

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY LAND: THEN AND NOW

January 13-23, 2020 11 Days
Optional extension to Jordan: January 23-26

Hosted by Linda Edens and Ruth Nelson

Ruth Nelson serves as an Area Representative for Bright Stars of Bethlehem since visiting the Holy Land three times in the past six years. Ruth's first visit was in 2014, she spent two weeks on the West Bank in October, 2018, and returned for a week this past January. She is active in supporting the Bright Stars mission through education and fundraising. She enjoys speaking and spreading the Bright Stars message of hope.



She has recently completed the Basic Program for the Liberal Arts at the Graham School of the University of Chicago. She has a BA and MA from the University of Iowa. She retired seven years ago as Vice President of Workers Compensation Claims for Chubb Insurance. On the personal side, Ruth has been married to Scott Nelson for over 47 years. Ruth and Scott have one daughter, a son in law and three granddaughters.

Linda Edens currently serves on the Board of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, and has held this board position since January of 2018. This will be Linda's fourth trip to the Holy Land. As a member of Grace Lutheran Church, LaGrange, IL, Linda took her first trip in April 2016 to the Holy Land, where she heard her Palestinian pastor's personal story, and spent considerable time in the

West Bank with the Palestinian people. She immediately felt God working through her to become more involved, specifically through Bright Stars of Bethlehem, committing to the Palestinian people's right to an abundant life. Two years later, she was back in Palestine, having helped plan a trip that had an interfaith emphasis and allowed participants to hear the dialogue of Israelis, of Palestinians, and of Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Linda is a founding and active member of Peace in Palestine, a community group in the Chicago area committed to a just Peace for all people of the Holy Land. She assists in planning speakers, educational events, and opportunities for interfaith dialogue.

On the personal side, Linda is a speech pathologist holding a private practice in Chicago. She works with families with children with significant developmental challenges. She lives in downtown Chicago with her husband, and has a son and a daughter.

Ruth is an active member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL, serving on the Church Council. In 2018 she served on the Steering Committee upgrading the congregation's computer system to a web based, relational database.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

MON 13 JAN **Depart U.S.**
Depart Chicago O'Hare on the transatlantic overnight flight to Istanbul via Turkish Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

TUE 14 JAN **Arrive Tel Aviv**
Connect in Istanbul with the continuing flight to Ben Gurion Airport, where you will be met by your guide and driver. Transfer to the hotel for check-in, dinner and overnight. Grand Beach Hotel (Meals in-flight, D)

WED 15 JAN **Tel Aviv/Galilee**
Travel to Jesus' boyhood home of Nazareth to see the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. We hope to have coffee at the home of a Palestinian family living in Ailabun, near Nazareth. Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes for a first look upon the Sea of Galilee. Arrive later today in Tiberias. Royal Plaza Hotel (renovated rooms) (B,D)

THU 16 JAN **Galilee**
Today focus on Jesus' ministry around the Galilee area. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum; this is where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others. Travel to Tabgha for visits to the Church of Multiplication, built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes followed by a worship service. Enjoy lunch then continue to Baniyas Springs (Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus went to get away from the crowds), one of the three sources of the Jordan River. View Mt. Hermon and the Golan Heights before returning to your lodging for dinner and overnight. Royal Plaza Hotel (B,L,D)

FRI 17 JAN **Galilee/Bethlehem**
Drive to Ramallah for touring and a meeting with Sam Bahour, a Palestinian American businessman. Visit Hope Lutheran School, which is indeed a beacon of hope. Stop at Taybeh Brewery, then continue to Bethlehem to see the Separation Wall and the Walled Off Hotel designed by the famed artist Banksy. Check into your accommodations for dinner and overnight. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse (B,D)

SAT 18 JAN **Bethlehem**

Drive to Masada and ride the cable car up to the rocky plateau where the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors, and explore the various remains of this mountaintop village. The Dead Sea is 1373 feet below sea level and is the lowest point on earth. Weather permitting, there will be time for a float in the briny waters, otherwise walk along the shore. Then drive to Qumran to see the actual caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Stop for lunch on own at Limon Restaurant in Jericho. Visit Qasr al Yahud on the Jordan River - this is the western site where according to tradition Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Return to Bethlehem. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse (B,D)

SUN 19 JAN **Bethlehem**

This morning attend an Arabic worship service at Christmas Lutheran Church and enjoy some fellowship with the congregation. Embark on a walking tour of the Old City, including a visit to the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Enjoy the balance of the day to rest or explore Bethlehem. For those who are interested there will be an opportunity to hike the Battir World Heritage park. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse (B,D)

MON 20 JAN **Bethlehem**

Begin the day with a visit at Deheishe Refugee Camp where Palestinians have lived since 1948. Next meet with a settler at Efrat Israeli Settlement. Proceed to Dar al Kalima University College to meet with Pastor Mitri Raheb (subject to availability) to learn about the varied ministries of the Diyar Consortium and how the church empowers Palestinians by fostering training for employment, and creativity among local children. Experience a cooking class and lunch in the school's culinary program. After lunch finish with your tour of Dar al Kalima University College. Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse (B,L,D)

TUE 21 JAN **Bethlehem/Jerusalem**

Stop at Shepherds Fields before leaving Bethlehem. Upon arrival in Jerusalem savor the stunning panoramic view from the Mount of Olives. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road stopping at

