

February 2024

Holy Land 2025

Dear Friends,

You are invited to join a special tour of the Holy land from **February 2 to February 14**, **2025**, 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.

Historically, tours like these were led by our late President Emeritus and Chancellor, Fr. Donald Senior, CP. We are committed to continue these yearly trips and honor him and the world of the Word he loved so much by introducing a new generation of CTU friends and supporters. I will be joined on the trip by my colleague, Rachel Kuhn, Director of Development at CTU, a veteran traveler to the Middle East and a superb administrator of our travel arrangements. We will do everything we can to make your trip enjoyable and memorable.

We will continue to monitor the safety of travel in this region following the US State Department <u>travel advisories</u>.

We have a wonderful tour in mind for next February. 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 our 2023 trip, with some increase due to the impact of inflation worldwide. We anticipate the cost for the entire 2025 program will be approximately **\$6,500 per person** but will confirm this in mid-2024. This includes all ground transportation in spacious new air-conditioned coaches, accommodations in five-star hotels (double occupancy; there is an additional fee of \$2,200 (estimated) 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.

A brief note on physical limitations: We move as a group and keep a steady walking pace. Travelers need to be able to climb hills, walk four miles over the course of a day, and walk for one mile at a stretch without stopping. If you require accommodations, there will be additional fees for taxis and golf carts, when available.

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, and by **September 1** at the latest. If you have family or friends who might like to join us, please share this information with them. We have included a registration form for you to complete. An online form can be completed at **ctu.edu/events.**

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 suggested reading list.

Prior to our departure, we will also offer an orientation session. Details on the orientation will be forthcoming. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Kuhn at 773-371-5415 or rkuhn@ctu.edu.

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

Sincerely yours,

Sr. Barbara Reid, OP

Barbara E. Reid, O.P.

President

Rachel Kuhn

Director of Development

RAChel Kehr

Enc. Itinerary