

On the Way to Emmaus



Basic information:

- 9 miles (15 km) from Jerusalem
- On the way to Emmaus

The Multimedia Resource Center for visitors, families and guides with their groups, will include:

- Chapel for meditation, with several confessionals
- Auditorium
- Interactive audiovisual library
- Scale model of Jerusalem
- Exposition of biblical artifacts
- Area for relaxation and meals

The Conference Center will provide:

- Fifty individual rooms, living rooms, gardens
- Area for administration with a Center for Professional Development

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"If you wish to get close to Our Lord through the pages of the Gospels, I always recommend that you try to enter in on the scene taking part as just one more person there."

St. Josemaría (Friends of God, 222)

To go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land is to kneel in the grotto of Bethlehem, hear Jesus' calling next to the Sea of Galilee, kiss the earth of Calvary, pray in the empty Sepulcher; this is the dream become reality each year for great numbers of Christians, carrying on a tradition of centuries.

Saxum's aim is to help turn a visit to the Holy Land into a life changing experience. This Conference Center will be a place for reproducing a personal encounter with the living Christ which the disciples on the way to Emmaus experienced: "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32) After having visited the holy places, everything at Saxum will lead the pilgrim to meditate upon what he has experienced: the silence of the chapel, the selection of available reading material, the woodlands, the quiet and the views across the valley with the sea on the horizon.

In addition the Multimedia Resource Center —with an independent entrance open to the general public— will foster a familiarity of the Holy Land by means of an overview of the life of Jesus and an ample interactive audiovisual library.

The Gospel comes alive in the Holy Land. For the person who has visited the places where Jesus preached and worked miracles, the reading of the Gospel scenes merge with their memories of their experiences in the Holy Land. In Saxum the Gospel text will be made to come alive in each of the sacred places. After a stay in Saxum, one's way of reading the Gospels will not be the same.

The venerable Álvaro del Portillo, the first successor of the Founder of Opus Dei and whose process of canonization is in process, went in pilgrimage to the Holy Places in 1994. In this he fulfilled a desire of St. Josemaría, which the Saint himself was not able to realize in his lifetime. Venerable Álvaro del Portillo (Don Álvaro) celebrated his last Mass in the Church of the Cenacle in Jerusalem, dying the following day, March 23rd, in Rome. For this reason, his memory remains intimately linked to the Holy Land. Saxum —in Latin rock— is the name which St. Josemaría habitually called Don Álvaro from his youth. He wished —in this way— to underline Don Álvaro's fidelity and fortitude. As a sign of gratitude for his life of untiring commitment to the Church, this project will be called Saxum. The formative activities carried out there will be entrusted to the Prelature of Opus Dei.

How to help?

The Saxum Foundation has launched the fundraising campaign for the construction of the Saxum Conference Center and Multimedia Resource Center. Additionally, it will create an endowment to help fund the pilgrimages of persons with financial needs. Construction of the buildings will begin in 2013 and the activities and programs are scheduled to begin in 2016. The Foundation's website contains information about the campaign, ways to help and a list of the organizations around the world that are collaborating in this project.

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