

**The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
May 11, 2022**

BULLETIN NO 2, SERIES 2022-2023

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders,
Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of Texas.

Greetings:

Your Grand Officers are busy making plans for this year and several years to come. Our Grand Generalissimo, Sir Knight Justin Bauer is already making detailed plans. Should tradition prevail, and he will be elected your Grand Commander in 2024. One of his exciting ideas is outlined below. He asked if he could begin advanced planning and publication of this idea and I am very happy to do so. Please look at this bulletin, publish it to your members and then reserve your spot on this once in a lifetime event. This event, in no way is intended to conflict with the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage, only to sponsor one for all Texas Sir Knights. I hope you will consider it.

In His and your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Jernigan', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Richard R. Jernigan
Grand Commander

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas is sponsoring a Holy Land Pilgrimage in **2024** for Sir Knights, Ladies, and Guests. Come celebrate the Eastern Orthodox Easter Service with us at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre!

In the past, some of our Commanderies have sponsored a clergy member on a Holy Land Pilgrimage through the Grand Encampment program. The Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage is for our members; however we have the ability to send one clergy member per 20 paying participants. The nomination and selection process is being developed by the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee and will be communicated when available.

Included: All airfare, lodging, meals, tour guides, entrance fees, in-country transportation

Lodging: The cost is based on double-occupancy. Individual rooms may be available depending on location.

Cost: Estimated at \$4000. Land Fees will be finalized July 2022. Airfare will be finalized June 2023. Each attendee is responsible for paying their deposit and full balance directly to our travel agency.

Sign up: Space is limited. Group minimum is 20. Maximum is 60. To hold your place, contact Edward Peebles, Chair of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee (contact information below)

Dates:	1/31/2023	\$300 Deposit per member paid to our travel agency
	12/31/2023	Final payment to travel agency
	4/30/2024-5/9/2024	Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage

Draft Itinerary

The draft itinerary will be confirmed by July 2022.

DAY 1 - Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Depart Dallas Texas / Houston Texas for Tel Aviv Israel via Toronto aboard Air Canada

DAY 2 - Wednesday, May 01, 2024

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport approximately 10:00 a.m. After passport control and everyone picks up their luggage, proceed with your tour leaders to the arrival hall to meet your guide and driver. We will make our way to the Old Town Jaffa, walk through the narrow passages of Old Jaffa, believed to be the oldest port city in the world and where cedars from Lebanon arrived to build Solomon's Temple, see St. Peter's Church, and take a spectacular view of Tel Aviv Shoreline from Jaffa Hilltop. Peter came to Jaffa (Joppa) from Lydda to raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead. While in Jaffa, the apostle stayed at the house of Simon the Tanner. St. Peter's Church marks the traditional site of Peter's vision of the Great Sheet. Depart Tel Aviv and make your way up to Jerusalem stopping in Abu Gosh for lunch and then a visit to the Saxum Visitor Center. The center will give you a background in the historical sites and brings you from the time of Jesus to today. It is a great way to begin our journey through the land. Arrive to Jerusalem stopping atop Mt Scopus for your first view of the "Golden City". Check into your hotel.

Dinner and overnight

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 - Thursday, May 02, 2024

Start the day with a magnificent view of the Old City from the top of the Mt. of Olives. Take the “Palm Sunday Walk” to the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of All Nations and drive across the Kidron Valley. Enter the Old City through St. Stephen’s Gate (Lions’ Gate) to the Muslim Quarter, visit the beautiful Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda, Pilate’s Judgment Hall, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Walk along the Via Dolorosa, into the Christian Quarter, and see the Stations of the Cross. Drive to Mt. Zion to see the House of Caiaphas and the Upper Room of the Last Supper. Return to Jerusalem and our hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 - Friday, May 03, 2024

After breakfast Israel Museum, Model of Jerusalem (at 2nd Temple time), Shrine of the Book, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. We will visit Bethlehem and see Manger Square, the Church of the Nativity, and view Shepherds’ Fields and the Fields of Boaz and Ruth. End the day at Golgoth (Gordon's Calvary) and the empty Garden Tomb. Special time is planned for worship, communion, meditation and inspiration Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Garden Tomb

DAY 5 - Saturday, May 04, 2024

Breakfast at our hotel. Drive to the lowest point on Earth, the Dead Sea. Pass Ein Gedi, where David hid from King Saul, Massada - Lunch - Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls & Essenes) Dead Sea Swim/Float. Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 - Sunday, May 05, 2024

Easter Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at 10:30am

We will begin the day with a visit to the reconstructed Jewish Quarter, walk through the Cardo, the original Roman street and see the amazing remains of the massive wall built by King Hezekiah. See the important excavations taking place at the Western Wall and the Southern Temple Staircase. Conditions permitting, we will visit the Temple Mount, with commentary on the Temple Periods, and the variety of belief systems past and present that make this area so valuable. Next the fascinating Rabbinical Tunnels leading us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give a clear understanding of the amazing construction of the Temple Mount, giant stones, water supply and Roman street where our Lord was led to judgment. Before exiting the tunnel we see the immense cornerstone rejected by the builders. Walking through the Muslim Market we will exit the city via the Jaffa Gate. Return to the hotel for dinner and packing as tomorrow morning we are heading north to the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight: Jerusalem, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 - Monday, May 06, 2024 Monday, May 06 2024

After breakfast we will take our leave of Jerusalem driving north along the Jordan Valley. Stop at Gideon’s Spring where Gideon selected his soldiers to do battle against the Midianites to the excavations. Next we will visit Beit She'an/Scythopolis, the most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. Continue through the rolling hills of the Galilee to Nazareth, site of Mary’s Well, and Cana, site of His first miracle, before arriving to the Sea of Galilee. Check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Sea of Galilee, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 - Tuesday, May 07, 2024

After breakfast, visit the Igal Alon Museum to see an ancient boat at Nof Ginosar. Take a boat ride across the Galilee. Visit Mount of the Beatitudes, Chorazin, Capernaum (Peter's house & synagogue). Stop for lunch at a lakeside restaurant (St. Peter's Fish). Continue to the new excavations at Migdal (Magdala) and close out the day at the Yardenit (Jordan River, baptismal renewal). Return to Nof Ginosar for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Sea of Galilee, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 - Wednesday, May 08, 2024

Breakfast at our hotel. Today we will be making our way to the Mediterranean Sea. Drive to Megiddo, inspiration for James Michener's "The Source". Archaeological digs reveal 20 layers of civilization, including fortifications of King Solomon and the water tunnel of King Ahab. Megiddo provides a magnificent view of the fertile Jezreel Valley, prophesied site of Armageddon, at the crossroads of the ancient Via Maris. Next, we will visit Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of before stopping for Lunch-Daliyat HaCarmel- Druze Village. Drive south to Caesarea Maritima - where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We'll see the Roman Amphitheatre, hippodrome, a film on history and remains of this famous port city, and aqueduct, and then make our way to our final destination of our tour. Tel Aviv. Check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Tel Aviv, Israel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 - Thursday, May 09, 2024

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Any questions should be directed to Justin C. Bauer, Grand Generalissimo, and Edward Peebles, Chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee.

Contact

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