



Crypt of Bethlehem



Church of All Nations Gethsemane



Garden of Gethsemane



Mt. of the Beatitudes



Church of Dominus Flevit

For additional information and reservations, please contact:

Fr. Mario DiCicco, OFM
St. Peter's Church
110 West Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60602
Cell (312) 888-1331
email: mmdicicco@gmail.com
Website: FrMarioTours.weebly.com

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Led by Franciscan Father Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.

In conjunction with Santours (#2092786-40)

September 5-16, 2026

Land Only paid by check \$3,995
(4% surcharge if paid by credit card)
Single Supplement if paid by check \$1,200
(4% surcharge if paid by credit card)

Airfare cost based on city of departure.



Tour Highlights

- First class hotels
- Breakfast and dinner
- Comprehensive touring with paid admissions
- Transportation on private air conditioned buses
- All transfer and baggage
- All tips included



Fr. Mario in the church of St. Anne

Pilgrimage Itinerary

1st day: Departure for Tel Aviv

2nd day: Arrival in Tel Aviv, transfer to hotel

3rd day: Tel Aviv/Tiberias

We begin our Holy Land pilgrimage with a visit to Caesarea Maritima which was built by Herod the Great as a major seaport at the time of Christ. Later it was occupied during the Byzantine and Crusader periods. It contains ruins from all three periods. Then we drive to Haifa, a modern seaport which is situated on the slopes of Mount Carmel, the mountain of Elijah. There we shall visit Elijah’s cave and the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. After lunch we travel to Nazareth where we will celebrate our first Mass in the Holy Land at the Basilica of the Annunciation, followed by a vist to the church commemorating the house of the Holy Family and St. Joseph’s workshop. Finally we make our way to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee, on the shores of which is our hotel. Dinner and overnight.

4th day: Tiberias

Driving to the northern end of the Sea of Galilee, we first celebrate Mass at the Primacy of Peter right on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We then visit the village of Capernaum- the site where Peter lived and Jesus exercised much of his ministry in the Galilee. We proceed to Upper Galilee to Caesarea Philippi where Jesus asked the apostle: “Who do you say that I am?” We visit the sources of the Jordan River. We experience a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

5th day: Mt. Tabor/Cana/Tabgha

We drive to Cana for the renewal of marriage vows. Then we drive up to Mt. Tabor to celebrate Mass at the site of the Transfiguration. We visit the site of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes at Tabgha. The rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

6th day: Tiberias/Jerusalem

After Mass at the Mount of Beatitudes, we drive south to Jerusalem along the Jordan River route. On our arrival in Jerusalem, if possible, we will experience our own special Solemn Entry into Holy Sepulcher with the Franciscans greeting us. Dinner and overnight.

7th day: Jerusalem/Bethlehem

We travel to Bethlehem for Mass at Shepherds’ Cave, followed by a visit to the Basilica of the Nativity which houses the crypt commemorating the birth of Jesus. Lunch and time for shopping.

8th day: Jerusalem

Early Mass at Holy Sepulcher inside the Empty Tomb. After breakfast, we enter the Old City through Herod’s Gate to visit St. Anne’s church and the pool of Bethesda. We move on to the church of the Flagellation where we begin the Via Dolorosa. We next visit the excavations of Ecce Homo. We proceed along the Way of the Cross and come out at the top of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. Lunch in the Old City. After lunch we visit Ain Karem where we will pray at the two churches honoring the birthplace of John the Baptist and the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Dinner and overnight.

9th day: Dead Sea/Qumran/Jericho

After Mass at Calvary and breakfast, we proceed to the Dead Sea area, the lowest spot on earth. We visit Qumran and the site of the Essene Community where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. After lunch in Jericho, the oldest city in the world, we float in the Dead Sea. Return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

10th day: Mt. of Olives and Gethsemane/Mt. Zion

After breakfast we proceed to the Mt. of Olives and visit the church of the Our Father. We proceed down the hill to the church of Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. We come to the base of the Mt. of Olives to the Kedron Valley to celebrate Mass in the Basilica of All Nations, the site of the Lord’s Agony in the Garden. After lunch we visit Mt. Zion and the church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the site of the home of Annas and Caiphas and the place where Peter denied Jesus. We then proceed to the church of the Dormition of Mary. Return to the hotel and overnight.

11th Day: Upper Room

After breakfast we visit the Cenacle, the site of the Last Supper and Pentecost, for Mass. We then go to the Model of the Holy Land to see a replica of the city of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. Then we proceed to the Israeli Museum to see the Shrine of the Book housing original Dead Sea Scrolls. Lunch and then return for leisure time and shopping. Early dinner and packing for the return home.

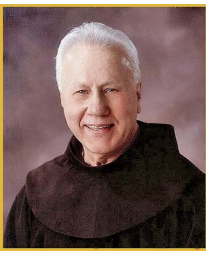
12th Day:

We rise very early to drive to Ben Gurion Airport for the journey home. Arrival in destination city.

(The above itinerary may not be in the order described depending on various unforeseen circumstances, such as the time of our Masses, traffic, etc.)

Dear Christian Pilgrim:

Once again we are going up Jerusalem, called by the psalmist the City of God! It is a city rich in history, richer still in God’s marvelous deeds. It is a city where Jesus of Nazareth proclaimed the saving message of God’s kingdom and exercised his healing ministry of God’s love. It is there that he died for love of us, only to be raised up in that same city by God in a mighty act of power. Jerusalem, now more than ever, is truly the City of God, for it was within her walls that the Church of Jesus Christ came to birth in the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



I will be making my usual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, appropriately called the Fifth Gospel, to retrace the steps Jesus took in obedience to God’s will and out of love for us all. It is a moment of grace for all of us to visit the scenes of our salvation. I invite you to come along with me to share this deeply moving experience of faith. This pilgrimage will truly enrich your faith, deepen your knowledge of Holy Scripture, and increase your love for Jesus the Lord.

You are going on a pilgrimage, a special form of spiritual retreat, a religious event in one’s life where the Gospel, read at the sites of its first utterance, takes on a new significant meaning for one who is open to the Holy Spirit. It is not a sightseeing trip or a vacation tour, but it is a journey that has faith as its motive and goal, reflecting the pilgrimage of one’s life toward God.

I am an experienced Holy Land pilgrim guide. I have lived in the Holy Land and I have conducted pilgrimages continuously each year since 1976. I have a doctorate in New Testament and have taught at three graduate theological schools. For these reasons, you can be assured of a deeply biblical and prayerful first-class experience.

Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.

REGISTRATION FORM

Fr. Mario DiCicco
Holy Land Pilgrimage
September 5-16, 2026

Room Preference:
Single ☐ Double ☐

Roommate_____

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME CLEARLY AND EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____

Cell
Phone:_____

Email:_____

Emergency Contact:
Name:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

I am enclosing \$_____ (\$1,000 deposit per person)

Make deposit payable to Santours Inc.
Send registration form, deposit and copy of passport to:
Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M.
St. Peter’s Church
110 West Madison Street Chicago, IL 60602