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ARMENIAN EASTER PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

(Day 1): Departure USA

Overnight flight USA - ISRAEL

(Day 2): Arrival Tel Aviv - Jerusalem

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

After passport and custom formalities, meet with your tour guide and drive to Jerusalem.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

(Day 3): Palm Sunday celebrations - visit Old City

Nocturn and Matins service in Holy Sepulcher starting at 1 AM (subject to confirmation)

Divine liturgy around the Tomb of Jesus with palm branches in hand.

Opening of the doors service at St. James Cathedral.

In the afternoon there are Vespers in the Cathedral of St. James and Opening of the Door Service.

(Day 4): Stella Maris - Nazareth - Cana

In the morning we will drive to Nazareth, the town of Mary's home, where Jesus played as a child, learned a trade, and grew to manhood. There will also be a visit to the Basilica of Annunciation.

We then proceed to Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother.

(Day 5): Capernaum - Mt. Beatitudes - Tabgha - Magdala - Boat Ride

In the morning, a drive to the Sea of Galilee.

See Capernaum, the ruins of Peter's House.

Visit Mount of Beatitudes, where we enjoy its enchanting gardens and reflect over Jesus' teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Stop in Tabgha with the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter and the Church of Multiplication of Loaves and Fish.

Visit Magdala, the hometown of Mary Magdalene which includes the 1st century Synagogue. It is the oldest Synagogue discovered on shores of Galilee with a stone carved model of the Temple, including a Menorah carving.

Conclude the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

(Day 6): Baptismal site on the Jordan River - Jericho and Mount of Temptation - Dead Sea - Jerusalem

In the morning, after leaving Galilee, we will drive along the Jordan Valley and visit the Jordan River Baptismal Site that holds the oldest and most ancient tradition of being the place of Jesus' baptism.

Proceed to the city of Jericho, where we will ascend the Mount of the Temptation with the cable car.

Drive to the Dead Sea and enjoy a swim in its salty water, then Return to Jerusalem for overnight.

(Day 7): Holy Thursday celebration - Bethlehem - Shepherds' Field

In the morning we will drive to Bethlehem to visit the Shepherds' Field and Church of Nativity. We will be walking through the restored old town to the Church of Nativity and visiting the manger and see the cave of St. Jerome.

The Washing of the Feet Service.

Vigil service (Khavaroum), at St. James Cathedral.

(Day 8): Good Friday celebration - Gethsemane - Tomb of Virgin Mary - Church of all Nations - Via Dolorosa

Today we will start our day with a visit to Gethsemane, Tomb of Virgin Mary, The Church of all Nations, then we will enter the old city through St. Stephen's Gate.

Visit Church of St. Anne's, a perfectly intact Crusader Church that marks the traditional site of the home of Jesus' maternal grandparents, Anne and Joachim, and the birthplace of Virgin Mary. There, we will also visit the pools of Bethesda, where the healing of a paralyzed man took place.

Proceed to Herod's Antonia Fortress, Pilate's Judgement Hall, convent of sisters of Zion, and walk the Via Dolorosa road towards the church of the Holy Sepulcher

The Order of Crucifixion of Christ at the Holy Sepulcher Church.

The Order of the Burial of the Lord at St. James Cathedral.

(Day 9): Holy Saturday celebration

This morning we will follow the Processional walk from the Armenian Monastery to the Church of Holy Sepulchre.

Opening of the doors of Holy Sepulchre and participating in the service of Holy Fire.

Procession around the Tomb of Jesus. Return to St. James Cathedral with the Holy Fire.

Easter Eve (Jrakalooys) Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral.

(Day 10): Easter Sunday celebration - optional visit to Ein Karem

Solemn Entry to the Holy Sepulcher Church

Procession around the Holy Tomb

Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Holy Tomb of Christ

Blessing of the corners of the World in the courtyard of Saint James Monastery

At noon if time permits, we will visit the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist, and the church that commemorates his memory.

See the Church of Visitation, believed to be the site of Zechariah and Elizabeth's summer house, where Mary came to visit her cousin to congratulate her on her pregnancy.

Farewell dinner at the local restaurant.

(Day 11): Departure Israel

Depending on the flight time, there is a possibility for divine liturgy at St. James Cathedral.

Transfer to Tel Aviv and homebound flight to USA, same day arrival.