

Trip to the Holy Land

29 Sep – 06 Oct 2014

Our trip to the Holy Land

29 Sep – 06 Oct 2014

Dear Friends,

We recently had the opportunity to visit the Holy Land and to walk the land where our Lord walked.

We can't describe our experience to you, but we have made an attempt to put together some pictures and text explaining the places with a biblical reference, where possible.

Some of our photographs didn't turn out the way we wanted them to and so we had to use some pictures from the net. However, the places are the same.

We know most of you were waiting to see the pictures, but we took about 2000 pictures and it was quite a task to sort them and to find out which place was which, so thank you for your patience.

We hope your tour of the holy land with us, inspires you to visit the holy land and experience the bliss yourselves.

God bless us all.

Cecelia, Romaldo, Anita, Kyle & Shalom

Our trip to the Holy Land

29 Sep – 06 Oct 2014

We'll leave the details of our travel and take you straight to where our pilgrimage started....in Jericho

Sycamore Tree

Jericho

29-Sep-14

**Jericho is the oldest city in the world
and The Sycamore Tree is a reminder
of Zacchaeus' conversion.**

Biblical reference - Luke 19:-10

⁴So he (Zacchaeus) ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Sycamore Tree

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Sycamore Tree

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14

Remains of the wall of Jericho where Joshua marched with the Israelites around the walls of Jericho

Biblical reference - Joshua 6:20

²⁰When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in,

Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Remains of the wall of Jericho

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Restaurant in Jericho where we had lunch

Jericho

29-Sep-14



BLESSED PEACE FROM THE OLDEST CITY

JERICHO

TEMPTATION RESTAURANT

Restaurant in Jericho where we had lunch

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Mount of Temptation

Jericho

29-Sep-14

The Mount of Temptation, with a gravity-defying monastery located in the West Bank, along a cliff overlooking the city of Jericho and the Jordan Valley is traditionally regarded as the mountain on which Christ was tempted by the devil during his 40-day fast.

Biblical reference -Matthew 4

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mount of Temptation

Jericho

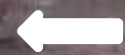
29-Sep-14



Mount of Temptation

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Qarantal Monastery

Mount of Temptation

Jericho

29-Sep-14



Some other views at the foot of the Mount of Temptation

Hotel Nazareth Plaza

Nazareth

29-Sep-14



This is the place we stayed for two days.

Mount of Beatitudes

Galilee

30-Sep-14

Place where Jesus proclaimed his famous Sermon on Beatitudes, on the Mount.

Biblical reference - Matt 5

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.

Mount of Beatitudes

Galilee

30-Sep-14



Mount of Beatitudes

Galilee

30-Sep-14



Where Multiplication of Loaves and Fish took place.

Biblical reference - Matt 14:19

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Church of Multiplication

Tabgha

30-Sep-14

JESUS in TABGHA

Names through History

BIBLICAL: Μαγδαλα (Mk 15:70) = "The Waters of Galilee"
Galila Dalmanutha (Mk 8:10) = "The Region of The Sea" (Cappadocian)

BYZANTINE: Ἐπιφάνεια = "The Spring of Sevens"
The Greek "Ἐπιφάνεια" was translated into the

ARABIC: Tabgha or Tabgha

HEBREW: Ein Sheva = "The Spring of Sevens"

FIRST FEEDING of the MULTITUDE

(Mostly Jews from Galilee)

Location:
Tabgha
Western Shore
Mt 14:13-21
Mk 6:30-44



SECOND FEEDING of the MULTITUDE

(Mostly Gentiles from the Decapolis)

Location:
Tel Hadyr
Eastern Shore
Mt 15:32-39
Mk 8:1-10

John's Gospel (Ch 6, 17) mentions both Feeding sites



Tabgha



Tel Hadyr

Biblical Events that Took Place at Tabgha

- The Calling of the First Apostles (Mk 1:16-20)
- The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-10)
- Healing of the Leper (Mk 8:1-4)
- The Miracle of the Multiplication
- Jesus' Walk on the Waters (Mk 6:45-52)
- Meeting with Peter and his Companions after the Resurrection (Jn 21:10)
- The Last Appearance of Jesus in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20), while Disciples (Nazarine Brothers) (1 Koi 15:6) were present

St. Basil's Press



Rock where Jesus sat



Olive presses

Church of the primacy of St. Peter

Tabgha

30-Sep-14

St. Peter was assigned key to the Kingdom of Heaven .

Biblical reference - Matt 14:19

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Church of the Primacy of St. Peter Tabgha

30-Sep-14

The Primacy of Peter

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Matthew 16: 18-19

CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ
TABGHA
CHURCH OF THE PRIMACY
OF SAINT PETER
MENSA CHRISTI



Rock commemorates Jesus' reinstatement of Peter after a fish breakfast on the shore.

Capernaum

30-Sep-14

Most of the miracles took place in Capernaum, the town where Jesus started to preach the Good news. This magnificent synagogue was made of white limestone and wonderfully ornamented. Archaeologists have determined that the 2-story synagogue was built around the beginning of the third century A.D., because of its architectural style, decorations, and inscriptions. Therefore it was not the synagogue in which Jesus taught, although it was most likely built upon the same site as the first century synagogue.

Ancient Synagogue

Capernaum

30-Sep-14

**CAPHARNAUM
THE TOWN
OF JESUS**



Remains of an Ancient Synagogue

St. Peter's house

Capernaum

30-Sep-14

Where St. Peter's Mother in law was healed.

Biblical reference - Matt 8:14-15

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

St. Peter's house

Capernaum

30-Sep-14



St. Peter's House can be seen below from here



Boat ride on the sea of Galilee

30-Sep-14

The sea of Galilee is mentioned many times in the Bible.

Biblical reference – Matt 4:18, John 6:1, John 21:1

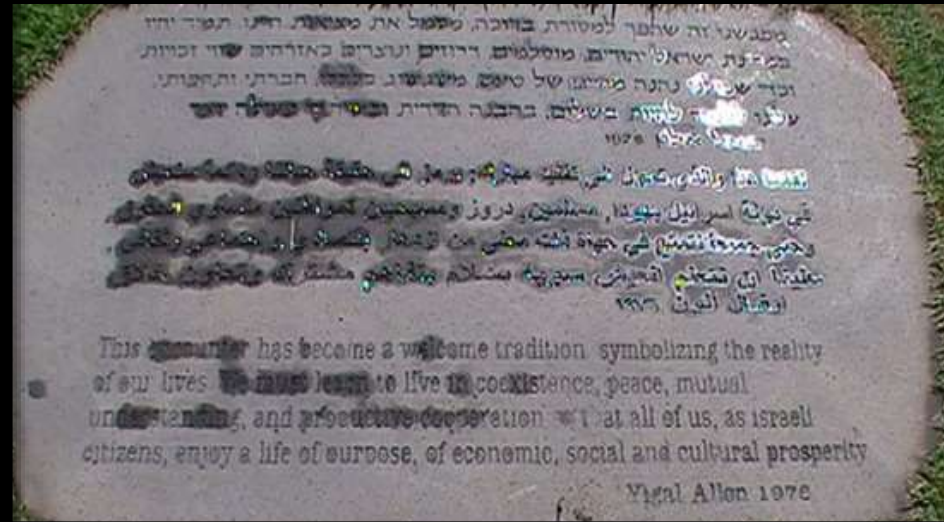
Matthew 4:18 - As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew.

John 6:1 - Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee

John 21:1 - Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.

Boat ride on the sea of Galilee

30-Sep-14



Lido Restaurant

Tiberius, Israel

30-Sep-14

Had St. Peter's Fish.

This Restaurant is most popular for the traditional St. Peter's Fish with "Loaves" as in the days of Jesus and the Apostles some 2000 years ago.

Lido restaurant

Tiberius, Israel

30-Sep-14



Raw Fish



Cooked Fish

River of Jordan

30-Sep-14

Fr. Varghese renewed our Baptismal promises and we dipped our feet in the water. Had many fishes coming to our feet – a free pedicure.

The Jordan is significant for Jews because the tribes of Israel under Joshua crossed the river on dry ground to enter the Promised Land after years of wandering in the desert.

It is significant for Christians because John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the waters of the Jordan.

The prophets Elijah and Elisha also crossed the river dry-shod; and the Syrian general Naaman was healed of leprosy after washing in the Jordan at Elisha's direction.

Biblical references - Joshua 4:18, Matt 3:6, Matt 3:13

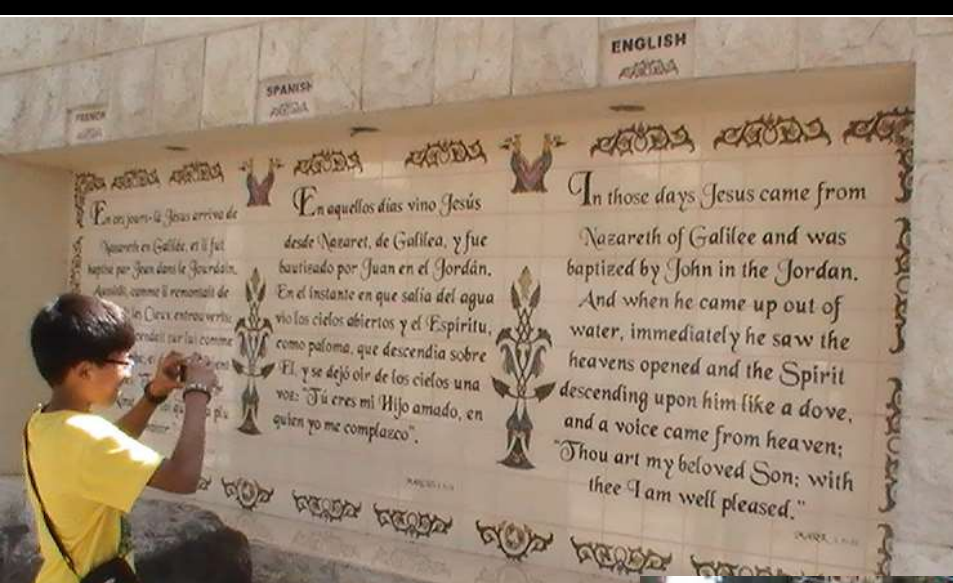
Joshua 4:18 - And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

Matthew 3:6 - ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him (John the Baptist) in the Jordan River.

Matthew 3:13 - ¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

River of Jordan

30-Sep-14



Kibbutz shop

30-Sep-14

Kibbutz are a farming settlement in Israel that is owned and shared equally by the people who live there and run it – they live and share everything.



Basilica of Mount of Transfiguration

Mount Tabor

30-Sep-14

Place where Jesus transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John the brother of James.

Biblical reference - Matt 17:2

There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Basilica of mount of Transfiguration

Mount Tabor

30-Sep-14



View from the Mount



Altar for Moses



Altar for Elijah

Magdala Village

north-west side of the Sea of Galilee

30-Sep-14

Passed by Magdala Village –
birth place of Mary
Magdalene.

Biblical reference - Matt 28:1

²⁸ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at
the tomb.



Widows village

Village of Nain

30-Sep-14

Passed by Village where
Jesus raised the son of
the widow.

Biblical reference – Luke 7:11

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.

¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.



Deborah & Barak

Mount Tabor

30-Sep-14

Passed by place where
Sisera's troops were
defeated by Deborah &
Barak.

Biblical reference - Judges 4

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?"



Wedding at Cana

Village of Kafr Kanna

30-Sep-14

**Where Jesus performed his first Miracle
changing water into wine.
Here we renewed our marriage vows.**

Biblical reference – John 2

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

Wedding at Cana

Village of Kafr Kanna

30-Sep-14



Water Jar



Basilica of the Annunciation

Nazareth

01-Oct-14

The church was established at the site where, according to Roman Catholic tradition, the Annunciation took place. Greek Orthodox tradition holds that this event occurred while Mary was drawing water from a local spring in Nazareth, and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was erected at that alternate site.

Biblical reference - Luke 1:31

Angel Gabriel to Mary ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Basilica of the Annunciation

Nazareth

01-Oct-14



the traditional cave-home of the Virgin Mary.

St. Joseph's church

Nazareth

01-Oct-14

The St. Joseph church is located, according to early traditions, over the carpenter workshop of the Holy family. Later tradition identify this place as the house of Joseph and the Holy family.

St. Joseph's church

Nazareth

01-Oct-14



כנסיית יוסף הקדוש
كنيسة القديس يوسف
The Church of St. Joseph

הכנסייה הוקמה בשנת 1914 במסגרת מיזם של בניית כנסייה חדשה
המחליפה את הכנסייה הישנה שנוצרה על ידי המיסיונרים
האנגליים. עיצובו הוא תוצאה של שיתוף פעולה בין האדריכלים
האנגליים והלבנונים. הכנסייה בנויה בסגנון אקלקטי
שבו "הגותית של יוסף" מסוימת מאוחדת עם סגנון
בנייה של יוסף.

בניית הכנסייה בשנת 1914 על הרובע החדש קנתה
מן ימיו של המלך פאולוס הראשון.

- היסטוריה של הכנסייה: הכנסייה הוקמה על ידי האדריכלים
האנגליים והלבנונים. היא בנויה בסגנון אקלקטי
המאחד בין האדריכלות האנגלית והלבנונית.
- הכנסייה הוקמה על הרובע החדש של "חצר יוסף"
בשנת 1914.
- המבנה משקף את אופי הכנסייה הלבנונית.
- הכנסייה בנויה בסגנון אקלקטי.

This church was built in 1914 on the site of an earlier 12th-Century church.
The caves, granaries and wells in the lower level were used by the early dwellers of Nazareth. Later, Christians turned the site into a worship place.
Travelers who had visited the place in the 7th Century pointed out that this had been the location of the "Carpentry Shop of Joseph".
Later traditions identify the place as being "The House of Joseph".



St. Mary's Well

Nazareth

01-Oct-14

According to the tradition, this was the place where Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, was announced by the angel Gabriel that she will have a son of God.

St. Mary's Well

Nazareth

01-Oct-14



Bahai Gardens

Haifa

01-Oct-14

Passed by Bahai gardens, located in the heart of Haifa, comprises a staircase of nineteen terraces extending all the way up the northern slope of Mount Carmel. In July 2008, the Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa and 'Akko were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, in recognition of their "outstanding universal value" as holy places and places of pilgrimage for the followers of the Bahá'í Faith.

Bahai Gardens

Haifa

01-Oct-14



Monastery of Stella Maris

Mount Carmel, Haifa

01-Oct-14

**Stella Maris is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
known as Our Lady, Star of the Sea.**

**The monastery is believed to be directly above the
grotto where the prophet Elijah is said to have
lived.**

**Haifa is a port city of the North on the shore of the
Mediterranean.**

Biblical reference - 1 Kings 18:42

"...And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; "

Monastery of Stella Maris

Mount Carmel, Haifa

01-Oct-14



Caesarea's National Park

Caesarea

01-Oct-14

The Roman Theatre.

Caesarea National Park is one of, if not Israel's, most impressive archaeological site. The beautifully restored harbour here was built by King Herod. Within the park is the Caesarea Amphitheater, also restored, which during the summer regularly hosts concerts of both local, and international acts.

Caesarea's National Park

Caesarea

01-Oct-14



Amphitheatre



Valley of Aijalon

01-Oct-14

Passed by place
where Joshua
kept sun rising.



Biblical reference - Joshua 10:12
The sun stopped in the middle of the sky
and delayed going down about a full
day.



St Peter in Gallicantu

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

01-Oct-14

Caiphas' (Grand Priest's) house on which church was built and where Peter denied Jesus 3 times before the cock crowed.

Original steps where Jesus was taken.

Biblical reference - John 18:25

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

St Peter in Gallicantu

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

01-Oct-14



†

Rededication

Saint Peter in Gallicantu was rededicated on May 13, 1997, by His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, while Claude Maréchal, A.A., was Superior General of the Assumptionists, Patrick Zago, A.A., Provincial of France, and François Morvan, A.A., Vice-Provincial, the church having been restored by Robert Fortin, A.A., Superior, and Samir Kandah, Architect, through the generosity of George and Marie Doty, Rye, NY, USA, and other benefactors.



St Peter in Gallicantu

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

01-Oct-14



View from the Mount Zion



Sacred pit
(dungeon)

Excavations in 1889 uncovered 3 Byzantine crosses engraved in the orifice at the top, 7 red and 4 black oxide crosses on the walls, and the silhouette of a praying figure on the lower south wall.

These findings, along with the ruins of a church and a large number of mosaics, coins, and religious artifacts, testify to the presence of a 5th-century shrine venerated by the Byzantine community.

Prompted by the dungeon-like appearance of the pit and its proximity to Calaphas' palace thought to have been located in this general area, the Byzantines recalled here Jesus' imprisonment overnight as he awaited trial before Calaphas and the Sanhedrin. Faithful to this ancient tradition, Christians continue to remember Jesus, the Suffering Servant of the Lord, placing on his lips the words of the psalmist:

"My soul is surfeited with troubles... You have plunged me into the bottom of the pit.... Upon me your wrath lies heavy... I am imprisoned and cannot escape... O Lord, I call upon you" (Ps 88).



Holy steps on which Jesus was taken
- see picture on the left



Sacred pit in which was held
after his arrest

Hakeldama Valley

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

Hakeldama, the Field of Blood where Judas hung himself on the southern slope of the valley of Hinnom.

Biblical reference - Matt 27:5

⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Hakeldama Valley

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Al Aqsa Mosque

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

**Built on the temple built by Solomon.
It is the third holiest site in Islam and is located in the Old
City of Jerusalem.**

**Al-Aqsa Mosque holds up to 400,000 worshippers
at one time. There are 11 gates to Al-Aqsa Mosque: 7 of
which are open. Of the 4 closed gates, one is the Golden
Gate.**

Biblical reference - 1 Kings 3:1

³ Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter.
He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the
temple of the Lord, and the wall around Jerusalem.

Al Aqsa Mosque

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Siloam Pool

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

According to the Gospel of John, it was at the Siloam Pool where Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth.

Biblical reference - John 9:7

⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Siloam Pool

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Wailing Wall

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

The Western Wall or Wailing Wall in Jerusalem is the holiest of Jewish sites, sacred because it is a remnant of the Herodian retaining wall that once enclosed and supported the Second Temple.

It has also been called the "Wailing Wall" by European observers because for centuries Jews have gathered here to lament the loss of their temple.

The Jews often pray, sometimes wail, and sometimes slip prayers written on paper through the wall's welcoming fissures.

Wailing Wall

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Chapel of the Ascension of Jesus

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

It is believed to mark the place where Jesus ascended into heaven.

Biblical reference - Luke 24:50

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Chapel of the Ascension of Jesus

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Spot of the Ascencion



Dome of Ascencion

Monastery of Pater Noster – Our Father Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

The convent is located at the site of the ruins of the Byzantine Eleona Basilica, which was built over a cave where according to tradition was the place where Jesus taught his disciples the "Our Father" (Pater Noster) prayer. It contains plaques that bear the Lord's Prayer in about 140 different languages.

Biblical reference - Matthew 6:9

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father who art in heaven...

Monastery of Pater Noster – Our Father Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Dominus Flevit Chapel Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

A Catholic Franciscan church, on the foothill of Mount of Olives, where Jesus visualises the destruction of Jerusalem and cries. The church is shaped as a tear drop.

Biblical reference - Luke 19:41

⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.

Dominus Flevit Chapel Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



The mosaic on the altar has an illustration of a hen gathering her chickens, which is based on Luke 13, 44: ".. how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"

Basilica of Agony of Jesus & Garden of Gethsamane

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

**Agony in the garden.
Betrayed by Judas & captured.
8 Olive trees very old still giving fruits.**

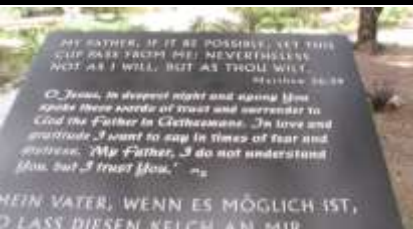
Biblical reference - Matt 26:36

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Basilica of the Agony of Jesus & Garden of Gethsamane

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



There are 8 very old Olive Trees which are still giving fruit, perhaps the descendants from the original olive trees from the times of Jesus.



Church with 12 capes



Each cape is dedicated to one of the nations that contributed to its construction. Their seals are located on the corners of the capes.



Holy Rock of Agony

Grotto of the Betrayal of Jesus Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

Last Supper room where Judas betrayed Jesus.

Biblical reference - Mark 15 15:

Where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples? And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared

Grotto of the Betrayal of Jesus Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Assumed Tomb of Virgin Mary

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

**Where the assumed tomb of the Virgin Mary
is located.**

Assumed Tomb of Virgin Mary

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Assumed Tomb of Virgin Mary

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Mount Zion

Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

Mount Zion is located on the south-west side of the old city, outside of the present walls. In Greek and Roman times this was the southern side of the walled city, the place of the Jesus last supper and the home of the high priest high priest Caiaphas.



Dormition Abbey Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

A grand German Benedictine abbey located on top of Mount Zion, commemorating the memory of Virgin Mary, in the traditional site of her death (the name means "Eternal sleep").

Dormition Abbey Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



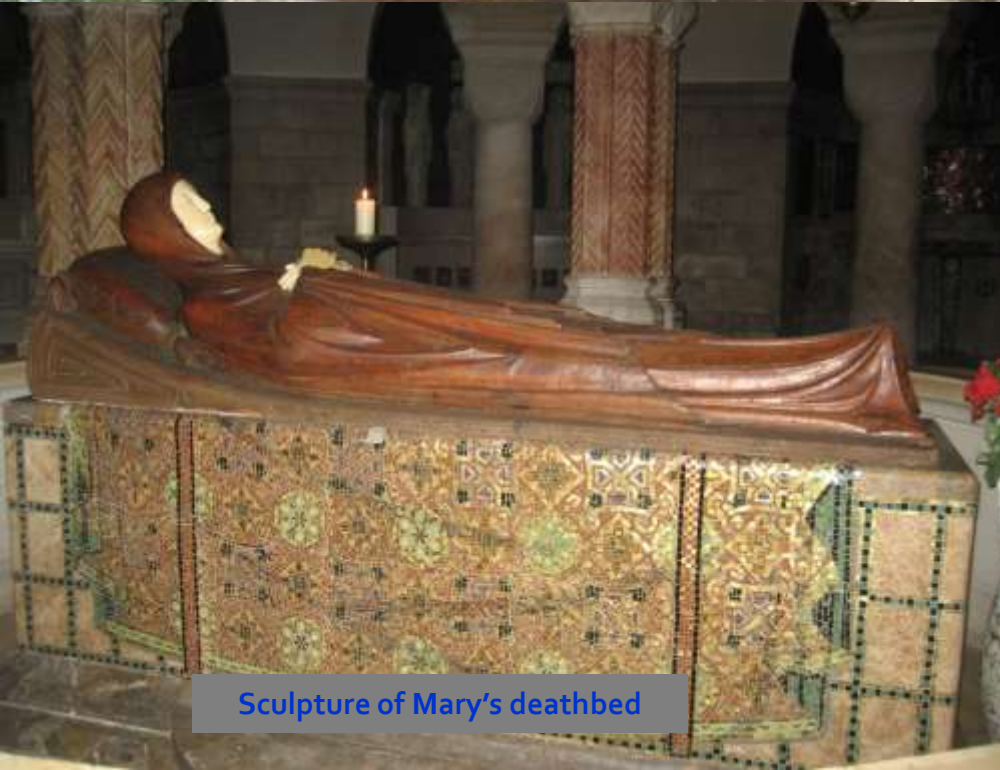
In the crypt of the Basilica can be found the site, where, according to the old Jerusalem tradition Mary lived and died after the Resurrection of Jesus.

Also in the crypt is the altar for the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



Dormition Abbey Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Sculpture of Mary's deathbed



King David's Tomb

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

The site, located on Mount Zion, is the traditional site of the tomb of King David, and one of the most holiest places for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Biblical reference - 1 Kings 2: 9:

So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David".

King David's Tomb

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

קבר דוד המלך
قبر الملك داوود
KING DAVID'S TOMB



King David's tomb

King David's Tomb

Mount Zion, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Near King David's Tomb, we were able to witness the celebration of 'Bar Mitzvah' meaning 'son of the commandment'. It is like the Sacrament of Confirmation received by the Catholics.

