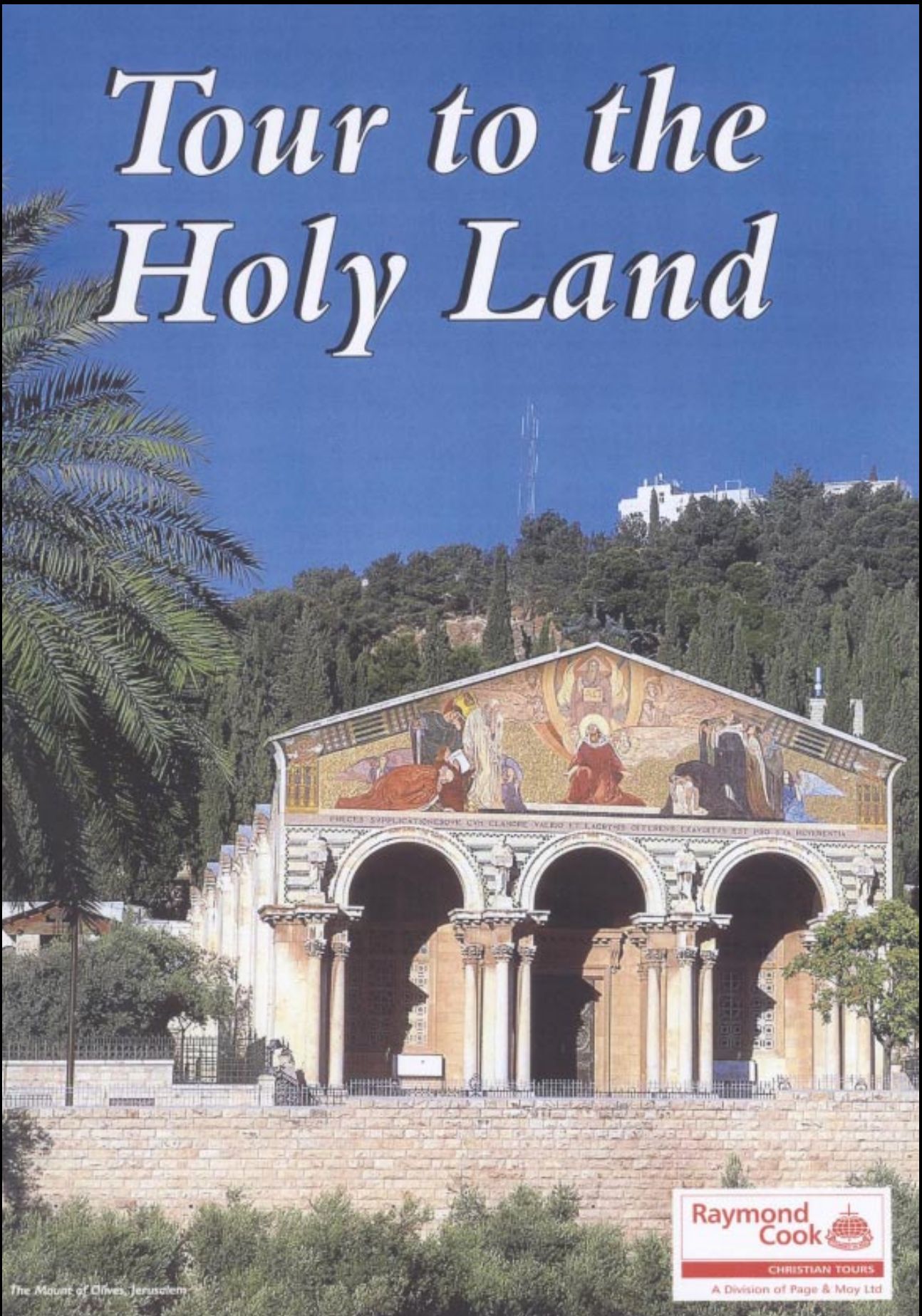



Tour to the Holy Land



The Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

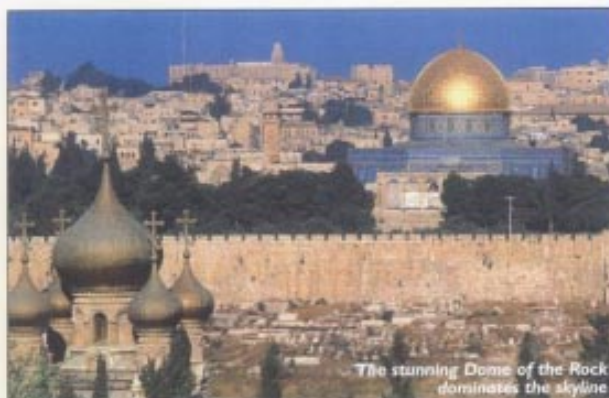
Raymond Cook 
CHRISTIAN TOURS
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Join us on a thrilling tour to the Holy Land where the mystery of ancient civilizations unfurls and where age-old sites illuminate the Biblical narrative. Savour the sights of this captivating place and immerse yourself in its enchanting atmosphere. Anticipate a truly memorable experience, one which is sure to linger.

Our carefully planned tour is designed to enable you to enjoy a pilgrimage holiday in the company of like-minded companions where you can combine excellent sightseeing with Christian fellowship. It's a holiday which offers more than a change of scene but a renewal of body, mind and spirit.

Below you will find descriptions of the main highlights of Jerusalem and Galilee. Details of what is included on your own specific itinerary, as well as information about accommodation, flights, departure date and how to book, can be found in the accompanying literature.

EXCURSIONS IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM



The stunning Dome of the Rock dominates the skyline

Ancient Cardo Jewish Quarter

Running through the heart of the Jewish Quarter, the Ancient Cardo was a major thoroughfare during the Roman and Byzantine eras. Over time this colonnaded avenue became buried under thirteen feet of rubble and it was not until the 1980s that excavations revealed the ancient outer wall of the city of the Judean King Hezekiah and the Byzantine columns, which can be seen below the level of the street.

Bethany

The Biblical town of Bethany is significant as the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary who welcomed Jesus into their home and is famous as the place where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11 vv 38-44).

Bethlehem

Located five miles from Jerusalem on the edge of the Judean Desert, Bethlehem is a place of pilgrimage for many Christians. A number of sites in the town allude to the nativity story - Manger Square, the Shepherds' Fields, located outside the town and the Church of the Nativity, built in AD 326 over the cave where the birth of Jesus is believed to have taken place.



The market place in Bethlehem

