



**\$4999**  
Cash/Check  
Discount Price

*Join us on a pilgrimage to*

# The Holy Land, Greece & Southern Italy

*With 3-Night Greek Isles Cruise*

**17 DAYS: October 9 - 25, 2023**  
Roundtrip from Omaha, NE (OMA)

**Under the Spiritual Direction of  
Fr. Jim Keiter**

## **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Bethlehem
- Jerusalem
- Tiberias
- Rome
- Palermo
- Athens
- Catania
- 3-Night Cruise

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# Day by Day Itinerary

**Day 1: Depart USA: Flight to Rome:** Depart for your flights to Rome. Dinner on-board, relax, and anticipate your arrival the next day.

**Day 2: Rome: Arrive to Italy:** We are greeted upon arrival by our Holy Land Travel Center Representative who will accompany us throughout the pilgrimage. After visa formalities, we immediately continue our pilgrimage by visiting the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, which houses the remains of St. Paul under its main altar. Continue on to our hotel for overnight.

**Overnight:** Rome (Dinner)

**Day 3: Rome: Vatican City, Papal Audience, Basilica of St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. John:** After an early breakfast we depart for Vatican City, the spiritual capital for all Catholics around the world. Vatican City is its own city-state nestled within Rome, and it even has its own currency and postage! We make our way to St. Peter's Basilica where we will attend the Papal Audience given by His Holiness Pope Francis. We then continue to visit the remaining major Basilicas of Rome. We start by visiting to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the most important and the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady, which contains relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. Continue to the Basilica of St. John the Lateran, the Pope's Cathedral church where relics of both Peter and Paul remain under the main altar. See the Holy Staircase which is believed to be from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem and brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. Time permitting, climb the steps on your knees in memory of Christ's Passion.

**Overnight:** Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 4: Basilica of St. Peter, Sicily:** This morning we head to the magnificent Basilica of St. Peter, where we will celebrate Mass before we head to the airport for our short flights to Palermo. Upon arrival, if possible, we check in and the drive a short distance to Montepellegrino to visit the Shrine of St. Rosalia, the saint Patron of Sicily. Perched 445 meters (1460 feet) above the Tyrrhenian Sea and the city of Palermo in northwestern Italy, the cave sanctuary of Santa Rosalia Monte Pellegrino is one of Sicily's two primary Catholic shrines. Archaeological evidence indicates the cave had pre-Christian religious uses, including an ancient temple to the Anatolian (and later Greek) Earth goddess Cybele, the Carthaginian god Kronos, and Tanit, the Phoenician Punic goddess of fertility. Rosalia is also called La Santuzza, or the Little Saint, by the people of Palermo and each year her shrine is visited by thousands of pilgrims. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Palermo (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 5: Palermo – Monreale:** After breakfast, we visit Palermo with the local guide. Palermo holds a unique place amid cities of the world due to its rich cultural and historical heritage, and also its gastronomy. Due to the historical political conflicts in Sicily, the architecture in Palermo is a mix of Arab, Byzantine, Roman, Norman and modern. The centre of the city is a fascinating mix of grand palaces, churches and other fine buildings interspersed with narrow streets of crumbling yet beautiful ancient houses. Palermo's Cathedral holds the central position. Other important landmarks include Chiesa della Martorana, San Cataldo's Church, the baroque church of San Giuseppe dei Teatini the Capella Palatina inside the Palazzo dei Normanni, and San Giovanni degli Eremiti, which is a blend of Gothic and Arab architecture. Break for lunch. Then we drive towards Monreale, situated a few kilometers south of Palermo, in north-western Sicily. The town is in a pretty setting of orchards of olives and oranges. Monreale Cathedral is one of the most impressive cathedrals to be found in Sicily and is a very fine 12th century Norman monument founded by King William II. Celebrate Mass. Although it is mostly the Cathedral that will detain you, be sure to spend a little time exploring Monreale itself. It is a pleasant workaday Italian town with a selection of interesting artisan - gift type shops. Return to our hotel in Palermo - Some free time for shopping before dinner and overnight

