



PTS TRAVELER TOUR

# ISRAEL 2023

JULY 16 - 31, 2023

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?



"When Jesus entered onto the planet as a baby, his birth was a phenomenon.

Nothing else at the time was quite so phenomenal as when this baby was brought forward, and many people saw the ministry of angels coming forth."

– John-Roger, DSS



*The Traveler Tour 2023 in Israel combines a One Accord PAT Retreat with visits to places that will quicken your awareness and can transform your relationship with your Self, Jesus and God. Plus, there is ample time for sightseeing, shopping and fun. Walk with our Traveler, John Morton, along these sacred pathways and discover what awaits you on this transformational journey.*

*We have a plan that has been worked out with our hosts to bring about a magnificent experience of the one accord. We hope for the best and leave room for how the best of intentions may work out differently than what we imagined. We thank you for your patience and understanding in advance.*

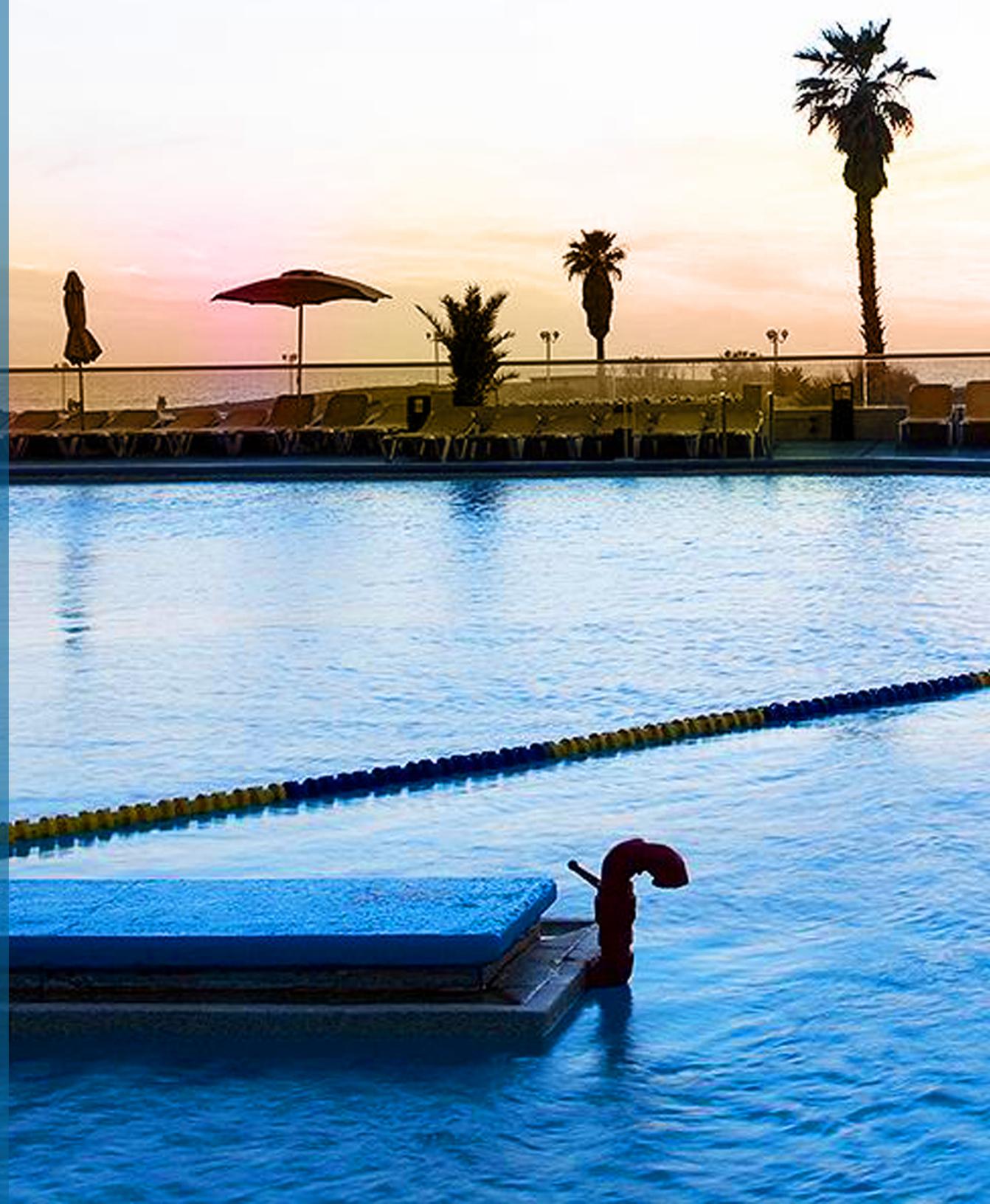
*In Jerusalem on the MSIA journey in 2014*