Please note that you may not necessarily visit all of the destinations described in this brochure

Church of the Flagellation, the Ecce Homo Convent and Lithostratos Christian Quarter

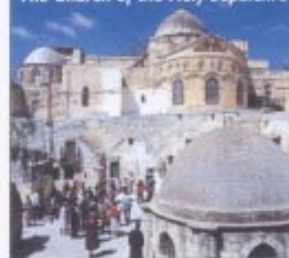
The Franciscan Church of the Flagellation, located along the Via Dolorosa, marks the place where Jesus was beaten by the Roman soldiers and a crown of thorns placed upon his head (John 19 vv 1-16). The Ecce Homo Convent is on the site of Herod's Antonia Fortress where Jesus was called before Herod after his arrest (Luke 22 vv 6-12) and the Lithostratos is traditionally the place where Pilate sentenced Jesus to death (John 19 vv 1-16).

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Christian Quarter

Located in the heart of the Christian Quarter, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre stands upon the traditional site of the crucifixion and the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Here the final four stations of the Cross can be found, including Calvary, the place where Jesus was nailed to the Cross and the Holy Sepulchre located beneath the church's main rotunda next to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre



The Church of St Mark Armenian Quarter

Built in the 12th century on the location of an earlier church, St Mark's is the place of worship for Syrian Orthodox Christians. Tradition regards this as the site of the upper room in the home of Mary, the mother of the Apostle Mark.

The Dead Sea

Situated 1,300 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest place on earth. A number of oases along the shores have been developed as ideal bathing spots where visitors have the opportunity to enjoy a mud bath and to float in the salt-laden waters - a rewarding and somewhat peculiar experience!

Enjoy a swim in the saline waters of the Dead Sea



The Dome of the Rock Temple Mount

One of the most prominent landmarks on the Jerusalem skyline is the Dome of the Rock which stands upon Temple Mount on the site of Mount Moriah where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac. A magnificent example of Islamic architecture, the octagonal building is adorned with exquisite tilework and crowned by a stunning gold cupola. Built in AD 691, it reveres the place where, according to the Koran, Mohammed ascended to heaven.

