

# Holy Land Pilgrimage

12 Days October 2022 Led by Canon Gordon Dey







### THE DATES

12 Days Sunday 23rd Oct. to Thursday 3rd Nov. 2022

Day 1. Sunday 23rd Oct.

### Luton/Tel Aviv

Flight departure direct to TEL AVIV.

Meals and full in-flight services will be offered en route.

On arrival, by coach through the Sharon Plain and Jezreel Valley to Nazareth and the Hotel.







Day 2. Monday 24th Oct.

### The Old Testament Foundation

A visit to Mt. of Precipice, Jezreel and Megiddo.

#### JEZREEL VALLEY -

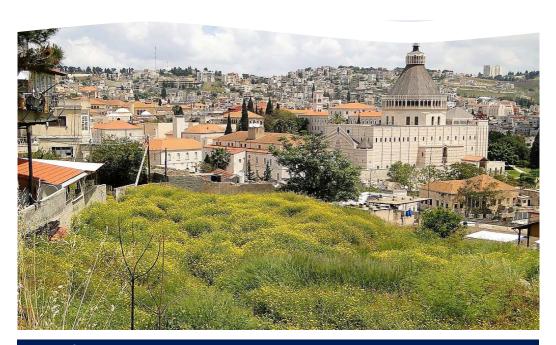
Also called Plain of Esdraelon and Armageddon Valley - one of the most fertile areas of Israel, and the location of many important Old Testament battles.

#### TEL MEGIDDO -

One of the most important archaeological sites in Israel, it reveals remains of a city that was important in the ancient world. It guarded a narrow pass on an important trade route, known now as the Via Maris that linked Egypt with Mesopotamia and Asia Minor. It was inhabited from 7000 - 586 BC. 26 levels of development have been identified including Iron Age features from the reign of King Ahab.

### Special Focus:

Worship, including Holy Communion, perhaps with Christians from Nazareth.







Day 3. Tuesday 25th Oct.

### Jesus of Nazareth

NAZARETH today is a huge contrast to the small village of Jesus' time. We spend a day visiting a range of sites that can help us to appreciate the family home of Jesus, where his 'hidden years' were spent in preparation for his later ministry.

Early morning visit to the BASILICA OF THE ANNUNCIATION.

Explore recent findings from the NAZARETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT at the Sisters of Nazareth Convent.

Visit the NAZARETH VILLAGE project for a biblical lunch. Free time in the afternoon for shopping etc in NAZARETH. Evening meeting with Christians in Nazareth.

### Special Focus

'Spiritual hunger in the time of Jesus'.









Day 4. Wednesday 26th Oct.

# Sepphoris, Lower Galilee Hills & Settlements, and the 'Jesus Trail'

Explore Sepphoris and learn the story of its development.

Visit SHIKHIN and explore this recently excavated archaeological site of a Jewish village similar to Nazareth, a little north of Sepphoris.

Visit JOTAPATA (Yodfat), 5 miles from Sepphoris - village fortified by Flavius Josephus and destroyed after siege by the Romans. in 67 AD. Here Josephus was taken prisoner and eventually released by Vespasian.

Walk part of the 'JESUS TRAIL' back to Nazareth.

### Special Focus:

Family life in Galilee in the 1st century AD.







Day 5. Thursday 27th Oct.

## Nazareth to Magdala - and the Jesus Trail

Coach drive to explore other Lower Galilee settlements, including;

### The Morning.

CANA and NAIN.

#### The Afternoon.

After lunch, visit the HORNS OF HITTIM, and recall the defeat of the crusader army by Sala'din.

Walk the JESUS TRAIL from Hittim to Magdala.

### Special Focus:

Care of the sick/needy in the 1st century AD.

Dinner & Overnight in Magdala







Day 6. Friday 28th Oct.

### Exploring the Sea of Galilee and Magdala

Holy Communion together - hopefully in the new church before breakfast.

TWO HOUR SAIL to identify Galilee's harbours and fishing villages, followed by Boat Museum at Ginosar Josephus informs us that there were 130 boats on Galilee and 34 fishing/harbours.

