

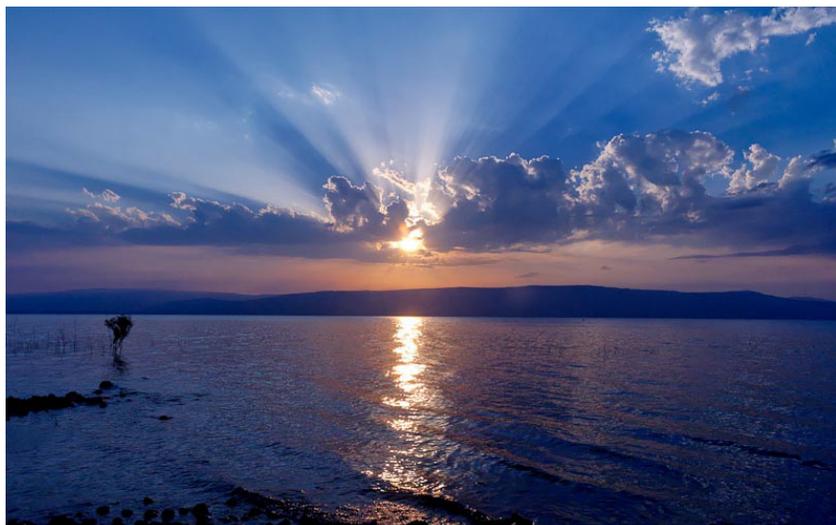
The Holy Land the Heart Chakra of the Earth

A Pilgrimage with
Robert Powell, Karen Rivers, & Estelle Isaacson

APRIL 14—MAY 2, 2016



The Sophia Foundation is hosting a pilgrimage to Israel in the spring of 2016, in collaboration with Sophia Services. During this pilgrimage we will explore the life and teachings of Christ Jesus through the experience of walking upon the Earth where the events of His life took place two thousand years ago. We hope to experience a communion with Christ as we seek to deepen our understanding of His work in our time at sites sacred to Him—through celebrations and devotional practices such as prayers with movement with sacred gestures, and song.



“I saw that the cross of Jesus stood vertically above the skull of Adam, and I was told that this location is the middle of the earth”— Anne Catherine Emmerich. This indication of Golgotha as the middle of the earth is confirmed by Rudolf Steiner, who often referred to the central importance of Golgotha for the whole Earth.

General Overview —

Golgotha, which means “place of the skull,” was given this name because the skull of Adam was buried within the hill. Here Christ’s sacrifice took place, which signified on a spiritual level the transition from a descending to an ascending phase of evolution for the Earth and humanity. Golgotha/Jerusalem is identified as the location on the Earth’s surface that can be regarded as the spiritual center of the Earth—i.e., the heart chakra, corresponding to the Sun. As the Sun is the center of our solar system, and as the heart chakra, corresponding to the Sun, is the spiritual center of the human being, so Golgotha/Jerusalem is understood to be the spiritual center of the Earth—where Christ’s sacrifice took place, bestowing upon the Earth and humanity the central transforming impulse for the spiritual evolution of the world.

“At the place that is designated as Palestine, as Jerusalem, something of a golden form, a golden crystal form, comes to life—that is Jerusalem, seen from the spirit” (Rudolf Steiner). Seen spiritually, the golden radiance of the Earth’s heart chakra shines out into the cosmos as a golden crystal form. We shall visit the Holy Land with the intention of connecting with the Earth’s heart chakra in order to open ourselves to allow the Light, Love, and Life of Christ and Sophia to flow through us, endeavoring to participate in helping to align the Earth’s heart chakra with the Divine Heart, the Central Sun, whence Christ and Sophia have come as guides and helpers at this crucial juncture in the evolution of humanity and the Earth.

Our pilgrimage begins with the cosmic commemoration of the event of the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem—on April 14 the Sun is again at the same location in the heavens as at the original event. Then we shall follow key stages of Christ’s path around the Holy Land, finishing in Jerusalem on April 28-30, when there is the cosmic commemoration of the three days of the Mystery of Golgotha, culminating on April 30, 2016, with the return of the Sun to its location at Christ’s resurrection. Lastly, on May 1, when the Sun stands again where it was on the day when Luke and Cleophas accompanied the Risen One to Emmaus, we shall visit Emmaus (Abu Ghosh), where “coincidentally” there is the church of Our Lady of the Covenant located at the site where the Ark of the Covenant remained for some twenty years.

Pilgrimage cost: *To be announced.* **To Register:** email Kim Marie: <sophia@sophiafoundation.org>

SOPHIA FOUNDATION
Holy Land Pilgrimage
April 14 - May 2, 2016

ITINERARY

(Preliminary - subject to change. Hotels and costs to be announced by the end of April, 2015.)

April 14, 2016 - Flight to Tel Aviv.

Day 1 - April 15 - transfer by mini bus to our hotel. Opening dinner and orientation meeting. Sleep at guest house.

Day 2 - April 16 - We will hike the desert cliff trails to Wadi Qelt and St. George's Monastery, the site of Elijah's cave. Possible visit to Jericho.

