

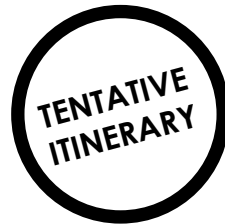


ENCOUNTER JESUS CHRIST & HIS APOSTLES IN

The Holy Land

28 JANUARY – 07 FEBRUARY 2018

*before Chinese New Year



**10
DAYS!**

* With optional extension to Petra. Look inside!

DAILY FAITH FORMATION WITH REV. DCN DR SHERMAN KUEK OFS
ACCOMPANYING PRIEST: FR MATTHEW BUN

HOW SHOULD YOU DECIDE ON A PILGRIMAGE TRIP?

So you saw some upcoming pilgrimage trips advertised in the local Catholic newspapers or in your parish bulletin. And it looks rather compelling because you've always wanted to go to that particular destination for a pilgrimage, and more so, it seems cheap!

So how can you know if this is a pilgrimage worth going for? Just because a trip is cheap, it doesn't mean that it will be a trip worth going for, and more so, it doesn't mean that the trip will be all it promises to be.

So what criteria should you use to decide if you should participate in an advertised trip or give it a miss? Here are certain points that help the discerning pilgrim to distinguish a potentially fruitful trip from one that may not be so:

1. PILGRIMS MUST RECEIVE ADEQUATE AND ACCURATE TEACHING

On many pilgrimages, too little proper information is given to pilgrims to aid their understanding. Many tour guides, despite the training they claim to have received, thrive on anecdotes. There are also those who deliver facts that are either untrue or inaccurate to unsuspecting pilgrims, or worse still, teachings that contradict the Catholic faith.

This is one important reason why the Splendour Project decided to begin offering formation-based pilgrimages, so that an expert formator could accompany our trips to provide pilgrims with more than adequate teaching and guide their understanding of the places that they visit from the historical, Scriptural, and theological perspectives. Even the tour guides we provide on our trips are very carefully selected.

2. PILGRIMS MUST BE GIVEN WHAT THEY PAY FOR

Because the Malaysian currency has devalued by at least 15 percent this past year and travel has become even more expensive, many travel organisers are forced to cut corners to keep their trips cheap. For example, some components of a trip may be removed, or quality of transportation, accommodation, and food is being compromised, or less time is spent in the more important places because being there is more expensive.

The Splendour Project ensures that this doesn't happen on our trips. On the face of it, it looks like our quoted prices are not cheap. However, we actually ensure that you get what you pay for because we refuse to compromise on the quality of your experience. We believe that since most of our pilgrims are visiting a particular place only once in their lifetime, it is not worth compromising on quality just to save a couple of thousand Ringgit. We want to ensure that pilgrims get the best that can possibly be offered, e.g. enough time at shrines without rushing just because days have been cut short, good morale because food is of good quality and accommodation is comfortable, and safety and security are ensured. Basically, we do our best to make sure you get what has been promised.

3. PILGRIMS MUST RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Part of cost-cutting measures is to remove the accompanying priests from the cost equation. This means that many pilgrimage groups travel without an accompanying priest to keep their trips cheap. But having a priest around to provide the sacraments on a daily basis is very integral to a pilgrimage.

The Splendour Project makes it a point to personally invite priests and bishops who are well-respected and reputed for being serious about the Sacraments. They are also priests who are patient enough to offer spiritual guidance on a personal basis to pilgrims who need to receive some spiritual direction for their lives. Such priests would ensure that pilgrims are able to make good confessions at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have Masses well-celebrated for them on a daily basis throughout our trips.

4. PILGRIMS' SAFETY MUST BE A PRIORITY

Prospective pilgrims are constantly worried about whether their safety is secured if they were to embark on a particular trip. They are usually afraid especially of unsafe socio-political situations in the places they will be visiting. It is important that the organisers of the trip have access to

firsthand knowledge of what is happening in these destinations. Do keep in mind that the mass media is not trustworthy on such issues because they tend to sensationalise matters -- bad news sells!