Visit BETHSAIDA - 'The House of the Fishermen'

#### After lunch:

Explore MAGDALA. In Greek this important city was named Taricheae, meaning 'Place of Fish Processing'. Grasp the fresh archaeological evidence found in recent years. Visit the harbour and the Eastern Orthodox site. Visit the church and its chapels, hear about its design features.

Evening - perhaps meet up with present day Galilean fishermen **Special Focus:** 

Galilean Fishing Industry in the 1st century AD. Dinner & Overnight in Magdala







Day 7. Saturday 29th Oct.

### The Sea of Galilee

Morning coach drive to MERON, some may climb MT MERON, others visit SAFED, one of the four Jewish Holy Cities.

### After lunch -

Coach drive to HAZOR to visit the extensive archaeological remains of this important Old Testament city.

Return to Magdala via the HULA VALLEY and visit the nature reserve where the Hule Lake has been reconstructed to encourage migration of up to 500 million birds every year, including pelicans and storks.

### Special Focus:

The natural world and especially the bird life of the Holy Land. <u>Dinner & Overnight in Tiberias</u>







Day 8. Sunday 30th Oct.

# Explore Tiberias - its Roman story, and archaeology.

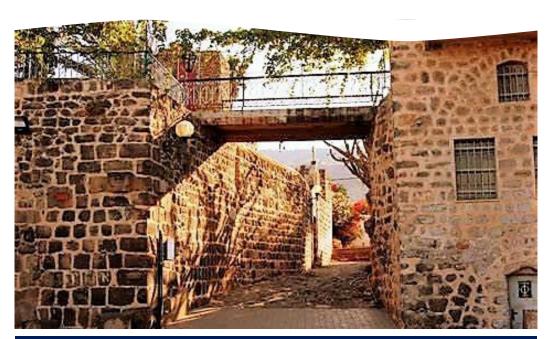
Visit TIBERIAS – capital city of Herod Antipas, and built to replace Sepphoris from 20AD, as the Galilean economy around the lakeside grew and flourished. Built as a spa, and close to 17 natural springs, it was strictly pagan initially due to it being built on a cemetery. Later 'cleansed' it became a place of Jewish learning after the Jews were expelled from Jerusalem. With Jerusalem, Hebron, and Safed, it is regarded as one of the four Jewish Holy Cities. Jewish Sanhedrin based in Tiberias from 150 AD. Although much of ancient Tiberias has been destroyed we will visit sites that remind us of its remarkable story.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: with Anglicans or Church of Scotland, or Peniel Fellowship Messianic Community Visit ROMAN THEATRE and JEWISH MAUSOLEUM Visit YARDENIT for baptismal renewal and enjoy nature walk down the Jordan.

### Special Focus:

Building Industry in Galilee in the 1st century AD.

Dinner & Overnight in Tiberias







Day 9. Monday 31 st Oct.

# Exploring Jesus' ministry in the area near his home in Capernaum

After breakfast, visit to MT OF BEATITUDES and enjoy worship in one of the outdoor chapels. Read the Sermon on the Mount as we walk down the hill to Tabgha.

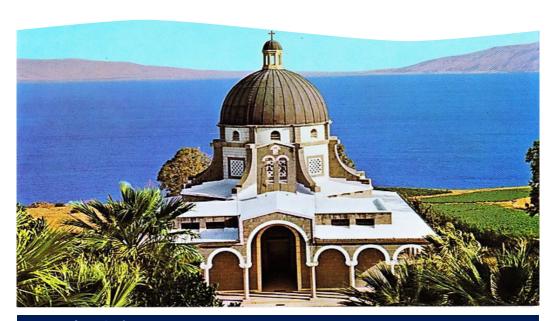
Visit TABGHA and recall the resurrection ministry of Jesus. Tabgha was an agricultural area - excavation as revealed many oil and grain mills.

Visit CAPERNAUM - Jesus' 'home' in Galilee, and on the 'Via Maris'. Capernaum was established in the 2nd century BC during the Hasmonean period (2nd century BC), when new fishing villages sprung up around the lake. Fishing was the main source of income. Recall the extensive ministry of Jesus in Capernaum and his use of farming images in his teaching.

