

# Journey Day 1: Upper Galilee



**Capernaum:** After taking a boat from Tiberias to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee, where we will worship and talk about Jesus' many experiences with His disciples on this Sea, we will land in Capernaum, the home of Simon Peter. We will visit the site and the synagogue.

**Read Mark 2:1-12**

**Peter's Primacy/Mt. of Beatitudes/Tabgha:** Next we travel to the site where Jesus, after learning of John the Baptist's death, withdrew by boat and then seeing the people, had compassion and fed over 5,000. This is also the area of His great teach from Matthew 5-7.

**Read Matthew 14:13-21**

**Caesarea Philippi:** North of the Sea of Galilee at the base of Mt. Herman, this site was the location of Greek and Roman temples filled with paganistic history. Overlooking this city, Jesus asks the most important question to His disciples.

**Read Matthew 16:13-20**

**Tel Dan/Nimrod's Fortress/Golan Heights:** Tel Dan is the head waters of the Jordan River. Incredibly beautiful and filled with ancient history. This is the site where Jeroboam built two golden calves and placed one in Dan.

**Read 1 Kings 12:25-33**

**Tiberias Baptism Location:** We end our first day joining thousands of Christians who have stepped into the waters of the Jordan for baptism just like Jesus before He began His ministry. This will no doubt be one of the most memorable moments of the trip and your life!

# Journey Day 2: Upper West Galilee



**Caesarea Maritima:** This site has been beautifully preserved on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and was the home of Herod the Great who constructed a palace and theater seating 3,500, and where Herod Agrippa died (Acts 12). This is also the place where Cornelius the Centurion was visited by an angel and sent for Peter who visited him there. The Apostle Paul also gave his defense before Governor Felix, Festus and King Agrippa. **Read Acts 25-26.**

**Mt. Carmel:** Heading north along the coast, we come to Mt. Carmel, perhaps the most famous showdown in Old Testament history. Here Elijah went head-to-head against the 400 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah when the fire fell from heaven. On top of Mt. Carmel, you get a spectacular view of the Valley of Megiddo. **Read 1 Kings 18.**

**Tel Megiddo:** Tremendous history is associated with this region. Megiddo is the site where major biblical events are recorded in the Song of Deborah, rebuilt by King Solomon, the place where King Josiah died in battle with Pharaoh Neco King of Egypt, and the valley of the final battle Christ will fight in 'Har Megiddo'. Megiddo has history dating back to Mesopotamia and including Egypt, the Canaanites, Assyrians and in more recent history was where General Allenby surprised the Turks to retake Palestine in 1918. **Read 1 Kings 5; 9:15, 19; 23:29; Zechariah 12:11; Revelation 16:16**

**Nazareth and Mt. Precipice:** The city of Nazareth was the hometown of Jesus where he grew up in the home of Mary and Joseph as a carpenter. On the southern edge of Nazareth is Mt. Precipice which is believed to be the place where his hometown rejected him and tried to push him off the mountain. We may also visit Nazareth Village, a working village that allows you to see how life was during the early life of Jesus. (See [www.nazarethvillage.com](http://www.nazarethvillage.com)). **Read Luke 4:16-30.**

**Magdala:** Among the most recent discoveries, Magdala is the hometown of Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2) who is also the one believed to have touched the hem of Jesus' garment (Luke 8:43-48). It was also the region where Jesus went to after feeding the 4,000 in Matthew 15. One of the most important finds has been the 'Magdala Stone' central to worship in the synagogue dating prior to the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70 and engraved with a carving of the temple before its destruction. **Read Luke 8:40-48.**

# Journey Day 3: Jerusalem



**Mt. of Olives:** From this ridgeline, the Old City of Jerusalem comes into view across the Kidron Valley. First mentioned in 2 Samuel 15:30, David walked up the hillside weeping over his son Absalom. This is also where Jesus sat and taught His disciples about His return. From this mountain you can see the Eastern Gate, the Dome of the Rock on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22). **Read Zech. 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11 and 24:1-8.**

**Dominus Flavit:** The words mean “The Lord wept”. The Roman Catholic Church built a church on the Mt. of Olives in the shape of a teardrop to symbolize the moment Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-44). Site artifacts from the digging date back to the Canaanite period, the Second Temple and the Byzantine era. **Read Luke 19:41-44.**

**Gethsemane:** The Garden of Gethsemane (meaning ‘olive press’) is the site of our Lord’s great suffering prior to His arrest and crucifixion. This is where Jesus prayed intensely for the cup to pass but accepted and submitted to the will of the Father. From here, Jesus could see the mob of religious leaders with Judas coming to arrest Him. **Read Mark 14:26-50 and John 18:1-12.**

**Church of the Nations:** At the foot of the Mt. of Olives, the Church of the Nations is built over the rock on which is believed to have prayed in agony the night before His crucifixion. The structure stands right next to the Garden of Gethsemane, a beautiful spot to reflect on the passion and love of Christ. **Read Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:44.**