## SUNDAY, JULY 16, DAY 1: **ARRIVE TEL AVIV/ TRANSFER TO HOTEL**

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, we transfer to the Dan Panorama Hotel by our own arrangements.

At 6:00 pm local time we gather for an orientation meeting at the hotel. At 7:30 we enjoy a group dinner at the hotel.



MONDAY, JULY 17, DAY 2:  
**TEL AVIV / CAESAREA MARITIMA /  
AKKO / HAIFA**

This morning, after breakfast and checkout, we travel north along the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea Maritima, where Peter baptized the first Gentile convert (Cornelius) and where Paul was imprisoned. Here we view the remains of the ancient Roman aqueduct, theater, and harbor.

After an included lunch at a local restaurant, we continue along the Mediterranean to Akko (Acre), a well-protected, fortified city that is located on a promontory at the northern end of Haifa Bay. Acco is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the last stronghold of the Crusaders in the 11th and 12th Centuries. We learn of their impact on the Holy Lands. With a deep water port, it was the Crusaders' foothold in the Holy Land and was their link with Christian Europe. At one time, it was the largest city of the Crusader Kingdom with a population of about 40,000. Today we visit the excavations, bringing to light Akko's fascinating medieval history. First uncovered during the last century, our visit includes the most important of the subterranean remains. We visit the Templars Knights Hall and walk their hidden escape tunnels and the well-preserved fortifications.

We visit the el-Jazzar Mosque, named after the Ottoman Bosnian governor Ahmad Pasha el-Jazzar ("the Butcher"), who was famous for his impressive public works and the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte at the Siege of Acre in 1799. El-Jazzar ordered the mosque's construction in 1781 and had it completed within the year. This is Israel's largest mosque outside of Jerusalem.

The mosque houses the *Sha'r an-Nabi*, a lock of hair believed to be from the beard of the Prophet Muhammad. The *Sha'r an-Nabi* used to be paraded through Acre for the ending of the fast of Ramadan but is now only shown to the congregation. We travel to Haifa for check-in and dinner at the Dan Carmel Hotel.



TUESDAY, JULY 18, DAY 3:  
**HAIFA / BAHAI SHRINE  
& GARDENS / MUHRAQA  
MONASTERY / MOUNT CARMEL**

Today, after breakfast, we visit the stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine of the Bab (Gate), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built to honor the Bahai "Promised One" – Husayn-Ali, Baha'u'llah – the amazing gardens combine beauty, grandeur, and inspired design in their 19 terraces.

We visit Muhraqa Monastery. Since the 12th century, the site on Mt. Carmel has been visited by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim pilgrims as the site of Elijah's altar. For over 100 years the site has been owned by the Carmelite Order, and their monastery is named after their patron, the Prophet Elijah.

Muhraqa is traditionally identified as the site of the dramatic episode in which Elijah, in the presence of King Ahab and the people of Israel, challenged the prophets of Baal to demonstrate who was the true God and called down fire from heaven to consume his sacrifice. The statue at the Carmelite monastery reflects the Lord's victory over the prophets of Baal. After our visit, we return to the Dan Panorama hotel in Haifa. We have lunch at Liali al-Carmel, a local Druze restaurant. Dinner is included tonight at our hotel, but you might wish to take the night out and perhaps visit the Templars (German) Colony.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, DAY 4: **HAIFA / TEL MEGIDDO / GALILEE**

A wide-angle photograph showing a stone walkway made of large, irregular stones leading through ancient ruins. The walkway is flanked by thick stone walls. In the background, a vast valley opens up to rolling hills and mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

