

# An Ignatian Journey to the Holy Land: Historical, Cultural, and Interfaith Perspectives

Sponsored by Xavier University  
Led by Prof. Patricia K. Tull (Louisville Seminary),  
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and Prof. Kristine Suna-Koro (Xavier University)  
May 15-29, 2017

**Note:** The following is our present plan. There may be adjustments to accommodate lecturers' schedules and opportunities that arise.

## **Monday, May 15**

Depart from the U.S. in time to arrive by Tuesday afternoon at Ben Gurion airport in Israel.

## **Tuesday, May 16**

Arrive, meet group transportation, and travel to hotel for check in, brief meeting, and dinner.  
Overnight: [Tal Hotel](#), Tel Aviv

### **Usual daily schedule** (Can vary depending on the day's activities)

6:45 wake-up call

7:30 meeting: devotions and directions (luggage outside doors first if changing hotels)

7:45 breakfast

8:30 departure

Activities of the day, punctuated by lunch (usually later than noon!)

4:00 or 4:30 arrival at hotel (esp. if checking in)

5:45 meeting

7:00 dinner

## **Wednesday, May 17—The Mediterranean Coast**

We will visit [Caesarea Maritima](#) (built by King Herod; home of Origen and birthplace of Eusebius), and other ancient and not-so-ancient sites along the way, including the ancient Israelite city [Megiddo](#). Possible tour of [Jezreel](#), a current archaeological project of the University of Evansville and the University of Haifa.

Overnight Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: [Ohalo Kibbutz](#), Tiberias

## **Thursday, May 18 – Western and Central Galilee**

We will visit the [Mount of Beatitudes](#), and then drive north to [Banias](#) (Caesarea Philippi) and the foothills of Mount Hermon.

## **Friday, May 19 – The Golan**

We will visit [Zippori](#) (Sepphoris, seat of the Sanhedrin after the destruction of Jerusalem; home of many important Jewish sages), and [Nazareth](#), as well as some of the Christian

sites around the Sea of Galilee: [Magdala](#); [Capernaum](#); the [Church of the Loaves and Fishes \(Tabgha\)](#), and the [Church of the Primacy of Peter](#).

### **Saturday, May 20– West Bank**

We will go through the checkpoint at Jamale in the northern West Bank and drive to [Nablus](#), the largest city in Palestine, site of ancient Shechem, and visit the Samaritan village on [Mount Gerazim](#). We will drive to Jericho (“the lowest and oldest town on earth,” with structures 10,000 years old), where we hope to visit the ancient ruins and the Monastery of the Temptation. Then we will drive into Bethlehem, where we will spend the next two nights.

Overnight Saturday, Sunday, and Monday: [St. Gabriel Hotel, Bethlehem](#)

### **Sunday, May 21, and Monday, May 22--Bethlehem**

We will attend 10:30 worship at the [Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church](#), where Rev. Mitri Raheb is pastor. During our stay in Bethlehem we will visit the [Church of the Nativity](#), [Herodium](#) and possibly [Hebron](#). On Monday at noon we will also meet with [Dr. Mitri Raheb](#) and other staff to speak about the work of the [International Center](#).

### **Tuesday, May 23 -- Dead Sea**

We will travel along the Dead Sea to [Qumran](#) (where the Qumran sect lived and the Dead Sea Scrolls were found), and stop for a swim in the Dead Sea. Then we will drive into Jerusalem, viewing the [Old City](#) from the [Mount of Olives](#) before making our way to our hotel.

Overnight Tuesday-Saturday nights: [Legacy Hotel](#), Jerusalem

### **Wednesday, May 24**

There is so much to do in Jerusalem, and often so many opportunities that come to us spontaneously, that we will try to steer a course between tight planning and leaving the door open to serendipity. Don't be surprised if something gets rearranged or added as we go along.

Early Wednesday morning we will visit the [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#) and the Armenian and Jewish quarters, including the churches on Mount Zion. In the afternoon we will visit the Silwan neighborhood and the controversial archaeological work being done in the original City of David.

### **Thursday, May 25—Dome of the Rock and the Via Dolorosa**

We will meet Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway or another host to visit what was once the Jewish temple mount, but for the past 1400 years has been al-Haram ash-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) where the [Dome of the Rock](#) and the [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) are. Women, if you have a scarf, bring it in case we have the opportunity to enter the buildings. We will visit the Church of St. Anne and walk along the traditional Via Dolorosa, stopping for a falafel lunch at [Abu Shukri](#).

In the evening, [Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway](#), professor of Islam at Al Quds University, and his wife Eman, principal of a Muslim high school, will meet with us for dinner to talk about Islam and Palestinians.

### **Friday, May 26**

We will visit [Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum](#) and the [Israel Museum](#), where the Great Scroll of Isaiah is housed, as well as the scale model of first-century Jerusalem.

As we return we will see preparation for the Sabbath in Jewish neighborhoods. Around 6:15 we will board the bus to attend worship with progressive Orthodox Jewish Congregation [Kehillat Yedidya](#). (Men, if you have a kippah, or yarmulke, bring it, but they have some there as well.).

### **Saturday, May 27**

We will walk to the Western Wall to observe the Shabbat morning prayers. From there we will visit churches on the Mount of Olives and then have free time over lunch and the afternoon.

### **Sunday, May 28**

We will leave early to visit the [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#) with Hana Bendcowsky of the [Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations](#), who will introduce us to the various Eastern and Oriental Orthodox groups who worship there on Sunday morning (the six denominations are: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, and Ethiopian Orthodox). From late morning to late afternoon will be free time, until we check out and board the bus to visit [Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam](#), a Jewish and Palestinian peace community west of Jerusalem.

Overnight: [Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam Guesthouse](#).

### **Monday, May 29 -- Departure**

Bus will depart in time for departure from Ben Gurion Airport for the majority of the group. Individuals whose departure times differ will be helped to make arrangements to travel to the airport via group taxi.