Day 3 - April 17 - We will visit Bethlehem, the home of the Solomon Jesus family and the birthplace of the Nathan Jesus. We will also see the shepherd's field. If possible, we will see Rachel's tomb.

Day 4 - April 18 - We will visit Qumram, the community of the Essenes, founded by Jeshua ben Pandira around 160 B. C. While the Essenes were in Qumram, they prayed continuously, someone always in prayer 24 hours a day for 250 years, to prepare the way for Christ. This is the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We shall also visit Ein Gedi.

Day 5 - April 19 - Drive along the Jordan River to the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes. Sleep at the guest house for 9 nights.

Day 6 - April 20 - Visit to Nazareth to the homes of the two Jesus children, the site of the Annunciation and in the afternoon to the town of Nain, where Jesus raised the Youth of Nain from the dead.

Day 7 - April 21 - We will visit Mt. Carmel, the mountain of Elijah (*Kings 1: 18-40*). We will also visit Cana, where the Miracle at the Wedding at Cana took place (*John 2: 1-11*), and the healing of the nobleman's son (*John 4: 46-54*).

Day 8 - April 22 - In the morning we will travel by boat across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, the home of Jesus and Mary, Peter and his fishery. Many sermons and healings took place here. It was the center of his life as a teacher and healer. Here the healing of the centurion's son took place (*Luke 7: 1-10*) and the fifth miracle in the Gospel of John, the walking on water. We will also search for the actual site of Bethsaida Julius, the place where Jesus spoke of the foundation stone that the builders would reject (*Matthew 21: 42*).

Day 9 - April 23 - We will visit the "Valley of the Doves," the route Jesus walked from Capernaum to Nazareth. Nestled at the mouth of the canyon is the town of Magdala, the location of Mary Magdalene's castle and the place of her conversion. We shall visit Magdalene's cave. We will drive to Mt. Tabor, the place where the Transfiguration of Christ took place. Here Jesus spoke about His death and put his arms out to form a cross (*Luke 9:28-36* & *Matthew 17: 1-9*).

Day 10 - April 24 - We shall visit Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus taught and healed, and nearby Dan (Lais), where the healing of the Syrophenician woman took place, and other sites in the region, identified through the descriptions of Anne Catherine Emmerich.

Day 11 - April 25 - We will search for the site of Peter's confession (*Mark 8: 27-38*). We may also visit the ancient Qasrin Park, one of the oldest of Jewish villages. We will also visit the traditional site for the feeding of the 5000 and hike up the hill to the Mt. of Beatitudes.

Day 12 - April 26 - We will visit the site of Simon Peter's Landing (*Luke 5: 1-8*), where seven springs of water bubble up and flow into the Sea of Galilee. Each spring has a different mineral content and flavor, representing the seven planets. If we have time we will drive around the Sea of Galilee to visit the place

where the Jordan flows out toward the Dead Sea. This is by the town of Tarichea, where Jesus came after coming out of the wilderness. On the way is where the miracle of the man possessed by devils took place (*Luke 8: 28-36*). In Gerasa, Jesus drove demons out into a herd of swine that ran into the sea (*Mark 5: 1-20 & Matthew 8: 28-34*).

Day 13 - April 27 - Today we will say goodbye to the Sea of Galilee and drive south down the Jordan River Valley to Jerusalem. (For those who wish to, it will be possible to hike through Hezekiah's Tunnel that leads from the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley to the Pool of Siloam.) We will visit the Pool of Siloam, where the healing of the man born blind took place (*John 9: 1-41*), and the Pool at Bethesda where the paralyzed man was healed (*John 5: 1-47*). We will sleep at a guest house outside Jerusalem.

Day 14 - April 28 - Visit the Dome of the Rock, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemene, the site of Judas's kiss of betrayal (*Matthew 26:36*), where a church now stands. We will visit Bethany, the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary Magdalene, and we shall visit Lazarus' Tomb and the nearby house of Simon the Leper, where Magdalene anointed Jesus. On the way is the site of the fig tree that was cursed and also Bethphage, whence came the donkey on which Christ made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem (*Luke 19: 28*).

Day 15 - April 29 - Within the walls of Jerusalem is the Coenaculum, the room where the Last Supper took place, also Pentecost. We will also visit Golgotha, the tomb of Adam, the Antonio Fortress where Christ was condemned and sentenced (*Matthew 27*). Afternoon in the Bazaar.

Day 16 - April 30 – In contemplation of the Mystery of Golgotha, we will visit the Stations of the Cross and the Garden Tomb, return to the Coenaculum in consideration of the Pentecost event (*Acts 2: 1-4*), and visit the site of the Ascension (*Acts 1: 1-12*).

Day 17 - May 1 – On this day, when the Sun stands again where it was on the day when Luke and Cleophas accompanied the Risen One to Emmaus, we shall spend time in Emmaus (Abu Ghosh), where “coincidentally” there is the church of Our Lady of the Covenant located at the site where the Ark of the Covenant remained for some twenty years.

Day 18 - May 2 - We will visit the Mount of Olives once more and the site of the Ascension before driving to the airport in Tel Aviv for our flight home.

Pilgrimage facilitators: Robert Powell, Karen Rivers, & Estelle Isaacson

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