

arriving at our hotel (Helnan Shepherd's, Cairo) in time for a late dinner.

Wednesday, Feb 18, 2009:

Cairo: An overview - visit the pyramids, sphinx, ancient temples. Lunch on a restaurant on the Nile, afternoon tour of Coptic, Jewish, and Islamic Cairo, visit to the Khan el-Khalili, the biggest market in Africa

Thursday, Feb 19, 2009:

The monastic tradition: Drive north from Cairo to the Wadi Natrun Oasis, visit the Coptic monasteries there.

Friday, Feb 20, 2009:

Cairo: 10 am Eucharist at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo. Then, lunch at Felfela restaurant, The Egyptian Museum, and the citadel. Celebratory farewell dinner together.

Saturday, Feb 21, 2009:

Depart from Cairo for North America. Return home.

Early departure from Jerusalem to the Sinai desert via the Negev, with stops in the wilderness. Arrive in Egypt (Taba/Eilat border crossing) in time for a packed lunch. Drive into the desert for wilderness stops. Overnight either in the Sinai Wilderness (sleeping bags provided) or in a hotel on the Red Sea shore. (Pilgrims will be asked to choose which option when they register, largely because some of our travellers may be uncomfortable with the wilderness experience).

Sunday, Feb 15, 2009:

The 'Wilderness of Sin' - the desert of the Exodus, ancient monuments, and the Silence of the desert. Eucharist in the wilderness. Including stops at the Feiran Oasis Convent, and on to Overnight at Saint Katherine's Monastery/ Mount Sinai. Evening "Camel Orientation" lecture and briefing for the morning.

Monday, Feb 16, 2009:

Pre-dawn climb up Mount Sinai via camel or on foot. Sunrise Eucharist up Mount Sinai, option for pilgrims to climb to the summit. Tour of the Monastery, including museum and the Church. Afternoon return to the Desert, drive through the Sinai to the Gulf of Suez, cross into the Eastern Desert, and on to Zafraana, in the African part of Egypt proper.

Tuesday, Feb 17, 2009:

Visit the Monasteries of Saint Anthony and Saint Paul, the oldest active Christian monasteries in the world and an ancient center for the Desert Fathers. Depart mid-afternoon for Cairo,

The Galilee region: Early departure for the north, via the Jordan River Valley. Stop at Bet Shean and Bet Alpha, Mount Tabor, and on to Tiberias for the night.

Tuesday, Feb 10, 2009:

The Sea of Galilee – renew our Baptismal Vows in the Jordan River at Yardenit, tour the churches of the North Shore, take a boat cruise across the Sea (packed lunch), visit the ancient boat museum, and have a Eucharist at the Church of Peter's Primacy. On the way around the Sea, visit Kursi. Also possibly visit Gamla (the "Masada of the North" according to Josephus) in the Golan Heights.

Wednesday, Feb 11, 2009:

Drive to Nazareth, tour Nazareth (the Basilica of the Annunciation, the Church of Saint Gabriel, and the ruins of the Sisters of Nazareth. Overnight with the Sisters of Nazareth.

Thursday, Feb 12, 2009:

Return to Jerusalem via the Mediterranean coast. Visit Caesarea Maritima in the morning, and arrive in Jerusalem mid-afternoon. Visit St Mark's Syriac Church "the Upper Room".

Friday, Feb 13, 2009:

Free day in Jerusalem.

Saturday, Feb 14, 2009:

begin our explorations of the Jerusalem of Jesus, with a visit to the Church of the Resurrection.

Friday, Feb 6, 2009:

The Jerusalem of Jesus. In the morning, we put the city in its context with a visit to the Israel Museum to view the model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Shrine of the Book. In the afternoon, we tour the Mount of Olives and Mount Zion.

Saturday, Feb 7, 2009:

The Wilderness of Jesus: the Judean Wilderness, the Dead Sea, Masada and Qumran.

Sunday, Feb 8, 2009:

A light day with many possibilities for free time. In the morning, there is the option for worship with the Christian community, either at St George's Anglican Cathedral, at Christ Church Anglican in the Old City, or at any of the other local churches. After lunch, we will be meeting to tour the Church of the Resurrection, on the site of the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Monday, Feb 9, 2009:

Following Christ and the first Christians: A pilgrimage through the Holy Land and Egypt in the footsteps of our Lord and the Desert Fathers

Monday, February 2, 2009:

Depart for Israel

Tuesday, Feb 3, 2009:

Arrive in Tel Aviv. Bus to Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight at the Knights' Palace Guesthouse within the Old City walls.

Wednesday, Feb 4, 2009:

Jerusalem at the time of Jesus: An overview of the city, its history and geography. Bus tour (Mount Scopus lookouts, Seven Arches lookout), St Peters' Gallicantu. Afternoon exploration of the "four quarters" of the ancient city.

Thursday, Feb 5, 2009:

The background of Jerusalem - the City of David, Hezekiah's tunnel, and Herod's monuments (includes the temple steps excavations). Also, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. In the afternoon, we explore the birth of the Messiah with a journey to Bethlehem to visit the Basilica of the Nativity and the Shepherds' Fields