

PROPOSED ISRAEL ITINERARY LIST OF SITES

Tel Aviv

Location: Mediterranean Coast

History: The city has no Biblical significance, but is a modern Jewish town established in 1909 on the sand dunes north of Jaffa- Hebrew for “Hill of Spring” on land bought from the Turks. It came to be known as “the first all-Jewish city.” The David Ben-Gurion (the first prime-minister of the modern state of Israel) is in Lod. This is where the Biblical city of Lydda, where Peter through the Holy Spirit healed a paralyzed man.

Importance: You will land in Tel Aviv. Today it is one of Israel’s most significant and lively cities.

Bible Passages: There are no significant Bible passages concerning Tel Aviv.

Caesarea

Location: Located on the Mediterranean coast, northwest of Jerusalem.

History: The Phoenicians, founded the port cities of Sidon and Tyre and founded “Strato’s Tower” (which would later become Caesarea) around 400 BC. It was Herod the Great with his huge building projects (around 30 BC) that built upon this area “Caesarea of the Sea,” one of his largest undertakings dedicated to Caesar.

Importance: There are two Caesareas mentioned in the Bible, both important places, but not to be confused with each other. One is known as Caesarea Phillipi. This is where Peter in Matthew 16 made his great profession of faith in response to Jesus asking, “Who do men say that I am?” with Peter answering, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!” The other is also prominent in the Bible as the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles finds much of its activity there.

- 1) Phillip, after preaching to the Ethiopian eunuch “appeared” in Azotus (south of Caesarea on the coast) and eventually ended up in Caesarea.
- 2) Paul was sent to Tarsus after his conversion from there.
- 3) The Roman centurion named Cornelius lived here and was visited by Peter there after the Lord to spoke to him in a vision about going there to bring the Gospel to him.
- 4) The apostle was kept at Caesarea during his trials.

Bible Passages:

Acts 8:40; Acts 9:30; Acts 10:1; Acts 10:24; Acts 11:11; Acts 12:19; Acts 18:22; Acts 21:8; Acts 21:16; Acts 23:23; Acts 23:33; Acts 25:1

Mount Carmel

Location: The mountain (17,000 feet) is near the Mediterranean coast of Palestine between the Plain of Acco to the north and the Plain of Sharon to the south.

History: The place of the “showdown” between Elijah and the Prophets of Baal. (around 860 BC)

Importance: Known primarily as the place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, but is used in other Bible passages as a place of beauty.

Bible References:

A fertile and picturesque mountain: Song 7:5; Isaiah 33:9; Isaiah 35:2; Jeremiah 46:18; Jeremiah 50:19; Amos 1:2

Forests and caves of Carmel 2 Kings 19:23 **Caves of.** Amos 9:3; Micah 7:14

Idolatrous high place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. 1 Kings 18

Megiddo

Location: The Jezreel Valley. Southwest of Sea of Galilee.

History: Many decisive battles had been fought here. One of the most stunning and decisive defeats for God's people took place here when King Josiah perished in battle with Pharaoh-nechoh (2 Kings 23:29-30). This defeat burned deeply in the Jewish mind.

Napoleon in his 1799 attempt to reach the ancient land of the Euphrates came within sight of Megiddo chasing the Turks in the same direction that Sisera fled 2800 years in 900 chariots.

In 1918 the British advanced upon the valley leading to the capture of Damascus.

Archaeologists have found the remains of 25 cities representing every single period of history in Israel.

Importance: The final battle of history, discussed in Rev. 19:17-21, will be one of victory. It is the site of the last and greatest battle of all.

Fortifications and stables from Solomon are found here.

Bible Passages:

Joshua 17:18; Joshua 12:21; Judges 1:27; Judges 4; 1 Kings 4:12; 1 Kings 9:15-19; Zech. 12:11-12

Revelation 16:16 "Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."

Joel 2:1 "Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come."

Nazareth

Location: Nazareth was located in lower Galilee about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea.

History: Place name meaning, “branch.” Nazareth did not enjoy a place of prominence until its association with Jesus. It does not appear in the Old Testament. The angel went to Nazareth to announce to Mary and Joseph the coming birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-28). Following Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and the sojourn in Egypt, Joseph and Mary returned with Jesus to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23), where Jesus grew from boyhood to manhood (Luke 2:39-40; Luke 4:16)

Importance: Jesus growing up there made it important!