After breakfast and checkout, we venture along the Via Maris, an ancient route to enter the Jezreel Valley referenced in the new testament as the place of Armageddon. We visit the Tel Megiddo site and museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archaeological findings date back nearly 5,000 years, including the works of King Solomon and King Ahab and the sites for many nearby military battles. After our Tel Megiddo visit, we continue to Galilee for check-in at Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, our One Accord PAT Retreat location on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

## THURSDAY, JULY 20, DAY 5: GALILEE: NAZARETH / MT. TABOR / PAT RETREAT

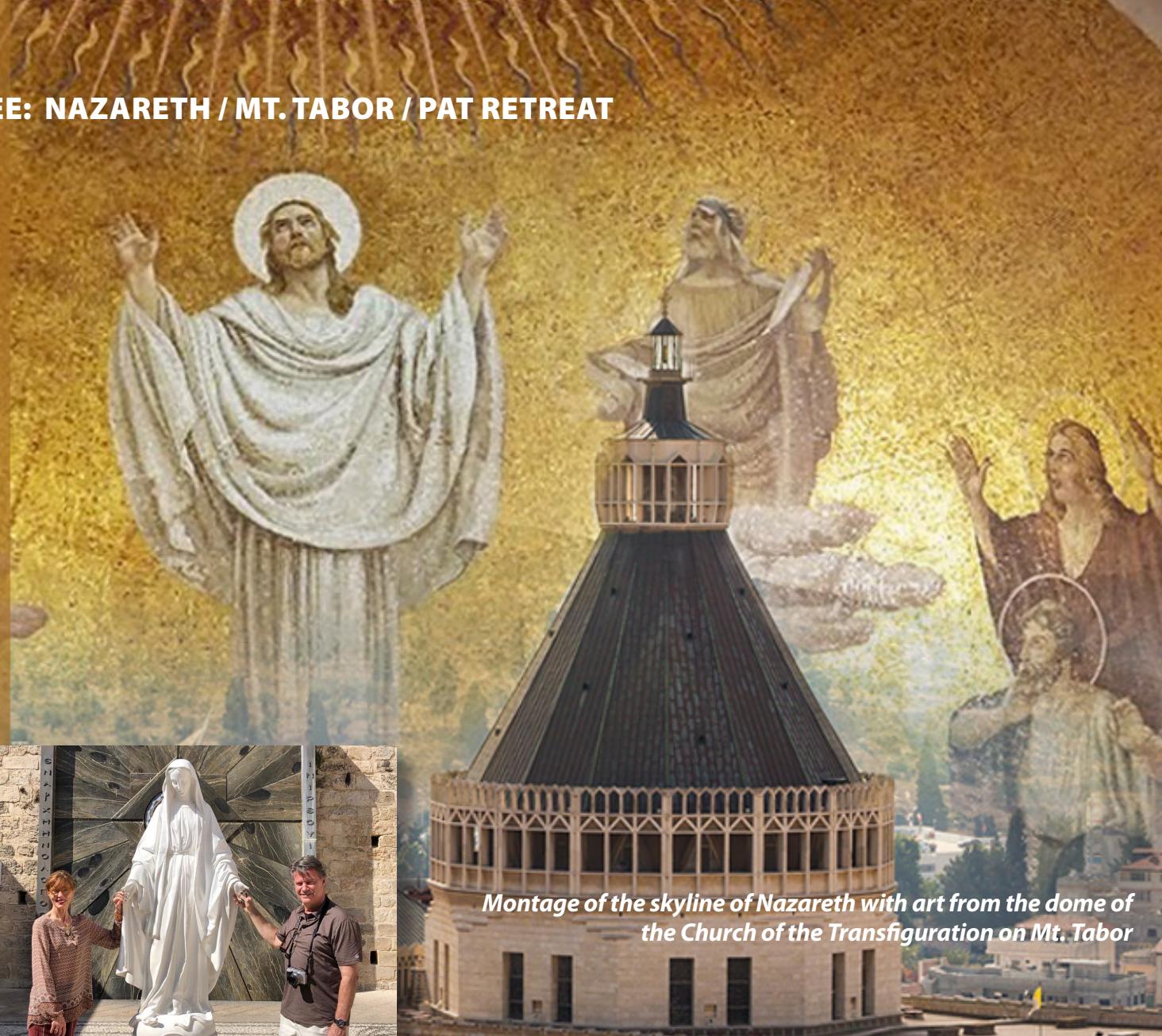
After breakfast, we visit Nazareth, the site of Joseph and Mary's home and the town where Jesus played as a child, learned the carpenter trade, and grew to manhood. Here we visit the domed Basilica of the Annunciation, where the angel Gabriel told Mary she would bear a child, and St. Joseph's Church, said to be the site of Joseph's carpentry workshop and the underground Synagogue Church, which tradition claims is the same building that used to be the village synagogue in Jesus' time. Above its doorway is an embedded sign, "the synagogue."