Ein Kerem

Situated in a valley to the west of Jerusalem, Ein Kerem is a pretty village surrounded by mountains and olive and cypress trees. Since the Byzantine period it has been traditionally regarded as the birthplace of John the Baptist and the place where Mary visited Elizabeth after Gabriel announced she was to give birth to the Saviour.

Emmaus (Qubeibe)

The ruins of a village thought to be that of Biblical Emmaus are located on a Roman road to the east of Jerusalem. As recorded in Luke 24, it was on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus that two of Jesus' disciples met with the risen Christ.

The Garden Tomb

In 1883 General Gordon noted a hill shaped like a skull, and claimed that this could possibly be Golgotha. He called for excavations to take place to see if a tomb could be found nearby and raised funds in England to found the Garden Tomb Association who still own the site.

Holy Land Model of Jerusalem *New City*

The Holy Land Model, made on a scale of 1:50, shows how Jerusalem would have looked 2,000 years ago. Located in the grounds of the Holyland Hotel (West), the model gives us an informative insight into the architecture of the domestic and religious buildings, particularly the spectacular Temple.

Jericho

Jericho, considered the oldest inhabited city in the world, dates from 8,000BC. It developed around a large spring which irrigated the area, turning it into a fertile oasis ripe for cultivation. Archaeological excavations in the area reveal the ruined ancient walls which date from the time when Joshua and the Children of Israel encircled the city in their efforts to capture the land of Canaan (Joshua 6: 1-21). Nearby is the Mount of Temptation, regarded as the place where Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness.

Masada and Qumran

Masada, located upon an isolated cliff high above the Judean desert, was chosen by Herod the Great for his fortified winter palace. Masada played a major part in the Jewish war against Rome in the 1st century AD when Jewish rebels led a revolt against the Romans and seized the fortress. After the sacking of Jerusalem in AD 70 the Romans were successful in defeating this last Jewish stronghold - the 1,000 or so Jewish men, women and children chose to commit mass suicide rather than accept defeat and become Roman slaves. Masada is today a place of pilgrimage for many Jews and is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Israel. It is possible to explore the palace ruins, Roman bath house and beautiful mosaics and see the marvellous views across the Judean desert. Access is by cable car.

Qumran, located on the north western shores of the Dead Sea, is renowned as the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 when a shepherd boy discovered parchments hidden in pottery jars deep in a cave. Regarded as the documents belonging to the Essenes, a strict Jewish sect of the Second Temple period, many of the scrolls have played a crucial part in confirming the authenticity of Old Testament scriptures.

Mount of Olives

Sacred to all of the faith communities in Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives is an ancient Jewish burial site and spectacular panoramic views of the city can be enjoyed from the hillside. It has particular significance to the Christian community - it was here where Jesus began his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday a few days before his death and where he ascended into heaven. A number of Christian sites are present on the Mount of Olives - the Church of the Ascension, the Church of the Pater Noster, built above the cave where, according to tradition, Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples; the Franciscan Basilica of Dominus Flevit, the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19 v 41); and the Russian Orthodox Mary Magdalene Church, a distinctive landmark with its stunning golden domes. Located at the foot of the Mount within an ancient olive grove, is the Garden of Gethsemane, the place where Jesus prepared for his imminent betrayal and arrest (Matthew 26:36) and the Church of All Nations, designed in flamboyant Byzantine style.

The Pool of Bethesda *Christian Quarter*

The pool was one of several open-air reservoirs built during the Second Temple Period in Jerusalem to provide water for the city's inhabitants and is where Jesus healed the man with the infirmity (John 5 v 1-15). It is located within St Stephen's Gate near to the Church of St Anne.

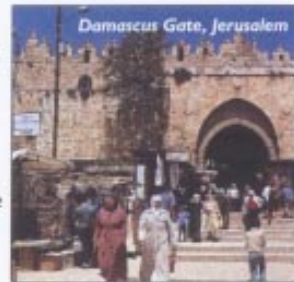
Scripture Garden

The Scripture Garden provides an insight into Biblical customs and traditions and offers a Biblical Triclinium meal (similar to the Last Supper) which is taken whilst reclining around a three sided table.

