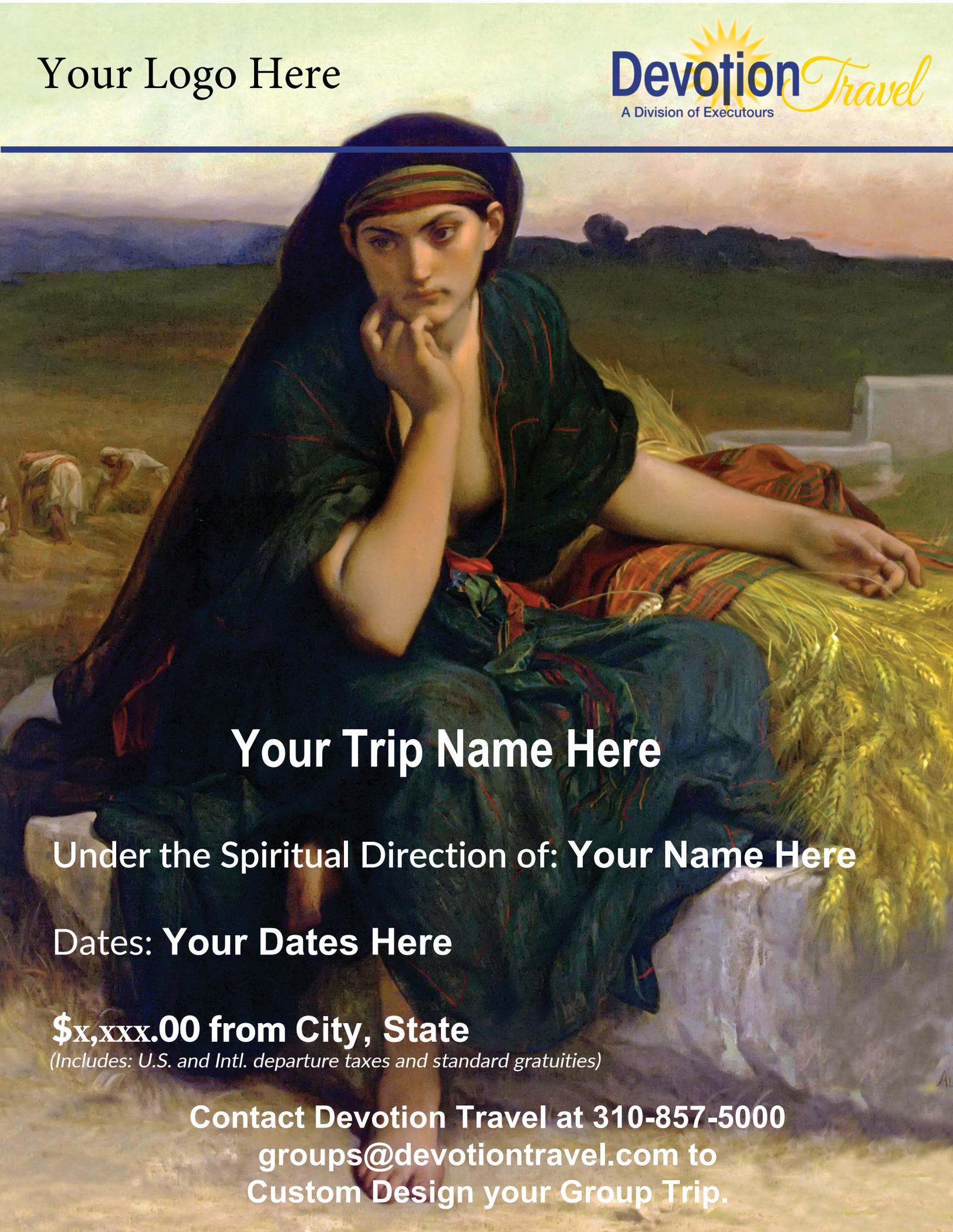


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Dear Pilgrim Traveler:

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## Day 1: Depart

We begin our pilgrimage at the International Airport, as we board our flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

## Day 2: Arrive in Tel Aviv/ Caesarea/ Mt. Carmel/ Galilee

We arrive in the afternoon at Ben Gurion Tel Aviv Airport. Time permitting, we drive along the via Maris - the Mediterranean coastline north to **Caesarea Maritima** to explore this Roman bridgehead to the East, which became the Christian springboard to the West. This deep-water port was built by Herod the Great. Caesarea was the home of the Roman garrison and Pontius Pilate. We will see the port itself, the remains of the hippodrome, Pilate's palace and the fully restored theater where Herod Agrippa (who executed James, the apostle John's brother). We travel up **Mt. Carmel** to visit the location of Elijah's grotto. The place is marked by a shrine and a monastery. We celebrate Mass at the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** (Stella Maris). In the afternoon, we drive from the Mediterranean to the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Sitting 690 feet below sea level and flanked by mountains, the **Sea of Galilee** area becomes our home for the next five nights. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (D)