After an included lunch at a local restaurant, we continue on to Mount Tabor, rising dome-like from the Plain of Jezreel, the mountain where Christian tradition places the Transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James and John and they glimpsed a sign of his glory before they witnessed His passion and death (Luke 9:28-36). Our motor coach will park in the parking lot below and we will board taxis and make the winding ascent. The basilica here is an inspiring structure. We return to the kibbutz for dinner. Our PAT Retreat program begins after dinner.



*"We are in Nazareth, the place of the Annunciation, the resting place of Joseph and Mary and birthplace of Jesus. Nazareth was a very remote and safe village in the Galilee...maybe 150 or 200 people."*

—Leigh



*Montage of the skyline of Nazareth with art from the dome of the Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor*

FRIDAY, JULY 21, DAY 6:  
**GALILEE / TZFAT (SAFED) /  
PAT RETREAT**

After breakfast, we travel to Tzfat, (Safed). Rabbi Isaac Luria introduced interest in the Kabbalah to the city in the 16th century. Since that time, Safed has been considered one of Judaism's Four Holy Cities, along with Jerusalem, Hebron, and Tiberias, and the city has remained a center of Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism. For centuries, the study of Kabbalah was available only to scholarly, married religious men over the age of forty, and forbidden to all others.

Today we visit this Holy City. As we walk its cobbled streets, with its many mystical shops and galleries, we learn of the spiritual traditions that are the truths found in the wisdom of Kabbalah that enhance our spiritual life. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will have time at leisure for shopping. We return to Nof Ginosar for our PAT retreat program. Dinner is served at our kibbutz.





*"I love being in Tzfat...a familiar 'home' for me, and the ancient home for Kaballah and its remarkable mystical history. Here I am with my wonderful teacher/guide of Kaballah, Avi."*

—Leigh



*"Our Traveler blessing Tzfat. The conversation of the Soul is ordinary here as Soul focus is in everyday life with Kaballah. Art is part of their soul expression, thus GREAT shopping."*

—Leigh



*"Ancient and modern: rabbi on his smartphone at a yeshiva and synagogue in Tzfat."* —Leigh



SATURDAY, JULY 22, DAY 7:

## GALILEE: PAT RETREAT / MOUNT OF BEATITUDES / TABGHA, CHURCH OF THE MULTIPLICATION, CHURCH OF PRIMACY

We continue with our PAT retreat program. Lunch is at the kibbutz. This afternoon we visit the Mount of Beatitudes and its stunning panoramic vista of the Sea of Galilee. Here we recall the Sermon on the Mount, a powerful summary of the fundamental teachings of Jesus.

We visit the nearby Church of the Multiplication (Tabgha) on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, commemorating where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000. We walk along a shoreline promenade to visit the church of Peter's Primacy. Here, after His resurrection, Jesus met with His disciples and asked Peter, "Do you love me?" then "Feed my sheep" [John 21:9]. We gather in the shade of a nearby grove of trees to look out upon the place where Jesus called out to the fishermen from the shore. Dinner at our kibbutz.



"A heart-shaped stone marking  
the place where Jesus asked Peter,  
'Do you love me?'"

—Leigh



A photograph showing a group of approximately 15 people, mostly women, sitting on a series of stone steps. They are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, tank tops, and shorts. Many have name tags pinned to their shirts. The group is looking towards the right side of the frame, possibly at a speaker or presentation. The background shows more stone structures and some greenery.