Temple Mount *Old City*

Sacred to the three great religions, the Temple Mount is the site of Mount Moriah where the Patriarch Abraham was called to sacrifice his son. Considered a very holy place, it was chosen by Solomon for the building of the Temple where Jewish worship and sacrifice could take place. Begun in c960BC, the Temple was destroyed in c587BC and a second temple was built sixty years later. This too experienced a tortuous history of plunder, capture and recapture until the reign of Herod the Great who came to the throne in 37BC. He enlarged the structure, realigned the landscape and embellished the building. The Temple was especially busy during the Festivals of Passover, Tabernacles and Pentecost when pilgrims from throughout the country came to the city to worship.

However, in AD70 the temple was again destroyed during the sacking of the city by the Romans, thus fulfilling Jesus' prophecy (Luke 19: 41-44). Successive rule by both Christian and Muslim rulers have had a profound effect on the site, leading to the building of the Dome of the Rock and El Aqsa Mosque, today the main focus of Muslim worship in the city.



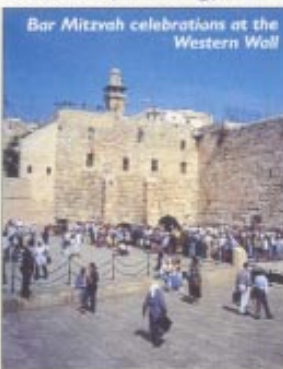
Via Dolorosa *Muslim and Christian Quarters*

Extending from St Stephen's Gate in the Muslim Quarter to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Via Dolorosa commemorates the journey taken by Jesus to his crucifixion. Along the route are fourteen Stations of the Cross, each marked by plaques bearing an appropriate Biblical quotation. The tradition of following in the footsteps of Christ began in the 4th century. The current route was fixed during the 19th century and is still followed each Friday afternoon by the Franciscan monks.

Wadi Kelt

This remote landscape, often referred to as the 'Valley of the Shadow of Death', is characterised by ruins and ravines and is inhabited by hermit monks who live in caves carved out of the rockface. St George's Monastery, begun in the 5th century, is built into the cliff of a ravine and is dedicated to Georgias of Cosiba who lived most of his life in the monastery.

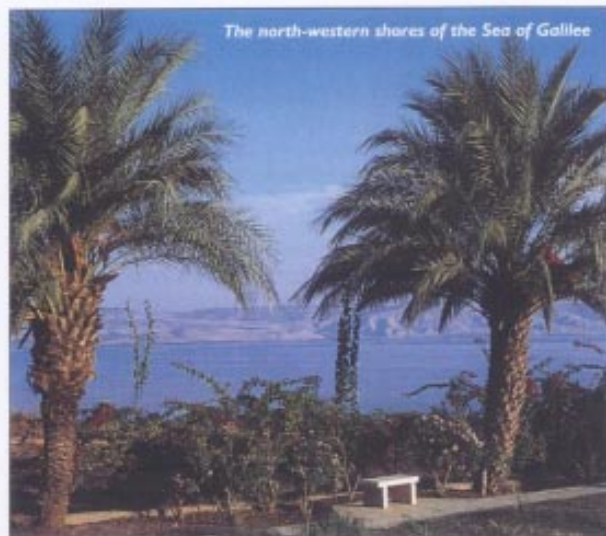
Western (Wailing) Wall *Jewish Quarter*



The Western Wall, the only remaining part of the Temple complex following the destruction of the city in AD70, comprises massive stone blocks from the Herodian era. Today it is a place of prayer and pilgrimage for many Jews who recognise it as the holiest of places and who grieve over the demise of the Temple. The venue for Sabbath and Jewish Festivals and events of national importance, the Western Wall is also the place where Bar Mitzvahs are celebrated.

Yad Vashem *New City*

Located in the modern city, Yad Vashem is a poignant memorial to all those who perished in the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945. It comprises a museum, the Hall of Remembrance and Hall of Names, a children's memorial and the Avenue of the Righteous, an area of trees planted in honour of those who gave help to Jewish people during the Nazi era.



The north-western shores of the Sea of Galilee

EXCURSIONS IN GALILEE

Beth Shean

Located along the Jordan River Valley, Beth Shean is where King Saul was killed (1 Sam 31 vv 1-13). Extensive excavations here reveal the cardo, forum, market, bathhouse and Israel's best preserved amphitheatre which once seated 8,000 people.

