

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia
Diocese of New Gracanica and the Mid-West, Serbian Orthodox Church**

September 2nd through 17th, 2018

FLIGHTS

Pilgrims make their own flight arrangements and purchase their own tickets.

The itinerary lists the flights of Archbishop Peter.

The group will meet September 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. in the arrival lounge of Ben Gurion airport in Tel-Aviv. Upon arrival the itinerary calls for the group to travel north, to Galilee, which is about a 3-hour trip, hence the group cannot wait for any late arrivals.

Any pilgrim arriving earlier or later than the group would need to pre-arrange their transportation. This may be done through the Diocesan Office. This expense is not included in the land arrangements and is extra.

COST AND CONDITIONS OF TRIP

Cost of pilgrimage as per itinerary, per person is US \$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. Pilgrims arriving earlier or staying longer than the group 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 is due by July 30th, 2018.

In case of cancellation the deposit is not refunded.

LUGGAGE

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

DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND INSURANCE

Citizens of USA do not need a visa for Israel. Others must check with the appropriate consulates. Visa fees are not included in the cost of the pilgrimage.

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

No vaccinations are required.

HOTEL

The group will stay at the 2-star "Mount of Olives Hotel" (double occupancy), which is located next to the Eleon Convent. The hotel has an elevator, is air-conditioned and each room has a small safe.

Towels are changed daily, linen weekly.

Dry-cleaning and laundry service may be arranged through the hotel. The cost is additional.

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 the Diocesan Office ahead of time.

Unless otherwise specified, meals are taken at the hotel.

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 month of September 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

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