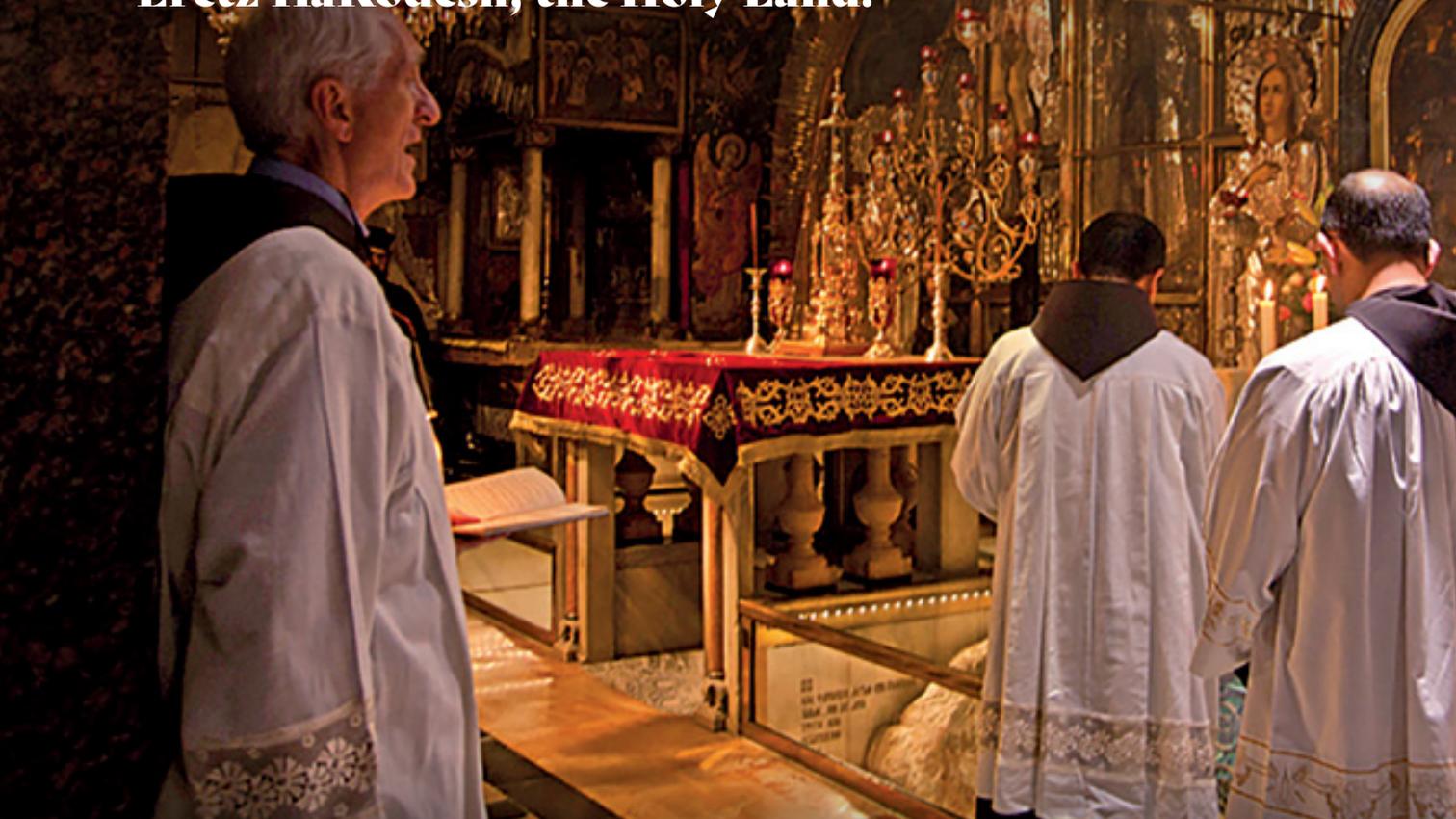


Holy Land

**Biblical and
Historical Sites**

The Holy Land

Israel- Land of the Bible, land of faith, revered throughout recorded history as Eretz HaKodesh, the Holy Land.



**A Life-Changing
Experience**



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

It is here, among the barren hills and fertile plains, where man's spirit learned to soar, and from here a new message went out to all the world: "... and many peoples shall come, and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

Records of the Holy Land go back over 5,000 years, bearing witness to the fact that this was never a quiet, peaceful region. Situated as it is, straddling the divide between Africa and Asia, this strategically crucial area has had a succession of conquerors, each battling to control these vital trade routes linking the centers of the ancient world.

During the time of Roman rule in the Middle East, about 2,000 years ago, an event that was to shape human history forever took place. This momentous event was the birth of Jesus, whose

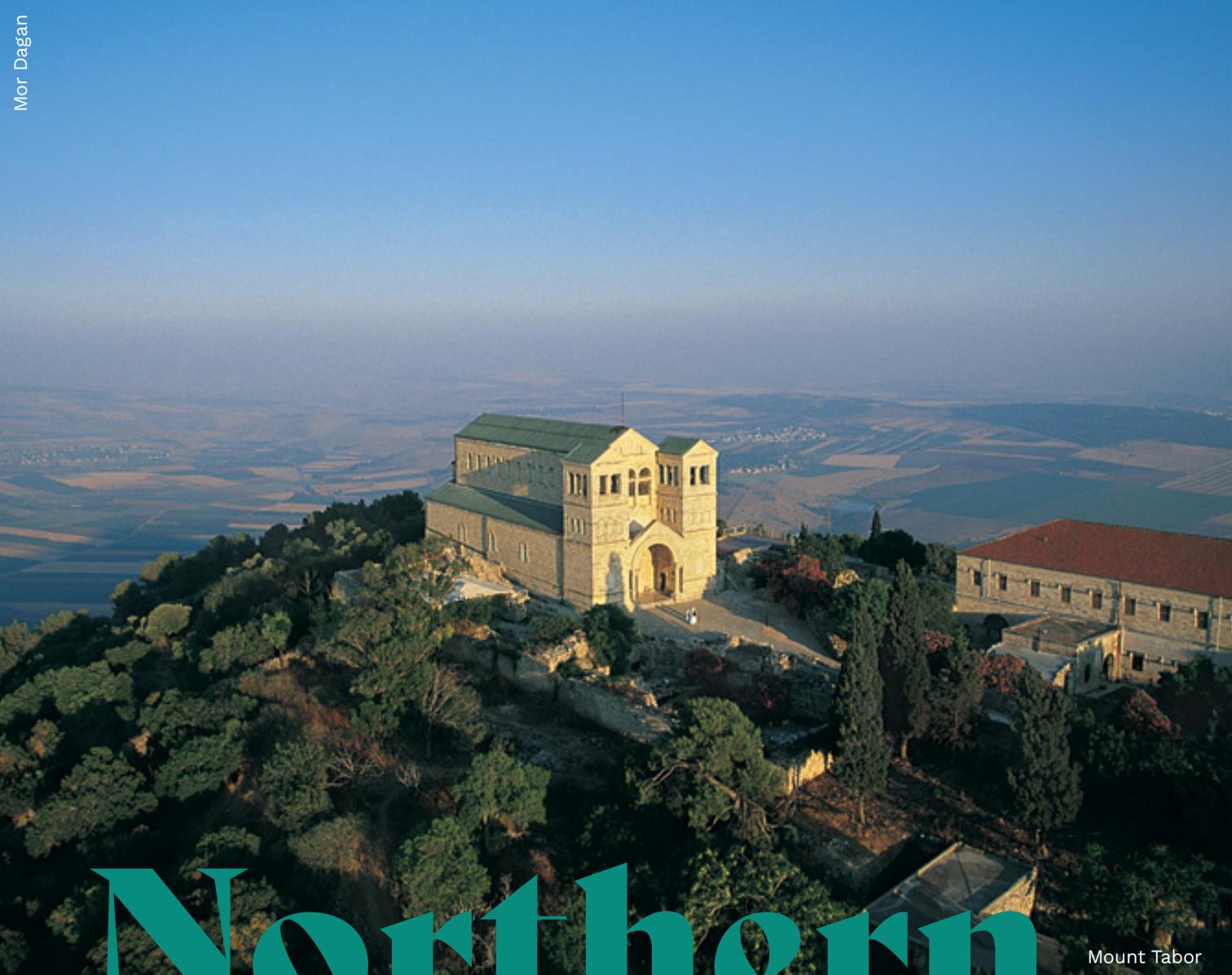
life and teachings would affect people around the world, changing the course of history.

Born in Bethlehem, Jesus grew to manhood in Nazareth; lived and preached among the people in the Galilee, Samaria, Judea, and Jerusalem, gaining recognition as a teacher, a prophet, and a performer of miracles.