SUNDAY, JULY 23, DAY 8:

**GALILEE: PAT RETREAT:** We enjoy a full day of the PAT in retreat.

The PAT Trainings were created under the direct supervision of John-Roger to provide a retreat where people can break through whatever blocks their conscious awareness of Spirit. PAT I, II and III are conducted in retreat locations throughout the world. From 1984 through 1990, and again in 1995, John-Roger led groups of people on PATs in Egypt and Israel, called PAT IV and PAT V. These PAT journeys included time in retreat to do PAT-style processes. In Israel, the PAT processes were often held at Nof Ginosar kibbutz. This year we will be doing PAT processes at Nof Ginosar once again, centered around the theme of One Accord.

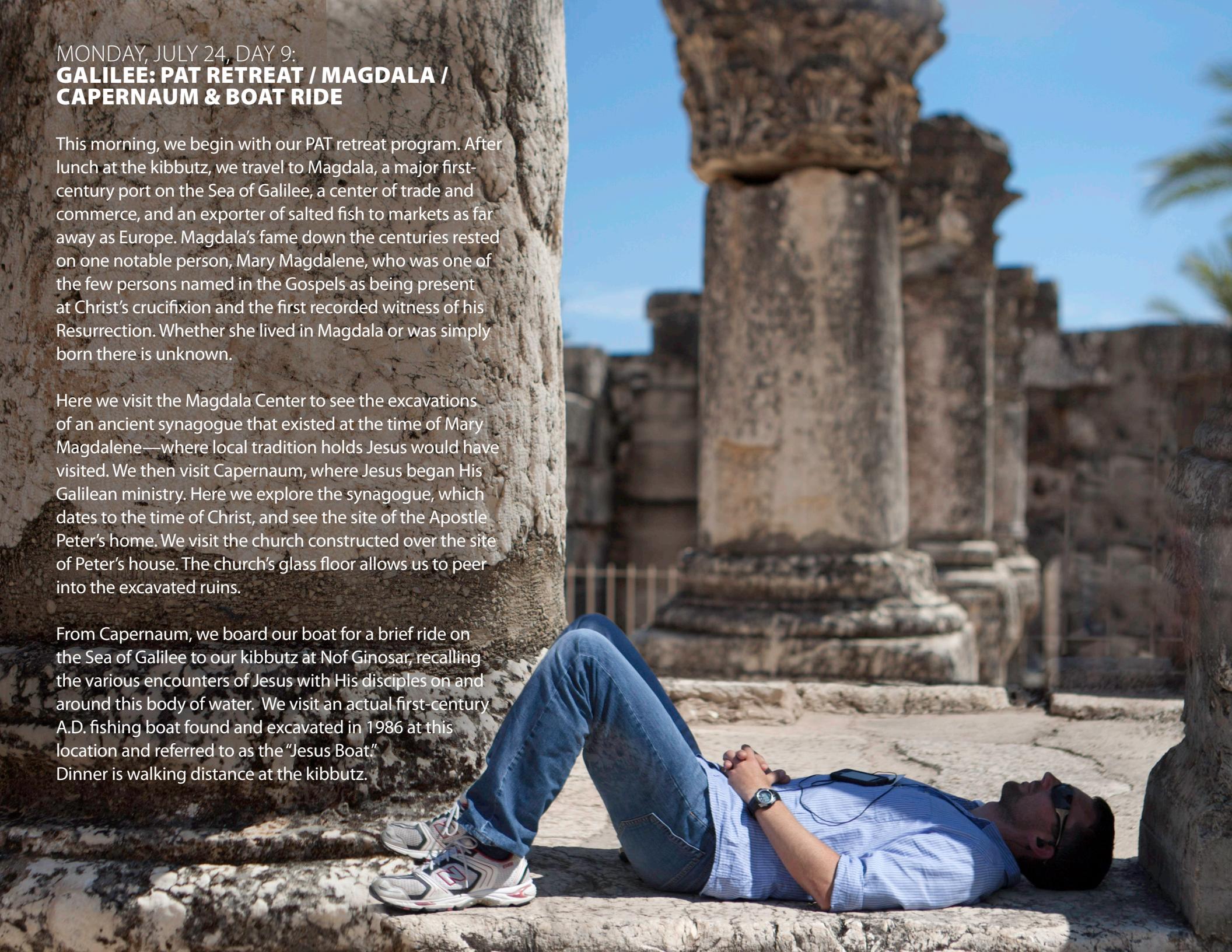
MONDAY, JULY 24, DAY 9:

