



*2000 years after the historic journey of Joseph and Mary, we invite you to make a symbolic and historic journey by walking Palestine's Nativity Trail.*

Walking the Nativity Trail will be an opportunity to meet a diverse range of people: Franciscan priests on Mount Tabor, Muslim clerics at village mosques, Greek Orthodox monks in desert monasteries, hillside farmers and their families, small-town shopkeepers and craftspeople, Bedouin shepherds watering their flocks at ancient cisterns, and many more interesting people.

The Nativity Trail is an opportunity to understand the Geopolitical situation in the Holy Land by observing it while walking through the valleys and mountains of Palestine. It gives the participants the chance to have a first hand experience of the situation on the ground.



**The Nativity Trail is not just a trip; it is a journey of dialogue, openness and interaction with new people. Participants will be able to understand the Flora and Fauna of Palestine and the Bible, and will be able to embrace the culture that lasted in Palestine for thousands of years.**

## Practical information

### How long is the journey?

- The entire Nativity Trail is about 160 kilometers long; the journey will last 11 days.

### Where will we stay?

- The Nativity Trail offers a unique opportunity to experience the legendary hospitality of Palestinians. Some nights, hikers will stay in villagers' homes. Other nights, accommodations will be in monasteries, local Bed-and-Breakfasts, Bedouin tents, or at campsites where hikers can pitch their own tents or sleep under the stars. In all cases, the welcome will be warm but conditions are basic. Hikers will need to provide their own sleeping bags and air mattresses.

### What kind of terrain does the Trail cover?

- Just like travelers in biblical times, hikers will be traversing beautiful but sometimes rough terrain, climbing up and down steep, rocky hillsides, crossing desert wadis (valleys) - and pausing to rest in olive groves!

### Who can participate?

- This is an outdoor adventure for physically fit nature lovers with an interest in history, culture and religious tradition. Participants must be experienced hikers able to spend 6 to 9 hours a day on the trail.
- Most groups will consist of approximately 10 minimum individuals.

### Who are our guides?

- The journeys will be fully guided by professional local guides.

## Nativity trail program

### Day one: Arrival

Upon arrival to TLV airport or any crossing borders, participants will be picked up and transferred. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth

### Day two: Nazareth and Mount Tabor

A tour of Nazareth including the church of the Annunciation and the house of Mary, drive to the foot of the mount tabor. Ascend tabor and visit the monastery of the Transfiguration.. Dinner overnight in Jinin city north of the West Bank.



### Day three: Faqu'a to Zababdeh. 20 km

Early morning, drive to the village of Faqua. Start walking towards Zababdeh. Across the rolling Eastern hills of Palestine, through the village of Jabun and Mughayir to Zababdeh, a Christian town on the ancient Roman trade route. Overnight accommodation in community centre (modern facilities).

### Day four: Zababdeh to Fara'a 15 km

Through olive groves and forests on the fertile hills of the west bank, descending to the spring of Ain Fara'a. Walk through the vegetable basket of Palestine. Arrive to Faraa', visit the archeological sites of Jacob and his family. Dinner and overnight with local families.

### Day five: Fara'a to Nablus: 15 km

Walk through the orange groves to the broad sweep of Wadi Bidan, a picturesque valley system rich in mountain springs. While in Nablus, we will visit Jacob's well and Tel Balata. After checking in our hotel in the old city of Nablus, we will tour the old city and enjoy bathing in the Turkish Bath. We will enjoy a Palestinian traditional meal in the Turkish bath in addition for a traditional Palestinian music. Overnight: in the old city of Nablus.



### Day six: Nablus to Duma



Walk through the Huwara checkpoint and continue from the village of Huwara to Awarta, enjoy the beautiful ancient old buildings in the village, visit the famous Maqams and continue to mount Awrma. Before arriving to Aqraba, rest at Mount Awrma and enjoy the scenes of Palestine and the ancient archeological site. Continue to Aqraba, Majdal Bani Fadil. The trail follows the escarpment separating the fertile highlands from the arid slopes of the Jordan valley, offering the first views of the desert and Jordan before reaching the agriculture hilltop town of Duma with its olive groves. Overnight: village accommodation with families

### Day seven: Duma to Ain Auja. 18 km

Across deep valleys and over high hills inhabited by shepherd's before descending a rocky gorge to sea level at Auja Spring, one of the largest water sources in the Jordan valley. Overnight: camping with Bedouin shepherd's near Al Auja.

### Day eight: Auja to Jericho. 13 km

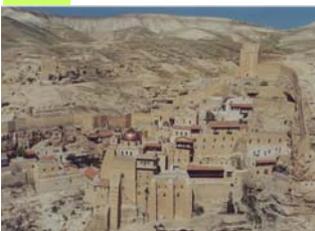
Desert terrain gives way to orange groves as the journey continues to the mount of temptation with its orthodox monastery clinging to the cliffs, then to Jericho, the oldest city on earth. Drive to the dead sea and enjoy swimming in its salty water. Overnight: orange grove camping or hotel in Jericho.

### Day nine: Jericho to Nabi Musa. 14 km

Up the spectacular canyon of Wadi Qelt to St. George Koziba monastery, then over the arid mountains of the Bethlehem wilderness to the remote and dramatically situated Nabi Musa. Overnight: Nabi Musa guest house or camping.

### Day ten: Nabi Musa to Mar Saba. 8 km

The original Nativity trail from Nabi Musa involved walking along the road, then taking tracks directly through the desert to the legendary orthodox monastery of Mar Saba in its wild canyon setting. The preferred route is now to drive the road, then follow desert tracks via Hyrcania, one of Herod's mountain-top fortresses. Much more interesting! Overnight: camping outside the monastery, or with local Bedouin.



### Day eleven: Mar Saba to Bethlehem. 9 km

The trail's final segment ascends the hills of the Bethlehem wilderness to the hill-top suburbs of Bethlehem. The way then descends on foot or by vehicle through Beit Sahour to Manager Square in Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity on the site where the original journey ended-and the Christian faith has its beginning. Dinner and overnight with local families.

### Day twelve: Departure



Photographer: Alice Sassu



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## Preparation advice

### What to bring with you:

- Flash light
- Hat
- Sun screen
- Back bag
- Walking or hiking shoes
- Modest clothes

Support vehicle will be available for the duration of the Walk. The support vehicle will transport your bags to every location you will be staying overnight at.

### Health and Drugs

Basic first aid will be available. We work directly with local villagers, who are ready and eager to welcome hikers along the trail.

No vaccine mandatory. Ensure that you update your routine vaccinations. The vaccine against Hepatitis A is also recommended. Be aware of the sun. Make sure you cover it with clothes but fuller length, wear a hat and you rehydrate very often.

You can find pharmacies in the West Bank but nonetheless we recommend you bring the following medications, often helpful:

- Intestinal antiseptic
- Antibiotics broad spectrum
- Sunscreen high protection
- Aspirin or pain usual
- Disinfectant
- Antihistamine (allergies, bites)

## Price

**Price per person in a double room \$1370**

### Price includes the following:

All Accommodation in hotels, local families and with Bedouins  
All Food, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner  
Pick up from the airport and back to the airport (for groups only)  
Snacks along the way including tea, coffee and mineral water  
Local English speaking escorts  
Support Vehicle along the way  
Turkish Path Experience  
Entrance Fees  
Palestine and Palestinians Guide Book and maps

### The price does not include the following:

Personal expenses  
Pick up from the crossing border and airports to Nazareth in the first day. Transfer to the airport and crossing borders in the last day  
Tips  
Any other services not included above.

ATG and Siraj have the right to cancel or postpone the trip if the number of participants is not enough to run the trip



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