

## Why Aren't Our Pilgrimages \$2,995?

**Many cheap tours can be found on the internet -- some as low as \$2,995. How can they do it so cheaply when your prices are in the high \$3,000 range?**

There are many reasons our pilgrimages cost more than the cheaper tours. As the old sayings go, "*You get what you pay for!*" and, "*If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.*"

We do not create cheap assembly line tours. People who want cheap tours will find plenty available. We provide a much more involved trip with loads of personal attention.

This may be your only trip to visit the Holy Land so make sure you get the most out of your pilgrimage. Many people visit the biblical lands and fail to see and experience what a Catholic should. A pilgrimage should be a marvelous spiritual experience with prayer and worship and daily Mass at holy sites -- but most local guides disregard the spiritual element and rush people in and out of sites with no time for prayer, Mass, Scripture reading or reflection. Not with us!

By Israeli law an American priest or tour leader *must* hand their pilgrims over to a local guide who is a Jew or Muslim and often with very poor English. Almost all Jewish guides are unbelieving skeptics and Muslims distain the Christian faith. What can they teach you about the faith and the Catholic perspective on the Holy Land?

Many tours are a mixture of believers and non-believers, Catholics and non-Catholics. This can make it difficult for Catholics to really bond and enjoy their trip to the fullest. This does NOT happen with our pilgrimages.

Our Footprints of God Pilgrimages also support the persecuted Christians in the Holy Land. With us your money goes to Christians! We use Christian hotels, Christian restaurants, and patronize Christian shops. This is the most important thing that Americans can do to support the continued Christian presence in the Holy Land. Many tour organizers look for the cheapest, we patronize the best Christian establishment for their good -- and for ours!

Our pilgrimages are well organized, personally led by certified guides Steve & Janet Ray, have no hidden or additional charges, and receive rave reviews. Our pilgrims receive many benefits including Steve's exclusive 110-page *Handbook for Pilgrims*, a personalized DVD movie of the trip, daily private Mass in primary holy sites, and much more. Below are a few more things that make our pilgrimage different.

### **Personnel Issues**

Steve & Janet are certified guides for the Holy Land and have been to Israel and the Middle East over forty times—for exploration, leading groups, and filming documentaries. They can show you the Land like no one else.

Steve and Janet Ray do *not* hand you off to local guides.

Pilgrims receive the personal attention of both Steve and Janet Ray for the entire pilgrimage.

Our American escort (one per 50 people) accompanies pilgrims from the US to Israel and back. During the pilgrimage, our experienced escort is with pilgrims 24/7 to cheerfully handle any issues or problems.

Our pilgrimages are accompanied by priests who are approved by Steve & Janet, who are orthodox, fun, and ready to serve the pilgrims with Mass, confession and spiritual direction.

Steve gives many of his popular talks and presentations on the bus and on location.

We use [Corporate Travel](#), a professional and reputable American travel agency to assist in booking, registration and preparation.

We use the best tour operator in Israel to assure you of quick response and personal service while away from home.

### **Exclusive Items**

Each family receives a “[Highlight Pilgrimage DVD](#)” featuring them on their trip.

Each person receives Steve’s exclusive 110-page [Handbook for Pilgrims](#) with pictures, maps, scripture and detailed history of the land and the holy sites. This handbook includes Rosary mysteries for the appropriate sites, hymns and prayers for group worship and song, and much more.

Each pilgrim receives a large full color map of Israel and Jerusalem and a colorful booklet for notes.

Our pilgrims post many of their picture to share on our website. These picture are available for viewing and downloading.

### **Exclusive Benefits**

Our [Footprints of God Pilgrimages](#) support the persecuted Christians in the Holy Land—who make up only about 1% of the population. They desperately need our help. With us

your money goes to support Christians! We use Christian hotels, Christian restaurants, and patronize Christian shops. This is the most important thing Americans can do to support the continued Christian presence in the Holy Land. *Other* tour organizers look for the cheapest—we patronize the best Christian establishment for their good—and for ours!

You will enjoy and benefit from a private evening with Steve and Janet for a thorough and balanced discussion on the “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” How should we think about such a confusing and emotional issue? Steve and Janet help you unravel the situation while you are experiencing it for yourself.

Hotels strategically located within walking distance of holy sites.

We travel during prime seasons to avoid the blistering summers and the cold, rainy winters. This increases the pricing a bit, but is well worth the comfort and uninhibited touring.

Our groups are able to meet local clergy, and local Christians.

We hire an Israeli service to assist you behind security at the Tel Aviv Airport.

A free day for shopping or prayer, with an optional trip offered to Masada, Qumran, Jericho and the Dead Sea.

Many tour companies surprise pilgrims with hidden fees or costs. With our tours ALL tips and meals and expenses included in the price—no hidden expenses or charges (airline tax and extra drinks are the exception).

Daily Private Mass at exceptional sites such as the Tomb of Christ or Calvary, the Grotto of the Nativity of Mary, Gethsemane, the Grotto of the Annunciation, the House of Peter in Capernaum, and others.

Daily teaching by Steve Ray and local “encyclopedic” Catholic guide Amer.

A delicious and exquisite dinner at Abergé Shulamit, one of Israel’s best and most beautiful gourmet restaurants (owned by Steve & Janet’s good Christian friend)

Groups are not rushed through sites without time for teaching and prayer.

Whenever possible, and almost exclusively, we patronize trusted Christian hotels, restaurants and shops.

We direct pilgrims to quality establishments and protect them from scams.

Steve arranges camel rides for all pilgrims.

We provide olive wood Rosaries on Day 1. We then pray them at each site of the Mysteries and touch them on all the holy sites. For a complete list, click [here](#).

All lunches are at authentic, proven, quality—and usually Christian restaurants. You will experience a wide range of local foods.

We provide Whisper Headsets so you will hear everything and never have to crowd or miss what is being said.

We provide maps of Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre.