

# THE NAZARETH CHALLENGE



## Jesus Trail Draft Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrival Tel Aviv – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

The group will be met in Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv for an afternoon transfer to Nazareth. Arrive in Nazareth, settle into your accommodation and get ready for the hike.

#### **Arriving in Tel Aviv and joining the group – you have two options**

**Option One:** Plan to arrive at the airport in time to meet the group at 16:30pm for the transfer to Nazareth (please see flight information below).

**Option Two:** Alternatively, if you arrive earlier or later, you can make your own way to Nazareth. We can provide assistance with additional travel arrangements.

*Overnight – Nazareth Hospital Accommodation*

### **Day 2: Nazareth to Cana, 22km – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

We start by ascending out of the old city followed by a walk through calm fields to Zippori National Park where we will visit the archaeological ruins of the main administrative city in the Galilee at the time of Jesus.

Time will be allowed to admire the exquisite Byzantine mosaics, drink in the view from atop the Crusader fortress, and take a stroll through the ancient cistern system. Take a lunch break and refill your water before returning to the trail through the small village of Mashhad to arrive at Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle. It is hoped that time will be made available to visit the churches commemorating the water-to-wine miracle.

*Overnight – [Cana Guest House](#)*

### **Day 3: Cana to Kibbutz Lavi, 17km – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

After breakfast we will climb the road out of Cana to walk along a forest ridge with peaceful valley views before stopping for a lunch break in a pleasantly shaded forest. We will visit a nearby ancient Roman road, part of the Via Maris which connects the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee. Then we walk up a hill dotted with ruins, to arrive at Kibbutz Lavi, one of the very few religious Jewish kibbutzim in the country. Enjoy the swimming pool and peaceful grounds and a kosher buffet in the dining room.

*Overnight – [Kibbutz Lavi Hotel](#)*



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## **Day 4: Kibbutz Lavi to Arbel, 14km – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Eat breakfast and head out across agricultural fields to ascend the Horns of Hattin: a volcanic structure where a famous Crusader battle took place. Relish your first glimpse of the Sea of Galilee and the sweeping views into Arbel Valley. Continue down the rocky hillside to Nebu Shu'eib, the holiest shrine of the Druze religion. Visit the tomb of Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, and take a lunch break at the picnic area.

Continue through Arbel Valley past ancient olive groves and the ruins of Hattin village. Rise out of the valley to Moshav Arbel, where you finish the day's walk.

*Overnight – TBC*

## **Day 5: Arbel to Karei Deshe, 16.5km – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Start early for the stunning morning light from the Arbel Cliffs. Either carefully descend the steep trail down the mount, passing ancient cliff dwellings and caves, or retrace your steps back down past the ruined Arbel synagogue into the Arbel valley. Drink from the fresh spring at Wadi Hamam before continuing to Magdala, the birthplace of Mary Magdalen, a prosperous fishing village at the time of Jesus. The walk then continues to Tabgha via rolling agricultural land. If time permits you will be able to explore the mosaics at Tabgha, the site of the feeding of the 5,000 and continue around to the northern side of the Sea of Galilee to visit the church of St. Peter.

*Overnight – [Karei Deshe](#)*

## **Day 6: Karei Deshe to Capernaum, 6km – Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast finish your journey by hiking to Capernaum. Wander through the ruins of the city, spending a moment of prayer in the church built over the home of Simon Peter. There is a lot to see on this day, please be aware that not all activities may be possible. If time allows, we will meet the shuttle bus for transportation to Capernaum's Orthodox Church and then ascend a small section of Mt. of Beatitudes until we reach a cave on the lower slopes. The day continues by heading to Ginosar for a boat ride on the sea of Galilee before.

Following lunch, we will journey back to Nazareth, meeting with the Nazareth Challenge cyclists for a celebratory meal and tour of the hospital.

*Overnight – Nazareth Hospital Accommodation*



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## Day 7: Departure – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

After breakfast enjoy a tour of the Nazareth Village for a Parable Walk through the recreated 1<sup>st</sup>-century Nazareth, complete with authentically recreated houses, synagogue, terraced vineyards and an olive press, before final goodbyes and lunchtime airport transfer. For those wishing to stay longer in Nazareth we can offer travel and sightseeing advice, and extended accommodation in Nazareth.

### Flights:

A wide range of flights are available from many airports. Below are some flights which may be helpful when considering travelling to Israel:

- **London (Luton)** - leaves at 07:15 and arrives in Tel Aviv at 14:15 on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The return flight leaves Tel Aviv at 19:35 and arrives in London at 23:05. This flight starts at just £190 (excl. hold luggage).
- **Scotland** – direct flights to Israel aren't available from Edinburgh or Glasgow. There are plenty of options if you are happy with an overnight flight, alternatively consider travelling to London and flying direct from there. The overnight flights tend to arrive early into Tel Aviv, providing the opportunity for extra time to explore Tel Aviv before starting the Nazareth Challenge.

### Additional information:

- For an additional cost of £ per person per night, you can extend your stay at the Nazareth Trust accommodation for those who wish to spend more time enjoying the land of Israel before and/or after the event.
- Your safety is of the utmost importance to the Nazareth Trust. We provide full support along the route, including a support vehicle (where road access allows), spare parts and a guide for the whole trip.
- Areas of the ride enter the West Bank. Only areas that are deemed safe will be entered and alterations to the route will be made where necessary.
- Please be aware that tours and sightseeing opportunities will take place where time permits.
- The ride is set on non-technical off-road routes. You don't need to be an experienced off-road cyclist, but you will need a good level of fitness.

The Nazareth Trust reserves the right to change or even relocate the event or any aspect of its route. This may be as a result of emergencies, severe weather, political unrest or circumstances out with the Nazareth Trust's control.

