

Holy Land Pilgrimage

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One of my favorite things about being retired is being able to travel much more frequently and for excursions farther abroad. In mid-June, my husband John and I returned from a 19-day pilgrimage to Israel where we spent extended time in and around Jerusalem and Nazareth. This was actually our fourth trip to the Holy Land over a span of more than 20 years. These trips have become a very special time for us. My husband left the practice of law in 1994 to become an Episcopal priest and that has led us into many interesting adventures. He and his co-Director of St. Benedict's Workshop, Jane Patterson, led our group of 28 diverse pilgrims from Austin, San Antonio and Baltimore, MD. Locally, we had an *Arab Palestinian Christian Israeli* guide, Iyad. Yes, that is exactly how Iyad describes his very complicated affiliations. We have worked with him on three pilgrimages and appreciate his insights, as well as those from other Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders to help us deconstruct the many complexities in the Holy Land, whether they be religious, cultural, political or social. If you have the opportunity to make this journey one day, don't pass it up!