

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2021

Hosts Pastor David & Megan Hansen

Key info

- Departing from Houston on Monday, January 11, 2021
- Returning to Houston on Thursday, January 21, 2021
 - Other departure points may be available – however note that current cost is based on Houston-based travel
- Travel company: Good Shepherd Travel
- Total cost: \$3,490
 - Includes all meals, hotels, airfare, and in-country travel
 - Assumes a roommate during the trip – either spouse, travelling friend, or another traveler
 - Private (single) rooms available for an addition \$790

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is about more than site-seeing. ***It is about growing in faith as we travel to a new place and experience new things.***

There are more sites in the Holy Land than anyone could see in one trip. Our itinerary focuses primarily on places and events tied to the life of Jesus. As we go there will be daily time for prayer together as a group, as well as resources to help us understand how these locations are located to the story of Scripture.

What to Expect

As mentioned above, there is a LOT to see in the Holy Land. Because this is a once in a lifetime trip for many of us, our itinerary has us on the go every day – there will not be a whole lot of time to just sit by the pool and unwind.

We have avoided the oppressive heat of the Middle Eastern Summer by travelling in January. We will be in two general areas – Galilee and Jerusalem. In Galilee, temperatures are 50°-64° F. In Jerusalem they are 43°-54° F. Winter is the rainy season, so we can expect to encounter some rain while we are there. They get an average of just under 5 inches of rain in the month of January. *(For comparison, in Conroe our January temps are 42°-61° F with 3.3 inches of rain).*

January also means that we are outside of the heavy tourist season. However, as it plays a major role in all three major world religions, we can expect to encounter plenty of other travelers – and may encounter crowds at some of the sites as we go.

We will be walking as we go – many places the buses can only get us close to the site, or we have to walk between multiple sites in one town. Many days we will walk 3-5 miles. The country is full of hills and valleys, so there is a fair amount of up and down in our walking – especially in and around Jerusalem.

While the amenities are not always exactly what we would find in North America, the hotels tend to be in the 3-4 star range. Most evening meals will happen in the hotels, which are set up to handle the volume of travelers and their tour schedules. We will have a couple of special meals out at local establishments.

Payment info

- Please return all registrations to the Spirit of Joy! Office or to Megan Hansen or David Hansen.
 - All Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd Travel
 - A deposit of \$500 per person is due at the time of registration
 - A second payment of \$750 per person is due by May 11, 2020
 - The balance is due by October 11, 2020
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- Until September 9, 2020 there is a \$100 cancellation fee
 - Other cancellation info is on the registration form

Tour Company

We are travelling with Good Shepherd Tours. Good Shepherd is based in Texas and Bethlehem, and has been leading this sort of pilgrimage for many years. We will be provided with an experienced, English speaking guide who will be with us throughout our travels.

Good Shepherd is owned by Christians who are from the Bethlehem area. They know these sites, the country, and the importance of these locations to faith very well.

They describe their company in this way:

We at Good Shepherd Travel chose our name to symbolize the connection to the parable of the Good Shepherd with our own trade; that of providing pilgrimages to the Holy land. Like the Good Shepherd, we consider it our duty to make sure that *“we know our own, and we are known by our own”* at all stages of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land; from the planning stage until its successful conclusion. Being a good shepherd of pilgrims is more than a business for us. It is a labor of love that we undertake to provide the best possible experience in the land that is both our physical and spiritual home, so that our pilgrims will return home with a better understanding of their faith and the land in which it was born. At Good Shepherd Travel, we ask you to put your trust in us, and experience the Holy Land through us, your watchful, knowledgeable “Good Shepherds,” for the pilgrimage of a lifetime!