## Day 3: Galilee: Mount of Beatitudes-Tabgha-Capernaum-Galilee

This morning, we visit **Mt. of Beatitudes**, where we have time for prayer and reflect on Jesus' teachings. We then descend to **Tabgha** at the northwestern shore of the lake, an area intense with Christian memories. Here, we visit the **Church of the Multiplication**, commemorating the first feeding of the multitude, and **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter**, where we celebrate Mass in the garden. We travel to **Capernaum** and, with the help of the ruins, remember the miracles Jesus worked here. This afternoon, we stop for lunch (on our own) before returning to our hotel. At sunset, we **set sail on the Sea of Galilee** in a replica first century fishing boat. We remember the story of Jesus walking on the water and of his calming the storm, just two of many miracle stories associated with Galilee. We conclude our day with a visit to the **Jesus Boat Museum** where we will see a 2,000-year-old fishing boat, which once sailed on the Sea of Galilee. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

**Day 4: Galilee: Sepphoris-Nazareth-Cana** After breakfast, we drive to **Sepphoris**, which was once an important city in the Temple and post-Temple period, to see the famous mosaic of the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee." Also, here is a Byzantine Era Synagogue with a mosaic of the Zodiac signs. We continue to **Nazareth**, a historic city of Lower Galilee and Jesus' boyhood home. Mary, Joseph and Jesus lived in Nazareth for over twenty years. Our first visit is at the **Church of Mary's Well**, with

a short teaching in the church's courtyard about women "going to the well in the evening," and walk over to the **Church of the**

**Annunciation**. Here, we celebrate Mass. Our next visit is to **Cana of Galilee** where Jesus performed his first miracle. Here, we have the

opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows. On our return to Galilee, we will have the opportunity to walk to the edge of the **Arbel Cliff**, overlooking the northern part of the Sea of Galilee, including the main sites of Jesus' mission, before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



## Day 5: Galilee: Tel Dan-Caesarea Philippi- Bethsaida-Yardenit

This morning, we begin our day with Mass at our hotel. Today, we head north to the Upper Galilee to reach **Dan Nature Reserve**. We stroll along the Dan River, one of the headwaters of the Jordan River, reaching the site of ancient Dan with the remains of its altar for the golden calf, built by King Jeroboam in the tenth century B.C., when the kingdoms of Israel and Judah split. We drive to **Caesarea Philippi** (Baniyas), a source of the Jordan at the foot of Mt. Hermon and where Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Our next stop is **Bethsaida**, visiting the biblical site (the third most mentioned in the Gospels) where Jesus healed the blind man (Mark 8:22). We end our day at the **Jordan River** and will have the opportunity to step into that special river. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B, D)

## Day 6: Galilee: Magdala Project

Today, we spend a leisurely day visiting **Magdala**. This is a 1st century authentic Galilean village and the home town of **Mary Magdalene**. We tour the **ancient synagogue** that Jesus most certainly would have visited as well as **Duc In Altum** (Luke 5:4 "put out into the water"), the new Conference Center dedicated to the Women of the Bible. We celebrate Mass in the **Boat Chapel**, overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B, D)

## Day 7: Galilee/ Mt. Tabor/ Bethlehem/ Ein Karem/ Jerusalem

This morning, we depart Galilee and drive to **Mount Tabor** located in Lower Galilee, at the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley. We take taxis

to the top of the mountain where the elevation provides an utterly commanding view of all of Galilee. It was here that Jesus revealed the wonderful power of presence in communion with saints of the past (Moses and Elijah). We visit the site of the **Transfiguration** and celebrate Mass. This afternoon, we drive to **Bethlehem**, David's birthplace, Jesus' birthplace and the home of Ruth and Boaz. We drive to a hilltop for a view of Bethlehem. We visit **Solomon's Pools**, Jerusalem's main source of water for almost 2,000 years. Passing the Monastery of Hortus Conclusus ("the sealed garden") in Artas. Next, is the "**Church of Mary's Seat**" (the Kathisma), where tradition says Mary rested on her way to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus. A remarkable site that brings together the **women of the Old and New Testaments**. We enter Bethlehem to visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the traditional location where Jesus was born. Next, we walk to the **Church of St. Catherine** to visit **Jerome's Grotto**. We head to **Shepherds' Field**, where the shepherds "watching their flocks by night" are told of Jesus' birth. We experience the contrast between shepherds and kings by visiting the archaeological site of **King Herod's Summer palace**. We drive to the picturesque village of **Ein Karem** to visit the **Church of the Visitation**, named after Mary's visit to the summer house of the parents of John the Baptist, and **St. John's Church**. We continue to **Jerusalem** with a stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to behold majestic Jerusalem, where we will spend the next five nights. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (B, D)

