

Spiritual experience of our sisters on their visit to Holy Land is shared with us.

Reflections on Holy Land tour



The Holy land tour was an incredible experience that touched my soul and deepened my connection to spirituality in ways I could have never imagined. The Holy Land is filled with history, spirituality, and breathtaking sights. It been an implausible opportunity to relish and relive the memories of such a sacred place.

From the moment we set foot in Holy land, I was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of history and faith that permeated the city. Walking through the narrow streets of the Old City, I couldn't help but be awestruck by the ancient stone walls, the bustling markets, and the beautiful mix of cultures that coexist in this sacred place.

Visiting the Western Wall which is a sacred site for both Jews and Muslims was a truly overwhelming experience. Being in the presence of such a significant religious site, witnessing people pouring out their hearts in prayer, left an indelible mark on me.

One of the most powerful experiences of the trip was walking the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem retracing the footsteps of Jesus on his path to crucifixion. The Stations of the Cross, Calvary, The holy sepulcher, each marked by a sign or a chapel, evoked a deep sense of sorrow and empathy.

Another highlight of the trip was exploring Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Stepping into the Church of the Nativity, I was moved by the serenity and tranquility that enveloped the space. The beauty of the mosaics and the feeling of being in the very spot where Jesus was born filled me with a deep sense of grace and gratitude. I felt a profound sense of unity and reverence, realizing that people from all walks of life come together in this place to seek solace, hope, and connection with a divine power.

We also had the privilege of visiting the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus spent much of his ministry. Standing on the shores of this serene body of water, I could almost imagine the scenes from the Bible unfolding before my eyes. It was a place of reflection and renewal, and I couldn't help but be moved by the significance of the miracles and teachings that took place there. I was greatly thrilled to witness people of different nations singing suitable hymns in one chorus to mark significance of the place visited like our father, Magnificat, Benedictus and hymns to our lady etc.

A dip in Jordan River gave an enthralling experience as I recalled and feel the experience of Jesus being baptized.

Every place that was visited i.e Nazareth, Bethany, Capernaum, the town of Jesus, shepherds fields, mount Tabor, Tabha, the place where Jesus fed 5000 people, Egyptian pyramids, mount

St.Catherine, Mount Nebo , a swim in red sea, floating on dead sea, view of sunrise and sunset in beautiful resorts on sea beach etc. has given me an engrossing and exciting experience letting me into trance even after several days of returning to India.

Overall, the Holy land trip was undoubtedly a fascinating, enlightening and transformative journey for me. It deepened my faith, broadened my understanding of the bible, different cultures and religions, and strengthened my connection to the divine.

I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to visit holy land. Thanks to Sr. Mukta and council for making my trip a memorable one. I believe it will be a journey that will change the way I perceive the world and the Bible.

Sr.Lalitha Shyamala

HOLY LAND -Cherished Experience



Ex.3:6 He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” I consider myself extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land, the location where our God was born, lived, died, and rose again.

Every location I visited gave me a sense of being the God's chosen people (Israel).I was thrilled and delighted to view the Egyptian pyramids, the Nile river, the burning bush, the Sea of Galilee, the Sea of Tiberius, the Jordan River, and the Dead Sea, where I could experience floating. Every location I have been to has aided in my reflection and prayer while I read the Bible. My grasp of the Bible has improved, and I now firmly think that our God is the real God who actually lived on earth. It is very lovely to observe how well-kept the flower beds and every other location are.

I was pleased with the guides that followed us and provided excellent explanations at each place, particularly Mr. Martin from the start to the end of our journey. The meals and accommodations were excellently planned. Each location where we stayed provided hospitality and care. Overall, the trip was quite comfortable and enjoyable.

Thank you so much Madam/Sir, for taking the time to arrange everything so carefully and without creating any inconvenience. The fact that you are directly preaching God's Word through your mission is something for which I give thanks to God. I assure my prayers.

I thank God for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as well.

Sr. Shanthi Mary Kalajalapati

My experiences of the trip to Holy land



My heart throbs with joy to share the . It was a life dream to have this beautiful opportunity to walk in the places where Jesus Himself walked. I would like to thank Sr.Mukta & council for availing this opportunity to me and all of us. This pilgrimage gave me a concrete evidences of the Pascual mysteries i.e. the birth, life, death and the resurrection of Jesus. The places and the persons of the entire history of salvation is seen and experienced. Gods acts of salvation has become so tangible now as I read the Bible. The patriarchs like Abraham, Issac, Jacob and Moses believed in what God has told and received the blessings of God. Burning bush and the wife of Lot ,the pillar of salt were such evidences. I say this is a journey of faith as I took time to pray and reflect. My faith is deepened in Christ as well as in the holy catholic Church. Walking through the streets of Jerusalem to Mount Calvary, there after the holy sepulcher, the empty tomb is the proof of His resurrection that we are the people of resurrection. Praying the rosary has become very meaningful for me from Annunciation till Pentecost because visited all the places of the decades of the rosary.

The protection of God as the apple of His eye and the company of one another is praise worthy. All the masses that I offered and the graces prayed for are being answered. Indeed the love and blessings of God are unending.

Sr.Swarna Yeruva

Visit to Holy Land



To ,once in my life time was the greatest desire , which came true on 17th of may 2023, by the grace of God and the opportunity given by the Congregation. First of all I am grateful to God and thankful to our Provincial Sr. Mukta Xess and her team with their constant care and support, my dream came true.

As I was preparing myself mentally and physically , I had only prayer , Lord increase my faith , help me to experience your presence throughout my visit to Holy Land. Visited most of the

historical Churches and other places, admired the beauty of its architect, felt the closeness of Jesus with me. But God wanted to reveal Himself to me in a different way. It so happened as we were travelling from Egypt to Israel by bus, I was clicking random photos through the window. At the end of the day as I checked the photos one of the photos was unusual, because when I zoomed the photo I could see the form of the Holy Spirit and the rays falling on the earth. I am glad to share this photograph with all.

I felt the presence of Jesus in Holy Land, with great satisfaction and joy, I prayed for the various needs of the Church, world, our congregation and family members. Now I am more familiar with Jesus, better understanding of scriptures, because I have seen the God's own land.

Once again I am grateful to you dear sisters for your generosity and timely guidance.

Sr. Pushpa Khakha

A Memorable Journey of a Lifetime The 'HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE'.



"It is better to see and experience something once, than to hear about it a thousand times." Anonymous

It is my dream to set foot in the Holy Land. The purpose was to see and feel the very foundation of my faith; to take what was in the Bible and turn it into a vivid reality. To read about it in the Bible is one thing, but to travel on foot and see everything with one's own eyes is another experience altogether. For 11 days, through Egypt, Israel, Palestine and Jordan, was a journey unlike any other that we had ever gone through, as it was a true spiritual awakening: a life-changing experience that each and every one of us would never forget.

We were privileged to "Walk where Jesus walked," and in Capernaum—referred to as Jesus "own town", where Jesus began his ministry and recruited his first disciple. Went up to the Mt. of Beatitudes, submerged ourselves in the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, proceeded to the Golden City of Jerusalem, and walked the Stations of the Cross and spent time to reflect on the Lord's sacrifice for all of us. What an incredible moment it was when we stood on the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem, where Jesus ascended into heaven. We all experienced the magnificent Nabatean treasure, one of the world's greatest archaeological sites—the 2,000-year-old city of Petra. Stayed in Mabada, where Moses "the servant of the Lord" died there in the land of Moab. Went atop Mount Nebo, from where Moses viewed the Promise Land.

These are destinations for Christian pilgrims to visit and experience how Jesus, Mary and Joseph led their lives in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem and other places. It was an exciting and emotional feeling to be at the birthplace of Jesus. My tour of the Holy land was a memorable one and I suggest every JMJ and Christian to visit these places to experience the bible.



Sr. Pauline

Spiritual journey of a lifetime



I have taken many journeys in my life, but nothing like that of a . I was fortunate (& every Christian longs to set his/her feet in these holy place but may not have the chance) to have this unique opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Journey to Holy Land is indeed a life transforming enriching spiritual experience in rediscovering the hidden treasures of life of Jesus. The Holy Land where our Lord and Master Jesus was born and brought up and fulfilled His mission (the ministry of Jesus) in saving mankind through His Paschal mystery i.e the place of our salvation history along with Jesus Mary Joseph and Apostles. This journey indeed helped me to renew and increase my faith in particular the places of stations of the Cross to mount Calvary, Holy Sepulcher, Mount Tabor, Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazereth, Cana, Churches of Annunciation and visitation, Moses burning bush etc.

I have experienced very many spiritual blessings and learn to have undaunted faith and Trust in Jesus specially during storms and turbulence of life that without Jesus' intervention nothing happens to me. I express my profound sense of gratitude to the Provincial Council for giving me this gracious opportunity to visit the Holy places which fills my heart to live a life of integrity.

Sr. Shanthi M

Experience of Visit To Holy Land



God is gracious and abounding in love. Holy Land- holy places connected to the main events in the life of Jesus and also associated with events from the Old Testament, the lives of Mary, John the Baptist, the apostles & the saints. I experienced inner joy and happiness that God blessed me to have this spiritual journey in the land where he spend his whole life from birth to resurrection and ascension. As we went about, I noticed the faith and belief of various people which helped me strengthen & deepen my faith. This journey to holy land, a spiritual journey I experienced to say I have no words to explain but only Thank God for giving me this chance. It's helping me to understand scripture more meaningful. When I wish something in related to spiritual growth God ensures that to grant that wish because he is my spiritual father & mother and care taker.

I Thank God & the congregation for giving me chance to experience God's unending love for me & for the universe. Special thanks to all the sisters for praying for us specially as our visa got rejected, last moment it was confirmed. It is another experience that when many pray for the same particular intension that will be answered for sure.

I am very much pleased with the guides & the arrangements were excellent & comfortable. We had very good relaxation at the end of each day to be fresh for the next morning.

Sr.Nirmala.R

A memorable journey of life time the holy land



God created me for a love relationship with Him. He yearns for me to love Him and respond to His immeasurable love for me .God's nature is perfect, holy, total love. He will never relate to me in any other way although I may not always understand His actions.

My experience about holy land when I heard that I am going to see the place of **Jesus where he born, live and died**. I use feel that how these places would be but now I experience the holiness of that places now I understand the better when I read the bible because I walked, touch and I have seen with my eyes.

The experience was different what I heard in the bible and what it actually. I felt like while visiting those places personally, these are detonation for Christian pilgrims to visit and experience how **Jesus Mary and Joseph** led their lives in Jerusalem Nazareth Bethlehem and other places. Through this visit of my holy pilgrimage increase my faith and now I feel that I have grown in my spiritual life.

I truly experience the bible coming to life on a holy land
Being in Israel brings me more closely to God

Experienced many natural wonders such as the Dead Sea, the Galilean mountains the desert beach and Jerusalem mountains.

I feel the spirit of **God come alive in my life.**
I am ever grateful to my congregation for giving me this great opportunity.

Sr.Bala Tresa B

Experience of Being in Holy Land



"Thanksgiving is a time to give, a time to love, and a time to reflect on the things that matter most in life"

I am happy because I am grateful, I choose to be grateful. That gratitude allows me to be happy. The long awaiting day has come to step into the holiest places, like Jerusalem Bethlehem Egypt Israel Palestine Jordan the nain cities where Jesus was born, baptized, lived, preached, walked, cured, tempted, suffered, died resurrected, and ascended into heaven. As I was walking along the roads seeing bowing and touching to the ground my heart was overwhelmed with happiness and joy. Wherever I went I really experienced the peace with in me increased my faith and believed that what I have heard now I am able to see with my own eyes. In all the churches prayed for all the people in the world for our congregation and each member in the society.

It's a wonderful opportunity the congregation offered me for which I am so grateful till the end of my life and remember recall and cherish throughout my lifetime. My life is blessed abundantly because of this holy trip. I read the Bible with much more interest recalling all places experiencing the powerful presence of Jesus. I am very thankful to you dear sisters Sr. Mukta and council for giving me the opportunity and unforgettable experiences. My dream is fulfilled now I want nothing except remain in the love n service of my master Jesus.

Sr.Annamma P

Thank you dear sisters it is enriching experience of devotion, Holiness and prayer to listen to each of you.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL