



November 2022

Holy Land 2023

Dear Friends,

You are invited to join a special study tour of the Holy land from May 29 to June 9, 2023, sponsored by Catholic Theological Union. This uniquely designed visit to Israel and Jordan will allow you to discover some of the most fascinating scenery and historical sites in the world that carry profound meaning for our Christian heritage.

Traditionally, tours like these have been led by our late President Emeritus and Chancellor, Fr. Donald Senior, CP. As we continue these yearly trips, we look forward to honoring him and the world of the Word he loved so much by introducing a new generation of CTU friends and supporters to the legacy he leaves. This year, I will be joined on the trip by my colleague, Colleen Kennedy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at CTU, a veteran traveler to the Middle East as the longtime travel partner of Fr. Don, and a superb administrator of our travel arrangements. We will do everything we can to make your trip enjoyable and memorable.

We realize some may have concerns about the safety of traveling in this region due to the perennial unrest in some areas. We want to assure you that travel conditions will be safe and enjoyable. Our itinerary does not take us to places, such as 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. 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.

Israel and Jordan have both been vigilant about the threat of Covid-19. Currently, both countries require proof of vaccination; we will be alert to any changes in such regulations as the time of our trip draws nearer. For the common good, CTU *does* require that all participants in this program be fully vaccinated (including a current booster).

This year, we have a wonderful tour in mind. We will begin our journey in Israel, visiting all 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, Madaba, and of course, Petra, one of the true wonders of the world.

Particularly in Israel, I will have the privilege of introducing you to the biblical sites and 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 guide, but you will hear plenty of my scholarly input there, too! 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.

The cost for the entire trip will be similar to this past year, with some increase due to the impact of inflation worldwide. The cost for the entire 2023 program will be \$6,250 per person. This includes all ground transportation in spacious new air-conditioned coaches, accommodations in five-star hotels (double occupancy; there is an additional fee of \$2,100 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), or of course any private expenses you incur on your own.

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. In the past, the trip tends to fill up rather quickly. 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.] We have included an application form for you to indicate your level of interest. Returning the form does not oblige you to anything at this time but gives us some idea of your level of interest. After returning the interest form, we will reserve a place on the program for you until you decide otherwise.

We will be in touch with you later to confirm your reservation and 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 on the orientation will be forthcoming. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Colleen Kennedy at 773-371-5417 or ckennedy@ctu.edu.

We hope you will consider joining us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Sr. Barbara Reid, OP
President



Colleen Kennedy
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Enc. Itinerary
Response form