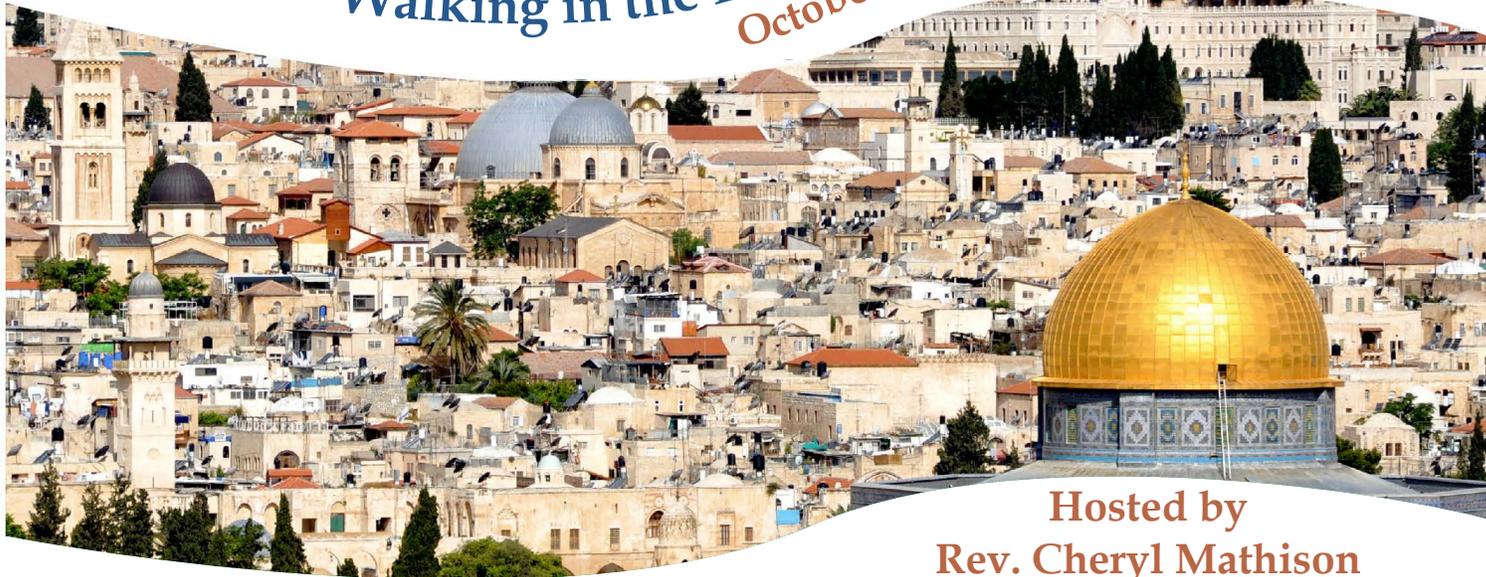


Holy Land Pilgrimage and Study Tour: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

October 28 - November 8, 2020



Hosted by
Rev. Cheryl Mathison
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church

Highlights & Inclusions

Experience spiritual enrichment and fellowship as part of the SPDLC traveling community under the leadership and teaching of Rev. Cheryl Mathison.

Be inspired visiting biblical places in the Holy Land with the services throughout of a tour manager/guide and use of audio headset system for touring.

Discover and engage with local Christian ministries in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Travel on international flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Tel Aviv on Air Canada including current fuel surcharge and taxes.

Stay 10 nights in four-star hotels, shared occupancy. Jerusalem hotel is walking distance to Old City. Supplement for single accommodations available.

Savor local cuisine with 23 meals included: buffet breakfast and buffet dinner daily and three lunches.

Enjoy the comfort of traveling in a private, deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring throughout the itinerary, along with handling of one piece of baggage in/out at hotels.

Relax in the knowledge entrance fees are included for inside visits and activities described in itinerary along with the gratuities for tour managers, motorcoach drivers and hotel/restaurant staff.

Be insured with included group travel insurance through Cultural Insurance Services International including medical evacuation coverage.

Autumn Season in the Holy Land

October and November travel in this region offers usually more comfortable temperatures than the hot summer months. Jerusalem high/low averages during these months are approximately 78°F/55°F. Temperatures are often 10-15°F warmer in the lower elevations at the Sea of Galilee and Dead Sea. Keep in mind these are just averages and temperatures may be both higher and lower. Rainfall is usually infrequent this time of year. Geography varies from the Dead Sea at 1,200 feet below sea level, 600 feet below at the Sea of Galilee and to nearly 3,000 feet above in Jerusalem.