#### Special Focus:

Galilean farming in the 1st century AD

Dinner & Overnight in Tiberias







Day 10. Tuesday 1st Nov.

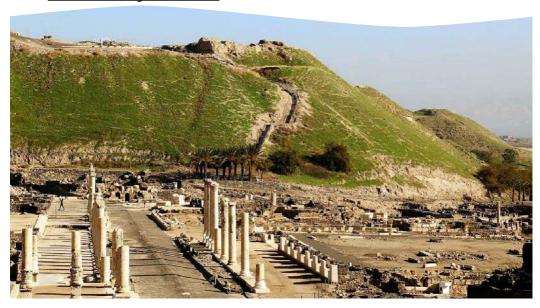
# Exploring the Decapolis, and recalling the ministry of Jesus

Ascend the southern part of the Golan Heights to visit Decapolis city of HIPPOS, the closest of the Decapolis cities to the Sea of Galilee and so almost certainly visited by Jesus in his ministry to the Decapolis, as Mark's gospel records. Recall the place and significance of these ten self-governing Gentile cities and their territory, with Geresa (Jerash) the dominant one - hence this whole area was known as the land of the Gerasenes. Hippos' location 1200 ft above the Sea of Galilee offers inspirational views of the Lake, and it's recently unearthed archaeological remains are impressive, including eight churches and a cathedral in Byzantine times It was totally destroyed by earthquake in 749 AD

Visit BETHSHEAN, the only other Decapolis city that is today in Israel, and the only one on the western side of the Jordan river. It dates back to pre-historic times, due to its strategic location between the Jordan and Megiddo Valleys. In the Old Testament story it is the place where Saul and Jonathan heads were exhibited following their deaths on nearby Mt Gilboa. In the time of Jesus it was a major Roman city called Scythopolis. It was destroyed by the same huge earthquake in 749AD that destroyed Hippos.

### Special Focus:

Political Life in Galilee in the 1st century AD Dinner & Overnight in Tiberias







Day 11. Wednesday 2nd Nov.

### Explore the Golan and Mt. Hermon

Explore the GOLAN, volcanic area to the north and east of Sea of Galilee, and Mt Hermon, limestone range part of the Anti Lebanese mountains that provide much of the sources of the Jordan River.

Ascend Mt HERMON as possible location of Transfiguration of Jesus and the point of the start of his preparation for their final journey to Jerusalem. Recall Hermon's strategic importance, where Israel's current border with Syria and Lebanon can be recognised.

Visit KATZRIN TALMUDIC VILLAGE

Visit CAESAREA PHILIPPI - Originally named 'Paneas', it became a religious site for the worship of Pan in Greek times and was rebuilt by both Herod the Great and Herod Philip to be the capital of Gaulinitis (Golan). Explore ancient remains from before and during the time of Jesus, and view one of the streams that form the source of the Jordan. It was in this territory that Jesus took his disciples to reflect on the Galilean ministry.

Visit GAMLA, a hilltop ('Gamla' in Aramaic means 'camel') ancient settlement from Bronze Age times, resettled by Jews from Hasmonean times as Golan's capital city. It became a centre of Jewish revolt against the Romans under Flavius Josephus, and was sieged and destroyed by Herod Agrippa and Vespasian in 67AD. Also an archaeological site where many Hasmonean coins have been found.

Evening: meet for worship with Hedva Haymov (Musalaha)

Special Focus: Trade, Travel and Taxation in the 1st century AD.

Dinner & Overnight in Tiberias







Day 12. Thursday 3rd Nov.

