

# The Scottish Episcopal Church Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

With the Rev Cedric Blakey and  
the Most Rev Mark Strange

10-21 April 2021





## THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

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Having visited Jerusalem and Bethlehem with my wife in 2019 and still being enriched by the experience, I am delighted to commend this programme as part of our Year of Pilgrimage 2021. You will get a taste of the Negev Desert, enjoy the beautiful Sea of Galilee and then explore the wonder of Jerusalem. There will be visits to the Dead Sea, Jericho, Nazareth, the River Jordan, Capernaum and Bethlehem. There are three aims:

\* to bring the Bible to life - by encouraging you to see, hear,

taste, touch and smell things which are already half familiar and yet also a real surprise;

\* to meet "living stones" - the people of Palestine whose families have been Christian since very ancient times, and the challenges they face today, and Jews and Muslims too;

\* to enable a discovery about yourself, fellow pilgrims and God while enjoying fresh biblical, liturgical, ecumenical and inter-faith experiences.

It is natural that many Christians are drawn to travel to the lands of the Bible. Around 90 per cent of the Bible story took place on a piece of land some 150 x 50 miles, which today we call Israel/Palestine. Over the centuries, neither wars nor natural disasters have deterred pilgrims from reaching the Holy Land. Tragically, the conflicts have not subsided, but neither has the desire to visit these ancient holy places. I encourage all who are interested to join the pilgrimage if they possibly can. You will be in highly experienced hands with Cedric Blakey, McCabes and the wonderful local guides.

*The Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church*

## TOUR INFORMATION

**The cost is £2,395** sharing a twin-bedded/double room with ensuite bathroom. We stay in three hotels. In Arad we stay in the three star Inbar Hotel. In Jerusalem, the three star Golden Walls Hotel overlooks the Old City walls and is within walking distance of the Holy Sepulchre. In Tiberias, we stay at the four star Ron Beach Hotel in a wonderful situation right on the lakeside.

The tour is on a **full-board basis** with buffet breakfast, lunch and evening meal included daily. Touring is by air-conditioned coach and we will be accompanied by a local guide who will share leadership responsibilities and look after the formalities of hotel check-ins, etc. All entrance fees are included as well as tips which will be disbursed locally.

Flights are with Turkish Airlines from Edinburgh Airport via Istanbul to Tel Aviv. All airport and security charges are Included, as well as one piece of

checked in luggage (23kg). A complimentary visa is issued on arrival in Tel Aviv (please see back page).

### Not included:

Our insurance policy premiums:

For bookings up to £3,000 per person  
£70 per person up to 75 years at the time of purchase and £126 per person aged 76-85.

For bookings over £3,000 per person  
£95 per person aged up to 75 years at the time of purchase and £185 per person aged 76-85.

**No medical screening is required.**

Travel insurance is essential but you may have annual or another suitable insurance you prefer to use.

Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £695 but please read our note 'Travelling Alone' overleaf.

Any special requests should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable eight weeks prior to departure.



## TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £200 per person plus the relevant insurance premium to the tour leader/organiser. Please make cheques payable to 'McCabe Pilgrimages'. If you prefer to pay by card, please make a note on the booking form and McCabe will contact you to take the payment over the phone.

The Rev Cedric Blakey  
11 Glenbenna  
Walkerburn  
Peebleshire EH43 6DD  
Tel: 07817 419897  
Email: revcanclb@gmail.com



# DAILY PROGRAMME



## **Saturday | TO THE HOLY LAND**

We travel on Turkish Airlines flight TK1344 from Edinburgh to Istanbul, departing at 10:45 and arriving at 17:05 to connect with the onward flight to Tel Aviv. TK788 departs at 18:05 and arrives at 20:05. Transfer on arrival (about 1.5 hours) to the Inbar Hotel in Arad, where we spend two nights in the desert.

## **Sunday | PATRIARCHS IN THE DESERT**

Our first visit is to Avdat, a well-preserved Nabatean, Roman and Byzantine city; nearby we view one of the hidden highlights of the desert, En Avdat, with its waterfalls and pools of icy water. After lunch at Kibbutz Mashabim we visit the desert capital of Beersheba. We will celebrate the Eucharist today.