The safety and security of our pilgrims are very important to the Splendour Project. We have firsthand regular updates from our contacts who live in the very places we are planning to visit, so we are well-aware of the security conditions there. We are therefore able to ensure that your trips are not unnecessarily cancelled or postponed, and also that your safety is not unnecessarily compromised. We also ensure that our pilgrims' insurance policies come with comprehensive coverage.

5. PILGRIMS MUST BE AIDED IN THEIR LEARNING

It would be a pity if you paid all that money for a trip and came back without having learned, or having forgotten, everything that you are supposed to know upon having visited those places in your travel itinerary. And yet, most of the time, this happens because travel organisers are experts in making logistic arrangements, not so much in crafting your learning process to ensure optimal learning.

To ensure that our pilgrims understand and remember, the Splendour Project conducts faith formation sessions each morning during our trips. Detailed explanations are also given by our Formation Director at the sites of our visits. At the beginning of each trip, pilgrims each receive a detailed handbook containing all the faith formation content and the necessary information about the places the pilgrims are visiting. This would ensure that they are able to refer to the handbook during, and even after, the pilgrimages instead of losing those precious memories and the knowledge that come together with the visits.

In addition to that, after each trip, the Splendour Project provides all our pilgrims with a professionally produced hour-long video footage of their trip. The purpose of this footage is, again, to assist pilgrims in reinforcing their memory of their pilgrimage trip. It is not possible for other tour organisers to provide footages of such professional quality because it

would cost them too much to do so, but the Splendour Project has the added advantage of our own in-house media crew to provide this for our pilgrims.

6. PILGRIMS MUST BE GIVEN A HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING

Did you know that the places that the Church considers holy are all connected to one another in some way? But it does take a considerable amount of intellectual expertise and skill to help pilgrims to see this connection. Otherwise, one can only organise a particular pilgrimage trip in isolation from others and would be unable to help pilgrims to understand how a particular place is intricately linked to other places that they may have visited or will be visiting in time to come.

The Splendour Project encourages pilgrims to participate in our Trilogy of Pilgrimages, i.e. the Holy Land (known as the 1st Holy land), Rome (known as the 2nd Holy Land), and Greece & Turkey (known as the 3rd Holy Land). Pilgrims who travel on our Trilogy of Pilgrimages will be given a thorough knowledge of how all these places we visit actually are intricately related to one another. Because we are guided by detailed theological research, only we have the means to ensure that you receive information as a coherent whole and not in bits and pieces.

Hence, choosing among pilgrimage trips is never just a matter of choosing the cheapest trip you can find. There are many factors that need to be considered before making a final decision. Only when a tour organiser can guarantee the above to a reasonable extent that you can be almost certain that you have embarked on a good trip.

1

**28 JAN (SUN)
KLIA**

Assemble at KLIA at 2300 hours to depart for Amman via Abu Dhabi

2

**29 JAN (MON)
AMMAN / ALLENBY BRIDGE / NAZARETH (L, D)**

Flight departs from KUL at 0235 hours, arrives in AUH at 0610 hours.

Flight departs from AUH at 1030 hours, arrives in AMM at 1155 hours.

Lunch at local restaurant.



Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land. You can see the Jordan Valley, Jericho and the Judean hills beyond. Also see the remains of Byzantine church with their mosaic floors.

Proceed to Allenby Bridge to cross over the River Jordan into Israel.

Continue the drive up to Tiberias for dinner and overnight stay.

(Note: If arrival in Amman is late on this day and we have to cross the border immediately after lunch, visit to Madaba and Mount Nebo will be made on the morning of Day 10.)

3

30 JAN (TUE)

REGION OF GALILEE (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation in the hotel.

Tabgha: Church of Multiplication



Jesus and his disciples had gone out in a boat to this remote place for some peace and quiet, but the crowds ran ahead “from all the towns” and met him when he landed. By then it was dinnertime and they were not in a village where food could easily be bought, so Jesus fed them all by miraculously multiplying his disciples’ five loaves and two fishes.

Cana: Church of the First Miracle of Cana

It is the site of Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding. The lower church has a chapel and a small museum with artifacts from the site, including a winepress, a plastered cistern and vessels of various dates. One old jar is said to be one of the six jars used for the miracle.