## **GALILEE: PAT RETREAT / MAGDALA / CAPERNAUM & BOAT RIDE**

This morning, we begin with our PAT retreat program. After lunch at the kibbutz, we travel to Magdala, a major first-century port on the Sea of Galilee, a center of trade and commerce, and an exporter of salted fish to markets as far away as Europe. Magdala's fame down the centuries rested on one notable person, Mary Magdalene, who was one of the few persons named in the Gospels as being present at Christ's crucifixion and the first recorded witness of his Resurrection. Whether she lived in Magdala or was simply born there is unknown.

Here we visit the Magdala Center to see the excavations of an ancient synagogue that existed at the time of Mary Magdalene—where local tradition holds Jesus would have visited. We then visit Capernaum, where Jesus began His Galilean ministry. Here we explore the synagogue, which dates to the time of Christ, and see the site of the Apostle Peter's home. We visit the church constructed over the site of Peter's house. The church's glass floor allows us to peer into the excavated ruins.

From Capernaum, we board our boat for a brief ride on the Sea of Galilee to our kibbutz at Nof Ginosar, recalling the various encounters of Jesus with His disciples on and around this body of water. We visit an actual first-century A.D. fishing boat found and excavated in 1986 at this location and referred to as the "Jesus Boat." Dinner is walking distance at the kibbutz.





*On the boat on the Sea of Galilee*

TUESDAY, JULY 25, DAY 10:  
**GALILEE: PAT RETREAT,  
TIBERIAS, YARDENIT  
BAPTISMAL SITE**

Our PAT Retreat program completes this afternoon. After lunch, we go to Tiberias on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee to visit the Tomb of Rabbi Moses Maimonides. The Rambam (Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon) is considered among the greatest Jewish sages. The walkway to the grave is symbolic; seven columns on both sides are inscribed with the names of the Mishneh Torah's fourteen books. A large metal structure over the complex represents a crown, indicating the great respect Jewish tradition accords Maimonides.

Next, we visit the baptismal site on the Jordan River at Yardenit. Dinner is nearby at Magdalena Restaurant.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, DAY 11:  
**GALILEE / JERICHO/  
DEAD SEA / JERUSALEM**

After breakfast and checkout, we proceed south toward the ancient remains of Beit She'an, one of the largest excavated sites in Israel. In biblical times, the Philistines crucified Saul and his son on the city walls. We visit Qasr Al-Yahud baptismal site on the Jordan River. This site holds the oldest and most ancient tradition for being the place of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17).

Next, we view the Dead Sea, the lowest elevation place in the world, on our way to Qumran where the Essenes lived and the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We continue on to Jericho for a panoramic tour. Here, we view the remains of the ancient walled city, one of the oldest cities in the world. After an included lunch in Jericho, we travel to Jerusalem along the ancient pathway where Jesus and His followers were sure to have passed. We can also view the 4th century St. George's Monastery from a distance. We check in to the David Citadel hotel located within walking distance of the Jaffa Gate to Old Jerusalem.





J-R, John and crew in Qumran, 2009



*"Behind us, and magnified in inset above, is the ancient road connecting Jericho to Jerusalem through the desert wilderness. Jesus walked it many times."*

—Leigh

THURSDAY, JULY 27, DAY 12:

**JERUSALEM: MT. ZION, UPPER ROOM, SOUTHERN WALL OF TEMPLE,  
WESTERN WALL, TEMPLE MOUNT**

Today, after breakfast, we travel to Mt. Zion where we visit the Upper Room, commemorating the Last Supper and Pentecost. We continue with a visit to the Southern Wall Excavations.

Subject to local conditions permitting, we visit the Temple Mount. In the time of Jesus, this was the site of the Jewish Temple and where now is a major Muslim Shrine, the Dome of the Rock. At the southern end, the Al Aqsa Mosque is located, as well as the Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, of the ancient Temple destroyed in AD 70. Thousands of people journey to the wall every year to visit and recite prayers. These prayers are either spoken or written down and placed in the cracks of the wall. The wall is divided into two sections, one area for males and the other for females. The balance of the day is at leisure to explore on our own.