Nowhere else on earth do the events of Jesus' life come alive as they do in Israel, the Holy Land, where they originally occurred. For nearly 2,000 years, Christian visitors from all over the world have come on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with Bible in hand, to walk in the places Jesus walked, and pray in the places where He himself preached and prayed.

For Christians, Israel is a place like no other, providing them an opportunity to experience and explore the land of the Bible and to create a unique and memorable connection to their spiritual heritage.

* Please note: Some of the sites mentioned in this brochure are under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority or are accessed through areas under Palestinian Authority control. Visiting these sites (indicated by an asterisk) may require special arrangements, including coordination for transportation and guides.



Mount Tabor

Northern Israel

The Galilee Region & Mount Carmel

Beautiful and exciting, Northern Israel is the site of some of Christianity's most momentous events, where history, spirituality and adventure blend to create an experience to last a lifetime.

Achziv

A beautiful coastal village, Achziv's main attraction is a national park which includes a popular stretch of beach bordered by rocky cliffs, lagoons and natural manmade sea pools. Achziv served as a fortress during the Crusader era and was an important Phoenician port and fortified city located on the ancient route from Acre to Antioch.

Acre (Akko)

Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Acre is an ancient and wondrous city which boasts many remarkable sites including remnants of the Hellenistic-Roman period as well as

structures from the Crusader and Ottoman periods.

Visited by the Apostle Paul known as Ptolemais as recorded in the New Testament (Acts 21:7), Acre was an important fortified port city during the Crusader era, serving as the last capital of the Crusader Kingdom until 1291, when the city fell to the Mamluk Sultan Malek El-Ashraf.

In 1799, the Turkish defenders at Acre (aided by a British naval squadron) stopped Napoleon Bonaparte's advance into the Levant. Much more than a historical and archaeological marvel, Akko also has colorful oriental markets, museums, beaches and water sports facilities, a

fishermen's port, marina, excellent restaurants, hotels, and charming annual festivals.

Armageddon (Megiddo)

Megiddo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built by King Solomon (1 Kings 9:15.). In the New Testament Book of Revelation, Megiddo is referred to as the site of the "Final Battle" at the end of days. Nowadays Megiddo is a beautiful national park where you can explore sites including the remains of King Solomon's Fortress, the stables from Ahab's time and many others, and enjoy the spectacular views of the Jezreel Valley.

Belvoir (Kochav HaYarden)

An impressive and well-preserved Crusader castle that dates back to the 12th century CE and located in one of Israel's national parks. Strategically significant for its height, the Belvoir (meaning "beautiful view") fortress offers a fantastic view over the Jordan Valley, the Sea of Galilee and up to the Golan.



Itamar Grinberg

Sea of Galilee



Bet She'an
The Roman Theatre



the city was destroyed by a powerful earthquake.

Visitors to Bet She'an can enjoy exploring the Archaeological National Park where they can discover the history of Israel through the archaeological remains from each historical period. The park also holds the ancient wall that surrounded the city, public baths, a Roman temple, stores, artisan workshops, and other well-preserved structures, including the famous Tel - the high mound created by succeeding occupations during 6,000 years of continuous settlement.

Bethsaida ("The House of the Fisherman")

An ancient and fascinating town on the north side of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus healed the blind man (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1:44; Mark 8:22-26). Bethsaida is known for being the birthplace of the Apostles Andrew, Peter and Philip and where Jesus was active as a preacher and a healer.

Bet She'an

Bet She'an is one of Israel's most prominent archaeological sites, housing the spectacular ruins of this once glorious Byzantine and Roman city. Mentioned in the Bible, the city's walls are from where the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung following their defeat in battle against the Philistines at nearby Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31). During the Roman period, Bet She'an was one of the ten major cities (the Decapolis) of the empire's eastern frontier. During the Byzantine period, Bet She'an served as the provincial capital of Palestina Secunda. In the 8th century,

Caesarea Philippi (Banias)

Renamed by Herod's son Philip in honor of the Roman emperor, the Banias (as known by the locals) is one of the most spectacular natural attractions in the entire country.

Visited by Jesus and the Disciples (Matthew 16:13-23; Mark 8:27), the Banias is also said to be near where the great confession and the Transfiguration took place. A visit to the Banias Nature Reserve with its roaring waterfall - the biggest in Israel - and its rushing crystal-clear springs, great hiking trails and the area's

historical significance is an exhilarating and inspiring experience.

Cana in Galilee (Kafir Kanna)

This Arab-Israeli town on the northeast of Nazareth is the site of Jesus' first miracle: the transformation of water into wine at the Wedding Feast (John 2:1-11); and later, the Healing of the Nobleman's Son (John 4:46-54). Visitors to Cana can visit the local Catholic and the Greek Orthodox churches and the chapel dedicated to Bartholomew the Apostle (traditionally identified as the "Nathaniel of Cana" mentioned in John 21:2).

Capernaum (Kfar Nahum)

Situated on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum is renowned as Jesus' "own town" according to Matthew 9:1. This formerly lively town is currently a major archaeological site, home to a grand synagogue from the 4th C AD, the time of Jesus. Capernaum was the home of the apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John (as well as Matthew).

It became the center of Jesus' public ministry in the Galilee, where He healed

the sick, preached in the synagogue (Luke 4:31-44), and performed miracles. Capernaum is also the location of the famous 1st-century architectural remains that Catholic scholars have identified as the "House of Peter," a house turned into a church by the Byzantines, said to be the home of Saint Peter. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Twelve Apostles is located in what was the northern part of the ancient village. The entire area is surrounded by Kfar Nahum National Park.

Mount Carmel

One of the most striking attractions in the area, a symbol of beauty and bloom, and a popular site for leisurely hikes and family picnics. Mount Carmel is most associated with the prophets Elijah and Elisha (1 and 2 Kings). A small Carmelite monastery, the Mukhraka, at the eastern end of the ridge commemorates the Prophet Elijah's confrontation with the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:21-39).

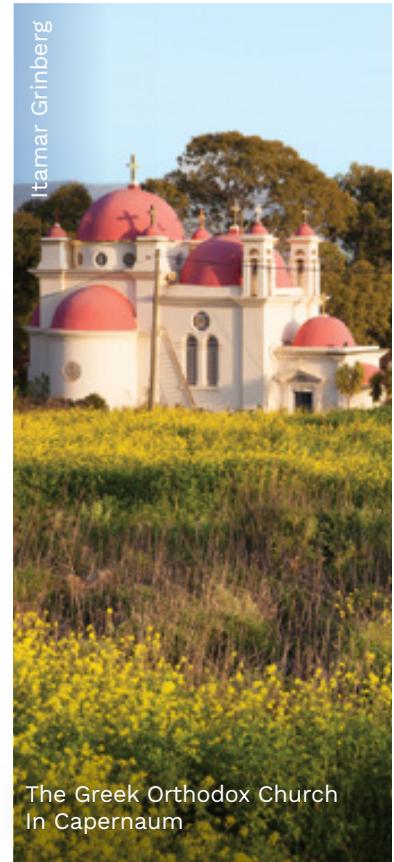
Sweeping up the western slopes of Mount Carmel is Haifa, one of Israel's largest cities and most important commercial ports.

A creative and vibrant city, Haifa offers fantastic art

venues, museums and cultural attractions, including the the stunning Baha'i shrine and gardens which were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2004, drawing over a million visitors a year.

Also in Haifa and definitely worth a visit are the Madatech - Israel's National Museum of Science, Haifa's Museum of Art and the Haifa Educational Zoo, located on Mount Carmel.

The Carmel promontory overlooking the Mediterranean is dominated by the Stella Maris Church and Monastery, and on the slope below is a cavern identified by late tradition as Elijah's Cave (1 Kings 19:8-10).



The Greek Orthodox Church
In Capernaum

Chorazin (Korazim)

Located on the side of a large hill north of Capernaum, Chorazin is remembered as one of the three key cities in which Jesus spent much of his ministry. The city was also part of the “Evangelical Triangle” together with Capernaum and Bethsaida. According to two of the Disciples, Chorazin was rebuked by Jesus for its lack of faith (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). These days, Korazim National Park contains one of the Galilee’s best-preserved ancient synagogues (3rd century). Just south of the modern village is Domus Galilaeae, an international Catholic study center promoting the encounter between religious traditions, specifically between Judaism and Christianity.

Dobrath (Daburiya)

Formerly a town of Zebulun (Joshua 19:12), where according to tradition Jesus cured the Epileptic Boy (Luke 9:37-43).

Endor

A Canaanite city, mentioned in the Bible as the city where King Saul consulted the “Witch” of Endor before the battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7-25). The kibbutz of Endor is home to an archaeological museum of Roman artifacts discovered in the area.