Sunrise is about 6:00 a.m. and sunset is approximately 5:00 p.m. during these travel dates. Most days begin early with return to hotel by around 5:00 p.m., a few days will be later due to driving distances and activities.



Customized Program Itinerary

Wednesday, October 28 MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL DEPARTURE. Depart late morning on Air Canada with connecting non-stop flight in Toronto to Tel Aviv. (inflight meals)

Thursday October 29 TEL AVIV ARRIVAL. Mid-morning arrival into Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. Receive a greeting of *shalom* and *salaam* from your tour manager/guide along with an awaiting private motorcoach for drive up the Mediterranean Coast and through the Sharon Plain to ancient **Caesarea**. Discover the port city built by Herod and where Apostle Paul was imprisoned. Drive into Tel Aviv and arrive at the **Dan Panorama Tel Aviv Hotel**. Time to get settled and freshen up before dinner. (inflight meals, L,D)

Friday, October 30 TEL AVIV/GALILEE. Leave Tel Aviv this morning for the Jezreel Valley and the archeological site of **ancient Megiddo** to explore the excavations of 20 cities built upon each other over 5,000 years. Descend to the shore of the Sea of Galilee and discover ancient **Magdala** before arriving for a three-night stay in the hotel at **Nof Ginosar Kibbutz**. During stay at the kibbutz, meet with one of the members to learn more about the community. Dinner and overnight at the kibbutz. (B,D)

Saturday, October 31 GALILEE. Drive along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee to visit **Capernaum**, where Jesus began preaching and view the Sea of Galilee from top of **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Reflective time at a spot along the shore where Jesus appeared to his disciples after resurrection, commemorated by the **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter**. End the day back at the kibbutz visiting the **Yigal Allon Center** to learn about the ancient wooden boat found buried along the shore by members in the 1980s. Dinner and overnight at the kibbutz. (B,D)

Sunday, November 1 GALILEE. Travel north into the Upper Galilee to **Banias Nature Reserve**, location of biblical Caesarea Philippi. Picnic lunch en route today, weather permitting. Travel to Jesus' boyhood home in Nazareth nestled in the Galilean Hills and explore the city which is now over 75,000 residents. Visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, believed to be built on the location of the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she was chosen to bear the Son of God. Devotions in the Synagogue Church. Brief stop in Cana, time permitting, on the drive back to the kibbutz for boat ride on the sea followed by dinner and overnight. (B,L-picnic,D)

Monday, November 2 GALILEE/BETHLEHEM. Depart early this morning driving through Tiberias and south into the Jordan River Valley. Explore the excavations of **Bet Shean** before continuing to the **Qasr al Yahud baptismal site** for devotions. Discover the nearby city of Jericho to try the local produce and view the Mount of Temptation. Lunch at Al Rawada Restaurant near Jericho before ascending over 2,000 feet into the Judean Hills and to Bethlehem. Visit the **Church of the Nativity**, built over the believed site of Jesus' birth. Arrive at **Saint Gabriel Hotel** for a two-night stay and dinner. (B,L,D)

Included meals: B=buffet breakfast, L=lunch, D= buffet dinner

Itinerary subject to change due to local scheduling.

Click hotel names or other sites in blue for website link.

Tuesday, November 3 BETHLEHEM. Early this morning, visit the Fields of the Shepherds with time for devotions followed by shopping for locally crafted olive wood items. Walk through the market to **Christmas Lutheran Church** and the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB) to learn about this vibrant ministry and its corresponding community service organization, **Diyar Consortium**. See the handmade local items in the ICB arts and crafts center. Possibly meet with local Lutheran minister **Rev. Dr Mitri Raheb**, based on his availability. Dinner this evening at the restaurant of the International Center of Bethlehem, based on availability. Overnight at hotel in Bethlehem. (B,D)

Wednesday, November 4 BETHLEHEM/JERUSALEM. Leave Bethlehem early this morning on the short drive to Jerusalem for a panoramic introduction from the Mount of Olives followed by a walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane with devotions. Explore the remains of the ancient **City of David**, including Hezekiah's Tunnel. Time for a reflective visit of the Holocaust museum and memorial, **Yad Vashem**. Discover more history of the city from a **scale model of Jerusalem** during Jesus' lifetime on display at the **Israel Museum** and see **the Dead Sea Scrolls** on display at the Shrine of the Book. Arrive at the **Olive Tree Hotel** for a four-night stay. Dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Thursday, November 5 JERUSALEM. Today discover Jerusalem's Old City. Begin early this morning at the Temple Mount on which the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque are located. Discover the Pools of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church. Trace the Way of the Cross through the bazaars to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the site of the crucifixion. Visit the Western Wall and explore the Southern Wall excavations of the steps to the Temple. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Jerusalem. (B,D)