**Sheep Gate and the Pools of Bethesda:** In ancient times, the Pools of Bethesda were one of the most ornate and stunning places in Jerusalem that lay just inside the Sheep Gate. The ruins go deep but the colonnade bases are still visible. This is the site where multitudes of people who were blind, lame and paralyzed were lay waiting for the angel to stir the water. It’s also where Jesus healed the sick man who had lain there for 38 years. **Read John 5:1-17.**

**Bethlehem:** The birthplace of Jesus, this city needs no introduction or explanation. Sung about at Christmas, Bethlehem may be the most famous city in the Holy Land outside of Jerusalem. The cave where the birth took place and the manger stood can now be visited underneath the huge Basilica of the Nativity. This is the oldest complete church in the world. **Read Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:1-5.**

**Herodian and the Valley of Elah:** The Herodian is the site where Herod won the battle with the Parthian (Iranian) army in 40 B.C.E. For this victory, Herod was crowned King of the Israel by the Romans. Close to the area is perhaps the most famous valley in the Old Testament where David fought Goliath. Stand in the valley and visualize the two armies on opposing hillsides and a giant walking in the valley to face a much inferior foe in David. There you can collect stones from the river bed where David would have picked up five smooth stones for his sling. **Read 1 Samuel 17.**

**Nahal Sorek and the Road to Emmaus:** This is the site where Samson went into the valley and burned with Olive Trees of the Philistines with the tied fox tails (**Judges 15:1-8**). The Road to Emmaus is the road where Jesus met two men walking after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. During this encounter, Jesus broke bread with them and their eyes were opened to the fact that they were with the resurrected Christ! **Read Luke 24:13-34.**



# Journey Day 4: Lower Israel/Dead Sea



**Wadi Qelt:** This site overlooks the Valley of the Shadow of Death (Psalm 23). This will offer a breathtaking view of the rift in the valley of the ancient 'Bloody Way'.

**Caves of Qumran:** Cave 4 is the most famous of the Dead Sea Scroll caves and the most significant in terms of finds. More than 15,000 fragments from over 200 books were found in this cave, nearly all by Bedouin thieves. One hundred and twenty-two biblical scrolls (or fragments) were found in this cave. From all 11 Qumran caves, every Old Testament book is represented except Esther.

**Masada:** The site was built by Herod the Great and used by Jewish zealots as their last stronghold. Romans built a natural ramp to invade the fortress. From the top, you see the ruins of the city and overlook the Judean Valley and Dead Sea. The hike is incredible!

**En Gedi:** This is the site where David hid in a cave from King Saul, and where King Saul went into a cave to relieve himself and David cut off a corner of his garment, refusing to touch the anointed of God.

**Read 1 Samuel 24.**

**Jericho:** The ancient city of such fame, Jericho is the site of one of Israel's most famous battles, where the people were commanded to walk around the city and then on the seventh day blow their trumpets. The wall fell and the people invaded. **Read Joshua 6.**

**Mount of Temptation:** You will view the place where Jesus went to be tested by Satan after His baptism. **Read Matthew 4:1-11.**

**Dead Sea:** The Dead Sea is the lowest spot on earth. We will enjoy a relaxing time after a long day, floating in the Dead Sea with all its salt and mineral-rich waters.

# Journey Day 5: The Old City of Jerusalem



**Southern Steps:** Walk up the steps where Jesus walked with Joseph as a boy and then up the steps that led to the places of sacrifice at the temple.

**Wailing Wall:** This site is perhaps the most visited site in Jerusalem by people from all over the world. The Western Wall is the holiest place accessible to the Jewish people because of Muslim control of the [Temple Mount](#). Known in recent centuries as the “Wailing Wall,” this was built by Herod the Great as the retaining wall of the Temple Mount complex. The plaza was created as an area for prayer when Israel captured the Old City in 1967. At times, tens of thousands of people gather here for prayer. We will spend time at the wall praying as well.

**Antonio Fortress/Church of the Holy Sepulcher/Damascus Gate/Jaffa Gate:** Explore the areas along the Via Dolorosa where Jesus was led and where He stood before Pilate on the ‘Pavement’ and where Pilate pronounced his judgment. Walk through the Church of the Holy Sepulcher which is the traditional site of the place Jesus was crucified and buried before his resurrection.

**House of Caiaphas/Cenacle (Upper Room site):** After Jesus’ arrest, He was brought to the House of Caiaphas, the High Priest. Explore the holding cell where Jesus stayed overnight and the courtyard where Peter denied knowing Jesus. **Read Matthew 26:57-27:66.**

**Israel Museum:** This site will open your eyes to what the Old City looked like during the days of Jesus. It will give perspective to how the city was laid out before all the modern structures and church buildings were built that obscured the natural view of the city.

**Garden Tomb and Golgatha:** This area is perhaps the most celebrated site in the Old City. The gardens are wonderful with the overlook to ‘the place of the skull’ and the Garden Tomb where we will observe the Lord’s Supper together. What a way to wrap up our time in the Holy Land!  
**Read Matthew 27:57-66.**

**Next Day – Fly back to US out of Tel Aviv**