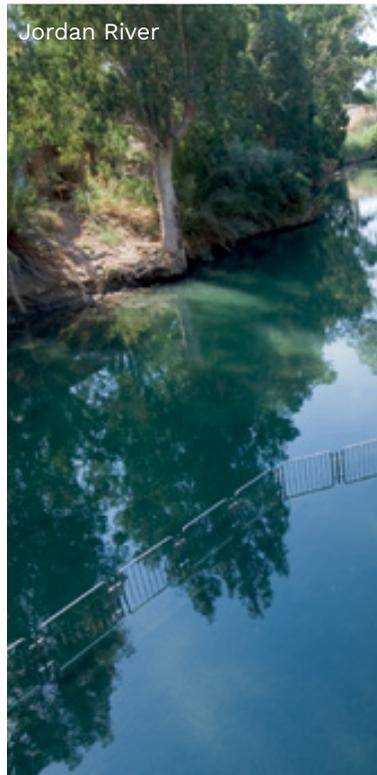
Ginosar

A lovely and peaceful kibbutz on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Home to the local Yigal Alon Museum houses the remains of an ancient craft popularly known as the “Jesus Boat”- a 2,000-year-old fishing boat discovered buried in mud near the Lakeshore (in 1986 during a period of drought

and low water). Carefully preserved, the ancient craft has been carbon dated to the 1st century CE and is possibly an example of the type of fishing boat used by Jesus and the Disciples.

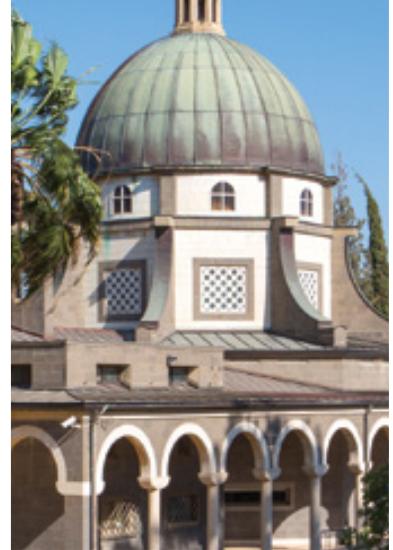
Hazor

Known in Joshua’s day as “the head of all those kingdoms,” Hazor was a major city-state in the Canaanite period, destroyed during the 13th century BCE. A biblical reference credits the Israelites under Joshua with the capture and destruction of the city (Joshua 11:10-14). Hazor is also mentioned in the story of Deborah and Barak (Judges 4:2). It was rebuilt by Solomon in the 10th century BCE (1 Kings 9:15).



Hippos (Sussita)

Up on a hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Hippos is one of the ten Greco-Roman cities of the Decapolis. It may also be “the city set upon a hill” that “cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14).



Jezreel Valley

Known as “Israel’s breadbasket”, this valley is one of the country’s loveliest regions, lush with farms, villages, and pastures. Jezreel Valley is often mentioned in the Bible (Joshua, Judges, Samuel) and referred to as the site of Armageddon in the New Testament.

Jordan River

Israel’s most important river, merging with the sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. East of Jericho,

in Qasr El Yahud, is the traditional site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Today, many Christian visitors get baptized in Yardenit, where the Jordan flows out of the Sea of Galilee. Further north, in the Upper Galilee the Jordan River is an ideal location for whitewater rafting and kayaking.

Kishon River

One of the largest rivers in Israel located at the foot of Mount Carmel. The Kishon River is mentioned in the song of Deborah (Judges 5:21) and also in verse “Elijah led them to the River Kishon” (1 Kings 18:40).

Kursi

Kursi is a national park, the site of the mosaics and ruins of a 6th-century Byzantine basilica on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee which marks the traditional site of where Jesus healed two men possessed by demons (Matthew 8:28-33).

Magdala (Migdal)

The birthplace and home of Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2) who was healed by Jesus and became a witness to the Resurrection (John 20:1). Here was found the Stone

of Magdala, considered the most reliable relic of the Temple of Jerusalem.

Mount of the Beatitudes

The traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). The Mount of Beatitudes, northwest of the Sea of Galilee, is shaped with a ravine which serves a natural amphitheater and offers a beautiful view of Capernaum, Tabgha and the Sea of Galilee from its flower field gardens.

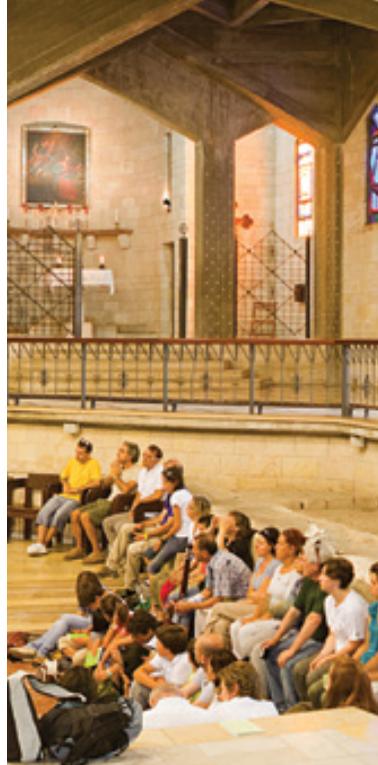
Mount Gilboa

A high mountain ridge above the Jezreel and Bet She’an valleys, where Saul and his sons died in the battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:4, 2 Samuel 1:17-24). At the foot of Mount Gilboa is Gan Hashlosha National Park which was voted by TIME magazine as one of the 20 most beautiful spots on earth.



Mor Dagan

Nazareth



Mount Tabor

An impressive high mountain ridge believed to be the site of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-16, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:26-36). In addition to its remarkable views, Mount Tabor's summit is divided into precincts of the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Elijah and the Roman Catholic Church Basilica of the Transfiguration and the adjacent Monastery. The foot of this dome-shaped mountain is where Deborah and Barak defeated the forces of Sisera.

The Mount of the Precipice

A steep hill on the outskirts of Nazareth, this site is associated with the furor

following Jesus's Sermon in the Synagogue, as the cliff off which the angry crowd wished to have Him thrown (Luke 4:16-30).

Nain

South of Mount Tabor, this is the village where Jesus brought "the dead son of the widow" back to life (Luke 7:11-15). A small Franciscan chapel commemorates the miracle.

Nazareth

World-renowned as the place where Jesus spent His boyhood (Luke 1:26-38). Nazareth is the largest Arab city in Israel, and a significant site for pilgrims and tourists, who flock to see the Basilica of the Annunciation –

consecrated by Pope Paul VI in 1964 – recalling the announcement of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary of the approaching birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). Other sites include the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel and the Fountain at Mary's Well; the 12th-century Synagogue church believed to have been built on the site where Jesus gave His commentary on the book of Isaiah (Luke 4:16-30).

The Mary International Center

Next to the Basilica of the Annunciation, this unique attraction set on four floors in a converted 17th century building offers visitors a fascinating audio-visual tour through the Holy Land and the life of Mary and Jesus.

Qal'at Namrud

Known also as Nimrod Crusade-era castle in all the country was built by the Ayubbids in 1229, and was further strengthened by the Mamluk Sultan Baibars after 1260. The Nimrod Fortress is situated on a mountain offering breathtaking views of the Baniyas forests with its rivers and waterfalls. The ruins of Nimrod Fortress are

well-preserved and provide a real insight into the area's history.

The Sea of Galilee

Also known as Lake Kinneret, Lake Tiberias or Lake of Gennesaret - The Sea of Galilee is the backdrop of many significant historical and religious events.

It was on the lake's northern shore that Jesus called His first Disciples and began to preach (Matthew 4). The largest city on the lake is Tiberias, on the western shore, which since the 16th century has been considered in Jewish tradition as one of the Four Holy Cities (the others being Jerusalem, Hebron, and Safed).

The Sea of Galilee's stunning shores are lined with wonderful places to relax by the waters, vast well-equipped camping grounds, cycling, and walking trails. The lake's mostly calm clear water is the perfect setting for the wide range of water sports available including water skiing, wakeboarding, banana boating, tornado boating, tubing and much more.

Situated at 220 meters (655 feet) below sea level, the Sea of Galilee, fed by the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee (or

Lake Kinneret) is the largest freshwater lake in Israel and a pilgrimage site for tourists the world over.

Sepphoris (Zippori)

A vast and beautiful national park where excavations uncovered the remains of what was a large multicultural city (Jewish, Christian, and Pagan). It was here where archaeologists uncovered some of the most magnificent mosaics ever discovered in Israel, including a 3rd-century face of a woman now known as "the Mona Lisa of the Galilee".