**Overnight:** Palermo (B, D)

**Day 6: Syracuse / Catania:** Today enjoy a full day in Syracuse. In the morning, visit the catacombs of St John, the largest underground graveyard in Syracuse, used from the 3rd to 4th century A.D. We will celebrate Mass at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Tears, also known as the Weeping Madonna of Syracuse. For four days in 1953, in the home of a young couple, a plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart of Mary cried tears. It was declared miraculous in the 1960's. In the afternoon we will visit Ortigia. This was a center of Greek, Byzantine and Judaic civilization. Physical evidence of these three cultures can still be seen today, making Ortigia a fascinating place to visit for the historic patrimony we have inherited from classical mythology, early Christianity and medieval Judaism. Visit the Cathedral, Aretuza Fountain, and Archimedes Square. In the afternoon we return to Catania, to enjoy free time for shopping and an evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** Catania (B, D)

**Day 7: Rome:** This morning we transfer to the airport for our short flights to Athens. Enjoy a city tour of Athens. Check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Athens (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 8: Cruise: Mykonos:** Early this morning we depart Athens for Piraeus and at 11:00 a.m. sail into the Aegean Sea. Our first island is one of the islands belonging to the Cyclades group of islands. This mountainous island of Mykonos has about 400 churches. City of a picturesque white houses and island's trademark the charming windmills. Place has a unique architecture of Byzantine and Western characteristics. To visit are Church of the Virgin Paraportiani, on the main square Cathedral and an old Catholic Church and many boutiques and taverns along tiny paved streets. Return on board of the ship.

**Overnight:** Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 9: Cruise: Ephesus, Turkey: Patmos Greece:** This morning you will arrive at the Turkish port city of Kusadasi. From here you will travel to Ephesus, where the Blessed Virgin Mary lived with St. John in a small house on the hill behind the city. Here you will have Mass before traveling down to the ancient city where you can walk the marble roads rutted by wheels of countless chariots and pass the ruins of architectural masterpieces. It is here that St. Paul preached to the Ephesians, and where he was arrested and cast out of the

city. In the afternoon you will visit the island of Patmos, where St. John wrote the apocalyptic Book of Revelations. On our excursion we will visit the cave where he lived, now the site of a monastery housing priceless icons and manuscripts.

**Overnight:** Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 10: Cruise: Santorini: Crete:** Today on the last day of the cruise group will enjoy on their own visiting Heraklion on the island of Crete and visit to Fira town on the island of Santorini - optional excursion on Crete to Knossos Palace is offered for those interested on more activities on the last cruise day.

**Overnight:** Cruise Ship (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 11 Athens/the Holy Land:** Disembark our cruise ship and transfer to the airport for our flights to the Holy Land. After we arrive we immediately continue our pilgrimage by heading to Caesarea by the Sea to visit the Roman Crusader remains before we continue to Haifa. Upon arrival in Haifa, we will visit Stella Maris, a Carmelite Monastery with the Madonna of Mt Carmel. Next, we stop at the Baha'i Gardens, which includes a staircase of nineteen terraces extending all the way up the northern slope of Mount Carmel. We continue to Nazareth and the Basilica of Annunciation where we will celebrate Mass. We enjoy a visit to Joseph's carpentry shop before we continue Cana, where couples will have the opportunity to renew wedding vows. We continue to Tiberias where we check into our hotel before dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Tiberias (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 12 : The Ministry of Christ In the Galilee:** Some of today's highlights are a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum to see the synagogue and St Peter's house, a visit to the Mount of the Beatitudes where the Sermon on the Mount was given, to Tabgha to see the splendid mosaic about the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and to the nearby Church of Peter's Primacy where Peter was told ' Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.' There will be an unforgettable Mass near the shores of the Sea of Galilee at the Primacy or Mt Beatitudes. Next, we head the Magdala Center, the village of Mary Magdalene, where we visit the newly built church on site and the newly excavated ruins.