Friday, November 6 JERUSALEM. Walk to the Old City for a morning visit to the **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer** with a possible greeting and conversation with the pastor of the English-speaking ministry (position is sponsored by ELCA Global Missions). Time in the 12th-century St. John's Chapel for a private worship service. Option to climb the church tower (small additional fee not included). Remainder of the day is free until dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Saturday, November 7 JERUSALEM/DEAD SEA VISIT. Early morning departure for a full day excursion to the Dead Sea area. In just over an hour, descend to 1,200 feet below sea level, the lowest place on earth. Ride the cable car to the top of **Masada** and explore the rocky plateau where Herod built a palace and the Jewish Zealots resisted the Romans. Float in the Dead Sea at the Ein Gedi Spa with locker and towel provided. Brief stop to view the caves of **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Return to Jerusalem for farewell dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

Sunday, November 8 TEL AVIV DEPARTURE/ MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL RETURN. Early morning transfer to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport for departure on late-morning Air Canada non-stop flight for Toronto with connecting flight. Arrive back to Minneapolis/St. Paul in the late evening. (B, inflight meals)

Passport, Visa, Health, and Travel Information

U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Passport applications are available at the [U.S. Department of State website](#). No vaccination or visa requirements for U.S. citizens to enter Israel/Palestine. Consult with your physician and utilize the information on the [Centers for Disease Control](#) website for advised precautions.

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and any visa requirements for the countries visited and must travel with a permanent resident card or other documentation to re-enter the U.S. Without proper documents, entry could be denied at participant's expense.

For international travel information, including country specific background, travel advisories and alerts [click here](#).

All tours and visits in the Old City of Jerusalem are by foot. **Fully participating requires:** walking some days up to four miles; walking often one mile at a time at a moderate pace; managing uneven surfaces, steps and inclines without assistance. Itinerary is not wheelchair, scooter or walker accessible. Consult with Seminars International (SI) or tour host with questions about walking and mobility requirements. SI, in consensus with tour hosts and destination partner, reserves the right to not accept or withdraw any participant whose ability to participate in the tour or whose conduct is incompatible with the operation of tour or the interests of the entire group.

For travel and destination information, click website link:
Israel Ministry of Tourism
www.goisrael.com

Palestine Travel Information
www.visitpalestine.ps

Further Information

Rev. Cheryl Mathison
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
cmathison@spdlc.org
763-475-7128



SEMINARS INTERNATIONAL
The Educational Travel Architects
Chicago, IL 60603-5713
312-332-7027 • 800-541-7506
travel@semint.com • www.semint.com

Registration

To secure registration, you must complete the enrollment form **and** pay the required deposit. You need passport details (unless applying for a passport) and emergency contact information to properly fill out the enrollment form.

Step 1: \$600 deposit due immediately to secure registration. Make check payable and mail to Seminars International, 55 E. Monroe, Suite 2870, Chicago, IL 60603. Please add **Tour# 5281** to the memo portion of your check

Payment is available by credit card at <http://www.semint.com/payments.html> or by calling 800.541.7506. A 3% service fee is added to all credit card transactions.

Step 2: If this is an electronic brochure, click below to fill out one enrollment form per person. The **T# is 5281**. A printed copy of the enrollment form is also available by contacting Jeaneen Lincoln at 800-541-7506 or jeaneen@semint.com. Deposit payment must be received within 10 days of completing enrollment form to maintain your registration. **A letter of confirmation is emailed after receipt of both the deposit and the enrollment form.** If program is full upon submitting enrollment form, you will be notified.

Passport Name: Complete this form with your **full name exactly as it appears on your passport**. Include your middle name or initial plus any suffix (Jr., Sr., or III) exactly as printed on your passport. If you do not have a passport at this time, enter your name exactly as it will appear on the passport. There may be a fee for any name changes.

[If this is an electronic brochure, click here for link to enrollment form.](#)

Note: If you need an electronic brochure, email travel@semint.com and reference **T# 5281**. Please expect a reply only during business hours.

Program Cost

\$4,690 from Minneapolis/St. Paul

Supplement for single accommodations - \$1,150
Limited availability of single accommodations.

This comprehensive cost includes airline ticket taxes/fuel surcharge of \$696, gratuities and CISI group insurance (approx. \$75 value).

These costs are often not packaged into other travel programs and instead listed as additional costs in the fine print.

Program cost based on a group size of 32 and will increase if group size is smaller.