It is a Jewish coming of age ritual. According to the Jewish law, when Jewish boys become 13 years old and girls 12 year old, they become accountable for their actions, before that the child's parents hold responsibility for the child's actions.



Birthplace of John the Baptist

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

**Where Elizabeth, Zechariah and
John the Baptist lived.**

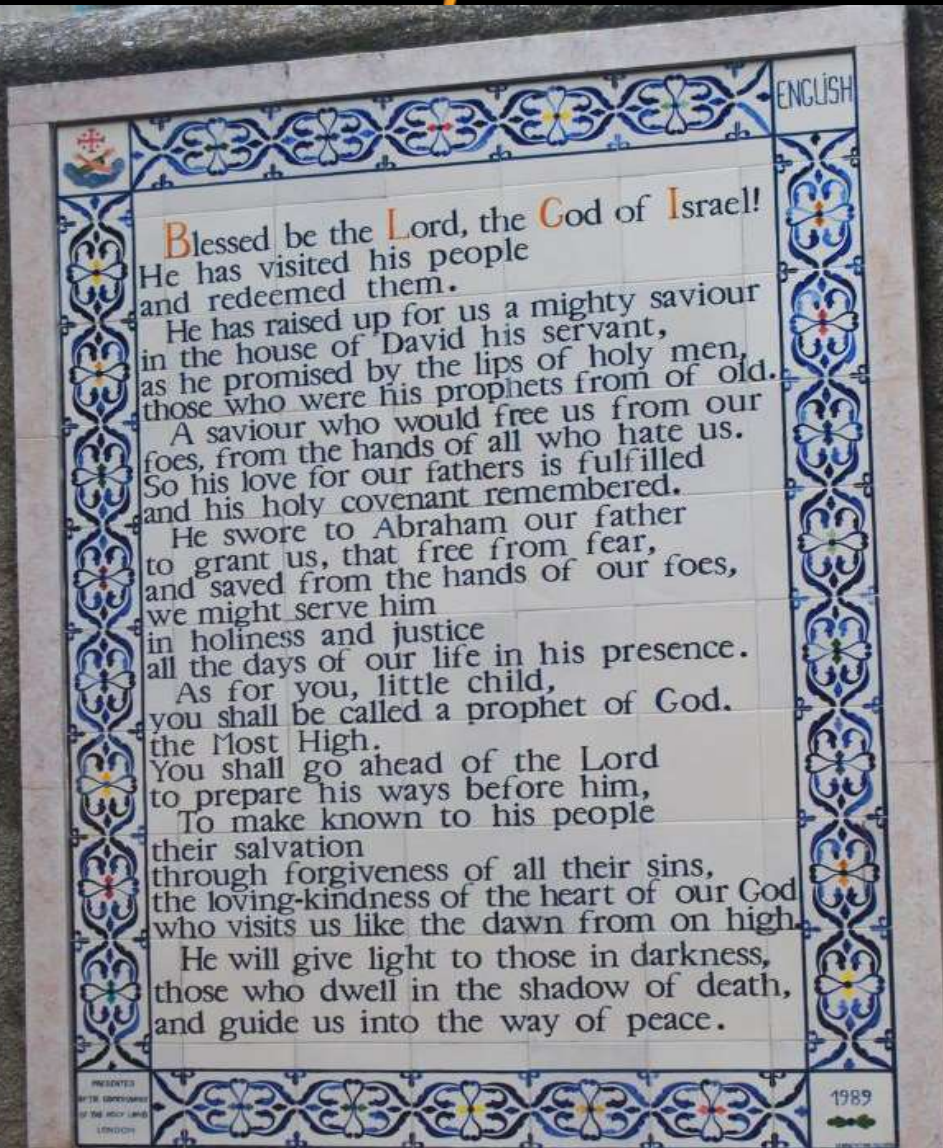
Biblical reference - Luke 1 67-68

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people

Birthplace of John the Baptist

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Birthplace of John the Baptist

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Marble star under the altar has a Latin inscription - Here was born the precursor (forerunner) of the Lord

Birthplace of John the Baptist

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



Let me prepare the way for Thee,
Remove each stone that might hinder Thee
To make Thy coming sure and soon.

Lass mich Dein Wegbereiter sein,
der Dir hinwegräumt jeden Stein,
dass Deinem Kommen Bahn gemacht.

MARKUS 1, 3

Church of the Visitation

Ein Kerem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14

A Franciscan church in Ein Kerem, on the west side of Jerusalem, named after Mary's visit to the summer house of the parents of John the Baptist . Commemorating the visit of the Virgin Mary to her Cousin Elizabeth and her joyous song of the Magnificat. Summer House of St John the Baptist. Lots of steps to climb here.

Biblical reference - Luke 1:39:

And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste,
into a city of Juda

Church of the Visitation

Ein Karem, Jerusalem

02-Oct-14



From this well, as per the tradition, John and his parents drank from the water.



Valley of Decision - Jehoshaphath Valley

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Since the 4th century A.D. the KIDRON valley has been named the Valley of Jehoshaphat, where it is believed the final judgment will take place.



Biblical reference - Joel 3:12:

12“Let the nations be called to arms. Let them march to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I, the Lord, will sit to pronounce judgment on them all.

St. Anne's Church

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

**It marks the traditional site of the home of
Jesus' maternal grandparents,
Anne and Joachim, and the birthplace of
the Virgin Mary.**

St. Anne's Church

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Pool of Bethesda

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

**This is near St. Anne's Church.
Jesus healed a paralytic man who was ill
for 38 years.**

Biblical reference - John 5:5

8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Pool of Bethesda

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Here, Jesus met the sick people bathing in the waters, and cured a paralytic.

Church of Flagellation

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

**A Franciscan monastery and Church
on Via Dolorosa.**

**According to tradition, this was the site where
the Roman soldiers flogged Jesus after he was
convicted and sentenced to death.**

Biblical reference - John 19 1-3

And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Church of Flagellation

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



The main entrance to the convent complex. The church is located on the right side of the courtyard, while the chapel of the condemnation is located on the left side.

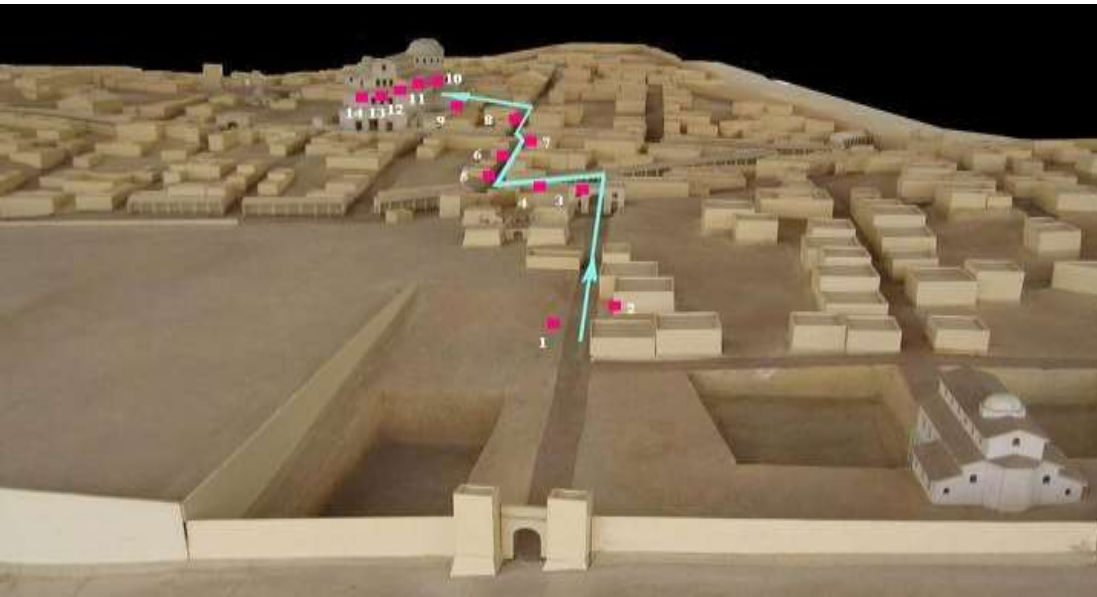
Way of the Cross – Via Dolorosa

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Via Dolorosa ("Way of Grief" in Latin) is a road in the old city of Jerusalem, a path where Jesus was led in agony, carrying the crucifixion cross. There are a total of **14 stations** along this path.