Pater Noster and Dominus Flevit to the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of All Nations. Meet with the English-language pastor Rev. Carrie Ballenger to learn about the various (ELCJHL) and see how the world's only ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land Arabic-speaking Lutheran church ministers to its context. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. Gloria Hotel (B,D)

WED 22 JAN **Jerusalem**

Early this morning visit the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif to view the golden Dome of the Rock, an important symbol of the Muslim faith (inside visits not permitted). Stop at the Western Wall. Begin your visit to the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa. Start at the Crusader Church of St. Anne and the ancient Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Stop at the Church of the Sisters of Zion (Ecce Homo) to see the original street level pavement from the time of Jesus. Arrive at the Church of Holy Sepulchre which houses the final five Stations of the Cross. Gather tonight for a farewell dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. Gloria Hotel (B,D)

THU 23 JAN **Jerusalem/Return to U.S.**

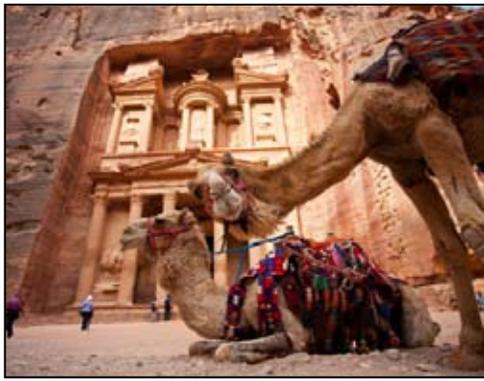
Those returning to the U.S. will transfer to the airport. Arrive home today enriched and enlightened by your time spent in the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability.

JORDAN EXTENSION

THU 23 JAN **Jerusalem/Petra**

This morning transfer to the Allenby Crossing to Jordan and meet your Jordanian guide, driver and coach. Visit Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, which has received recognition as the likely site where John baptized Jesus. Continue through the vast desert to the village of Wadi Musa, which embraces the entrance to Petra - one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. Petra Guesthouse (B,D)



FRI 24 JAN **Petra**

Two thousand years ago the Nabateans carved a city out of rose red rock and it was rediscovered in 1812. Today you will discover the formerly lost city of Petra during a half-day guided tour. Begin by walking through the dramatic "ciq" or canyon that opens upon the Treasury, El Khazneh, one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh the visitor is surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures. Enjoy a full day of touring this amazing, once-hidden world. Petra Guesthouse (B,D)

SAT 25 JAN **Petra/Amman**

Depart on the northbound journey to the village of Madeba to see the ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. Drive to Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land and enjoy the dramatic view of the Jordan Valley, Jericho and the Judean hills beyond. Travel to Amman for dinner and overnight near the airport. Grand Palace Hotel Amman (B,D)

SUN 26 JAN **Amman/ Return to U.S.**

Transfer early this morning for flight check-in and departure to arrive home the same day. (Meals in-flight)

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago via Turkish Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Nine nights accommodation in Christian guesthouse and superior tourist/first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily with two lunches as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$130 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$490 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when travel protection is purchased within 14 days of registration. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

***\$3659**

Group Flights From Chicago

Tour Gratuities (\$130).....Included
 Airport Taxes (\$490).....Included
*Costs per person based on double occupancy in US

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room (in addition to base tour cost).....\$659

Extension to Jordan.....\$799

Additional airfare for return from Amman; three nights accommodation; breakfast and dinner daily; transportation by deluxe motorcoach; sightseeing entrance fees included; luggage handling; English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Jordan to departure from Jordan; gratuities to drivers and guides (\$52 per person; border taxes for Israel and Jordan; Jordanian Entry Visa. Single Room = +\$119.

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Chicago (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of March 2019, a minimum of 22 travelers (11 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only. *Not all bookings have been made and all space/rates are subject to availability at time of booking.*

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens visiting Israel/Palestine; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#200102 OR CLIP AND MAIL

Edens/Nelson: Holy Land • January 13-23, 2020 • (G#200102) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Name as it appears (or will appear) on passport:

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room. Sign me/us up for the Jordan extension.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Chicago.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL PROTECTION (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:
 \$ _____ \$624 per person **inclusive of travel protection** for the main tour only.
 \$ _____ \$648 per person **inclusive of travel protection** for the main tour and extension to Jordan.
 \$ _____ \$400 per person **without travel protection.**
 I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre- existing waiver.

Form of Payment

Check

Charge my deposit(s) to

Credit Card # _____

Exp _____

Security Code _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#200102.

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due September 9, 2019. Final payment is due no later than November 8, 2019. The fee for late payment is \$50 per traveler. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to September 8, 2019 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; September 9 – December 29, 2019 – Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; December 30, 2019 or after – No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than September 9, 2019. A minimum fee of \$100 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 14 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174 (refer to plan #47346). Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included
	* a maximum of \$4000 per person
	** a maximum of \$6000 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$224 per person (\$248 with the optional extension). Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. Fairmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician; the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment; due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed the U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for this destination was Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution); please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

For more information, contact:

Linda Edens
email: Edens3917@gmail.com

Ruth Nelson
email: Ruth.nelson@icloud.com

OR

Group Travel Directors
2000 West 98th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55431-2593
tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
fax: 952-881-6276
email: groups@gtd.org
www.gtd.org