Bible Passages: Matthew 26:71; Luke 18:37; Luke 24:19; John 1:45; Acts 2:22; Acts 3:6; Acts 10:38

Cana

Location: We’re not exactly sure where Cana is but it has been traditionally identified with Kefr Kenna, about four miles northeast of Nazareth. This is on the road to Capernaum. It is blessed with vineyards, orchards of fig trees, and an abundance of water. Many modern scholars, however, prefer to identify Cana with Khirbet Qana, a ruin on top of a hill eight and a half miles north of Nazareth. Josephus and certain medieval pilgrims describe this site as the “Cana of Galilee” as they knew it. Still others prefer Ain Qana, three miles north of Nazareth. In any event we’ll be pretty close and it’s possible recent excavations and discoveries have lead to a more conclusive location

Importance: In John 2:1, the town that was the scene of a wedding during which Jesus changed water into wine.

In Cana an unnamed nobleman sought out Jesus to ask Him to heal his son in Capernaum (John 4:46).

Cana was also the home of Nathanael, one of the apostles (John 21:2).

Bible Passages: John 2:1; John 4:46; John 21:2

Sea of Galilee

Location: A freshwater lake nestled in the hills of northern Palestine. Its surface is nearly 700 feet below the level of the Mediterranean, some thirty miles to the west. The nearby hills of Galilee reach an altitude of 1,500 feet above sea level. To the east are the mountains of Gilead with peaks of more than 3,300 feet. To the north are the snow-covered Lebanon mountains. Fed chiefly by the Jordan River, which originates in the foothills of the Lebanon Mountains, the sea of Galilee is thirteen miles long north and south and eight miles wide at its greatest east-west distance. Because of its location, it is subject to sudden and violent storms which are usually of short duration.

Importance: Much of the ministry of Jesus took place on and around the Sea of Galilee.

Bible Passages: The “sea” is referenced frequently in the Gospels. In New Testament times it was also called the “Lake of Gennesaret.” Luke referred to it by that name once (Luke 5:1); the Jewish historian Josephus always called it by that name, and so did the author of 1 Maccabees. Once John called it the “sea of Tiberias” (John 6:1).

Mount of Beatitudes

Location: The “exact” location of the Mount of Beatitudes is unknown. There is however a very likely spot that we will visit that they say is the location. The church built on the location was constructed in 1937.

Importance: The “traditional” spot where Jesus His disciples in what has become known as “The Sermon on the Mount.”

Bible Passages: Matthew 5,6,7.

Capernaum

Location: Western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

History: It is not mentioned in the Old Testament.

Importance: After leaving Nazareth Jesus sets up His ministry there. Peter had a home there. Capernaum became his “own city.” It was the

scene of many acts and incidents of his life The unbelief of its inhabitants after the many evidences our Lord gave among them of the truth of his mission, brought down upon them a heavy denunciation of judgment.

There is a synagogue here from the fourth century, which is believed to be on the site of the synagogue that stood in the first century that Jesus would have been in.

A “flying saucer” church now sits over the place where they believe Peter’s house stood.

Bible Passages: Matthew 4:13-16; Matthew 8:5, 14-15; Matthew 9:2-6, 10-17; Matthew 11:23; Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 4:16-31

Tabgah

Location: Along the Sea of Galilee

Importance: This is the traditional location where Jesus multiplied the fish and the loaves. There is a famous mosaic found there commemorating the multiplication that you will see frequently on plates and other items you can purchase in Israel. It is also said to be the area where Jesus cooked fish for breakfast for the disciples when He restored Peter to ministry after His ascension.

Bible Passages: Matthew 14. John 21

Beth Saida

Location: Northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee

History: In the Old Testament this was Geshur, where Absalom hid from his father David after killing Amnon, his half-brother.

Importance: Jesus taught and healed here. He also denounced Betsaida because of her reluctance to accept the Messiah.

Bible Passages: Matthew 11:21; Mark 6:45; Mark 8:22; Luke 9:10; Luke 10:13; John 1:44; John 12:21

Gadera

Location: The shores of the Sea of Galilee. Uncertain, but a good guess of where it is. There are some ruins in the proposed location.

Importance: This is where Jesus left the crowds to go and heal a man that was possessed by the devil. After healing the man, the demons went into the pigs, ran into the Sea and were drowned. The people came out to see what happened and asked Jesus to leave the region.

Bible Passages: Matthew 8:28-34

Sea of Galilee

Location: Located in the northern section of the country.

Importance: Much of Jesus ministry centered around this lake. The Sea of Galilee is a major source of water and fishing in Israel.

Jordan River Baptism

Location: The Jordan River runs from the Sea of Galilee in the north south into the Dead Sea.

Importance: John the Baptist baptized here and Jesus was baptized here. We will have a chance to be baptized in the Jordan River. There is a charge to use their changing rooms and use their towels.

Bible Passages: Mark 1:9-11

Beit Shean (called Beth-shan in the Bible)

Location: Situated in the lush area of the Jordan River south of the Sea of Galilee. One of Israel's most fertile plains.

History: When the Canaanite land was divided up among the tribes of Israel, this section went to Manasseh. They were never able to successfully drive them out of the land.

When Saul and his sons had fallen on nearby Mount Gilboa, their bodies (Saul having been decapitated) were fastened to the walls of the city of Beth-shan by the Philistines to make a public mockery of them.

Importance: In the Bible it is best known for where Saul's body hung. Today it is one of the richest archaeological sites in the entire country yielding many fantastic finds. Much of what is uncovered however refers to Roman and Byzantine history, a period later than Bible history. 18 layers of cities until the late Middle Ages have been uncovered here.

Bible Passages:

Joshua 17:11-12; Judges 1:27; 1 Samuel 31:8-10; 1 Kings 4:12

Gideon's Spring (Maayon Harod)

Location: Jezreel Valley from where you can see Mount Gilboa (where Saul and his sons died in battle) and the near the plain of Megiddo (Armageddon)

Importance: This is where the Lord cut Gideon's army down from 32,000 men to 300 men to defeat the Midianites. If you kneeled down to lap the water you were in.

Bible Passages: You can read the account in Judges 7.

Sachne

Location: The Beit She'an valley at the base of Mount Gilboa. A natural pool fed by hot springs.

Importance: A nice place to eat lunch and maybe take a dip.

Shiloh

Location: West of the Jordan and north of Jerusalem, a city of Ephraim. It is a secluded spot.

History: Here the tabernacle was set up after the Conquest (Joshua 18:1-10), where it remained during all the period of the judges till the ark fell into the hands of the Philistines. This is where Hannah came to worship and visited Eli. Samuel her son grew up here.

Bible Passages: 1 Samuel 1 –3. Judges 21. It is referred to by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 7:12, 14; Jeremiah 26:4-9) five hundred years after its destruction.

Mount of Olives

Location: Right outside of Jerusalem, on the other side of the Kidron Valley. A great place to see the city of Jerusalem.

Importance: Here Jesus taught the “Olivet Discourse,” He was made a prisoner here, He wept for Jerusalem here and to the Mount of Olives He will return.

Bible Passages: *Zech. 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.*

Matthew 24

Palm Sunday Road

Location: Mount of Olives

Importance: You can walk down this steep pathway from the top of the Mount of Olives down into the Garden of Gethsamane. This is the path Jesus followed when making His “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. Hossanna!

Bible Passages: Matthew 21: 1 -11

Garden of Gethsemane

Location: The bottom of the Mount of Olives looking towards Jerusalem. The “Olive Press.” There is a stone here that is said to be

where Jesus was praying on the night of His betrayal. The olive trees in the grove were alive when Jesus was there.

Importance: His prayer before the crucifixion and His betrayal happened here.

Bible Passages: Matthew 26:36 - 56

Mount Zion

Location: Jerusalem.

History: When David took it from the Jebusites he built on it a citadel and a palace, and it became “the city of David”

Importance: Said to be where Mary died, where David is buried, where Jesus washed their feet and where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the last supper

Bible Passages: Joshua 15:63; 2 Samuel 5:7; 1 Kings 8:1; 2 Kings 19:21, 31; 1 Chron. 11:5

Temple Institute

Location: 19 Misgav Ladach Street; Jewish Quarter; Old City; Jerusalem

History: There are no vessels as far as anybody knows that date back to the era of the temple. This exhibit displays restored Temple vessels, restored as they existed in the times of the Holy Temple.

Importance: As part of the goals of the Institute, they hope that when the “new” temple is built in Jerusalem it may happen “speedily” in our own times, since these vessels would already be ready for us.

Bible Passages: Revelation 11

Cardo

Location: Jerusalem

History: The main street of Jerusalem during the Byzantine period. Built in 2 second to sixth century AD.

Importance: Very well preserved section of the city that began at the northern gate (today's Damascus Gate) traveling in a straight line north to south and ending at the southern gate.

Western Wall

Location: Jerusalem

History: The Western wall is all that remains of the Second Temple.