Biblical reference - Luke 23, 26
And as they led him away...



View of the Via Dolorosa Road

Station I - Jesus is condemned to death

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Station 1 is located on the north-west corner of the temple mount, across the street from the Franciscan convent of the Flagellation (station 2). This is the present position of a the Al-Omariya school, as seen in the photo below with the round sign "I" (which is "1" in Roman numerals).



Church of Condemnation

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

A Roman Catholic Church on Via Dolorosa (Station II). According to tradition, this was the site where Jesus took up his cross after being sentenced.

Biblical reference - John 19:13

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha

Church of Condemnation

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



STATION II - At this station Jesus receives the cross (John 19:17, 19): "And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha...And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross..."

Station III - Jesus falls the first time under His Cross

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Station IV – Jesus meets Mary his Mother

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Although the stones were paved several hundred years later, they followed the same route of the Roman street that existed during the times of Jesus. They may have been part of the Roman street, so conceivably Jesus could have walked on the stones⁽¹⁾.

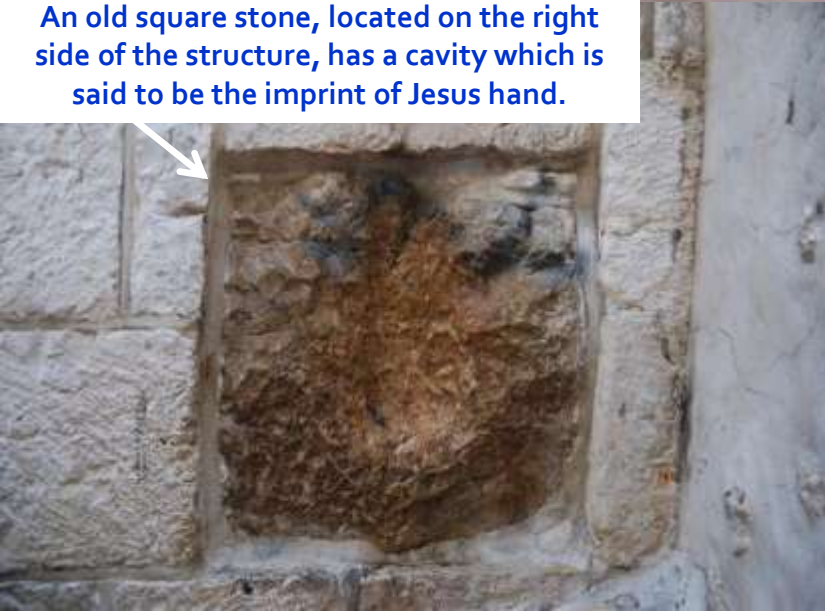
Station V – Simon helps Jesus to carry His Cross

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



An old square stone, located on the right side of the structure, has a cavity which is said to be the imprint of Jesus hand.



Station VI – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



ON JANUARY 4TH 1964, HIS HOLINESS
POPE PAUL VI
ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND
PRAYED IN THIS PLACE WHERE TRADITION
COMMEMORATES THE MEETING OF
VERONICA WITH CHRIST.
LE 4 JANVIER 1964, S.S. PAUL VI PELERIN
EN TERRE SAINTE, PRIA DANS CE LIEU OÙ
LA TRADITION COMMEMORE LE
GESTE DE
VERONIQUE

Station VII – Jesus falls the second time

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Station VIII – Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Station IX – Jesus falls the third time

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Station X – Jesus is stripped of His garments

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Station 10 is located at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the room called the Chapel of the Franks. It is seen in the photo below on the right side, with stairs that lead to the small chapel.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Also called Church of Resurrection (Anastasis). It is believed to encompass both Golgotha, or Calvary, where Jesus was crucified, and the tomb (sepulchre) where he was buried. Enshrines Calvary (or Golgotha), the Tomb of Jesus, the Chapel of St. Helen, the Chapel of the Finding (Invention) of the Cross..

Biblical reference - Matthew 27: 33, 60

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha....And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed

Station XI – Jesus is nailed to the cross

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Reaching the place of crucifixion, the hill called Golgotha, Jesus is nailed to the cross. This station is located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, just behind the wall of the 10th station. This is the Latin (Franciscan) altar on Calvary (place of the skull - Golgotha).

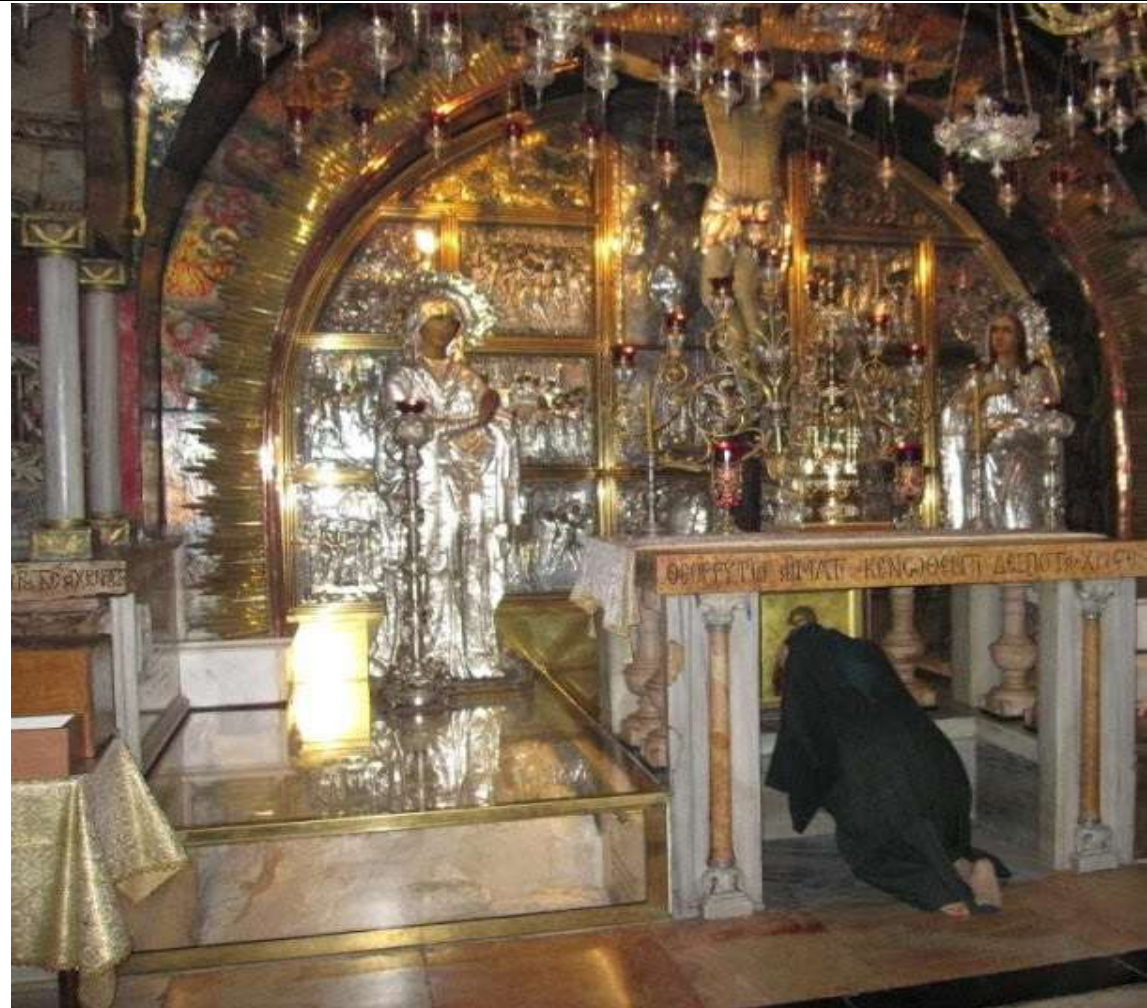


Station XII – Jesus died on the cross

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross, ending His agony. The location of this station, 12, is a Greek Orthodox crucifixion altar which is inside the Church of Holy Sepulcher. A silver disk with a central hole, underneath the altar, marks the spot where the Cross stood, and pilgrims kneel and kiss the spot. The silver icons of Virgin Mary and St John are on Jesus side.



