

# Fr. Bill and Miranda's Israel Trip Itinerary

## Wednesday, March 10

Arrive Tel Aviv at 5:10 PM

Take bus to hotel (Rimonim Galei Kinneret) in Tiberias (Sea of Galilee)

## Thursday, March 11

- (1) Nazareth, boyhood home of Jesus (Matthew 2)  
Mass at Church of St. Joseph (site of Joseph's carpentry shop); Bill concelebrated  
Saw Church of the Annunciation—amazing madonnas from all over the world
- (2) Megiddo and Valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16)  
Ruins of the city; ancient water system
- (3) Mt. Carmel where Elijah had contest with prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)  
Church with replica altar (12 stones)
- (4) Lunch at Druze restaurant
- (5) Caesarea on Mediterranean Sea (where Paul made his defense in Acts 25-26)  
Herod's palace, hippodrome, theater
- (6) Cana of Galilee, site of Jesus' first miracle (John 2)  
Renewal of wedding vows at Franciscan church

## Friday, March 12

- (1) Tabgha, where the Feeding of the 5000 took place (Matthew 14:13-21)  
Church of Loaves & Fishes around rock Jesus used (mosaics)  
Church of Primacy of Peter: outdoor mass (next to Polish cardinal)  
Beach on which Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?"
- (2) Mount of the Beatitudes – where He preached Sermon on Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- (3) Ancient Galilee Boat (at museum on kibbutz)
- (4) Capernaum where Jesus taught in the synagogue (Mark 1:21); Peter's home
- (5) Lunch of St. Peter's fish at restaurant on Kibbutz Ein Gev
- (6) Go out on the Sea of Galilee on a tour boat
- (7) Yardenit, baptismal site where the Sea of Galilee empties into the Jordan River  
Some folks did rededication of baptism

## Saturday, March 13

- (1) Drive along the Sea of Galilee  
Passed ruins of Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene (Matt. 15:39)
- (2) Tel Dan, site of Jeroboam I's altar (1 Kings 12:25-30)  
Nature preserve—3 springs that feed the Jordan river  
Jeroboam's altar, bunkers near border with Lebanon
- (3) Caesarea Philippi, where Peter proclaimed Jesus as Messiah (Matthew 16)  
Pagan temple to Pan, etc.; lunch at restaurant next to river
- (4) Travel through the Golan Heights

- Heard about Israeli history; saw border with Syria (UN buffer zone)
- (5) Chorazim (or Korazin) (Matthew 11:20f)  
Ruins of city and synagogue (Moses' seat)
  - (6) Mass at hotel tonight

### **Sunday, March 14**

- (1) Bet Shean/Scythopolis, one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis (Mark 7:31)  
Very elaborate ruins of city, including theater, bath house, brothel
- (2) Gideon's Spring, where he chose the army of 300 (Judges 7)
- (3) Drove into the wilderness and through edge of Jerusalem  
Bedouin camps with goat/sheep herders, stables in caves  
Bishop read Psalms of Ascent as we entered the city
- (4) Cross the Palestinian border into Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus (Luke 2:1-5)  
Left Israeli guide here and picked up a Palestinian Christian guide  
St. Catherine's (where Pope does Christmas mass)  
Chapel where St. Jerome translated Bible, chapel of Holy Innocents,  
Mass here (Bill concelebrated)  
Visit Church of the Nativity – oldest continuously functioning church in the world  
Waited in long line to touch the star (birthplace)  
Christian-owned shop to buy gifts (Christians 30% of population here)
- (5) Return to Jerusalem and check into Olive Tree hotel

### **Monday, March 15**

- (1) En Kerem, birthplace of John the Baptist  
Beautiful church with museum quality paintings
- (2) Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in new Jerusalem  
Children's memorial (candles for 1.8 million and reading of names)  
"Tomb" for the dead (6 million mosaic tiles, names of camps, eternal flame)  
Trees with names of 18,000 righteous Gentiles  
Huge museum of history and testimony
- (3) Israel Museum  
Enormous scale model of the city of Jerusalem in 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period  
Shrine of the Book with artifacts from Qumran (scroll of Isaiah)
- (4) Mount of Olives, site of the Ascension (Luke 24:50 and Acts 1)  
Church of the Ascension built on the site (now taken over by Moslems)  
Church of Pater Noster: Lord's prayer in many languages  
Walked down Palm Sunday route  
Stopped at Dominus Flevit (Jesus wept) overlooking the city  
Tear drop shaped church (couldn't go in; mass going on)
- (5) Mass at hotel tonight

### **Tuesday, March 16**

- (1) Old City of Jerusalem (whole day)
- (2) Via Dolorosa—walked path in very early a.m.; members of group carried cross

- for outside part of walk
- (3) Church of the Holy Sepulchre  
End of stations, including #12 (touch Golgotha), #13 (stone of unction)  
and #14 (tomb/resurrection site)  
Mass at Chapel of Mary Magdalene (Fr. Scott concelebrated)  
Confessions heard in courtyard
  - (4) Old City market place, cardo (ancient street)
  - (5) Mount Zion, stand in the Upper Room, site of Last Supper (Mark 14:12-16)  
Upper Room with verses of Koran and Moslem prayer niche;  
Had prayers for Baptism in the Holy Spirit there  
Visited site of David's tomb below
  - (6) Temple Mount/Western Wall  
Very heavy security; separate prayer areas for men & women
  - (7) Ecce Homo—actual street from Jesus' time with Roman graffiti
  - (8) Visit the Pool of Bethesda, where St. Raphael touches the water for healing (John 5)  
St. Anne's Church; statue of Mary as a child  
Sang some here (great acoustics) and did anointing

### **Wednesday, March 17**

- (1) Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed before His betrayal (Mk. 14:26-32)  
Church of the Nations, with stone where Jesus sat  
Garden with ancient olive trees
- (2) Church of St. Peter Gallicantu (cock crow)  
Did Mass here at site of Peter's betrayal (Bill concelebrated)  
Site was Caiaphas' house, who was high priest (Matthew 26:57)  
Saw cistern that probably served as Jesus' prison his last night
- (3) Drive through Judean wilderness past Qumran, Mt. Nebo, En Gedi  
Can see Jordan along the other side of the Jordan River
- (4) Masada, the Jewish fortress where they battled the Romans  
Rode cable car to the top and toured the fortress
- (5) The Dead Sea: take a swim (or rather a float) in the lowest spot on earth  
Note: Dead Sea is only 70% water; rest is minerals
- (6) Qumran site, where they found the Dead Sea Scrolls  
Site was closed so only able to view from afar

### **Thursday, March 18**

Return to Tel Aviv

Depart Tel Aviv at 10:40 AM, fly nonstop to JFK in New York

Arrive JFK at 4:40 PM