Statement of Conditions

Program cost and minimum number group size: \$4,690.00, based on a group size of 32-34 participants. \$4,790.00, based on a group size of 27-31. Program cost will increase if group size is smaller. *Program cost based on exchange rates and tariffs in effect as of December 2019 subject to change in the event that there is a fluctuation of more than 4%.*

Air transportation included in cost: From Minneapolis/St. Paul to Tel Aviv roundtrip on currently confirmed airfare on Air Canada, subject to restrictions and cancellation penalties by the airline; current taxes and surcharges of \$696.00 are included and subject to change until ticketed.

Surface travel and transfers: By private, deluxe motorcoach for all transfers and touring plus handling of one piece of baggage in/out of hotels.

Accommodations and meals: Shared occupancy at hotels listed in itinerary or similar as hotels subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Single accommodations supplement is \$1,150.00 and limited. Buffet breakfast and buffet dinner daily and three lunches for a total of 23 meals as indicated in the itinerary. Upon request, Seminars International and sponsor/host(s) will try to pair participants traveling as a single with a roommate. There is no guarantee of a roommate and if one is not available, the single supplement is assessed at time of invoice. Some hotels provide a smaller room size for single occupancy.

Program arrangements: English-speaking professional tour manager upon arrival in Tel Aviv; use of audio headsets while touring; inside visits described in itinerary include entrance fees or donations as needed for entry; gratuities for tour manager/guides, motorcoach drivers, and hotel/restaurant wait staff. **Note:** Participants with special needs may incur surcharges for additional services. Accessibility for people with disabilities varies significantly from country to country. Be advised the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside of the United States, and facilities outside the United States, such as ramps, elevators and hand railings may be limited. This itinerary is not wheelchair, scooter or walker accessible.

Deposit and payment schedule: \$600 per participant due to secure enrollment no later than **April 20, 2020 as long as space is available.** A waiting list is maintained when registrations exceed 32. **Full payment due July 28, 2020.** Upon receipt of enrollment and deposit, a confirmation of registration is sent by Seminars International via email. Any payments by credit card incur an additional 3% to cover merchant fees. Invoices are sent in advance of final payment.

Group insurance: The following Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance coverage is included for each participant. **This insurance does not include individual trip cancellation and pre-existing medical condition coverage, additional insurance is highly recommended.**

Schedule of Benefits Policy # GLM N0496486A

Coverage and Services Maximum Limits:

- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Per Insured Person \$10,000.
- Medical expenses (per Covered Accident or Sickness).
- Deductible zero.
- Basic Medical \$100,000 at 100%.
- Home Country Coverage Limit \$10,000.
- Emergency Medical Reunion \$3,000.
- Team Assist Plan (TAP): 24/7 medical, travel, technical assistance.
- Emergency Medical Evacuation 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Repatriation/Return of Mortal Remains 100% of Covered Expenses.
- Security Evacuation (Comprehensive) \$100,000.
- Trip delay of \$100 per day to a maximum of \$500/5 days if delayed more than 12 hours.

[Click here](#) to access further information on travel insurance.

Trip delay: In the unforeseen circumstance your program experiences travel delays and unexpected expenses are incurred, Seminars International will invoice participants for any additional costs associated with the delay minus the \$100 per day CISI trip delay coverage, if qualified. Obtaining additional travel insurance as recommended on page three may offset these expenses.

Cancellation and refund policy: Should cancellation occur prior to

120 days before departure, the initial deposit will be refunded less a \$200 fee per person. In addition to airline penalties, the following specified costs are non-refundable: **120-90 days** = half of deposit; **89-75 days** = full deposit; **74-46 days** = 50% of program price; **45-31 days** = recoverable costs only (possible forfeiture of entire program cost); **cancellations received 30 days or fewer from departure will receive no refund. Cancellations must be submitted in writing; the date such notification is received by Seminars International is the cancellation date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

Leadership: The person(s) identified as the leader/host is subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Seminars International. In the unlikely event of a change in leadership, a qualified replacement will be selected by the sponsoring organization or previous leader. Seminars International will operate the program as planned and is not responsible for the change in leadership. The cancellation and refund policy remain as stated.

Exclusions: Items not listed above, including but not limited to meals other than those indicated; beverages except at breakfast; baggage handling at airports; optional entertainment and excursions; any baggage charges; all personal items, such as telephone calls, laundry expenses, individual room service; cancellation insurance; non-tour related gratuities; passport fees; increases in air ticket taxes or fuel surcharge; increases in VAT or city/hotel taxes.