## **Monday | MASADA & THE DEAD SEA**

We drive to Herod's desert fortress of Masada and climb up via the Roman ramp on the western side and visit the remains on the summit; we descend by cable-car. We then visit the Kalia Kibbutz for lunch and a float on the Dead Sea. On to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We continue via Jericho up the Jordan Valley to northern Galilee to the Ron Beach Hotel where we spend four nights.

## **Tuesday | NORTHERN GALILEE**

Our first stop is at Old Testament Hazor. We drive via the holy Jewish city of Safed (where we hope to visit one of the synagogues) and then drive through the Hula Valley to the site of Dan. Lunch at Tanureen Restaurant. We spend time at Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where we renew our Baptismal vows at the source of the Jordan. We then drive back through the Golan Heights calling at Korazin's synagogue.

## **Wednesday | NAZARETH**

Our first call is at the village of Cana, scene of Jesus' first miracle. We then continue to Sepphoris, once the largest town in the

Galilee, where we see the excavations and wonderful mosaics. We drive to Nazareth where we have lunch at the Holy Land Restaurant and visit St Gabriel's Church (Mary's Well), the Synagogue Church and the Basilica of the Annunciation.

## **Thursday | LAKESIDE MINISTRY**

Today we visit the sites associated with Jesus' life around the Sea of Galilee. We drive past Magdala to visit the Church on the Mount of Beatitudes and continue, in communion with Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, we celebrate the Eucharist on the shores of the lake beside the Church of the Loaves and Fishes and then visit Mensa Christi (where Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection). We end the morning at the ruins of Capernaum, Jesus' Galilean base. Lunch at St Peter's Restaurant. After lunch, we sail back across the Sea of Galilee to Tiberias, returning with time to relax/swim.

## **Friday | SAMARIA TO JERUSALEM**

We start the day visiting Beit Shearim, the great ancient Jewish cemetery. We walk around the ruins of Herod the Great at Sabastia and lunch at the Samaria Restaurant. We visit Jacob's Well in Nablus and Mount Gerizim (traditional home to the Samaritans). We also visit the Samaritan Museum. We then head up to Jerusalem's Golden Walls Hotel, where we spend five nights by the Old City.

## **Saturday | THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

We start the day on the Mount of Olives, with a panoramic view of the walled city. We visit the Palm Sunday village of Bethphage (for the Eucharist), Dominus Flevit Chapel, and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. We end the morning at St Peter in Gallicantu (possible site of the High Priest's palace). Lunch at St Andrew's Church of Scotland. We continue to West Jerusalem to visit the model of ancient Jerusalem and see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum. We end our day in Bethany, home of Martha,

Mary and Lazarus, and visit the church and the tomb of Lazarus.

## **Sunday | BETHLEHEM**

Morning worship at St George's Cathedral. We visit Herod's desert fortress-palace of Herodium and continue to the Fields of the Shepherds. Lunch at the Shepherds Valley Restaurant. We enter Manger Square in Bethlehem to visit the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity and St Jerome's Caves.

## **Monday | THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

We transfer to Dung Gate and visit the Western Wall stopping for an excellent view of Temple Mount (El Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock). We then walk to the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of St Anne. After lunch at Ecce Homo convent, we follow the Via Dolorosa through the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