Station XIII – Jesus is taken down from the cross

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



This station is also located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. According to tradition, the body of Jesus was laid on this stone after being removed from the cross. As per John 19: 40: "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury".

In the photo below - the stone of anointing greets the visitors, who kneel, pray and kiss the stone. Above the stone are lamps, each donated by one of the denominations.



Station XIV – Jesus is laid in the tomb

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



The heart of the Holy Sepulchre is a round hall ("Rotunda"). Here, in the center of the circle, the tomb of Jesus is located in a smaller structure - the Aedicule - which has two chambers (the Chapel of the Angle and the room of the tomb).

The photo shows the ceiling of the hall. The natural light filters in from the top of the dome, casting a holy spell over the hall.



Station XIV – Jesus is laid in the tomb

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



The entrance to the tomb is through a narrow door on the east side. There is normally a queue to enter the inner chamber.

Dead Sea

Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth in any land mass (417 meters below sea level, to be exact). The quantity of water that evaporates from it is greater than that which flows into it, such that this body of water has the highest concentration of salt in the world (340 grams per liter of water).

It is called the Dead Sea because its salinity prevents the existence of any life forms in the lake. That same salt, on the other hand, provides tremendous relief to the many ailing visitors who come here on a regular basis to benefit from its healing properties. .

Dead Sea Jerusalem

03-Oct-14



Tomb of Lazarus

Bethany, Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany where Jesus rose Lazarus from the Dead has long been venerated by Christians and Muslims alike, and a modern church dedicated to the resurrected saint stands on the site of much older ones. Where Jesus rose Lazarus from the Dead.

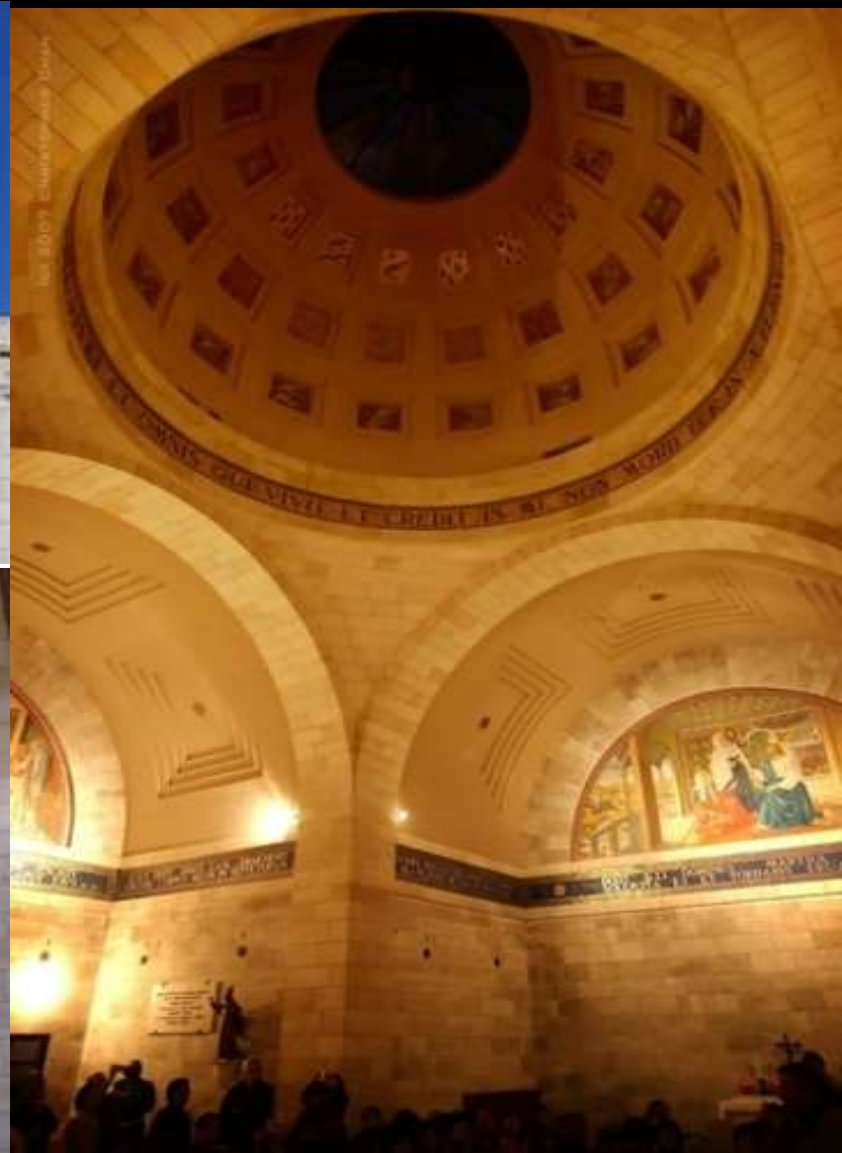
Biblical reference - John 19:13

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha

Tomb of Lazarus

Bethany, Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

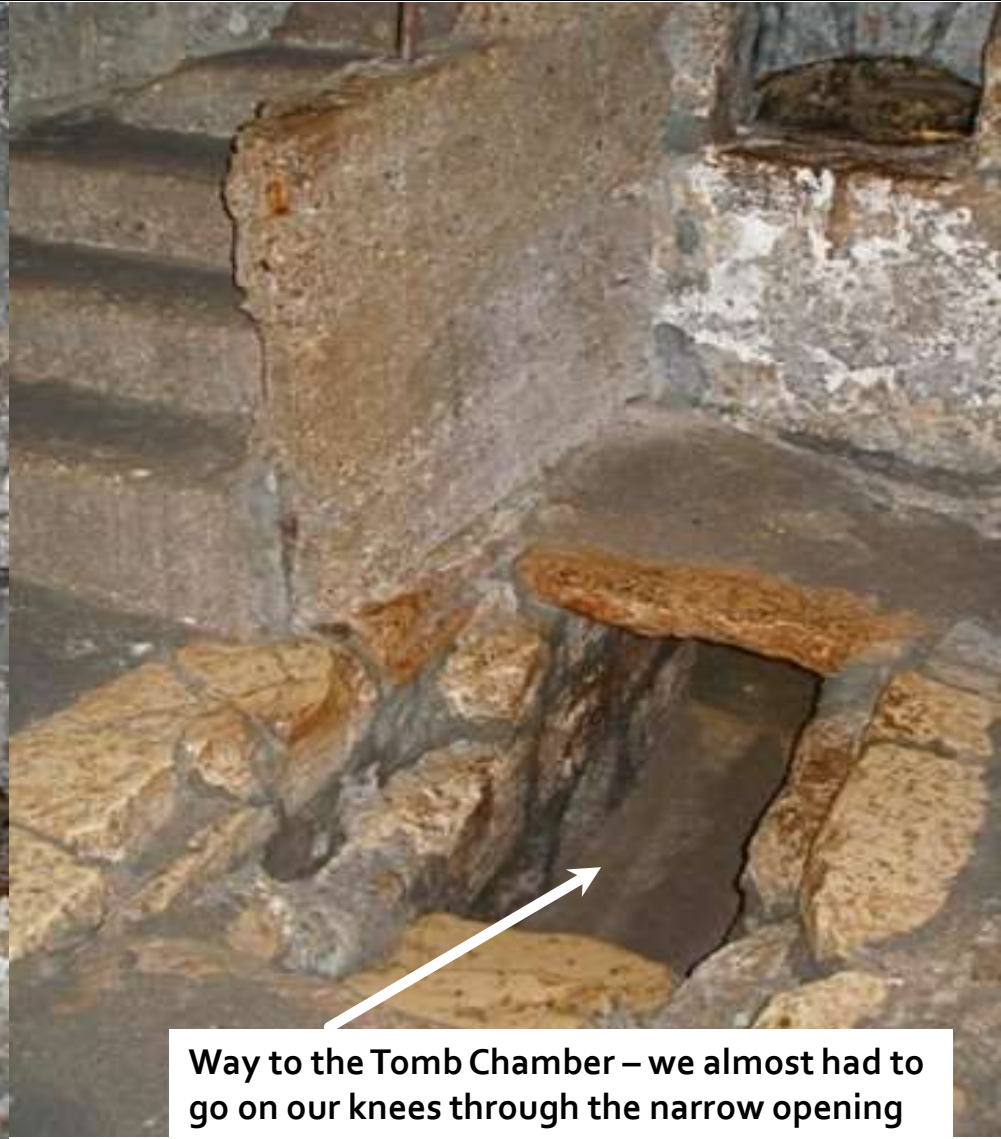


Tomb of Lazarus

Bethany, Jerusalem

03-Oct-14

Very steep stairs that go through a very narrow opening into the tomb chamber



Way to the Tomb Chamber – we almost had to go on our knees through the narrow opening

Shepherd's Field

Beith Sahour, Bethlehem

04-Oct-14

Where Ruth & Boaz met – Old Testament.