According to one early church tradition, this was the home of Joachim and Anne, and the birthplace of Mary, mother of Jesus. A 12th-century Crusader church

(now in ruins) was dedicated to Sts. Anne and Joachim, as is the nearby modern Franciscan monastery.

Tabgha

Located at the foot of the Mount of the Beatitudes, visitors to Tabgha can see the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, and the nearby Church of the Primacy of St. Peter. This site is the traditional location of the miracle of the loaves and the fishes (Matthew 14:14-21; Mark 6:34-44) and a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus (described in John 21). Archaeological excavations in 1932 uncovered the foundations of a 5th-century Byzantine basilica. In 1982, the church was rebuilt as a replica of the original Byzantine design.



| **Tel Hadar**

A walled city during the Old Testament times which, according to tradition, was the place where Jesus fed 5,000 people (Matthew 14:13:21) and performed the second feeding of the multitude (4,000), by multiplying seven loaves of fish and several small fish (Matthew 15).

| **Tiberias**

Located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias is first mentioned in the New Testament in John 6:23. The town was known as the capital of the Galilee. The city was built in 20 CE by Herod Antipas to honor Tiberius Caesar and has served as a religious, administrative and cultural center of the Jewish people for many years.

In addition to its rich history and significance, modern-day Tiberias is synonymous with a holiday in Israel. Here one can enjoy a variety of activities the city has to offer and experience a wonderful mix of relaxation, nature, and history along with contemporary attractions, active water sports, pilgrimage sites, and unique tourist attractions.



The Gospel Trail

From Nazareth to Capernaum

The Gospel Trail begins at Mount of Precipice, on the southern outskirts of Nazareth, and follows a route leading through limestone hills and fertile valleys, past ancient towns and modern villages, to the site of ancient Capernaum, on the shores of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee). The route incorporates established trails and pathways that have been traveled since ancient times by shepherds and farmers; merchants and pilgrims; armies, kings, and prophets. For the modern sojourner, it is a

stroll through biblical history and faith. Mount Devorah (named for the Prophetess Deborah) and the nearby haystack-like Mount Tabor (both across the valley, east of Nazareth) recall Barak's defeat of the Canaanites (Judges 5:2-31).

The summit of Mount Tabor is identified in Christian tradition as the place of the "Transfiguration" (Mark 9: 2-9). From Kibbutz Lavi, the Gospel Trail follows the route north of an ancient Roman road, passing orchards and cultivated fields before reaching the rocky plateau of the extinct volcano Karnei Hittin (the "Horns of Hittin"), wherein 1187, the Muslim forces of Salah-a-Din (Saladin) defeated the armies of the Crusader Kingdom. Nearby is the Druze Shrine of Nabi Shuaib, the traditional grave of the Prophet Jethro (father-in-law of Moses). The 380-meter-high Mount Arbel cliffs, overlooking the Sea of Galilee are today used as a base-jumping site by extreme-sport enthusiasts.

The caves in the cliff face have been used by Jewish

defenders on at least three occasions, bracketing the life of Jesus: in 161 BCE by supporters of the Maccabees in their revolt against the Hellenist Antiochus IV Epiphanes (1 Maccabees 9:2); in 38 BCE by supporters of Antigonus in his revolt against Herod the Great (Josephus, Antiquities 14:423-6); and in 66 CE by Josephus himself as a supply depot in the defense of the Galilee during the Great Revolt against Rome (Josephus, Life, 37).

Along the northwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee are four sites relating directly to the ministry of Jesus: Migdal/Magdala, an important 1st Century commercial port and fishing center that is identified in the Gospels as the home of Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2); Tabgha, by tradition the site of the "Feeding of the Five Thousand" (Matthew 14:14-21); the Mount of Beatitudes (Matthew 5-7); and Capernaum, the city of Jesus, "His own town" (Matthew 9:1).

The Gospel Trail, is a unique cultural trail that connects the holy and historic places of the Galilee associated with the life and ministry of Jesus into an integrated route that allows the visitor and pilgrim, hiker and mountain biker the opportunity to enjoy not only the nature and geography of modern Israel, but to experience the actual landscape of the Gospel narrative by following Jesus' journey from Nazareth, the town of His childhood and youth, to Capernaum, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where He began His ministry and called His disciples (Matthew 4:18-21).



Jaffa Port

Central Israel

The Mediterranean, Plain of Sharon, Judea & Samaria

From the incredible sites of trendy Tel Aviv and Jaffa by the sea to the treasures of Caesarea, Ramla, and the beautiful nearby towns, traveling through central Israel is an exhilarating experience, combining modern excitements with a taste of history

Abu Ghosh

A prosperous Arab-Israeli town and a popular excursion place for tourists and Israeli's alike, famed for its excellent middle eastern restaurants and the Abu Gosh Music Festival, a vocal music festival which takes place twice a year and attracts some impressive performers from around the world. Rich choral and classical concerts are regularly given in the village churches.

It was here, in ancient Kiryat Ye'arim, where the Ark of the Covenant rested for 20 years before being brought by King David to Jerusalem (15 miles to the east).

Situated in the village itself is the present Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary of the Resurrection. The church, built in 1142, is one of the most beautiful Crusader structures in Israel. The remains of the original 12th-century frescoes have been carefully restored and preserved.

An important march for Catholic pilgrims from all over the world is organized every Easter Monday from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Aphek (Antipatris)

The site of the capturing of the Ark of the Covenant by the Philistines (1 Sam 4:1- 11). Aphek was a gateway on the main trade route from north to south. More than 6,000 years of successive cities have been built on the mound overlooking the springs of the Yarkon river. Aphek's famous Antipatris fortress dates to the Ottoman period and inside the courtyard are reconstructed houses from the Bronze age. Outside the

fortress, you can find the ruins of the Roman city and its main road.

Ashdod

One of the five Philistine cities near where Philip the Evangelist baptized an Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40). Ashdod is Israel's second largest port and offers a beautiful seafront promenade, 10 kilometers of the coast with several beaches, 550 berth marina, hotels, historical sites, and attractive natural reserves.

Aphek (Antipatris)



Ashkelon

A modern Mediterranean resort town known for its archaeological treasures, including the remains of two Byzantine churches, its beautiful parks, and picturesque spots. Decorated with fountains and bathhouses by King Herod, Ashkelon is one of the five Philistine cities.

Bethel

Meaning “House of God”, Bethel is mentioned several times in the Bible as a place the Ark of the Covenant rested at various times (Genesis 31:13; Judges 21:19; 1 Kings 13:11; 2 Kings 2:2). Bethel is also where Jacob dreamed of the ladder reaching to heaven (Genesis 28:19).



Bethlehem*

The birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-7), Bethlehem (“House of Bread” in Hebrew or “House of Meat” in Arabic), is also the birthplace of King David and site of his anointment by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Just South of Bethlehem are the Pools of Solomon, which provided water for Jerusalem for three millennia (Song of Songs 4:12). A visit to Bethlehem should include the Basilica of the Nativity, the Chapel of the Milk Grotto, and the Shepherds’ Fields (in nearby Bet Sahur).

Beit Sahur*

A village situated between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the traditional site of the Shepherds’ Fields of the Nativity story (Luke 28-20).

Caesarea

The ancient and magnificent city of Caesarea and its archaeological wonders are a testament to its significance throughout the ages. A visit to its national park offers a tour of the ancient port, the Roman Hippodrome and amphitheater and a walk among the impressive palace and its many historical treasures.

Founded by Herod the Great in 22 BCE on the site of an

earlier town, the city served as the Roman administrative capital and residence of the Roman Prefect (an inscription found in the area of the palace bears the name of Pontius Pilatus).

The Apostle Paul was imprisoned here (Acts 23-26), and here he baptized the centurion Cornelius (Acts 10).

By the 4th century Caesarea, with its great library, was a major center of Christian scholarship, and the home of Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, who is known as the “Father of Church History.” In the Crusader period, the city was rebuilt and fortified on a smaller scale.

Enriching the visitor experience is Caesarea’s glistening seaside beauty and its modern-day pleasures such as the lovely quaint restaurants and cafés and its marvelous golf course.

Ekron

One of the five Philistine cities where the Ark of the Covenant was placed on a cart and driven to Bet Shemesh (1 Samuel 6:16).

Gezer

An ancient city destroyed by Pharaoh and given as a wedding gift to his daughter, the wife of Solomon, who rebuilt the city (1 Kings 9:16-17).

Inn of the Good Samaritan

Located on the main highway between Jerusalem and Jericho, it includes the 'Inn of the Good Samaritan Museum' which stands near what is believed to have been the site of the inn mentioned in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10).