**Spiritual Exercises in the Upper Room, 2014**





*At the Western ("Wailing") Wall*

FRIDAY, JULY 28, DAY 13:  
**JERUSALEM: EXCURSION TO  
BETHLEHEM**

This morning, after breakfast, we travel to Bethlehem for a visit of the Convent of Bethlehem. Later, we continue to Bethlehem's Manger Square, where we enter one of the oldest Christian shrines, the Church of the Nativity. We also visit St. Catherine's Church and St. Jerome's Chapel. Lunch is included at Casa Nova Franciscan House. We return to Jerusalem. We gather for dinner and a group meeting.





*The Church of the Nativity*

*Prayers at what many believe is the precise spot of  
the birthplace of Jesus, underneath the Church of the  
Nativity in Bethlehem*



SATURDAY, JULY 29, DAY 14:  
**JERUSALEM: GARDEN TOMB,  
MT. OF OLIVES, CHURCH OF  
PATER NOSTER & LEISURE**

After breakfast we visit the Garden Tomb, a beautiful environment for meditation, although the Holy Sepulchre is considered the more probable location for the events of the cross. Next, we visit the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. We make our way to nearby Pater Noster Shrine, commemorating the "Our Father who art in heaven" prayer in many languages from around the world and near the place of the Ascension of Jesus. The balance of the day is at your leisure until we gather for dinner and a group meeting.



*View from the Mount of Olives  
(Inset above: Inside the Garden Tomb)*



SUNDAY, JULY 30, DAY 15:

## JERUSALEM: GETHSEMANE/ ST. PETER OF GALLICANTU, HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS, GOLDEN GATE, STEPHEN'S GATE, CHURCH OF ST. ANNE, ECCE HOMO, VIA DOLOROSA, CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, NOTRE DAME HOLY SHROUD EXHIBIT

After breakfast, we begin a sacred Compassion Walk from where Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane to where he was tried by the Sanhedrin, then taken to Pontius Pilate, then Herod, then the Passion with the Romans to where he was placed on the cross. Along the way we will visit the following:

**Garden of Gethsemane** with trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus.

**Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** ["crowing rooster"] & **House of Caiaphas**: where Jesus was led up to the Palace of Caiaphas for His first interrogation by the High Priest.

**Walkway along the outer eastern wall of Old Jerusalem**, passing near Golden Gate. It is said that Jesus, riding on a donkey, passed through this gate on Palm Sunday, in fulfillment of the Jewish prophecy concerning the Messiah.

**St. Stephen's Gate.** Lions' Gate is another name for this eastern entrance into the Old City, because of the four animals that decorate the gate's facade.

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

**Ecce Homo Convent**, a place marking where Pontius Pilot presented Jesus to the crowd and Roman soldiers tortured prisoners.

**Pools of Bethesda** where Jesus miraculously healed a paralyzed man.

**Walk along Via Dolorosa** and 14 stations of the Cross.

**Church of the Holy Sepulchre** the church built on the traditional site of Jesus' Crucifixion and burial in the Old City area of Jerusalem.

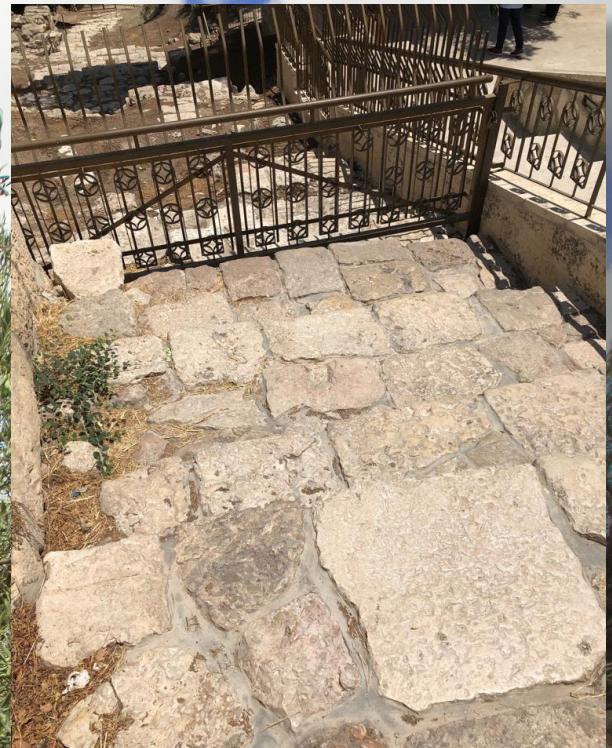
**Walk to Notre Dame via New Gate.**

After lunch at the Notre Dame Center, we visit the Holy Shroud exhibit there. We have some time at leisure before our farewell group dinner at the Notre Dame rooftop.