Cana

Cana in upper Galilee is considered to be the location of Jesus' first miracle - the changing of water into wine at the wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-11).

Caesarea

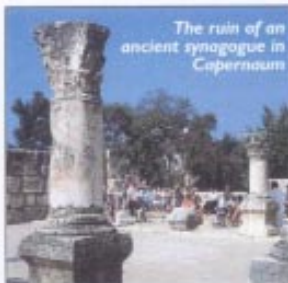
Founded in the 3rd century BC, Caesarea became an important commercial port and military centre of Roman administration. We see evidence of its varied history in its buildings and monuments including the Roman amphitheatre, the Byzantine street and the Crusader fort. This is where Paul was imprisoned (Acts 23 v 23) and where Cornelius, the first Gentile, was converted to Christianity (Acts 10 vv 24-48). There is also an impressive aqueduct nearby.

Caesarea Philippi (Banias)

Located at the foot of Mount Hermon, Caesarea Philippi was an important town under the jurisdiction of Philip, son of Herod, at the time of Jesus. Originally a Greek site dedicated to the god, Pan, this is the place where Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:16).

Capernaum

Located on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum was the place where Jesus focussed much of his early ministry and where he called his first disciples. Archaeological excavations have revealed the foundations of a 1st century house, believed to be the home of St Peter and a 4th century synagogue located on the site of an earlier place of Jewish worship.



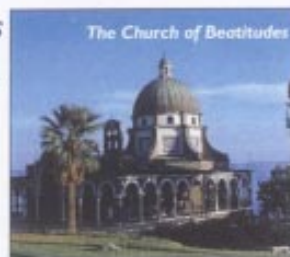
The ruin of an ancient synagogue in Capernaum

Megiddo

The strategically located hill fortress of Megiddo, built by Solomon and surrounded by massive walls, was instrumental in defending the city. It is the place known as Armageddon which, according to John's prophetic vision, is where the last battle will take place (Rev 20).

The Mount of Beatitudes

Built in 1938, the Basilica at the Mount of Beatitudes is located on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee and commemorates Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5 vv 1-12).



The Church of Beatitudes

Mount Carmel

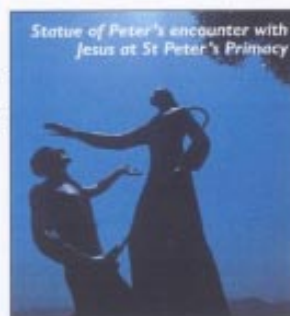
Located south of Haifa, Mount Carmel was a traditional Hebrew place of sanctuary where the poor could find protection. It is also the place where the prophet Elijah called down fire upon the altar to confound the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18 vv 16-39).

Nazareth

Located in the heart of the Galilean countryside, the town of Nazareth is renowned as the place where Jesus spent the early part of his life. Places of interest include the Church of the Annunciation, located upon the traditional site where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary; Joseph's Workshop; and an ancient Synagogue which is thought to be the place where Jesus read from Isaiah 61 and declared the purpose of his ministry (Luke 4 vv 16-30).

St Peter's Primacy (Mensa Christi)

This is traditionally regarded as the place where Jesus spoke to Peter after his resurrection and honoured him with the role of leading and ministering to the early church (John 21 vv 15-24). A flight of ancient stone steps is located next to the Mensa Christi (the table of the Lord) where Christ served breakfast to his disciples during one of his resurrection appearances.



Statue of Peter's encounter with Jesus at St Peter's Primacy

Tabgha

Tabgha is renowned for its abundant spring waters and is traditionally the location of the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mark 6 vv 30-46). The ruins of a Byzantine basilica, built on the site of an earlier church, boasts some beautiful mosaics including one featuring the loaves and fishes.

Tiberias

Founded by Herod Antipas in AD 18-22 and named after the Emperor Tiberius, the spa town of Tiberias enjoys a splendid location on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Tiberias became an important seat of religious learning. Today it is a fashionable resort with exclusive hotels, restaurants and a hot water spa whose therapeutic mineral waters have drawn many seeking relaxation. Other attractions in the town include the lakeside promenade lined with lively fish restaurants and The Galilee Experience, an excellent multi-media presentation of the history of the Galilee region.