Importance: This has been a meeting place for prayer and celebrations. During the time Jerusalem was controlled by the Jordanians (1948 – 1967) access to the wall was forbidden to Jews. Day or night there is always somebody at the wall. Men need to put on a head covering if they visit the wall or pray there. Men and women are separated at the wall. You'll noticed little pieces of paper with prayer requests stuck into the wall where the huge stones stand one upon another without any mortar or cement.

Model of Jerusalem

Location: In the grounds of the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem.

Masada

Location: Near the Dead Sea.

History: Place where the Jewish zealots fled to escape Roman domination. The Romans tried to surround them and flush them off this mountaintop fortress. The Romans built a pathway up one side of the mountain, but rather than surrender all the residents committed suicide.

Importance: Has become a symbol in modern Israel to never give up.

Ein Gedi

Location: About mid-point on the west bank of the Dead Sea

History: David hid here in caves from Saul.

Bible Passages: 1 Samuel 24 Song of Solomon 1:14 (calls it an oasis)

Qumran

Location:

History: Qumran is home of the Dead Sea sect (Essenes) where the renowned Dead Sea scrolls were found in eleven caves by a shepherd boy in 1947 after being there for 2000 years.

Importance: Many of the best preserved and oldest texts of the Old Testament that we have.

Dead Sea

Location: It lies about 16 miles in a straight line to the east of Jerusalem.

History: The Dead Sea is 50 miles long and never wider than 10 miles at any given point. It is located in the world's deepest cavity almost 1,300 feet below sea level. It is seven times saltier than any other sea in the world, making it almost impossible to sink in. There is no life whatsoever in it. If you swim in the Dead Sea you need to shower off immediately because of the rich concentration of minerals which also make the "lake" rich in therapeutic properties.

Importance: Other than it's geography there is nothing of striking importance concerning the Dead Sea in the Bible, except perhaps the speculations about the area and the destruction of Sodom.

Bible Passages: This inland sea is called in Scripture the "salt sea" (Genesis 14:3; Numbers 34:12), the "sea of the plain" (Deut. 3:17), the "east sea" (Ezekiel 47:18; Joel 2:20), and simply "the sea" (Ezekiel 47:8). The Arabs call it Bahr Lut, i.e., the Sea of Lot.

Yad Vashem (Israel's Holocaust Museum)

Location: Jerusalem.

History: The museum opened 40 years responding to telling the story of the Holocaust to future generations. Contains artifacts, explanations and visuals telling the story of the Nazis rise to power through the post-war years. The museum is very sobering. One of the most moving exhibits is the Children's Memorial, recalling the over 1 million children who were victims of the Holocaust. Also, the memory of Gentiles who aided Jews during this time are given prominent space in a walkway called "the Righteous Among the Nations" including Oskar Schindler.

Importance: The Holocaust is one of the most brutal acts of history and which happened in modern "civilized" times by a modern progressive nation. The depravity of man's heart is revealed in an undeniable fashion at the museum.

Jericho

Location: On the west bank of the Jordan River just north of the Dead Sea.

History: This was the first town taken by Israel when they came into the land under Joshua's command.

Today it is under Palestinian control.

There is a spring there that had bad water, but after Elisha threw salt in it the water became drinkable.

Bible Passages: Joshua 4 2 Kings 2:19-22

Temple Mount

Location: Jerusalem. Can be seen throughout the city.

History: The Spiritual, Political and Geographical center of Jerusalem. The Jews see it as the most Holy place on earth. The

Dome on the Rock presently sits on top of the area. This is where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac and where Solomon built the Temple. Jesus preached here. The Muslims say Mohammed ascended to heaven from here.

Bible Passages: The temple is found everywhere throughout the Scriptures.

Biblical Resources Garden

Importance: They collect and display artifacts, including a cross from Bible times.

Bethlehem

Location: South of Jerusalem

History: First mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 35:19 “so Rachal died and was buried on the way to Ephrath.”

Importance: Outside of Bethlehem in the fields is where the account of Ruth and Naomi took place. David was from here. Jesus was born here. It is the “House of Bread.”

Shepherds’ Field

Location: Outside of Bethlehem. The “fields” today are very much like they were in the days of Jesus.

Calvary and the Garden Tomb

Location: Just north of the Damascus Gate (the most ornate gate in the city – the road to Damascus used to start here)

Importance: Golgotha, the place of the skull is where Jesus was crucified. The important thing about the Garden Tomb is that there is nobody in it!

Bible Passages: Matthew 27:32-66