Management and responsibility: Seminars International (SI) acts only as an agent and neither SI nor any employee or appointee nor any other person, party or organization or agency collaborating with it is or shall be responsible or liable for any injury or loss, accident or damage, delay or deviation or curtailment, howsoever caused or arising or the consequences thereof, which may occur during any part of the travel or program or during such free time as the members may elect to spend independently on the program. The airlines or commercial carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any acts, omissions, or events during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contracts in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this program and/or passenger.

Deviations policy: Some participants may wish to extend their stay, originate or deplane from different cities or purchase the land program only. Early flight departure on group airfare is not permitted. Every effort will be made to assist program participants within the rules of the group air contract for a \$100 per person service charge, plus any additional charges levied by the airline or other supplier. Once the deviation has been booked, any changes may incur additional costs. Please note you are purchasing a group program and any deviation from the program arrangements requires staff time not calculated in the program cost. No refund may be granted to participants who wish to omit portions of the itinerary. **All deviation requests must be submitted in writing by June 12, 2020; requests made after this date incur additional fees or may be**

Seminars International

Seminars International, with fifty years of experience crafting faith-based, educational, performing arts and special interest programs on seven continents, is proud of a proven record in providing attention to detail, safety, security, creativity and value. Our services allow leaders to focus on the purpose and goals of their program while we take care of the travel logistics, providing peace of mind from beginning to end.

Custom Design - We design customized international programs sensitive to the needs and interests of a group while focusing on value and affordability.

Pre-Departure - Our services include customized travel e-packets and tour literature focusing on being prepared and responsible travelers.

While Abroad - Along with our Chicago-based team, our network of on-the-ground international partners and CISI Team Assist are prepared 24/7 to provide support and assistance, particularly with an emergency situation.

Program Evaluation - Upon return we invite you to complete an evaluation to share feedback on how we may enhance your experience in the future.

Israel/Palestine Travel Conditions, Travel Advisory and Travel Insurance

Seminars International has recently arranged and operated travel programs to Israel/Palestine and is in regular communication with the U.S. Department of State and our in-country partners for current updates. Israel, the West Bank and Gaza have been under a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning since October of 2000 and currently continues under a 4 level advisory system. Be assured we are constantly monitoring the conditions.

The current travel advisory, updated **December 28, 2018**, is available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/IsraeltheWestBankandGaza.html>.

If the conditions for travel would change and the U.S. Department of State updates its advisory to a level 4 for all areas, informing U.S. citizens that travel to Israel/Palestine should be deferred or Seminars International has information that safe travel would be compromised, the tour would be adjusted, postponed or canceled depending on the circumstances. This itinerary does not include any visits to the Gaza Strip and has been planned with every safety measure in mind from its inception. If any safety concerns would develop during your time in Israel/Palestine, adjustments will be made to the itinerary to avoid any areas that could be considered unsafe.

All participants must read the travel advisory and agree to the travel advisory release waiver located on the online enrollment form.

Financial risk should tour cancel:

If any political/civil unrest would change the travel conditions and Seminars International and the tour leadership has information the group could be in danger, the tour will be adjusted, postponed or possibly canceled. In the case of the program being canceled for this reason, all in-country land costs associated with the tour will be refunded to each participant less a \$200 administrative fee.

Depending on the specifics of the situation, the airline may or may not reimburse each participant for their airline ticket. If the airline cancels flights, then the airfare is reimbursed. If flights are not canceled and Seminars International and tour leadership, cancels the program due to a change in travel conditions, there is a risk the airline will not refund the airfare but allow you to use the value towards other flights within a 12 month period of time. There is no guarantee about the airline refund policy as it depends on the specifics of the situation and decisions made at the time. The airfare for this program is approximately \$1,300.00 per ticket including taxes and fuel surcharges. Please be advised of this financial risk. For those purchasing your own airline tickets, be aware the tour could be altered, postponed or canceled due to a change in travel conditions and you would be responsible for requesting a refund or changing your own airline ticket.

Travel insurance:

Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) group insurance included in program cost covers evacuation and major medical as described under the Statement of Conditions. Comprehensive travel cancellation insurance and coverage for preexisting medical conditions is not included. Travel cancellation insurance is highly recommended for health situations that may prevent you from traveling or interrupt your travels. Seminars International recommends Travel Guard as a reliable provider of travel cancellation insurance. You may access information on insurance coverage options and premium costs using this link to [Travel Guard](#) and completing a simple worksheet with your own personal details. For specific questions about coverage, call Travel Guard at 800-826-4919 and use agency referral number 14847980 for Seminars International. When purchasing travel insurance, carefully and thoroughly read the coverage to ensure it meets your individual needs. Purchasing travel insurance within 15 days of enrollment may waive pre-existing medical conditions.

T5281 SPDLC - Holy Land Pilgrimage - December 2019