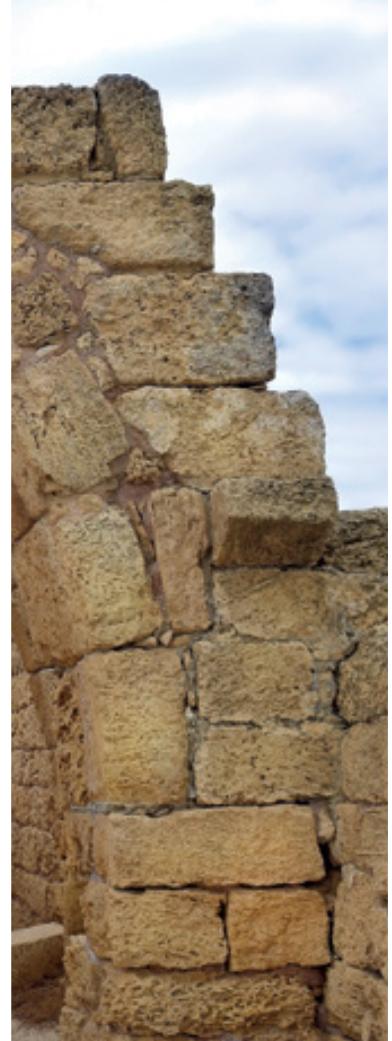
Joppa (Jaffa)

One of the oldest towns in Israel, today one of Tel-Aviv township, traditionally believed to have been founded by Japheth, son of Noah. A tour of Jaffa, with its charming winding alleyways interspersed with art galleries, historic buildings, extraordinary landmarks and a multitude of quaint, authentic restaurants, is a definite must for every tourist visiting Israel.

Cedars of Lebanon sent by King Hiram of Tyre destined for Solomon's Temple were unloaded at Jaffa (2 Chronicles 2:16), it is also from where Jonah embarked for Tarshish (Jonah 1:3-17). The home of Simon the Tanner, is where Peter had the vision of the pure and impure (Acts 10:9-15), and where He brought Tabitha back from the dead (Acts 9:36-42).



Remains of the arches over the main streets of the ancient city of Caesarea



Jaffa port is considered one of the world's most ancient ports and has served fishermen, sailors, merchants, crusaders, conquerors and immigrants for thousands of years. The port continues to serve as a fishing port and is also being renovated as an urban attraction that offers cultural and leisure activities, shopping and tourism, while preserving its unique historical and fascinating character.

Jericho*

Vying with Damascus for the title of "the oldest city on earth", Jericho was the first town conquered by the returning children of Israel under Joshua. It was also important to the prophets Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2). Jericho is home to Elisha's Church and is roughly 3km from the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Temptation.

* Please see page 2



Wadi Qelt



Mount Quarantania* (The Mt. of Temptation)

With a gravity defying monastery clinging to its cliffs, the Mt. Of Temptation is traditionally regarded as the mountain on which Jesus was tempted by the devil during His 40-day fast.

Ramla

Ramla's Catholic Church is dedicated to Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who arranged for the burial of Jesus following the Crucifixion (John 38:42).

These days visitors can see the 14th-century Tower of Ramla, the White Mosque, the Pool of St. Helena and the Hospice of St. Nicodemus and St. Joseph of Arimathea, used by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799.

Saxum Visitor Center

Situated near Abu-Gosh, Saxum Visitor Center provides a guided multimedia tour that allows visitors to experience the history of the Holy Land through maps and timelines, interactive screens, models, and video mappings. Visiting Saxum is

an enhancing experience for visitors who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Holy Land.

Sharon Plain & Valley of Ayalon

A fertile coastal plain and pastureland often referenced in the Bible (1 Chronicles 5:16, 27:29; Isaiah 33:9, 35:2, 65:10). Today, the drive from Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion International Airport to Jerusalem passes through The Valley of Ayalon, where the moon stood still following Joshua's command. (Joshua 10:12-14)

| Shechem*

Present-day Nablus (the name derives from the Roman name Flavia Neapolis); the site of the Tomb of Joseph. Abraham passed through Shechem coming from Ur (Genesis 12:6); Jacob bought a “parcel of land” at Jacob’s Well (Genesis 33:19); Joshua renewed the Covenant with God (Joshua 24); the Samaritans originated here (2 Kings 17:24-41); and Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well (John 4:7-11). In Shechem visitors can see the Canaanite city walls and the site of El-Berith Temple (where Joshua renewed the Covenant); Jacob’s Well, the Crusader Church (now the An-Nasr Mosque) and the Tomb of Joseph.

| Shiloh

An ancient city north of Jerusalem on Mt. Samaria, between Ramallah and Nablus, Shiloh was for a time the religious center and temporary capital of Israel (Joshua 18:1). Here the Tent of the Tabernacle was erected to enshrine the Ark of the Covenant. In the time of the Judges, it was the home of Eli, the High Priest.

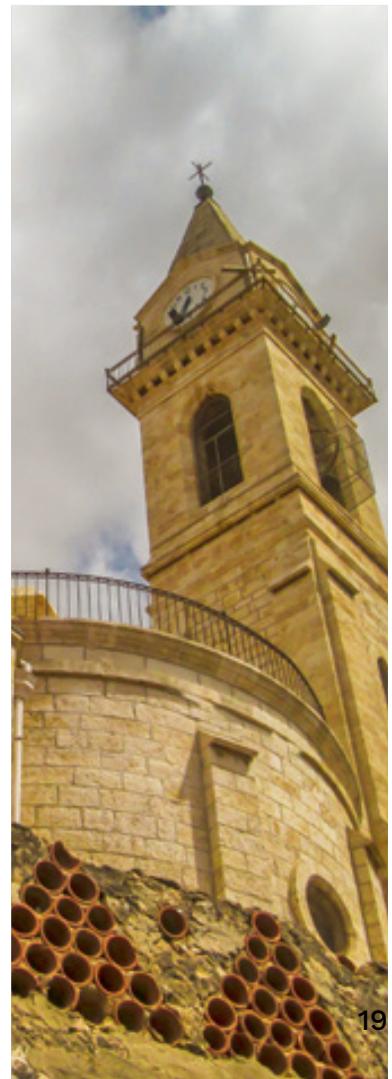
| Wadi Qelt (Nahal Prat)

A narrow, deep canyon which runs west to east from the outskirts of Jerusalem down to the Jericho Plains (the old Roman road to Jericho runs along the south rim). Three nearly constant springs are included in the Ein Prat (Ein Fara) Nature Reserve. Further down the wadi is the 6th Century cliffside Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. George of Koziba.

| Yavne

A small commercial town near the coast on the Via Maris highway, Yavne became a center of Jewish learning when Rabban Yochanan Ben Zakai moved the Sanhedrin there following the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Some scholars believe the Council of Yavne met here to finalize the Canon of the Hebrew Bible.

The Hospice of St. Nicodemus and St. Joseph, Ramla



* Please see page 2



Jerusalem

Home to 3 monotheistic faiths

Take a mesmerizing spiritual journey through the cradle of Christianity and discover what has made the extraordinary city of Jerusalem a foremost international pilgrimage destination, and the most beautiful holy city in the world.

Jerusalem Biblical References

Melchizedek, King of Salem
(Genesis 14:18).

On the northern border of
the tribe of Judah
(Jebusites) (Joshua 15:8).

Conquest by David
(2 Samuel 5:1-12).

The religious and political
capital of the Kingdom of
Israel
(2 Samuel 6:1-23; 1 Kings 3:1).

Jerusalem Psalms: 48, 84,
87, 120 to 134.

Destruction of Jerusalem
by Nebuchadnezzar II in 587
BCE
(2 Kings 25).

Jerusalem, a focal point of Judaism and Christianity, also considered holy by Islam, is a city with rich and complex history. Here are some of the major events which have shaped the city throughout time:

As written in the New Testament, Jesus’s ministry in Jerusalem was marked by miracles at Bethesda and Bethany; clashes with the Pharisees; a triumphal entry into the city on what became known as Palm Sunday; the “Last Supper” on Mount Zion; the night in the Garden Gethsemane, the arrest and trial before Pilate; the Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa), to Calvary (Golgotha; the crucifixion and resurrection (The Church of the Holy Sepulcher).