**Angel of the Lord appeared to Shepherds
and told them Jesus was born – New
Testament.**

Biblical reference - Luke 2:10

10 But the angel said to them (the shepherds), "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Shepherd's Field

Beith Sahour, Bethlehem

04-Oct-14



Grotto of the Nativity

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem marks the place where Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Biblical reference - Luke 2:11

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Grotto of the Nativity

Bethlehem

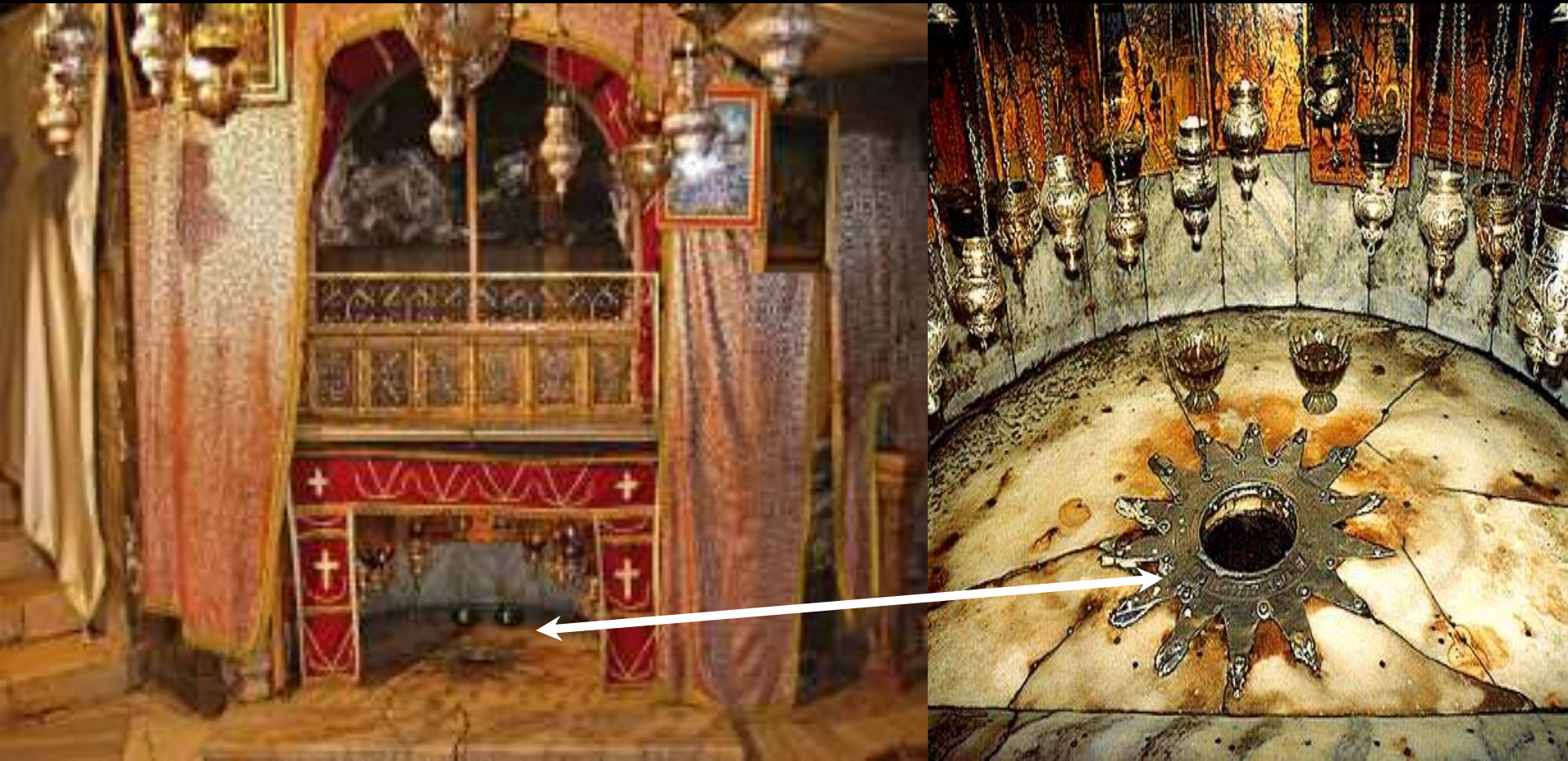
04-Oct-14



Grotto of the Nativity

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14



Altar of the Birth of Christ with its 14-point silver star on a marble slab. The 14 points of the star are said to represent the fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian Exile, and fourteen from the Exile to the birth of Christ.

St. Jerome's Grotto

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14

In this underground study which is pleasantly cool in summer but chilly in winter, St Jerome spent 30 years translating the Scriptures from Hebrew and Greek into Latin.

St. Jerome's Grotto

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14



View of an altar in the grotto that commemorates Jerome's stay in Bethlehem (died near Bethlehem A.D. 420). During that time he translated the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate)

Milk Grotto

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14

The Holy family stayed for some time in this cave before fleeing from Herod to Egypt.

The "Milk Grotto" is frequently visited by local women, Christians and Muslims alike, to ask for the intercession of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

A legend recalls how Mary spilt some milk while breast feeding baby Jesus and this is the reason for the "white" stone of the cave.

Many barren wombs are said to have been blessed here.

Milk Grotto

Bethlehem

04-Oct-14

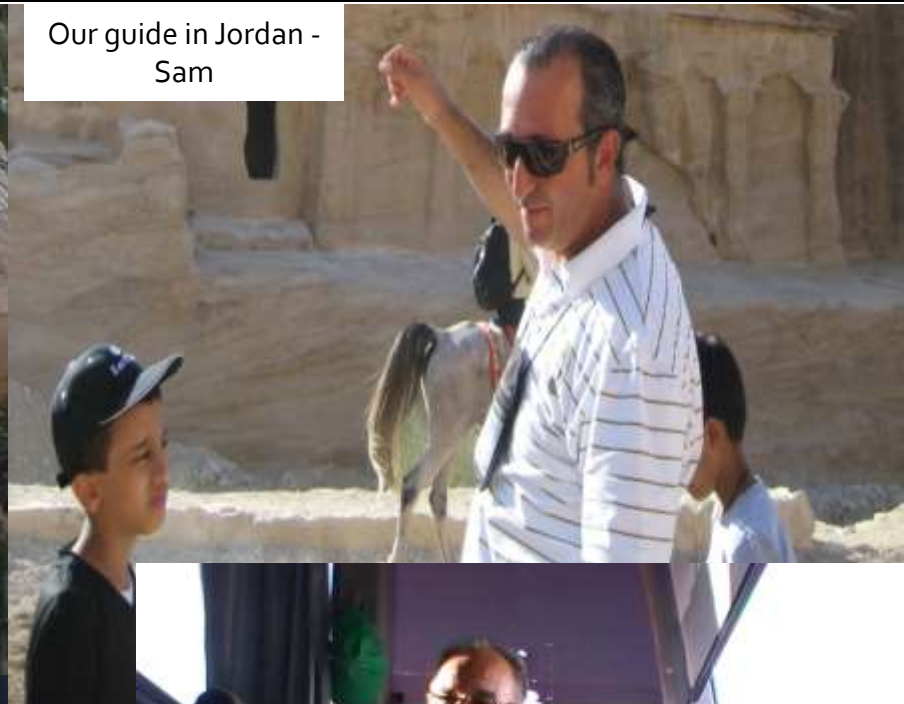


Jordan

06-Oct-14



Our guide in Jordan - Sam



Our bus driver in Jordan

Petra

Jordan

06-Oct-14

Inhabited since prehistoric times, this Nabataean caravan-city Petra, situated between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, was an important crossroads between Arabia, Egypt and Syria-Phoenicia. Petra is half-built, half-carved into the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges. It is one of the world's most famous archaeological sites, where ancient Eastern traditions blend with Hellenistic architecture.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, established possibly as early as 312 BC as the capital city of the Nabataeans. It is a symbol of Jordan, as well as Jordan's most-visited tourist attraction. It lies on the slope of Jebel al-Madhbah (identified by some as the biblical Mount Hor where Aaron Moses' Brother is buried).

