



**“SEE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN”**

## **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

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**Thursday, September 10 – Saturday, September 19, 2026**

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**\$5,950**

**per person in a shared room if paid in full upon registering by check or cash**

**\$6,200**

**per person in a shared room if paid in two installments by check or cash.**

*Round trip airfare from Chicago*

**Solo traveler supplement: \$1,000 for single room**

**Additional fee for credit card payments: \$150**

**ALL BREAKFAST, ALL LUNCHES, 6 DINNERS!**

Send checks to Peregrino, PO Box 212, 25 Tesler Rd. Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Do not send checks via Certified Mail. First Class is sufficient.

Single rooms are not guaranteed and should be requested as soon as possible.

**Final payment due date: July 15, 2026**

Questions? [travel@myperegrinotour.com](mailto:travel@myperegrinotour.com) or call 847-713-1723

Hablamos Español – llámanos a mándanos un correo.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> century Crusader fortress. After Caesarea go to a Carmelite Shrine near Haifa where tradition says that Elijah, the great Old Testament prophet, slewed the false prophets of Baal. Overnight in Haifa 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. Incorporated into the Church's nave is 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 hometown 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 hometown 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 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. It's more impressive than any similar site in Rome itself. 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. 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, which is the Crusader Church built over Calvary and the site of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. 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, perhaps in the very early morning hours, to Tel Aviv for the flight back to Chicago with one layover.

### **September 10 - 19, 2025 Holy Land Pilgrimage** **Questions and Answers**

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

#### **Can I pay with a credit card?**

Yes, you can pay online through [myperegrinotour.com](http://myperegrinotour.com). You can pay directly with your credit card information or through various other popular portals on our website. Peregrino Tours cannot receive credit card payments over the phone, but if someone does not use a computer and needs assistance we can help via phone.

#### **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 3 & 4 star hotels, all museum entrance fees, audio headsets, all guides, all breakfasts, all lunches, and six dinners.

Our Holy Land pilgrims sometimes 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... Numerous Guesthouses can be seen online.

#### **What does the cost *not* include?**

Not covered are incidental hotel costs like mini-bar purchases, one dinner, 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 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.

#### **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 July 15, 2026, \$750 of your total registration cost is non-refundable but transferable to another person going on the same tour.

As of July 16, 2025 registration is non-refundable, but 75% can be applied to a future tour with Peregrino.

**IF THE PILGRIMAGE IS CANCELLED DUE TO GEO-POLITICAL REALITIES - DECLARATION OF WAR, THE CLOSING OF ISRAEL'S AIRSPACE, ETC... - THE ENTIRE COST OF THE TRIP WILL BE REIMBURSED.**

Trip insurance would cover the cost of any last minute cancellations due to unforeseen personal events. Insurance is a contract between the purchaser and the insurer. Peregrino responds directly to insurers regarding insurance matters.

**Is there a registration form?**

Registration is only online. Payment can be either online or via a check sent on the mail. 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 [travel@myperegrinotour.com](mailto:travel@myperegrinotour.com) via a photo or a scan.

Paper copies of passports can also be sent to Peregrino's PO Box. 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 obtain a visa before flying to Israel. Instead, United States citizens must apply online for an Electric Travel Authorization, which allows Americans to stay in Israel for up to 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 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 co-ordinate 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.

### **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, but only after May 15, 2025, if availability allows. Solo pilgrims will be responsible for initiating contact with the tour leaders at the arrival airport.

### **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 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.