

A Scholars Viewpoint



TRAVELING WITH STEPHEN BINZ

Stephen J. Binz is an award-winning author, biblical scholar, and popular speaker. He began to love travel while backpacking through Europe in college, and he was hooked while living several years in Jerusalem and Rome as a graduate student at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and Hebrew University. He has been leading study trips and pilgrimages for the past two decades, traveling to the Holy Land, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Poland, France, Spain, Portugal, and California.



Stephen's Travel Tips

- 1 Prepare by reading Scripture, travelogues, histories, biographies, or novels about the places you will visit. It will plow the ground of your mind and heart.
- 2 Remember along the way that you are making an interior pilgrimage that parallels your external journey.
- 3 Take a moment of quiet reflection at each site to experience the moment with all your senses and hold it in your heart's memory.

*"Life is short.
Go on a pilgrimage"*
– Stephen Binz



Stephen is the author of over fifty books, including books on Bible study, theology, and pilgrimage. He speaks frequently at church events, keynoting conferences, presenting parish missions, and offering clergy education. His writings have earned numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association and the Association of Catholic Publishers.

His books on pilgrimage include *Saint Peter: Flawed, Forgiven, and Faithful* (Loyola Press), *Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Jesus and Jerusalem, the Holy City* (Twenty-Third Publications), *Saint Junipero Serra's Camino* (Franciscan Media), and *Transformed by God's Word* (Ave Maria Press). Stephen Binz lives in Baton Rouge with his wife Pamela. To contact him and learn more about his publications, speaking events, and pilgrimages, visit www.Bridge-B.com.



What is your favorite bible verse and why?

I love the Journey to Emmaus (Luke 24) because it shows us how we encounter the risen Lord on pilgrimage. Through reading Scripture and celebrating Eucharist, Christ becomes present to us along the journey and the place becomes holy ground.

What is your favorite destination and why?

I love all the places touched by Peter and Paul – Galilee, Jerusalem, Turkey, Greece, and Italy. They were the church's great evangelizers and I get inspired for missionary discipleship by following in their footsteps.

What is your favorite church/cathedral and why?

I love the Unity Chapel above the Mary of Nazareth International Centre in Nazareth. Its large window behind the altar overlooks the city and its walls contain the 20 beautiful icons I include in my book, *Transformed by God's Word*.

What are your hobbies?

My favorite is travel because travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer. My other favorites are teaching and writing about pilgrimage. I love it, it enriches my life, and it gives me joy. I'd rather have a passport full of stamps than a house full of stuff.

Why did you become a group leader and partake in pilgrimages?

There is only one thing that gives me more pleasure than traveling. It is leading others on travel experiences and teaching them how to make their journey a time of encounter, joy, and transformation. I believe that life begins at the end of your comfort zone.



Stephen Binz has partnered with Select International on numerous pilgrimages.