

After hopefully a good night sleep at our hotel in Tiberias, you'll continue your journey on the second full day in Israel. After you enjoy a breakfast, you'll travel to the Franciscan Wedding Chapel in Cana, site of Jesus' first miracle as described in the book of John ([John 2: 1-11](#)). The Wedding Church is located in the central part of the town of Kafr Kanna, in the Lower Galilee in northern Israel. The Church is now owned by the Custody of the Holy Land, part of the Franciscan order of the Catholic Church. The current church was built circa 1881 and expanded from 1897-1905, following efforts by the Franciscans to acquire the site between 1641 and 1879, when the acquisition was completed. Twentieth-century archaeological excavations indicated that, before the current church building, the site housed a Jewish synagogue in the fourth and fifth centuries, and tombs under the rule of the Byzantine Empire in the fifth and sixth centuries. In 1901 the current façade was built and September 30, 1906, Bishop Angelo Roncalli consecrated the altar. In the second half of the 1990s, the Holy Land began an extensive renovation of the church, which was completed in 1999.

You'll next travel about 20 minutes to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus ([Matthew 2:23](#)). In English translations of the New Testament, the phrase "Jesus of Nazareth" appears seventeen times. In the old city, the domed Basilica of Annunciation is, some believe, where the angel Gabriel told Mary she would bear a child. St. Joseph's Church is said to be the site of Joseph's carpentry workshop. The underground Synagogue Church is reputedly where Jesus studied and prayed. Nazareth Village, an open-air museum, reconstructs daily life in Jesus' era.

After touring Nazareth, you'll head southwest for about 30 minutes to visit Tel Megiddo (Armageddon in Greek) to view one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel. Tel Megiddo is the site of the ancient city Megiddo, whose remains form a tell (archaeological mound) situated near Kibbutz Megiddo. During the Bronze Age, Megiddo was an important Canaanite city-state and during the Iron Age, a royal city in the Kingdom of Israel. Megiddo drew much of its importance from its strategic location at the northern end of the Wadi Ara defile (a narrow pass or gorge between mountains or hills), which acts as a pass through the Carmel Ridge, and from its position overlooking the rich Jezreel Valley from the west. Because of its strategic location, Megiddo was the site of several historical battles. Some of those battles include the Battle of Megiddo (15th century BCE) fought between armies of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutmosé III and a large Canaanite coalition led by rulers of Megiddo and Kadesh; The Battle of Megiddo (609 BCE) fought between Egyptian pharaoh Necho II and the Kingdom of Judah in which King Josiah fell; and the Battle of Megiddo (1918) fought during WWI between Allied troops led by General Edmund Allenby and the defending Ottoman army.

The site was inhabited from approximately 7000 BCE. Excavations have unearthed 26 layers of ruins, including a long period of settlement.

Some Christians believe that Armageddon will be the site of the final battle between Jesus Christ and the kings of the Earth who go to war against Israel, as outlined in the Book of Revelation. The site is now protected as Megiddo National Park and is a World Heritage Site.

Your last stop will be Caesarea, the center of early Christians, where an angel visited Cornelius, the first Gentile believer ([Acts 10](#)), and where Paul was imprisoned for two years before appealing to Caesar.

The ancient city of Caesarea Maritima was built by Herod the Great about 25-13 BCE as a major port, and served as an administrative center of Judaea Province of the Roman Empire, then later as the capital of the Byzantine Palaestina Prima province. During the Muslim conquest in the 7th century, it was the last city of the Holy Land to fall to the Arabs. In 1952, the modern Jewish town of Caesarea was established near the ruins of the old city, which in 2011 was incorporated into the

newly created Caesarea National Park. Today, with a population of 5,127, it is the only Israeli locality managed by a private organization, the Caesarea Development Corporation.

One of the things we really liked during our tour were the films shown at Meggido and Caesarea to help envision the ruins as they were in the time of Jesus.

With your day of touring complete, you'll head back to our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and a well-deserved evening of rest.