#### Day 8: Jerusalem: Bethany-Kidron Valley-Mt. Zion-Old City-Yad Vashem-Israel Museum/ 911 Living Memorial

This morning, we travel to the small village of **Bethany**. Home of Martha, Mary (John 12: 1-8) and Lazarus (John 11: 1-44) and a place of refuge for Jesus. We celebrate Mass at the **Franciscan Church of St. Lazarus**. We drive through the **Kidron Valley** and head towards **Mt. Zion**, where we will pass the Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah. Our first visit is the  **Cenacle**. The site is located on Mount Zion, outside the Old City walls. The traditional location of the "**Upper Room**" is a room in the David's Tomb Compound and where the Last Supper, in the Gospel accounts, Jesus shared with his Apostles in Jerusalem before His crucifixion. Our next visit is the **Dormition Abbey**; built to honor the Assumption of Our Lady. We continue to **Yad Vashem**, the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust. Our next visit is to the **Israel Museum**, to view the Model of Jerusalem in **Second Temple period** and **Dead Sea Scrolls**. We conclude our day with a visit to the **911 Living Memorial**. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem. (B, D)

#### Day 9: Jerusalem: Mount of Olives-Bethphage-Garden of Gethsemane

After breakfast, we drive to the **Mount of Olives** and ascend the Augusta Victoria Tower for a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem, Judean Desert, Moab Mountains and the Dead Sea. At the **Mount of Olives**, we visit **Bethphage** and its Franciscan Chapel with rare medieval frescoes depicting Jesus entering Jerusalem and the resurrection of Lazarus. Next, we visit the **Chapel of the Ascension**, the **Shrine of Pater Noster**, and the **Chapel of Dominus Flevit**, where we look directly across to the **Temple Mount** with a breathtaking view of the **Dome of the Rock**, Islam's third holiest site. Then, follow Jesus' "**Palm Sunday route**" along Hosanna Road to the **Garden of Gethsemane** for teaching and private time in prayer. In the garden, learn about the story of Jesus' mother Mary, exploring what it must have been like for her during Holy Week, seeing her son moving inextricably toward the cross. We walk down to the **Church of All Nations** and view the **Rock of Agony**. Here, we celebrate Mass. Our next visit is the **Church of St. Peter-in-Gallicantu**, which is built in the slopes of Mount Zion. According to tradition, this was the place of the palace of high priest Caiaphas, where Jesus was brought to jail after his arrest. This afternoon, we stop to have a late lunch (on our own) at the **Ramat Rachael**.

These are the tallest olive trees in the world! Before returning to our hotel, we take a short walk for a panoramic view of the Judean Wilderness, Bethlehem and Mount Herodian. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (B, D)

#### Day 10: Jerusalem: Old City-Western Wall Tunnels

Early this morning, we drive to the **Old City** and enter through **St. Stephen's Gate** to walk the **Via Dolorosa** and pray along the **Stations of the Cross**, retracing Jesus' last steps before His crucifixion to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We visit the **Crusader Church of St. Anne** and explore the **Pool of Bethesda**. We stop at the **Convent of the Sisters of Zion** to see the **Lithostrotos** in the **Chapel of the Flagellation**, where Jesus was tried and condemned by Pilate. At the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, we visit the **Chapel of St. Helena, Tomb of Christ (Holy Edicule)** and **Chapel of the Apparition**, where an altar dedicated to **St. Mary Magdalene** is located. After Mass, we return to our hotel for breakfast and a day at leisure. After dinner, we take a night tour of the **Western Wall** (or the "Wailing Wall"), the holiest site in Judaism. We walk through the "**Western Wall Tunnels**" (subject to time confirmation), treading on the very paving stone where Jesus and the Apostles walked. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem. (B, D)

#### Day 11: Jerusalem: Wilderness of Judea-Ein Gedi- Masada-Qumran-Dead Sea

We depart early this morning and travel to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth. Our first visit of the day is at **Ein Gedi**, a lush oasis, which served as David's hideout when he was on the run from King Saul. Here, we will have time for prayer and reflection. We continue to **Masada**, where we will take a cable car ride to the ruins of Herod's palace-fortress. We visit the ruins of the fortifications, reservoirs for water, Herodian palaces, synagogue, and Roman temples and baths. After lunch (on our own), we stop at **Qumran**, where the hidden library of the Essenes, the Dead Sea Scrolls (currently displayed at the Israel Museum), were found in 1947. We stop for an optional float in the Dead Sea before returning to Jerusalem. This evening we experience an authentic **Shabbat Dinner**. Return to our hotel. (B, D)



#### Day 12: Jerusalem/ Tel Aviv

Today is at leisure. You might consider shopping in the Old City or spending time exploring the Jerusalem Archaeological Park. This evening, our group will attend Mass at the **Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center** in **Our Lady of Peace Chapel**. Tonight, we celebrate a special **Farewell Dinner** at a local restaurant. This will be time to share our many joys and memories. After dinner, we make our way to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, for our flight back to the United States. (B, D)

#### Day 13: Arrive United States

On our flight home, we spend time reflecting on our unforgettable journey and pilgrimage of faith.

#### Note:

- *Masses are subject to confirmation.*
- *While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your trip leader and tour guide.*