*The Notre Dame rooftop*

## *The Garden of Gethsemane*



*"These are the original stone steps Jesus walked up to the home of the High Priest of the Sanhedrin, Caiphas, after being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

*He walked up these steps unbound, shortly to spend the night in a dungeon below Caiphas' house." —Leigh*

*Jesus*



*Walking in Old Jerusalem*

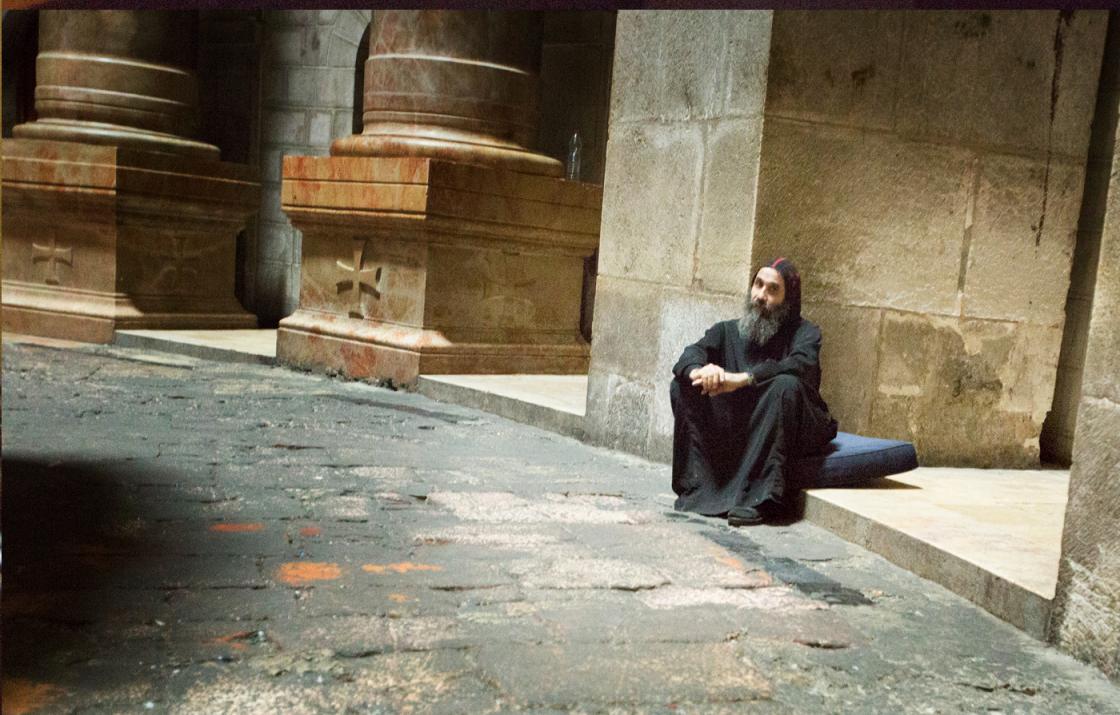


*With John at the Golden Gate*





*The Church of the Holy Sepulchre*



MONDAY, JULY 31, DAY 16:  
**FAREWELL**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.  
Transfer on our own to the airport.



*Please join us!*

## **PTS TRAVELERS TOUR TO THE HOLY LAND OF ISRAEL**

16 Days: July 16 – July 31, 2023

**Cost: \$10,000 (Airfare not included)**

**25% deposit (\$2,500) required for booking a place on the trip**

Register now by contacting PTS at [travelertour2023@pts.org](mailto:travelertour2023@pts.org)

**Questions?**

Email PTS at [travelertour2023@pts.org](mailto:travelertour2023@pts.org)