Films shot here include Transformers and Indiana Jones

Petra

Jordan

06-Oct-14



Petra

Jordan

06-Oct-14



Petra

Jordan

06-Oct-14



Petra

Jordan

06-Oct-14



Mount Nebo

Jordan

06-Oct-14

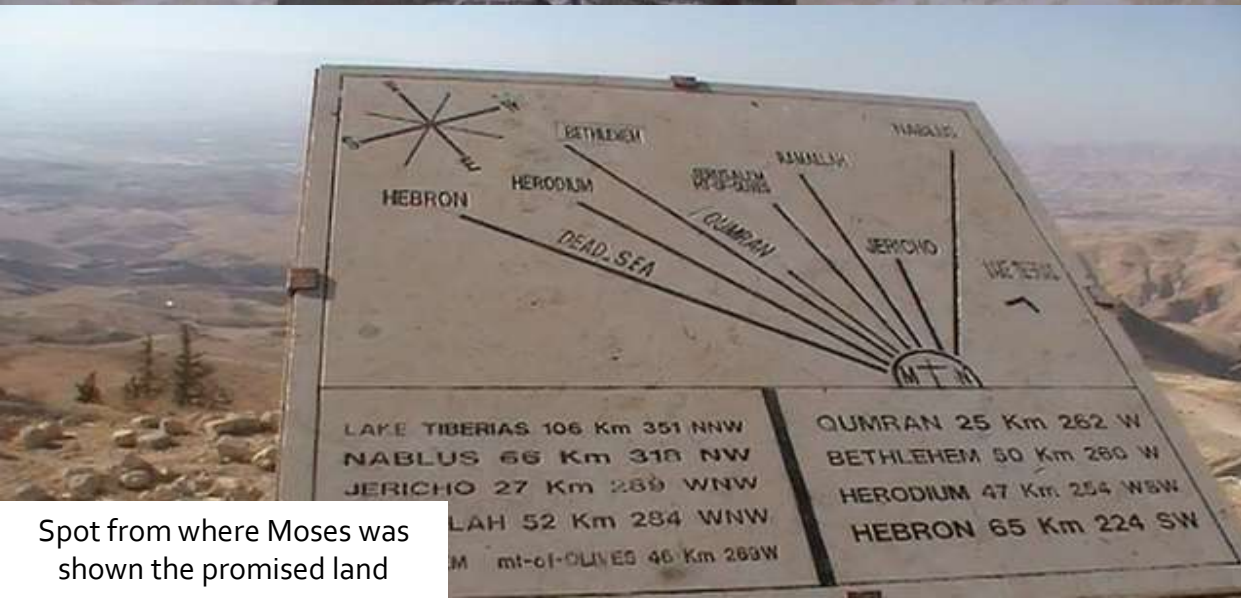
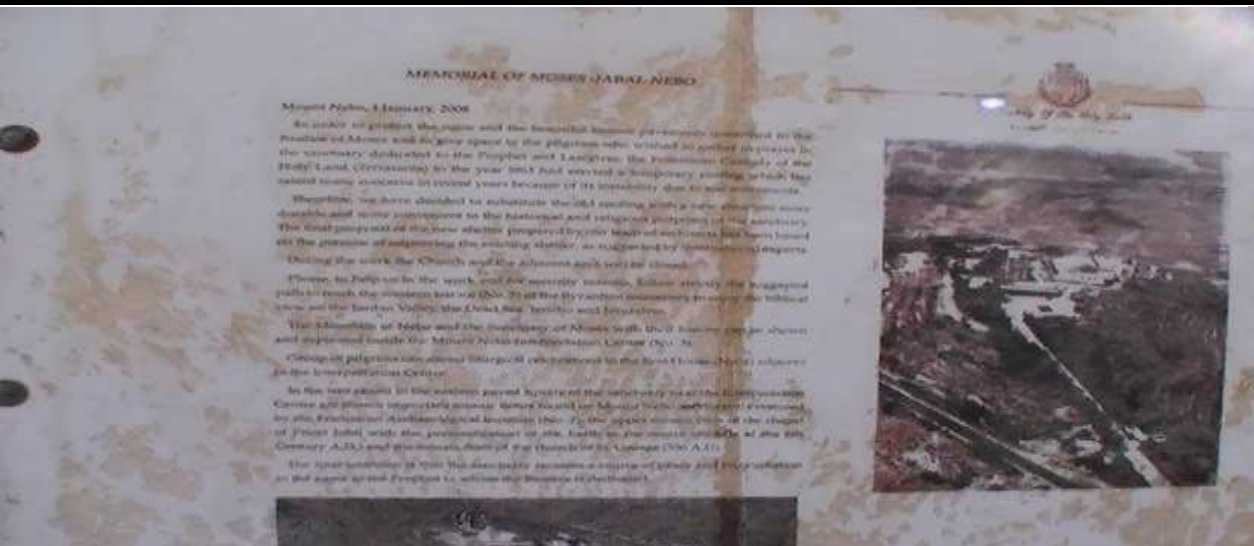
According to the final chapter of Deuteronomy, Mount Nebo is where the prophet Moses was given a view of the Promised Land that God was giving to the Israelites, after 40 years of leading them in the desert. "And Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho." (Deuteronomy 34:1).

According to Jewish and Christian tradition, Moses was buried on this mountain by God himself, and his final resting place is unknown.

Mount Nebo

Jordan

o6-Oct-14



Spot from where Moses was shown the promised land

Mount Nebo

Jordan

06-Oct-14



Stone stela, laid by Pope John Paul II at His visit, as Moses memorial at the entrance of the site in Mount Nebo, Madaba, Jordan. Depicts the pages of the holy book and the various religions of the world.



The Serpent Monument, created by Italian artist Giovanni Fantoni, it imaginatively merges the life-saving bronze serpent set up by Moses in the desert (Numbers 21:4-9) and the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.

Some other random pics



Jerusalem



Wood carving



Nazareth



Metro on the way to Mount Zion

Some other random pics

06-Oct-14

Structures are made of Lime Stone



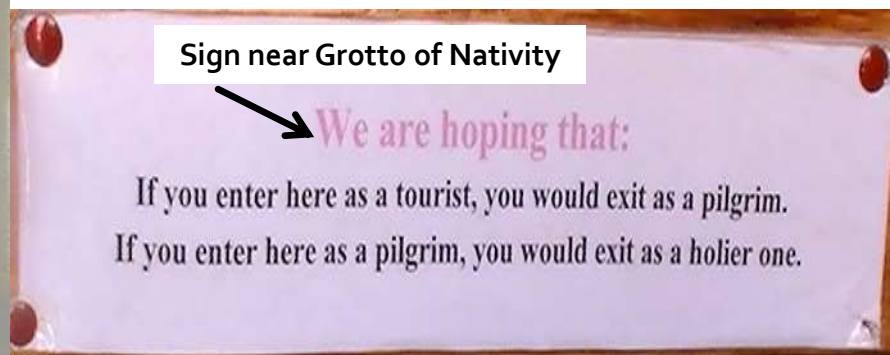
View on the way to Bethlehem



Jewish Attire with Payout (sidecurls)

ENJOY LIFE
NOW
THIS IS
NOT
A REHEARSAL

Sign near Grotto of Nativity



Saw this sign in Jerusalem in one of the Restaurants

Some other random pics



Nebo's Pearl Workshop in Jordan which is famous for it's mosaic work and most of the workers here are handicap.

The end...

And that's brings us to the end of our trip.

We hope you all enjoyed the pictures.

"Like it" or 'post your comments' to let us know how you enjoyed

Your pictorial trip with us.