Mass & renewal of marital vows at the Church of the First Miracle of Cana

Lunch at local restaurant

Nazareth:

Synagogue Church

It is known that at least until the 6th century, Nazareth was mainly a Jewish village. The Gospel mentions the synagogue in which Jesus preached

his message to his fellow villagers who were not enthusiastic. Today the pilgrims visit the “synagogue” in a vaulted hall, perhaps from the Crusader period, near the Greek- Catholic church built in 1882.

Church of St Joseph

Located opposite the Church of the Annunciation, built over the cave which served as Joseph’s carpentry workshop. Another tradition holds that it was the home of the Holy Family. Beneath the crypt is the Holy Cave and beside it, a water cistern.



Basilica of Annunciation (Rosary prayers)

Completed in 1969, this Catholic basilica stands on the traditional site where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear the Saviour. It is built over Crusader and Byzantine foundations.

Dinner and overnight stay in Tiberias

4

31 JAN (WED)

REGION OF GALILEE (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation in the hotel.

Tabgha:



Church of Beatitudes

Located on a small hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee near Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitudes is the traditional site of Jesus’ delivery of the Sermon on the Mount, probably the most famous sermon of all time.



Church of Peter's Primacy

Jesus met again with the disciples for the “last breakfast.” Here he restored Peter to himself after the disciple’s three denials by asking him three times if Peter loved Jesus. Catholic tradition associates this event with the naming of Peter as the singular leader of the church. The rock at left is the traditional place where Jesus stood and called out to the disciples.

Capernaum: The Town of Jesus

An ancient fishing village on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee in Israel. It is home to a celebrated Byzantine-era synagogue as well as the house where Jesus healed a paralytic and St Peter’s mother-in-law. The church of Capernaum was founded on the traditional site of St Peter’s home. Closer to the shore than the synagogue, the house was in a poor area where the dry stone basalt walls would have supported only a light roof and could have no windows

Lunch at local restaurant



Sea of Galilee: Boat ride

From the fishermen of the Sea of Galilee came at least four of the Twelve Apostles - Peter, Andrew, James and John. Jesus stilled the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee that was about to swamp their boat. Jesus, and Peter to a limited extent, walked on the water there.

Mount Tabor: Church of Transfiguration

Located at the peak of Mt Tabor. It is the place of the Transfiguration of Christ since the 4th century AD.

Dinner and overnight in Tiberias

5

01 FEB (THU) REGION OF GALILIEE (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel. Check out this morning.

Caesarea-Philippi is a city of Greek-Roman culture known for its worship of foreign gods, where Jesus announced he would establish a church and gave authority over it to the apostle Simon — whom he renamed Peter. The city is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Mount Carmel

Mt Carmel was most significant in ancient times as a barrier to traffic along the coastal plain. The 1500-foot high limestone mountain impeded armies and merchants traveling to the Jezreel Valley.



Stella Maris Monastery @ Haifa

Perched at the western edge of Mount Carmel, high above the Mediterranean and the coastal city of Haifa, is Stella Maris Monastery and church. The name of the 19th-century monastery — Latin for “Star of the Sea” — refers not to the magnificent view, but rather to an early title accorded Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Lunch at local restaurant

Check in, dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

6

02 FEB (FRI) REGION OF JUDEA (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel.

Bethlehem:

Shepherds' Field

Caves where shepherds “kept watch over their flock” still abound in the area east of Bethlehem. Here, the Gospel of Luke tells us, an angel announced the birth of Jesus.



Church of the Nativity

Entering the church that marks the site of Christ’s birthplace means having to stoop low. The only doorway in the fortress-like front wall is just 1.2 metres high. Mass will be celebrated.



Milk Grotto

This church is considered sacred because tradition has it that the Holy Family took refuge here during the Slaughter of the Innocents, before their flight into Egypt. Tradition has it that while Mary was nursing Jesus here, a drop of milk fell to the ground, turning it white.

Lunch at local restaurant

Jordan River: Qasr el Yahud (renewal of baptismal promise)

Jericho: Mount of Temptation

Where Jesus fasted and was tempted by Satan and drive through Jericho the oldest city in the world.