- 1000 BCE** • Conquered by King David and proclaimed his capital
- 950 BCE** • Site of the First Temple, built by Solomon
- 587 BCE** • First temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar II
- 445 BCE** • Second Temple rebuilt by Nehemiah
- 1 BCE** • Herod expands and beautifies the Second Temple
- 70 CE** • The Romans destroy the Second Temple
- 135** • The Romans rename the city Aelia Capitolina
- 326** • Helena of Constantinople orders the building of churches such as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- 638** • Conquered by the Moslems who build the Dome of the Rock over the site of the Temple
- 1099** • Stormed by Crusaders
- 1187** • Reclaimed by Saladin in and later falls under Mameluke, then Ottoman Turkish rule
- 16th century** • Old City walls built by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent
- 1917** • Britain and Allied Forces occupy Jerusalem
- 1948** • The State of Israel is established, and Jerusalem is declared its capital the following year, while its eastern part remains occupied by Jordan.
- 1967** • Jerusalem is re-unified as the capital of Israel

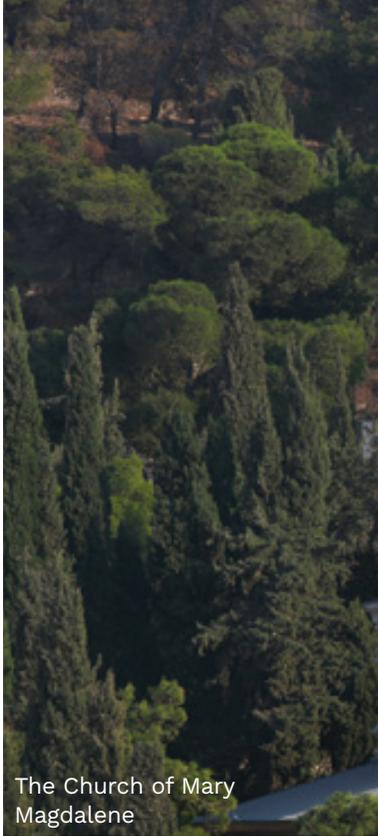
The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem by Nehemiah
(Nehemiah 3).

The Holy City
(Nehemiah 11:1).

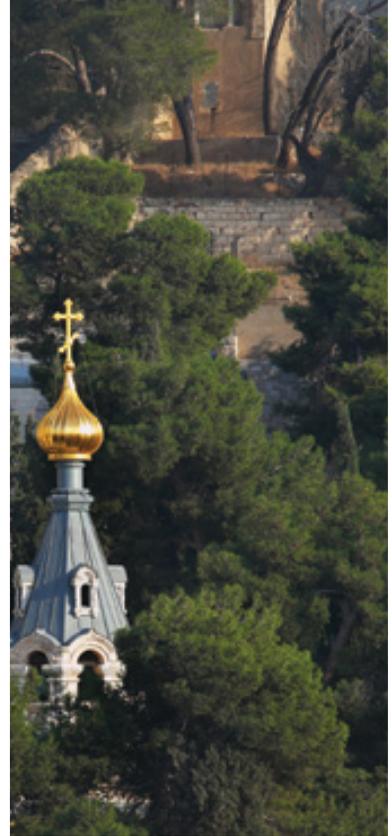
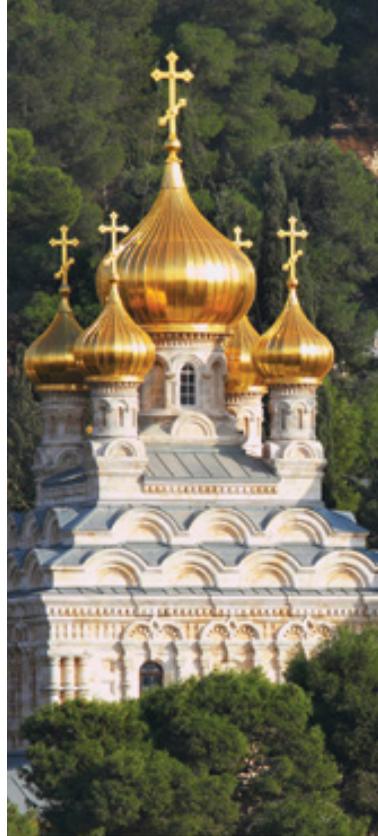
Meeting place of the nations
(Isaiah 2:1-5, 60).

The vision of the New Jerusalem
(Isaiah 54:11-17; 62:6-12).

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem at the end of time
(Revelation 21:2).



The Church of Mary Magdalene



The Mount of Olives

Rising to more than 800 meters, The Mount of Olives offers an unrivaled view of the Old City and its surroundings. In ancient times, the Mount served as the eastern border of Ancient Jerusalem, separating the city from the Judean desert. The elongated mountain ridge is the site of many important biblical events. At the foot of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, most known as the place where Jesus prayed, and His Disciples slept the night before His crucifixion.

Biblical References

David left Jerusalem trying to flee from Absalom
(2 Samuel 15:30-32).

Solomon built a palace on the hill near Jerusalem
(1 Kings 11:7-8).

The Glory of the Lord stood upon the mountain that is on the east side of the City
(Ezekiel 11:23).

Jesus entered Jerusalem
(Matthew 21:1-11).

The agony of Jesus in Gethsemane
(Matthew 26:30-56)

"Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him"
(Luke 22:39).

The ascension of Jesus
(Luke y 24, Acts 1)

Sites of Interest

- The Garden of Gethsemane
- Church of All Nations (Basilica of Agony)
- The Church of Mary Magdalene
- The Tomb of the Virgin Mary
- The Pater Noster Church
- The Church of Dominus Flevit (Our Lord Weeping)
- The world's holiest Jewish cemetery.

Bethphage

Bethphage, meaning "place of unripe figs" in Aramaic, is the traditional starting point of Jesus's triumphal procession into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-5; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-36) and where He cursed the barren fig tree (Mark 11:12-15).

Sites of Interest

The Latin Church of Bethphage (constructed in 1883 contains the 12th century "Stele of Bethphage" – a large square stone decorated with frescoes depicting the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and the raising of Lazarus) up the hill is the Greek Orthodox Church of Bethphage, built in 1965 in a classical Byzantine style. Byzantine style.

Dormition Abbey on Mount Zion

A fortress-like building, with a conical roof and four corner towers, south of the Old City's Zion Gate, identified in Roman Catholic tradition as the place where Mary, mother of Jesus, is believed to have died and been assumed into heaven.

Biblical References

The Last Supper

(Matthew 26:17-30; 22:7-38).

Pentecost

(Acts 2:1-4)

Peter's denials

(Mark 14; John 18).

Sites of Interest

- King David's tomb
- The Cenacle (the Room of the Last Supper)
- The Crypt of the Dormition in Hagia Maria Sion Abbey (Latin, Benedictine).
- The grave of Oscar Schindler in the nearby Catholic cemetery.

The Temple Mount (Mount Moriah)

The only remnants of the Temple after the Roman destruction were the retaining walls of the Temple Mount platform. In subsequent centuries, the western portion became the focus of Jewish pilgrimage and mourning. Considered Judaism's holiest site, it is known simply as "The Western Wall".

Sites of Interest

- The Western Wall
- The Western Wall Tunnels
- Temple Mount with the Dome

Biblical References

Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac
(Genesis 22).

David desired to build a house for God
(2 Samuel 7:1-17).

Construction of the Temple of Solomon

(1 Kings 5, 6).

Dedication of the Temple

(1 Kings 8).

The vision of the Prophet Isaiah in the Temple

(Isaiah 6).

"This is the Temple of the Eternal"

(Jeremiah 7:4).

Finding of the Book of the Law in the Temple

(2 Kings 22).

Destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar

(2 Kings 25)

The vision of the future Temple

(Ezekiel 40, 44).

Reconstruction and dedication of the Temple

(Ezra 4, 6).

Birth of John the Baptist foretold to Zacharia

(Luke 1:5-25).

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

(Luke 2:22-38).

Jesus astonishing the rabbis in the Temple

(Luke 2:41-47)

Pinnacle of the Temple temptation of Jesus

(Luke 4:9-12)

Jesus at the Temple and the expulsion of the money changers

(Matt 21:12-17).

Jesus teaches

(John 7:14-53).



The Via Dolorosa

Old City Sites Associated with the Life and Times of Jesus

| The Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross)

A mile-long, devotional route through the Old City of Jerusalem, leading from the site of the Antonia Fortress to Golgotha (Calvary), the place of the crucifixion. The Via Dolorosa is marked with fourteen stations with chapels dedicated to encounters and events that are either described in the Gospel or Apocryphal Books.

The traditional site of Golgotha Calvary is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Some Christian denominations consider the Garden Tomb, outside the current Old City walls, to be the possible site of Golgotha-Calvary (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19).

1st Station Antonia Fortress: Pilate condemns Jesus.

2nd Station The Chapel of the Condemnation (Lithostrotos): Jesus takes up the cross.

3rd Station Jesus falls under the Cross for the first time

4th Station Jesus meets His mother.

5th Station Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.

6th Station A Jerusalem woman wipes Jesus' face, and the cloth takes up the image of His face.

7th Station Jesus falls for the second time.

8th Station Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem.

9th Station Jesus falls for the third time.

10th Station Jesus is stripped of His garments.

