August 2019

CTU Bible Land Tours
Israel & Jordan
June 14-27, 2020

Dear Friends,

You are invited to join a special study tour of the **Holy Land, June 14 to June 27, 2020**, sponsored by Catholic Theological Union. This will be a specially designed visit to Israel and Jordan where you will discover some of the most fascinating scenery and historical sites in the world, ones with profound meaning for our Christian heritage.

I have been visiting and teaching in Israel for more than 25 years and never tire of it--especially when I have the opportunity to go with a wonderful group of people. For several years I taught in CTU’s overseas study program in Israel as a member of our biblical faculty. As President of CTU I had the privilege the past few years of leading special tours for members of our Board of Trustees and for friends such as you and am happy to continue this labor of love as President Emeritus. I will be joined on the trip by my colleague, Colleen Kennedy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at CTU and a veteran traveler to the Middle East. We will do everything we can to make your trip enjoyable and memorable.

Some, I realize, may have concerns about how safe it is to travel in this region. I want to assure you that travel conditions will be safe and enjoyable. Last year more tourists and pilgrims visited Israel than at any time since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948! Our itinerary does not take us to places, such as in Gaza or some parts of the West Bank, where tension exists. Every year we have had the privilege of leading groups to Israel and Jordan without encountering any problems at all. In a particular way, the Christians of this region are eager to have fellow Christians come to visit them. One of the highlights of our trip is always a visit with members of the Christian community in Bethlehem.

This year we have a wonderful tour in mind. We will begin our journey in Israel, visiting all of the major biblical sites including the flowered hills of Galilee, the majestic vistas of the desert, and the haunting beauty of Jerusalem. You will visit fascinating places most commercial tours never dream of. Our trip will also include a few days in Jordan, a land of extraordinary beauty and warm hospitality--exploring important sites such as Mount Nebo, Madabah and, of course, Petra, one of the true wonders of the world. Our travel will be safe and peaceful in all the areas we visit. Our tour will be professional in every detail, and we will stay in first class accommodations. Particularly in Israel I will have the privilege of introducing you to the biblical sites and the other remarkable traces of history that are there, offering
background on the biblical and archaeological significance of each place. In Jordan we are obliged to have a state licensed guide, but I will have some input there, too.

This year’s cost for the entire trip will be $5,500 per person exclusive of airfare—a true bargain, especially given the rise in prices everywhere (single rooms require a supplement of $1,670 per person). This includes all ground transportation in spacious new air-conditioned coaches, accommodations in five-star hotels (double occupancy; there is an additional cost for a single room), half-board (full breakfast and dinner), all entrance fees, gratuities, and other miscellaneous costs. Not included are trans-Atlantic airfare, lunches (there are plenty of clean and attractive snack bars and restaurants along our way).

Reserving a Place...
If you are interested in joining us for an unforgettable visit to the lands of the Bible, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have family or friends who might like to join us, please share this information with them. [We are also sending this letter to those who have gone previously in case they want to let family members or friends know about the trip.]

Please go online to ctu.edu/travel or fill out the attached information sheet and return it by **October 31, 2019**, along with a refundable deposit of $500 dollars (deductible from the overall cost), either by check made out to “Catholic Theological Union” or by credit card (see the attached form). The purpose of the deposit is to reserve your place on the program. Later we will be in touch with you to give you further information about the itinerary, including suggestions for booking transatlantic flights and detailed information on how to prepare for the trip (including a reading list for those who are interested).

Prior to our departure, we will also offer an orientation session for those in the Chicago area. Details will be forthcoming. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to call me (Phone: 773-371-5421; FAX 773-667-6452; email: donald@ctu.edu) or Colleen (Phone: 773-371-5417; email: c kennedy@ctu.edu).

I hope you will consider joining us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Donald Senior, C.P.  Colleen Kennedy
Chancellor & President Emeritus  Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Enc. Itinerary  
Response form