



Deacon Ray and Pat Defendorf invite you to join them on an extraordinary 2009 travel experience



Lands of the Bible Cruise - November 11, 2009

\$2398 From NYC *plus tax, tips, etc.

Day 1 - November 11 and 12

Our pilgrimage begins as we board our international flight for Athens. We'll be met by our airport representative to begin our sightseeing in Athens.

Athens

The architectural splendors of the ancient city of Athens are as magical as ever. We'll follow our guide to the ancient **Acropolis** where we will see the **Propylaea**, the **Parthenon** and the **Erectheum**. Then we'll view **Mars Hill** where Paul preached the gospel to the intellectual Athenian community of his day (Acts 17: 15-34), then visit the ruins of the **Agora**, ancient market place and center of public life, where Paul preached to the skeptical Athenians. We'll also view the **Olympic Stadium**, where the modern Olympics began. *Overnight in Athens.*

Day 3 - November 13 Corinth

This morning we'll make the short drive to Corinth (Acts 18: 1-18), a city that inspired of St. Paul's most familiar letter. In Corinth, we will: Visit the **Archaeological Museum**, the Market Place, and Temples; walk among the ruins and stand on the **Bema** where Paul stood; read Paul's letter to the Corinthians and visualize his address to the Gentiles as he began the task of building Corinth's church; and imagine where Aquila and Priscilla lived and where they had their tent making business. This evening we'll will board our lovely cruise ship the *mv Cristal*.

Day 4 - November 14 Day at Sea

Day 5 - November 15 Port Said and Cairo

Today we dock at Port Said and travel by coach to Cairo. We'll begin our tour of Cairo with a visit to the **Egypt Museum** which houses the **King Tut treasures** and many other artifacts from Egypt's long history. Then we'll visit the **Great Pyramids of Giza**, the last remaining ancient wonder, built before Moses and the Israelites were even in this ancient land.

Day 6 - November 16 Jerusalem

Our cruise ship will dock in Ashdod (near Tel Aviv) and we'll travel to Jerusalem where we'll visit the **Upper Room**, the traditional site of the Last Supper and the **House of the High Priest Caiaphas**, where Jesus was tried before the Sanhedrin. We'll pray at the **Mount of Olives** and view the city as Jesus did; wander among the olive trees of the **Garden of Gethsemane**; then enter the **Old City** and visit the **Pool of Bethesda**. We'll walk along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and continue on to the **Western Wall**

to pray before returning to the ship. *Lunch will be on our own today perhaps a falafel from a sidewalk vendor or a delicious lamb gyro and hummus from a quaint storefront restaurant.*

Day 7 - November 17 **Bethlehem**

Today we'll travel to Bethlehem to visit the cave revered as the place where Jesus was born (Matt. 1: 18 - 25; Luke 2: 1-7). The **Church of the Nativity**, which was constructed on the site, is the world's oldest functioning church. Nearby we'll view **Shepherds' Field** where the Good News was first heard. This more leisurely day will afford time for shopping for handmade olive wood gifts and souvenirs.

Day 8 - November 18 **The Galilee**

Our cruise ship docks today in the port of Haifa. We'll travel inland to the **Sea of Galilee**. Much of the Gospel is centered around the Sea. We'll pray on the **Mount of the Beatitudes** where Jesus gave his most famous sermon (Luke 6:12-49). At **Tabgha**, the traditional location for the calling of the disciples and the feeding of the 5000, we'll visit the **Church of the Fish and the Loaves** (Luke 9:10-17). Then visit the **Chapel of the Primacy** where three times Peter professed his devotion to the risen Christ (John 21). Before returning to our ship, we'll travel to the shore town of **Capernaum** where Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, John and Matthew (Matt 4:13) and wade into the **River Jordan** to renew our baptismal vows in the waters of Jesus' baptism.

Day 9 – November 19 **Day at Sea**

Day 10 – November 20 **Patmos**

When we awake, we will be docked at the harbor of the **Island of Patmos**. After breakfast, we'll disembark for a field trip on the island. We'll visit the **Monastery of St. John**, high on the mountain overlooking the entire island. We'll also visit the **Grotto of the Apocalypse** where the exiled apostle John lived and wrote the Book of Revelation and other correspondence to the early church.

Day 11 – November 21 **Ephesus**

Our cruise ship will dock in Kusadasi. Journey to **Ephesus**, the marble city where Paul spent 3 years of his ministry. It was to this community that Paul wrote his epistle to the Ephesians. The ruins of Ephesus have been restored so it is easy to get in touch with the city in Paul's time. You will visit the ancient **Agora** and imagine where Demetrius, the silversmith, sold his silver shrines of the Greek goddess, Artemis. See the library of Celsus and enter the Great Theatre mentioned in the book of Acts.

Day 12 – November 22 **Piraeus and Return to the USA**

After a morning visit to Piraeus we will be transferred to the airport for our international flight. We will return home with new images and new appreciation for the Lands of the Bible.

**For a Brochure and Registration form detailing Cabin selection options,
optional extensions and total price breakdowns, please call or write:**

Deacon Ray or Pat Defendorf
60 West Third Street
Corning, NY 14830

Ray's Cell: 607-426-1100 Pat's Cell: 607-426-1150
Ray's E-Mail: rdefendorf@dor.org
Pats E-Mail: pattbest@juno.com