### Explore Phoenicia, Ptolomais (Acre), and Carmel

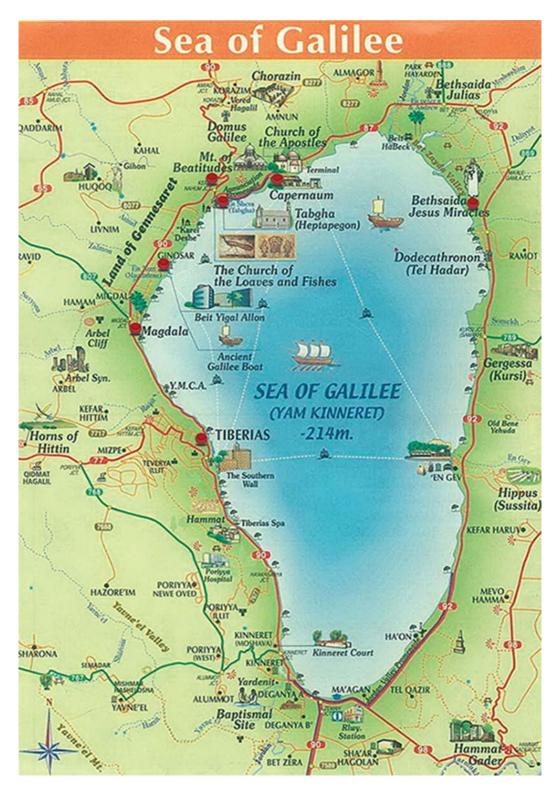
Explore the southern part of Phoenicia that is in now Israel, and that also included the whole coastline of what is now Lebanon. The Phoenicians were a seafaring people whose origins are uncertain, and who flourished from 1200BC through trade and sea travel. The Phoenican language, spread through their travel exploits, became a key foundation for other semitic languages. Jesus' ministry to the people of Tyre at the start of his ministry continued when he visited Tyre and Sidon.

Visit AKKO or ACRE, given the name Ptolomais by the Greeks (Ptolomy), but retaken by the Maccabeans and then renamed Ptolomais by the Romans in the time of Jesus. Later it became a highly significant port and fortress for the Crusaders for nearly 200 years from 1104-1291, the remains of which are extensive. Today it contains a temple, and is the holiest city for those of the Ba'hai faith.

Visit Mt. CARMEL ('Mar Elias' in Arabic) and view its location overlooking Haifa bay and the Mediterranean to the west, and the great plain of Megiddo to the east. The Carmelite range stretches 24 miles, from which Herod the Great constructed an aqueduct to provide fresh water to Caesarea Maritima. Recall this extraordinary location for the challenge of Elijah to the 450 prophets of Baal, and give thanks together for any prophetic word that we have heard on our travels.

Return flight home Tel Aviv to Luton.





### Projected Flights

Luton / Tel Aviv

Flight: LY312 Depart: 09.45

Arrive: 16.35



Tel Aviv / Luton

Flight: LY313 Depart: 18.45

Arrive: 22.10

### Planned Hotels

### NAZARETH Ramada Hotel ( 4 Nights)

By the Annunciation Church in the Old City.





# BY GALILEE Magdala Guest House (2 Nights)

By the shores, with landscaped grounds and beach.



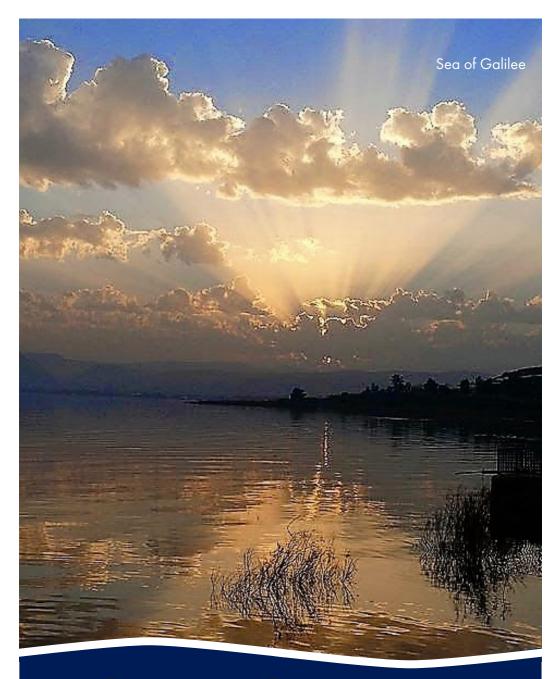


## TIBERIAS The Restal Hotel (5 Nights)

 $\label{prop:sum} \mbox{ Just off Tiberias city centre with landscaped grounds. }$ 







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