



# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

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The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is a program of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America.

**Our Mission:** To send credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical / cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise.

**PURPOSE:** To strengthen Christian ministry by providing an intensive travel and study program for credentialed ministers in the form of a study pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our experience tells us how much the opportunity to 'walk where Jesus walked' can positively affect the preaching, teaching, and spirituality of Christian ministers. It is our plan to immerse the Pilgrim ministers in the land, the sights, the sounds, the history, and the cultures of the Holy Land, past and present.

The Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage of the Grand Encampment organizes and supervises the planning and execution of the overall program and the pilgrimage travel groups each year. Travel is usually done during February. Pilgrimages are eleven days long with nine days in the Holy Land.

Pilgrimage groups meet at an airport in New York and travel together from that point until their return to New York. The cost per Pilgrim Minister varies from year to year and is announced in the spring by the Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage.

The Grand Encampment fees cover:

Round trip flights from New York to Tel Aviv and returning to New York.

Airline fuel surcharges and Airport Taxes.

9 nights accommodations, 8 Breakfast, 7 Lunches, 9 Dinners.

Arrival & Departure Transfers. Touring as per established itinerary.

Highly regarded professional Israeli Tour Guide

Basic tips to guide, driver, and hotel staff. Travel Insurance.

The Grand Encampment fees do not cover: Personal incidentals, souvenirs, and travel from home area to New York. (It is highly recommended that each State Committee consider covering the cost of this domestic flight and that those flight arrangements be made with the tour company so that they are coordinated with the international flight arrangements.)

The Grand Encampment Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage does not fund the travel of Pilgrim ministers. Each state's Grand Commandery or sponsoring local Commandery of Knights Templar covers the costs of the Pilgrim's travel.

## **THE PROCESS**

Local Commanderies of Knights Templar submit applications from local ministers of their choosing for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage to the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage of the Grand Commandery of their state (from this point on listed as the State Committee).

Donations are received from local commanderies, divisions, auxiliary groups and others by the State Committee of the Grand Commandery and may be pooled to provide funding for the upcoming pilgrimage.

The State Committee reviews the applications and selects the number of ministers they will be sending based on the available funds, using the criteria listed in 'Guidelines for Selection of Ministers'.

Some local Commanderies or others choose to fully sponsor a minister and pay the entire fee. In the case of 100% sponsorship, the Commandery or Division often selects the minister for full sponsorship. The 100% sponsored ministers are expected to meet the spirit of the qualifications listed in 'Guidelines for Selection of Ministers'.

The list of those ministers selected from the application pool and the 100% sponsorships for each state are forwarded to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America who oversees the actual travel arrangements. Necessary documents include the Certification form signed by the Grand Recorder and State Pilgrimage Chairman, a copy of the completed Nomination Form, and the full payment for the program.

While some State Committees may follow other procedures, they still follow the process of sending the Application/Nomination Form, Pilgrim Certification Form and full payment for each of their Pilgrim ministers to the Grand Encampment Chairman of the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage by the due date of September 30 each year.

### **No Applications Accepted**

We do not accept applications for the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. Local Commanderies of Knights Templar (affiliated with the Masonic Fraternity) select Christian ministers from their area to Nominate for the program. These Nominations may be processed locally and then submitted to the state committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Ministers who may wish to be considered can express their interest in the program to members of the Masonic fraternity in their congregation or area and have them help you make contact with the nearest Commandery of Knights Templar. They can share with them their willingness to be nominated for the program. The decision whether or not to proceed with the nomination process is in the hands of the local Commandery of Knights Templar.

## **THE YEARLY TIMELINE**

- **April:** The Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage sends to each State Chairman and the Grand Recorder of each state the information on the cost for the upcoming pilgrimage and forms for the coming year's pilgrimage (which is the following February).  
Forms are available year round online at: [www.kthlp.com](http://www.kthlp.com)
- **Throughout the year:** Donations may be made and Application / Nomination Forms submitted by local Commanderies to the State Committee following their state procedures.
- **August / September:** State Committees make their selection of nominated ministers and affirm fully sponsored ministers.
- **September 30:** State Committees send the following items for each pilgrim minister they have chosen: Nomination Form, Pilgrim Certification Form, and full payment.
- **As information is received** by the Chairman: The Grand Encampment Chairperson of the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage sends a Registration Form and a Certificate of Agreement to each of the Pilgrim ministers that must be returned to the Chairman within ten days.
- **November:** Each Pilgrim minister will be sent information regarding travel arrangements, dates of travel, tour hosts, and links to web sites with much information to assist them in preparing for this great experience.
- **February:** Pilgrim ministers travel during February. Pilgrimages are eleven days. Travel date preference will be honored on a first come, first served basis when there are multiple pilgrimage travel dates in the same year.

The Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is intended to be an investment in current and active ministry. To help in achieving that, the following guidelines are recommended for the selection ministers to be nominated, selected, or sponsored.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MINISTERS**

The following are the selection criteria suggested for use in choosing ministers for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. Please carefully consider these guidelines before inviting ministers to apply.

Ministers to be considered should:

- Have **never traveled to the Holy Land** before.
- Be in **good physical health** (if the idea of walking a brisk mile or more – uphill, non-stop, with steps - is a concern, this may not be the program from which this person would benefit). This is a physically rigorous program. We average 5 – 7 miles of walking each day. Many surfaces are uneven, unpaved, with steps and some steep inclines. This is an important consideration. A person who is unable to fully participate will miss valuable parts of this experience.
- Be serving in some form of **Credentialed Ministry** (Ordained, Certified, Licensed, etc.) A copy of the minister's credentials (certificate or letter) is to accompany the nomination form.
- Be currently serving in a **leadership ministry**, with regular preaching responsibility. This means that they are employed by the church in a leadership role and that ministry is considered a primary source of income.
- Be mindful of the value of including **women and minority pastors** for consideration.
- Have **served at least one year** in full time ministry in a primary leadership role as pastor / minister.
- Have **at least ten years of full time service** remaining in their active ministry. This opportunity is intended to enhance the ongoing preaching, teaching and overall biblical understanding of the participant, and in turn, benefit those they serve.
- Be willing to travel with an **ecumenical group** of other ministers from many denominations and religious groups, both male and female ministers, and maintain a professional and courteous attitude toward all.
- Be willing to travel in a program sponsored by the **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA**, an appendant organization of **Freemasonry**.
- Be willing to travel **without their spouse**. This is non-negotiable.
- Have the understanding that this is a **strenuous educational and spiritual study seminar / historical & cultural immersion experience** and not a vacation trip.

**WEB SITE INFORMATION ONLINE**

<http://www.knightstemplar.org/>

Click on Holy Land Pilgrimage

OR

[www.KTHLP.com](http://www.KTHLP.com)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America

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