**Overnight:** Tiberias (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 13: Mount Tabor, Jericho, Dead Sea, Bethany:** This morning we head to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration where we celebrate Mass before we continue to Jordan River, Dead Sea, Jericho. At the oasis town of Jericho, visit the excavations of the oldest city in the world and view Mt. Temptation where Jesus fasted and was tempted by Satan. We are then led to the river Jordan where we remember Christ's Baptism. On the way back there is time for a swim (or rather a float!) in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea. We then have a visit to Bethany where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead before returning to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Bethlehem (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 14: Ein Karem, Church of the Visitation, Shepherd's Fields, Church of the Nativity**

On our first day in the Holy Land, we present an overview for a better understanding of its geography and some of the key sites surrounding the area and what makes it such a unique area to the three major religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We then head to the village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of St John the Baptist and to the Church of Visitation where the Blessed Virgin Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, and proclaimed the 'Magnificat'. In the afternoon we drive to the Shepherd's Fields where the angels announced the birth of Jesus. Then we visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem that stands upon the site where Jesus was born.

**Overnight:** Bethlehem (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 15: Jerusalem, The Passion of Jesus' Last Hours:** We begin our day with a visit to the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed, continue to the Chapel of Ascension where Jesus ascended into heaven. Next, we visit the church of Pater Noster where Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer. Next, we walk the Palm Sunday road, stopping at Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Then to Gethsemane, the Rock of Agony where Jesus prayed His last prayer before his arrest. Next, we head to Mount Zion, visiting the cave of Assumption (Dormition Abbey) of Mary to heaven. We visit the room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb, and the Church of St. Peter Gallicantu, where Peter denied Jesus three times. We end our day visiting the Palace of Caiaphas, home of the corrupt Jewish high priest. We enjoy dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**Overnight:** Bethlehem (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 16: Jerusalem, The Way of the Cross:** After breakfast we head to Jerusalem and start our visit with St Anne Church (the traditional birthplace of the Virgin Mary). Continue to view the Sisters of Zion, Ecco Homo where Pilate proclaimed "Behold the man." Next, we retrace the last steps of Jesus as we walk along the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow), through the markets of the Old City praying the Stations of the Cross at each station shrine, we reflect on the greatness of His sacrifice. Finally, we arrive at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Mass. We visit the Notre Dame Center in Vatican property, where we visit the Museum of the Shroud of the Man (three-dimension replica of the Shroud of Jesus). Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**Overnight:** Bethlehem (Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day 17: Return Home: Flights to USA:** Today we board our flights home to the United States taking with us memories that will last a lifetime.

Tour Number: OMA-1009/17D

Holy Land Travel Center: info@holylandtc.com

Tel. (402) 541-7072

CST-2117169



## PRICING

### BASE PRICE PER PERSON

\$4499.00\*

Double occupancy with base airfare

\*Discount cash/check price

### OPTIONS

- For a single room\*: add \$1100

\*Subject to availability

- Travel Insurance: add \$313

\*Available only for travelers with primary residence in USA or Canada

### BASE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from Omaha, NE (OMA)
- All activities
- 15 Nights accommodation
- Meals per Itinerary
- Tour guides /escorts
- Spiritual director

FIRST PAYMENT	\$500.00	DUE: NOW
SECOND PAYMENT	\$1249.00	DUE: MAY 12, 2023
THIRD PAYMENT	\$1000.00	DUE: JULY 11, 2023
FINAL PAYMENT	REMAINING	DUE: AUG 25, 2023

## Why Travel with Us?

Holy Land Travel Center is a family-run business that prides itself on providing pilgrims with an unmatched religious travel experience. Operated by the Qumsieh family, one of the oldest Christian families of the Bethlehem suburb of Beit Sahour; the Center has helped thousands of people deepen their faith and enrich their lives through pilgrimage.

Our trips feature superb food, accommodations, and Christian guides to ensure a comfortable and informative experience for all our guests. Whether you're an experienced traveler or someone looking to take that "once in a lifetime" trip, we are eager to show you why so many have trusted Holy Land Travel Center to deliver an unforgettable travel experience!

## Terms & Conditions

By making any payments (cash, credit card or otherwise) towards any tour constitutes your unconditional acceptance of all the terms and conditions stated in this brochure. Holy Land Travel Center shall be referred to as HLTC within this document.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens require a valid passport. Other nationalities please inquire with the appropriate embassies.

**REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:** Deposit of \$500 per person is required upon registration along with a signed copy of the registration form on or before. Registrations are processed in the order received by HLTC. A second payment of \$1249 is required on or before 150 days prior to departure. A third payment of \$1000 is due 90 days prior to departure. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. Late payments are subject to \$50 late fee. HLTC reserves the right to cancel reservations whose payments are 30 days late and to apply applicable cancellation/penalties indicated below. No registrations can be made over the telephone.

**INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATION FEES & REFUNDS:** Upon cancellation of participation of tour by you, the registrant, for any reason, and only after HLTC receives your signed cancellation, HLTC will then refund your payment for services not received by you, minus applicable cancellation fees per person, according to the following schedule:

In addition to any cancellation fees specific to your tour, the following fees apply.

1. Minimum cancellation fee is \$350 from time of registration up to 120 days prior to the tour's departure date.
2. From 119 to 60 days prior to departure day, the cancellation fee is \$350 + 20% of total price.
3. From 59 days to 8 days prior to departure day, cancellation fee is \$350 + 50% of total price.
4. From 7 days prior to departure day onward, no refund is possible.

**TRAVEL PROTECTION:** Travel insurance is recommended to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection. If you do not wish to purchase now, the plan can be purchased any time before submitting your final payment. If you chose to purchase outside of the time sensitive period outlined in the plan, you will not be eligible for time sensitive benefits. All plan premiums are non-refundable. To view/download the plan, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusion please visit our website: [www.holylandtc.com/travel-protection/](http://www.holylandtc.com/travel-protection/)

**MEDICAL CONDITION:** We endeavor to provide the highest level of service to all our passengers. Participants who require special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the participants' well-being. This pilgrimage demands a lot of walking and can be strenuous. HLTC is not responsible for any medical conditions that occur prior to, during, or after the tour.

**LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS:** By private deluxe motor coach.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Tour prices are per person, based on two persons sharing double or twin-bedded rooms with private bathroom with tub or shower. In the event that one does not sign up with a roommate and is not able to be paired with another traveler, there will be a single supplement charge to the account. Single rooms subject to availability and an additional cost of \$1100.

**MEALS:** Meals in accordance with the itinerary. All beverages are extra.

**TIPPING:** Unless it is specified in the tour brochure, the price of the tour does not include tips and gratuities. Tipping is recommended to the tour guide and motor coach driver approximately \$6 and \$4 per person, respectively, per day to each: Hotel tips are approximately \$2 per day per person. Tips may be pre-collected before the pilgrimage for your convenience.

**AIRLINE TICKETS AND ITINERARY LENGTH:** Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class aboard carriers utilizing non-refundable, non-amenable tickets. Preliminary international flight schedules are available 60 days prior to departure and may change before they are finalized. Therefore, if you book

the domestic flight on your own, you will be responsible for changing your domestic flights and incurring any change fees that would be generated by this adjustment. We are not responsible for changes and delays in airline schedules and do not reimburse passengers for expenses resulting from such occurrences. Travelers making their own flight arrangements should not purchase non-refundable, non-changeable tickets. We cannot guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. If flight schedules change, we reserve the right to lengthen or shorten the itinerary accordingly, and if changes or flight schedules necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged at normal hotel rates. Land Only packages do not include airport-hotel transfers.

**SEAT ASSIGNMENT:** THERE IS NO ADVANCE SEAT SELECTION FOR TOUR DEPARTURES. HLTC cannot guarantee specific seats, which are at the discretion of the airline and are pending availability. When HLTC disperses travel packages, you will receive your record locator. You can use this locator to do online seating arrangements, if permitted by the airline.

**BAGGAGE:** Transatlantic and transpacific flights to and from the USA allow the passenger to bring one (1) checked bag, which may have a maximum weight of 50 lbs., and maximum combined dimensions of 62 inches. Also, one (1) "carry-on" with maximum dimensions of 8"x12"x20" is permitted. Luggage on domestic flights will cost extra. Luggage is the passenger's responsibility and that of the airlines. For lost luggage, the passenger is responsible for notifying the airline directly. Check with your carrier regarding carry-on luggage rules and regulations.

**PRICES:** All prices are based on exchange rates and fares applicable at time of quotation and based on minimum number of paying passengers stated in the brochure and are therefore subject to change if fares change (including fuel surcharges increase), if group does not reach minimum or if exchange rates fluctuate. Minimum number of paying passengers is 30.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passport and Visas, meals not mentioned, beverages with meals, extra beyond standard menu, excess baggage, luggage on domestic flights, telephone calls, fuel surcharges increase.

**LIABILITY DISCLAIMER:** HLTC hereby expressly disclaims any liability for any personal injury, property damage, Loss of baggage, accident, delay or irregularity, any claim for special or consequential damages or any other loss which may be occasioned by the acts and/or omissions, whether negligent, intentional, wrongful or otherwise, of any air carrier, hotel/motel or other lodging operator, railroad operator, bus operator, public transportation, sea carrier, local sightseeing company, tour operator, tour leader or spiritual director, any employees thereof, or any other entity or individual not under the direct supervision and control of HLTC when engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith. HLTC likewise expressly disclaims any responsibility for losses or expenses incurred, or inconvenience caused, due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, over booking of hotels or airlines, sickness, weather, strikes, quarantines, pandemics, epidemics, acts of terrorism, constructions, war, force majeure or other such events which are beyond HLTC's control. HLTC likewise hereby expressly disclaims any liability for statements, actions or inactions of any intermediary agents such as group administrators, spiritual directors or tour leaders, travel agents or any other intermediary involved with the selling, promotion or operation of its tours. Group administrators, spiritual leaders and tour leaders likewise hereby expressly disclaim any liability for the acts and/or omissions of any of the above entities and/or individuals not directly under their supervision or control. Please be advised that the liability of carriers as well as providers of hotel and lodging accommodations is limited by law and you may thus wish to consider purchasing additional insurance to protect yourself against any losses or injuries suffered as a result of their acts and/or omissions. In all instances, HLTC's liability shall be limited to the amounts paid by you for participation in the tour, and subject to the provisions and cancellation fees as set forth in the 'Brochure Terms and Conditions'. In the event that the tour leader and/or spiritual director named in a brochure or itinerary does not travel with the group, and a substitute is not named to replace such person(s), then HLTC reserves the right to make substitutions of its choosing for such person(s) in the operation of the tour. **Tour Cancellation by Operator:** On rare occasion, a tour departure may be cancelled due to lack of participation. In the event that HLTC would decide to cancel a departure, a full refund will be issued (not including travel insurance). HLTC is not responsible and does not assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the cancellation of air tickets or other arrangements not made through HLTC. Cancellations due to state advisories and/or state warnings, Pandemic, Epidemic, Acts of War, War, Terrorism, Acts of God, Natural Disaster, Force Majeure or any other circumstance outside the control of HLTC, are not the fault of HLTC. Great effort will be made to accommodate passengers on another trip, postponed date or to revise itinerary, however, cancellation for any of these reasons will not be eligible for refund.

*Note: While no changes are anticipated, there may be unforeseen occasions when certain alterations become necessary, either due to changes to the airline schedule, government regulations, travel restrictions, or any other reason. Holy Land Travel Center reserves the right to change the itinerary or name alternate dates due to such unforeseen circumstances or emergencies*