

GALILEE



Ruins of Capernaum

On the Northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee lies the ruins of Capernaum. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum after being tempted in the wilderness. It is here that he met James, John, Peter, Andrew, and Matthew. He performed many of his miracles, worshipped in the synagogue, taught the “Bread of Life” discourse, and healed many illnesses.

Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes

The modern Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes at Tabgha displays mosaic decorations of flora and fauna. The most famous one depicts the miracle the church commemorates. Beneath the altar is the rock on which it is believed Jesus placed the loaves and fish when he blessed them.



Mount of Beatitudes



Overlooking the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes is believed to be the setting for Jesus’ most famous discourse, the Sermon on the Mount. The Mount of Beatitudes is also understood to be the place where Jesus met his apostles after his Resurrection and commissioned them to “make disciples of all nations.”

Church of the Primacy of St. Peter

Nearby, on the Tabgha beach, is where Jesus is believed to have made his third appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection. The rock incorporated in the church floor is traditionally believed to be the place where Jesus prepared breakfast for the disciples after they had been fishing all night, and Jesus told them to cast on the right side of the boat. It is then after breakfast that Jesus gives Peter the three-fold commission of “Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep,” recognizing Peter’s primacy over the apostles.

Cana

Cana in Galilee is celebrated as the scene of Jesus’ first miracle, where Jesus and his first disciples turn up at a wedding feast and the wine runs out. Mary turns to her Son. “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?” he responded. “My hour has not yet come.” But she persisted and her Son turned six jars holding more than 550 litres of water (equivalent to more than 730 bottles) into fine wine.

The towering cupola of the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth stands over the cave that tradition holds to be the home of the Virgin Mary. Here, it is believed, the archangel Gabriel told the young Mary, aged about 14, that she would become the mother of the Son of God. And here Mary uttered her consent: “Let it be done to me according to your word.”

Church of the Annunciation