11th Station Jesus is nailed to the cross.

12th Station Jesus expires on the cross.

13th Station Jesus' body is taken from the Cross and washed (the Stone of Unction).

14th Station Jesus' body is laid in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

NOTE: The last five Stations are within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

This historic basilica, first commissioned by Constantine the Great in 325, marks the traditional site of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. For centuries, the church has been a major pilgrimage destination for Christians from around the world.

The Garden Tomb

Recognized in the 19th century as a possible site for the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, this ancient garden includes a first-century Jewish tomb, a wine press, and is adjacent to an ancient quarry, which many believe to be Golgotha – the place of the Skull.

St. Anne's Church

(Latin), built in 1138 and associated with the birth of Anne, the mother of Mary.

The Pool of Bethesda

where Jesus healed the paralytic (John 5:1-18).

Sisters of Zion Convent

(Latin) - contains a section of the "Ecce Homo" Arch.

The Lithostrotos

an extensive area of Roman paving.

The Twin Pools

built by Herod the Great (or even earlier by the Hasmoneans).

Dormition Abbey





- Armenian Orthodox Monastery.
- Syriac Orthodox Church of St. Mark.
- Christ Church (Anglican) Oldest Protestant Church building in the Middle East.
- Tower of David. Museum of the History of Jerusalem.

Jewish Quarter

- The Herodian Mansions
- The Burnt house
- First Temple Model
- Rachel Ben Zvi Center
- The Southern Wall
- Ophel Archaeological Garden
- The Jerusalem Archaeological Park
- Davidson Center

Old City Quarters – Sites of Interest

Christian Quarter

- Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and Monastery.
- Latin Patriarchate and St. Savior Church (Franciscan).
- Church of St. John the Baptist (Greek Orthodox).
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.
- The Terra Sancta Museum - dedicated to the roots of Christianity and the preservation of the Holy Places.

Muslim Quarter

- The restored medieval Church of St. Anne.
- The medieval bazaars and markets.

Armenian Quarter

- Armenian Orthodox Cathedral of St. James.
- The Mardigian Museum (Armenian Museum)

Sites Outside the Old City Walls

- The Pilgrim Steps leading up to the Hulda Gates.
- The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu.
- The City of David.
- The pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed the man born blind (John 9).
- Hezekiah's Tunnel (Isaiah 8:6).
- The Garden Tomb (opposite Damascus Gate).

The New City

The center of Jerusalem includes some of the city's most charming neighborhoods and fascinating attractions. The new city offers an unbeatable cultural experience which includes a variety of fascinating museums relating to Christianity and the time of Jesus such as the world-class Israel Museum with the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) and large-scale Holyland Model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, The Russian Compound and Cathedral of the Holy Trinity; The Bible Lands Museum; Mar Elias Monastery (Greek Orthodox), by tradition a place where Elijah rested on his flight from Jezebel (1 Kings 19: 2); Monastery of the Cross (Greek Orthodox), by tradition the place where the tree grew from which the Cross was made; Monastery of St. Simeon Katamonas (Greek Orthodox).

Another important site in the new city is Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, a 45-acre campus comprised of indoor museums, outdoor monuments, gardens and sculptures all dedicated to the remembrance of the Holocaust.

Ein Kerem

Southwest of Jerusalem, Ein Kerem is an island in a sea of green forest and one of Jerusalem's most picturesque neighborhoods.

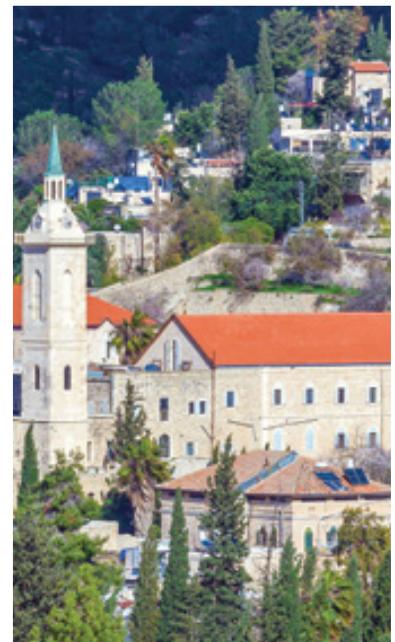
Places of Interest

- Church of St. John the Baptist (Latin), which enshrines a cave that is believed to have been the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25).
- Church of the Visitation (Latin), where by tradition Mary recited the Magnificat during a visit to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55).
- Russian Orthodox Gorny Monastery (Luke 1:39-56).
- Church and Convent of the Sisters of Zion (Latin).
- Monastery of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness constructed close to a cave

where he is believed to have lived in solitude and penitence (Luke 1.80).

Sites Near Jerusalem

- Rachel's Tomb - since the 4th Century this site has been revered as the burial place of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, who died giving birth to Benjamin (Genesis 35:19:20). It is regarded as the third holiest site in Judaism.
- Bethany (today Al-Eizariya) - Home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, who Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:1-44).
- Church of St. Euthymius - now in ruins, this was a monastery built in the 5th century to commemorate the parable (Luke 1).





The Dead Sea

Southern Israel

Negev Desert, The Dead Sea, Eilat & The Red Sea

Take an epic journey through time and feel the compelling power of the desert as you unveil its ancient secrets, travel southern israel's magnificent landmarks and become one with nature and history alike.

Arad

Arad lies between Be'er Sheva and the Dead Sea and is a popular base for those visiting nearby Masada. A modern city, known for its dry and curative air, Arad is located near the site of an ancient Tel in the northern Negev. It contains remains from the early Canaanite period (Numbers 21:1; Joshua 12:14) and a citadel constructed at the time of Kings David and Solomon. A sanctuary within the fortress (dated to the time of the divided kingdoms) contains two incense altars and two standing stones.

Beersheba (Be'er Sheva)

This large southern border city is considered the capital of the Negev, home to a quarter million Israelis. The old city Be'er Sheva is one of the oldest cities in the country, with evidence of a settlement dating back thousands of years. As charming as it is historic, the old city of Be'er Sheva offers a fascinating mosaic of urban spaces and exploring the old city reveals a rare wealth of unique architecture, extensive history and stories as old as time. It is the place where Abraham met with Abimelech as explained in Genesis 21:31 and 26:33.

To the South is Kibbutz Sde Boker, renowned as the home of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, whose home is now a museum open to the public.

The Dead Sea (Salt Sea)

Officially the lowest place on earth (428m below sea level) and a shortlist candidate for the world's seven natural wonders, the Dead Sea is an enthralling and evocative combination of natural splendor, compelling ancient history, and modern luxuries. The Dead Sea is one of Israel's most popular attractions and is one of the saltiest bodies of water on earth.

Must see sites nearby include Mount Sodom and

Lot's Wife Salt statue, said to be the site of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Ein Gedi—a magical oasis featuring stunning botanical gardens, history and archaeological, tourist attractions, and an internationally renowned natural spa. This is the site where David hid when pursued by Saul (1 Samuel 24). The oasis and its vineyards are mentioned in the Song of Solomon (1:14).

Eilat

The capital of the Red Sea, Eilat is Israel's most famous resort city drawing nearly 2.8 million visitors a year who come to vacation by the shores of the stunning Red Sea.

Eilat is located on or near the site of the biblical "Ezion-





Masada

Geber" where the children of Israel camped beside the Gulf of Eilat, after the Exodus from Egypt (Numbers 33, 36), and from which the ships of King Solomon sailed on their way to Ophir (1 Kings 9:26).

Just to the north of the city is Timna Valley Park, the site of King Solomon's Pillars and the ancient copper mines from which the green Eilat stone related to Malachite was extracted.

Masada

The world-famous site of the remains of a magnificent fortress, built in the year 30 BCE by King Herod atop a rock plateau. Masada tells

an ancient tale of heroism and sacrifice as the site of the last Jewish stand against the Romans in 73 AD, and of the mass suicide of its 960 defenders. Situated against the breathtaking backdrop of the desert panorama to the west and the Dead Sea to the east, Masada is 450 meters high and can be reached on foot by the winding "snake path" or by a cable car that runs from the tourist center to the top of Masada.

In the year 2000, readers of Traveler Magazine rated Masada as the best tourist site of its type in the world, and in 2001 UNESCO declared Masada a World Heritage Site.

Nahal Hever

Letters and fragments of parchment Scrolls found here in the "Cave of Letters" describe events during the Third Jewish Revolt against the Romans, led by Bar Kochba (132–136CE).

Negev Desert

Part of the arid landscape described in the wanderings of the Children of Israel; includes the Wilderness of Zin and the mesmerizing natural phenomenon of Ramon Crater - the world's largest erosion crater.