Swim at the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea, which shimmers like a blue mirror under all-day sunshine, is one of the most unusual bodies of water in the world. It is set in the lowest dry land on earth, so it has no outlet. It is so loaded with minerals that no fish can live in it. It is so dense that bathers can lie back on its surface and read a newspaper.

Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem

7

03 FEB (MON)

REGION OF JUDEA (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel (no formation today)

Jerusalem Old City:

Mount of Olives:

Holy Ascension

It contains what is traditionally the last footprint of Jesus on earth before he ascended into heaven.



Church of All Nations

Early Christian pilgrims located the Garden of Gethsemane at the bottom of the slope of the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple Mount. Byzantine, Crusader and a modern church were built successively on the site where it is believed that Jesus prayed to the Father hours before his crucifixion.



Pater Noster

Where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer.

Mass at Dominus Flevit

Dominus Flevit

The little teardrop Church of Dominus Flevit, halfway down the western slope of the Mount of Olives, recalls the Gospel incident where Jesus wept over the future fate of Jerusalem. Mass will be celebrated here.

Tomb of Mary

Lunch at local restaurant

Ein Karem:

Church of Nativity of St John the Baptist

Built over the birthplace of St John and has beautiful paintings and decorated ceramic tiles. Steps lead down to a natural cave, the Grotto of the Birth of St John.



Church of Visitation

The Virgin Mary's visit to Elizabeth — depicted in mosaic on the façade — is commemorated in a two-tiered church, on a slope of the hill south of Ein Karem.

Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem

8

04 FEB (SUN) REGION OF JUDEA (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel.

Jerusalem Old City:



Via Dolorosa

We retrace the last steps of Jesus. As we walk along the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow), through the markets of the Old City praying the Stations of the Cross, we reflect on the greatness of His sacrifice. 14 Stations of the Cross as they identify with the suffering of Jesus on his way to crucifixion. Their route is called the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows). This is also the name of the principal street they follow, a narrow market place a bustle with traders and shoppers.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

This church in the Old City of Jerusalem covers what Christians believe is the site of the most important event in human history: the place where Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Lunch at local restaurant

Jerusalem Old City:

Dormition Abbey

The location is identified in Christian tradition as the place where the Virgin Mary died — or “fell asleep”, as the name suggests. If the upper

floor of the Church of the Dormition is luminous, the circular crypt seems totally shrouded when first entered. In the center, under a rotunda, is a simple bier on which rests a life-size statue of Mary, fallen asleep in death. The statue is made of cherry wood and ivory.



Cenacle

Jesus' last supper with his disciples, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, both believed to have been on the site of the Cenacle.

Jerusalem: **Church of St Peter Gallicantu**

On the roof of this church rises a golden rooster atop a black cross — recalling Christ's prophecy that Peter would deny him three times "before the cock crows". Gallicantu means cockcrow in Latin. The lower levels of the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu contain what are believed to have been a guardroom and a prisoner's cell.



9

05 FEB (MON)

REGION OF JUDEA (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel



Bethany: Church of St Lazarus

Here He knew the intimacy and friendship of his friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. And here, in the cemetery just below the village, He raised Lazarus from the dead.

Mass at Church of St Lazarus

Jerusalem Old City: **Church of St Anne & Bethesda Pool**

The home of the Virgin Mary and her parents Sts Joachim and Anne. In the courtyard of the church of St Anne is the Pool of Bethesda. Uncovered in 1871, the pool appears as a deep pit broken by a series of stone foundations and archways. It was here that Jesus miraculously cured the infirm man on the Sabbath.

Jerusalem Old City: **Western Wall**

The wall and the plaza in front of it form a permanent place of worship, a site of pilgrimage for Jews and a focus of prayer often, written down and placed between the huge stones. The Jewish name for the wall is the Kotel.

Lunch at local restaurant



Emmaus (Abu Ghosh): **Church of the Resurrection**

This site commemorates Christ's revealing of Himself to his disciples in the Eucharist after the resurrection. The Crusader Church of the Resurrection was built in 1142. A French Benedictine community of monks and nuns resides here.

Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem

Final formation session

10

06 FEB (TUE)
ALLENBY BRIDGE (B, L)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel

Proceed to Allenby Bridge, cross over to Jordan

Farewell Lunch in Amman.

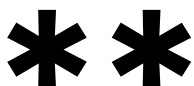
Transfer to Amman airport for flight departure at 1410 hours (arrive in Abu Dhabi at 1905 hours)

11

07 FEB (WED)

AMMAN / KL

Flight departs Abu Dhabi for KUL at 2245 hours on 06 FEB, arrives Kuala Lumpur at 1000 hours on 07 FEB.



PRICE: MYR 12,500

per person (twin accomodation)

(For single accomodation, please contact us to enquire.)

Price is inclusive of return air tickets ex-Kuala Lumpur International Airport (inclusive of fuel charges & airport taxes), accommodation, all meals, coach transportation, travel insurance, tipping. Subject to change resulting from fuel charges and airport tax increases and foreign exchange fluctuations.

Kindly take note that price stipulations are based on the present Euro currency exchange rate. In the event that currency exchange rate fluctuates, Item 8 of the Terms & Conditions stipulated in the Registration Form applies.

Our trips are usually sold out way ahead of time and registration will be

closed when all seats have been filled up. First come, first served.

As seats are limited, your seats are reserved only upon payment of deposits to accompany the submission of your registration forms. Non-refundable deposit payments are MYR 3,000 per person.

Kindly contact us for more information or to request for registration forms:

EMAIL

pilgrimages@splendpourproject.com

CALL

(+6) 016.4432.783 (Matthew)

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE SPLENDOUR PROJECT'S FORMATION-BASED PILGRIMAGES:



Faith formation sessions daily by Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek to form your minds and hearts



A specially invited priest who is well-reputed to dispense the sacraments daily on each trip



A complimentary full-length video footage of every trip professionally produced for pilgrims



A certificate for every pilgrim stipulation the amount of faith formation they have received



Thorough research is done in the organising of all these trips



The only formation-based pilgrimages of such kind in this region!

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO

Petra

06 FEB – 09 FEB 2018



10

06 FEB (TUE)

OLD JERUSALEM CITY / ALLENBY BRIDGE / AMMAN /
PETRA (B, L, D)

After farewell lunch in Amman with the main group, break away and depart for Petra.

Dinner and overnight stay at Petra.

11

07 FEB (WED)

PETRA / AMMAN (L,D)



After breakfast, explore the Red Rose city of Petra. You have the choice to walk to the site or to take a horse ride though the dramatic “ciq” or canyon. See the Treasury, carved in the pink stone, and view the Roman theatre, the Corinthian Tomb, Palace Tomb and the Roman road.

Lunch at local restaurant.

After lunch drive back to Amman.

Dinner and overnight stay.

12

08 FEB (THU)

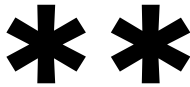
PETRA / AMMAN (L,D)

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Amman for flight departure at 1410 hrs (arrives in Abu Dhabi at 1905)

13

09 FEB (FRI)
ABU DHABI / KL

Flight departs Abu Dhabi for KUL at 2245 hours on 08 FEB, arrives Kuala Lumpur at 1000 hours on 09 FEB.



EXTENSION PRICE: MYR 2,900

per person (twin accomodation)

(For single accomodation, please contact us to enquire.)

Price is inclusive of hotel accommodation, daily breakfast at hotel, one lunch and two dinners, private transportation, English-speaking tour guide, entrance fee to Petra, Jordan visa fee, differences in fare for main trip and taxes for change in date of travel.

This extension will not be accompanied by daily masses and faith formation.

Participation must be confirmed and payment of **RM2,900** per pax made with the initial deposit for the main trip.

To make reservations/confirmations, kindly contact us at:

EMAIL

pilgrimages@splendourproject.com

CALL

(+6) 016.443.2783 (Matthew)

This trip is organised by



Scan the above with your mobile
devices to access our website
WWW.SPLENDOURPROJECT.COM

