

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land  
Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia**

**May 25th through June 10th, 2016**

**FLIGHTS**

Each pilgrim makes his own flight arrangements and purchases his own ticket.

The itinerary lists the flights of Bishop Peter.

The group will meet May 25th, about 5:00 p.m. in the arrival lounge of Ben Gurion airport in Tel-Aviv.

**COST AND CONDITIONS OF TRIP**

Cost of pilgrimage as per itinerary, per person -- \$1800 (double occupancy). This includes: hotels, meals and transport. Tips and beverages are not included.

Singles are available at an additional \$500.

Land arrangements in the Holy Land are a package deal. Should anyone arrive later than the group, or leave earlier, no discounts are given. Early arrivals or later departure would need to settle additional costs with the Hotel management in Jerusalem.

**DEPOSIT**

A deposit of \$100 is required at registration. Only those who send a deposit will be registered, and in the order in which the deposits are received. Cheques must be made out to: *Diocese of Chicago* and mailed to the Diocesan Office.

Full payment should be made by April 30th, 2016.

In case of cancellation the deposit is not refunded.

**LUGGAGE**

When checking-in for your flight, your luggage should be checked to your final destination: Tel-Aviv.

**DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND INSURANCE**

Citizens of USA do not need visas for Israel.

Insurance is not mandatory. Should pilgrims desire insurance, they arrange this on their own. If an illness occurs or other personal expenses arise, pilgrims are responsible for these expenses themselves.

No vaccinations are required.

**HOTEL**

The group stays at the Mount of Olives Hotel (double occupancy), which is located next to the Eleon Convent.

**TIPS and ENTRANCE FEES**

In Jerusalem US \$200 **in cash** will be collected from each pilgrim for tips, donations from the group and entrance fees.

**MEALS**

All instructions of the Orthodox Church concerning fasting are adhered. No breakfast is served before Divine Liturgy.

If anyone must follow a certain diet, please advise ahead of time.

**RIVER JORDAN**

At the River Jordan the Great Blessing of the Waters is served, after which all pilgrims submerge themselves in the sacred river. All pilgrims must have an ankle-length white gown (shirt), which is worn over a bathing suit. (Knee length shirts may be purchased at the baptismal site)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Besides an icon and a prayerbook, take the New Testament. Sacred Scripture comes to life in the Holy Land.

Have a hat and sunglasses.

The months of May and June could be hot, but evenings might be cool. A shawl or sweater is recommended.

Outside the Hotel it is best not to drink tap water or eat raw fruits and vegetables. Those who do not drink alcoholic beverages or soda, should bring a thermos bottle to carry with them, or be prepared to buy bottled drinking water.

When visiting holy sites or monasteries, women must have a headcovering and wear dresses with covered shoulders. Pants suits are not allowed.

Men cannot be in shorts.

Bring comfortable, low-heel shoes.

Those who wish to bring home Holy Water or oil from vigil-lamps, should bring little bottles with them, since these are not readily available in the Holy Land. The best solution is to save the little liquor bottles that are served during flight. Make sure the cap is tight-fitting.

When visiting Bethlehem pilgrims enjoy singing Christmas carols. Bring the words.

**For more information contact the Diocesan Office (Mrs Luba Kichakov) at**

Diocesan Office

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**Bishop Peter's travel agent:**

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