Qasr el Yahud

Located on the Jordan River 10 kilometers north of the Dead Sea and open daily to visitors, this is the traditional site of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist (Matthew, 3:13-17). The site contains modern chapels belonging to the Latin, Eastern Orthodox and Coptic churches; there are also ruins of Byzantine and Crusader sanctuaries.

Qasr el Yahud is also significant in the Jewish tradition, as it is believed to be the place where the Children of Israel Crossed over the Jordan when they entered Canaan.

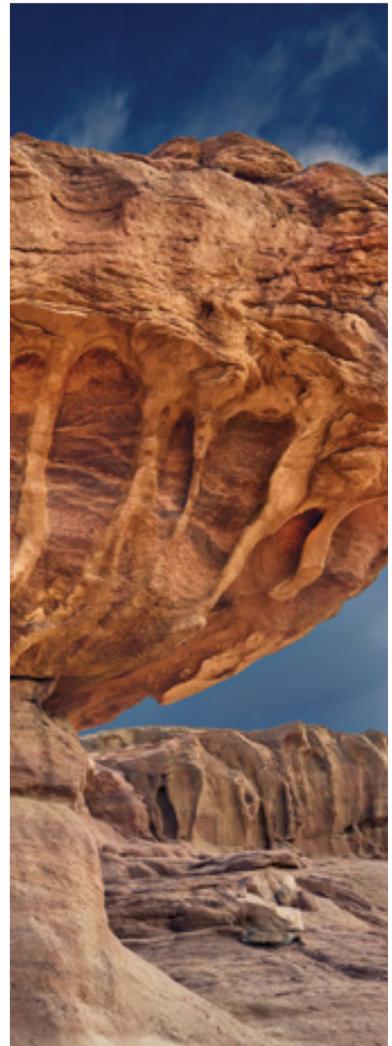
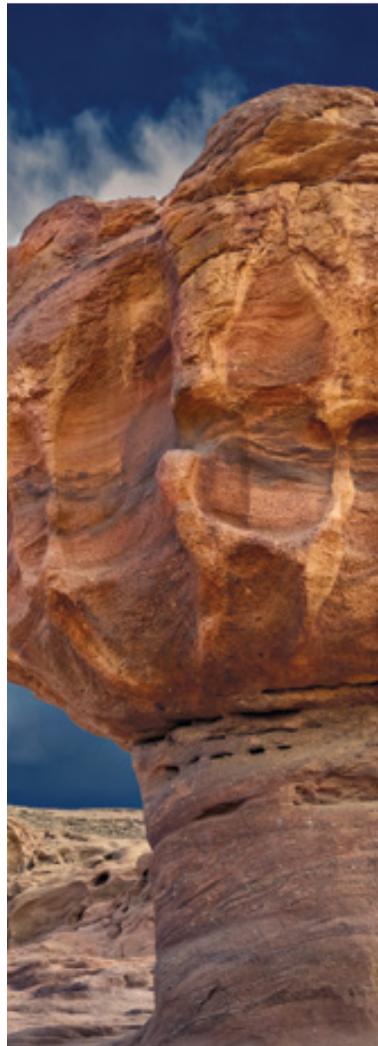
is the site of an ancient 1st Century BCE settlement, believed to have been a community of Essenes who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered after 2,000 years in 1947, hidden in nearby caves.

Qumran National Park

Located on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea, this

Visitors to the Qumran site can enjoy exploring the excavations and visit the nearby Museum of the Scrolls in Kibbutz Almog.

Timna Valley Park





Touring with the Bible in Hand

A 7 day suggested itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at the beautiful Ben Gurion Airport outside of Tel Aviv. Visit the nearby Neot Kedumim Biblical Landscape Reserve for a biblical meal and a tour of the site.

Alternatively, visit Mini Israel for a tour of miniatures of Israel's holy sites (either activity may also serve as a finale to the tour). Travel by bus to your hotel in Tel Aviv or Netanya, located on the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 2

Begin your tour in Jaffa (biblical Joppa), the ancient seaport from which the Prophet Jonah fled from God (Jonah 1:3) and the city where Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner and restored Tabitha to life (Acts 9:36-43). Drive north along the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea, the great Roman port city and one of the largest archaeological sites in Israel. This is where the Roman centurion Cornelius was baptized by Peter and became the first gentile convert to Christianity (Acts 10) and where Paul was tried by Festus (Acts 25:6-12). Continue to Mukhraka on Mount Carmel, where Elijah battled the prophets of Ba'al (1 Kings 18:15-40), then to

Megiddo (1 Kings 9:15), where you will find a fascinating Tel (hill) comprising 26 ancient civilizations superimposed on one another, overlooking the Valley of Jezreel, also known as the Valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). Next, drive across the valley to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. Visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. From there travel on to Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle, turning water into wine (John 2:1-11). Couples wishing to renew their marriage vows can do so at the chapel. Finally, drive on to Tiberias for an overnight stay.

Day 3

Start your day with a tour of the biblical sites around the Sea of Galilee: the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12); Capernaum, the town where Jesus lived during His Galilee ministry (Matthew 4:13); Tabgha, where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes (Luke 9:10-17) and the chapel that commemorates where Jesus instructed Peter to "feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17). Stop at Nof Ginosar to see the 2,000-year-old 'Jesus Boat'. Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a traditional



Church of All Nations in Gethsemane





Jordan River



St. Peter's fish lunch. After lunch, visit the Upper Galilee and the Golan Heights where you can see the ancient cities of Caesarea Philippi and Hazor before returning to your hotel in Tiberias or stop by at Yardenit for a baptism service in the Jordan River. Spend the night in Tiberias.

Day 4

Travel down the Jordan River Valley from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Your first stop will be the Crusader fortress of Belvoir overlooking the Jordan River Valley. Drive on to Bet She'an (1 Samuel 31:10), the largest and most spectacular

archaeological excavation in all of Israel. Continue south via the Jordan Valley to Jericho*, the world's oldest city conquered by Joshua (Joshua 6:20). Travel to the Dead Sea, through the wilderness of Judah and spend a night at your hotel at Ein Bokek, near the Dead Sea.

Day 5

Start the day with a visit to Masada, where you will ascend the mountain by foot or by cable car to view Herod's desert fortress. Continue to the beautiful oasis of Ein Gedi where David hid from King Saul (1 Samuel 24). Stop for a short

float on the Dead Sea. Drive to Qumran, the home of the 1st-century sect known as the Essenes, the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Returning to Jericho, take the cable car from Jericho* to Qarantal* (the Mount of Temptation, Matthew 4:1-11) and the monastery. Finally, travel from Jericho* up to Jerusalem, an ascent of 4,000 feet in 13 miles, stopping at the Inn of the Good Samaritan along the way (Luke 10:25-37). Stop at the top of Mount Scopus for your first view of the "Golden City" as the Sun sets over Jerusalem. Spend the night in Jerusalem.

Day 6

To explore Jerusalem, begin with a drive around the old city walls and note each of the city gates with their wealth of history and significance. Travel by bus to the top of the Mount of Olives and view the entire city of Jerusalem. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36), stopping at Dominus Flevit, where Jesus stopped and wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44). See the ancient olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the beautiful Church of All Nations. Ascend Mount

Zion and visit the Tomb of David and the Upper Room (Mark 14:12-26; Acts 1:13). Enter the Old City through the Zion Gate, make your way to the Jewish Quarter and visit the Cardo and Hezekiah's Wall, and get your first glimpse of the Western Wall. Leaving the Old City for the day, a short drive will take you to Yad Vashem, the site of the Holocaust Memorial. Next visit the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept. Make sure to check out the Model of Jerusalem from the time of the second Temple and then head to the Knesset (Israel's Parliament Building) to view the beautiful Menorah before returning to your hotel for the evening.

| Day 7

Begin the day by visiting Bethlehem* the Basilica of the Nativity, and Manger Square (Luke 2:1-7), as well as Shepherds' Field* in nearby Bet Sahour*. Return to the Old City through the Dung Gate where you can then explore the Southern Temple Excavations and the Western Wall Tunnel, which takes you underground to the base of the Temple Mount, and the actual streets on which Jesus and His disciples walked. Ascend the Temple Mount and visit the Dome

of the Rock. Continue with a walking tour of the Old City that includes the Via Dolorosa, Pools of Bethesda (John 5:1-14), St. Anne's Chapel, the Lithostrotos, Ecce Homo Arch, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the medieval Market. Exit the Old City through the Damascus Gate and take a short walk outside, where you will find the site of the Garden Tomb and Gordon's Calvary.



More Information
can be found on the
Ministry of Tourism
website

www.goisrael.com



Additional assistance can
also be obtained at Israel
Government Tourist Offices
abroad, and at Tourist
Information Offices in Israel.
Contact information is
listed on the website.

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