## **Tuesday | THE OLD CITY**

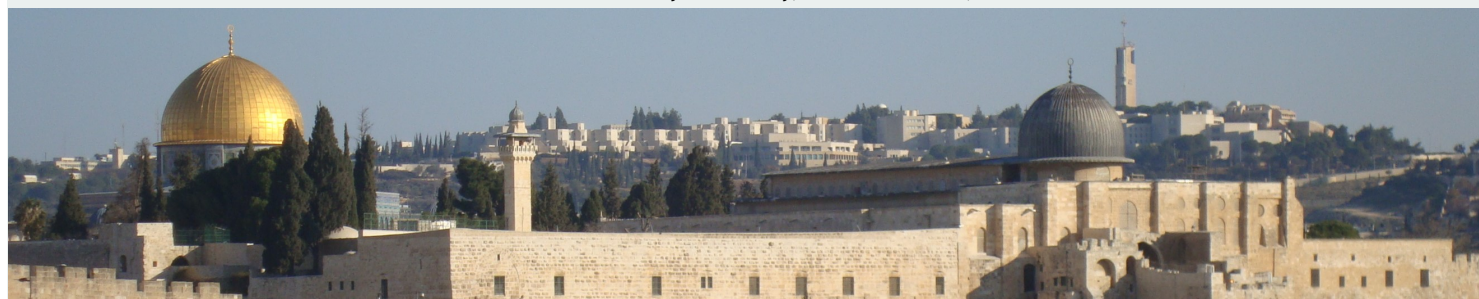
We visit David's City including the biblical water systems to the Pool of Siloam and the Ophel excavations. We wander through the Jewish Quarter to the Armenian Quarter for lunch at Bulghourji restaurant. For those who wish, there will be the option to attend Vespers at St James' Armenian Cathedral and to walk back to the hotel through the Kidron Valley. Dinner at a local restaurant.

## **Wednesday | HOME**

An early start to the airport. Turkish Airlines flight TK865 departs at 08:40 arriving into Istanbul Airport at 10:55. Connecting flight TK1345 departs Istanbul at 12:35 and arrives in Edinburgh at 15:00.

***Please note the itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions and flights can also be subject to alteration but are correct at the time of printing.***

*There will be quite a bit of walking on this pilgrimage. Please talk to the tour leader or call the McCabe office for advice if you are at all concerned.*



# OUR PILGRIMAGE

## The McCabe Educational Trust

For many, meeting the 'Living Stones' of The Land becomes a real highlight of their pilgrimage. The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage. On your pilgrimage you will meet some of these people. As 'the haves' encounter the 'have nots' the Trust has become a practical tool for one to help the other.

McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £15 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.



## TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive single room supplements. McCabe Pilgrimages will accept individual bookings on a 'guaranteed share' basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation. If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if available, the normal supplement will be payable.

## PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the time of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. A visa is issued free of charge on entering Israel and there are currently no further requirements for entering the Palestinian territories. **If you are holding a non-British passport, or require further advice, please consult the McCabe office.** No inoculations are required but we advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

**A unique feature of the McCabe recommended policy is that you will not need to call a medical help line to discuss health issues. Most pre-existing health conditions are covered as long as your doctor agrees that you are fit to travel.**

Travel insurance is arranged by **Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd** for **McCabe Travel Ltd** who are an Appointed Representative of Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our status can be checked on the FCA Register by visiting [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk) or by contacting the FCA on 0845 606 9966. This Insurance is underwritten by ERV. ERV is authorised by the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BAFIN – [www.bafin.de](http://www.bafin.de)) and the Prudential Regulation Authority and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority.

It has been specifically designed so that it covers all McCabe holidays; protecting you in full if you have to cancel and providing you with the very best and most effective protection if you are unfortunate enough to require medical attention whilst away.

Standard exclusions apply and are listed on the summary document. Please check that you are not affected by the Main Health Exclusions. You will not be covered for any ongoing tests or treatment of an undiagnosed condition, or for any terminal illness, or if you claim as a result of a condition arising within the past twelve months.

Note that you will pay an excess of £1,000 on any claim that results directly from a pre-existing medical condition. In our experience a very few claims result from pre-existing medical conditions. With this policy you are covered with no declaration of health required.

A full policy wording will be sent to you with confirmation of your booking, or ask us and we will send you a copy now. Full details are also on our website. If you would like more information or are unsure of any details, please call Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd for further advice on 01903 235042. This insurance is only available to persons who are permanently resident in the UK.

## AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on [www.aito.co.uk](http://www.aito.co.uk). Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

**This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.**

**The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.**



11 Hillgate Place London SW12 9ER Telephone 020 8675 6828  
Email [info@mccabe-travel.co.uk](mailto:info@mccabe-travel.co.uk) [www.mccabe-travel.co.uk](http://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk)