

Planning a Pilgrimage

1. Where do you want to go?
2. How long should you be gone?
3. What time of year should you travel?
4. How many people will likely travel with you?

Although these seem like simple questions, they are the basis for all international group travel. Finding a destination that will be fulfilling, inspirational, and moderately priced is not that difficult when there are such great and obvious choices like the Holy Land, Greece, or Italy. The ties to church history and the story of our faith are easy to follow. But, there are other choices. You might have an interest in the great Cathedrals of the United Kingdom, Celtic Christianity, the Marian Shrines of France, Reformation sites in Germany, or walking the El Camino in Spain (just to name a few). There is no shortage of destinations to choose from, but which one is right for you and your group?

In some churches, where there is multiple clergy and a high percentage of retired people, 10 or even 14 days may not be an issue. But, for churches with only one pastor, having them gone for more than one Sunday can be a hardship. And, when a community is full of families with young children and professions, a shorter trip of 7 to 9 days may be a better choice.

There are three distinct travel seasons (Low, Shoulder, and High), but the travel seasons are not the same in every country. There are times of the year that due to religious holidays are high in Israel but shoulder season most other places. The best pricing and for the smallest crowds, consider traveling in low or shoulder season.

Lastly, the total number of participants on a pilgrimage will greatly affect the cost. In group travel, there are many shared costs (motorcoach, guides, venues/special services, etc.). These costs are spread throughout the group. The most impactful of these areas is ground transportation. Most motorcoaches in Europe/Israel carry 49 passengers. If you only have 20 people on the trip, the cost will increase dramatically over a group of 45.

Here, at Faith Journeys, we are experts in religious travel and tourism. We are continually learning, researching, and traveling to the religious sites you want to visit. We strive to give you the most honest, helpful, and researched answers possible and, if we don't know...we'll find the answer for you.



Faith Journeys

1440 S. Priest Dr., Suite 102 Tempe, AZ 85281

877-7FAITHJ · 480-894-8407 · fax: 480-984-5137 · info@myfaithjourneys.com