traveler, the single supplement must be paid, with the latest registrant(s) being obligated to purchase a single room. If non-spouses or non-family members would like to share a room with another pilgrim, they must each communicate said intent to Peregrino in an e-mail.

Can I reserve a place even though I have not paid in full?

You can reserve your place only by making a \$1,000 deposit.

What about travel insurance?

Peregrino Tours Ltd. does not offer travel insurance. But for the protection of our pilgrims we recommend they purchase travel insurance. Recommendations are linked on our website. These recommendations are not an endorsement of any company but only the result of prior travelers' experiences. By registering for the trip you are acknowledging that you will either purchase insurance or, having been advised of that option, have chosen not to purchase it.

Why would I want travel insurance?

Insurance is a good idea for those who have an unpredictable medical condition and for those who have a family member whose ill health, or even death, may preclude going on the pilgrimage. Travel insurance must normally be purchased shortly after registering for the trip. It normally cannot be purchased close to the date of departure, or it may be priced exorbitantly.

Can I use airline miles or points and pay only a ground price?

Peregrino prefers that all pilgrims fly together both to and from their destination and arrive at, and leave from, their hotel together. Solo travelers often require special transport and communication needs, miss meals and tours, and otherwise compromise the quality of the trip for themselves and others. Nonetheless, Peregrino will allow experienced travelers to pay a ground only price for the Holy Land pilgrimage, but only as of October 2, 2024, if availability allows. Solo pilgrims will be responsible for initiating contact with the tour leaders at the arrival airport. Contact us on October 2, 2024 or after for the ground only price.

What about flight upgrades, special seating requests, and earning miles?

Peregrino organizes its tours based on coach seating. Any desire for business, first class, or economy plus seats, or other upgrades, must be communicated to Peregrino as early as possible. Any and all costs related to upgrades or special seating must be paid by the individual to Peregrino *before* the upgrade will be confirmed.

Peregrino will try to accommodate friends and family who request to sit together on flights and requests for aisle or window seats, but plane seating is ultimately a decision for each airline and airlines are not always transparent about how seating is apportioned. Peregrino Tours cannot ensure that you will earn miles for your flights but if you do have a frequent flyer # with a major airline please send it with your registration. You can also provide a frequent flyer number at the airport counter when procuring your boarding pass or you can retain your boarding pass and submit it to the airline after the trip. If you are approved for TSA pre-check or Global Entry, please send us your known traveler number when registering or soon afterward.

Where can I exchange U.S. dollars for Israeli Shekels?

Talk to your local bank to see if they offer that service. Otherwise you can change money at O'Hare airport or in Tel Aviv. ATM machines in Israel also accept Visa and Mastercard credit cards and dispense Shekels. Almost all American banks charge a fixed fee for foreign ATM withdrawals and/or a percentage of the amount withdrawn. ATMs in Israel will normally not accept debit cards from regional banks.

How many people can go on this trip?

The limit is 50 people. If there is a dispute over limited spaces, a \$1,000 deposit will count as a confirmed registration over an e-mail stating an intention to register.

What about travelers with special needs?

Any pilgrim with special needs or dietary restrictions must inform Peregrino Tours at the time of registration. It will be assumed that a pilgrim has no dietary restrictions unless they state such while registering. There will be considerable walking on the tour so being physically able to stand for long periods and to walk long distances is presumed upon registering. A physically capable companion must accompany travelers who need assistance. Coach buses are not equipped with ramps, so all travelers must be able to mount steps into a bus. Historic buildings and archeological sites are also less handicap accessible than normal buildings.

Can anyone go on the trip?

Although this will be a Catholic focused pilgrimage, non-Catholics are welcome to come. Minors are welcome provided they travel with family. In order to ensure a rewarding, positive, and faith filled experience for all pilgrims, Peregrino Tours reserves the right to reject any guest, either before or during the trip, whose comportment contradicts or is otherwise harmful to the interests of the group.

Will there be a pre-trip meeting?

There may be a non-mandatory pre-trip meeting if enough pilgrims request it, with the date and time to be determined.

What if I have more questions?

Most questions about this pilgrimage can be answered through this information sheet. If you still have questions contact Peregrino at holyland2025@myperegrinotour.com.