



Lower Galilee & Sea of Galilee

הגליל התחתון ים כנרת

الخليل الاسفل بحيرة طبريا

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ AlReda (p191)
- ➔ Abu Ashraf (p190)
- ➔ Muhtar Sweets (p191)
- ➔ Shirat Ro'im (p197)
- ➔ Ein Camonim (p216)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Fauzi Azar Inn (p189)
- ➔ Al-Mutran Guest House (p190)
- ➔ Pilgerhaus Tabgha (p216)
- ➔ Ein Harod Guest House (p201)
- ➔ Genghis Khan in the Golan (p219)

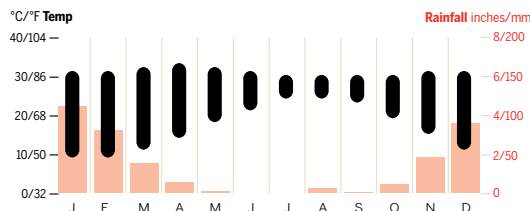
Why Go?

Blessed with rugged hills cloaked in wildflowers in spring, ancient stone synagogues and archaeological sites from the early centuries of Christianity, the Lower Galilee – the part of northern Israel south of Rte 85 (linking Akko with the Sea of Galilee) – is hugely popular with hikers, cyclists, Jewish- and Arab-Israeli families on holiday, Tel Aviv epicureans and, of course, Christian pilgrims.

Green, lush and chilly in winter (the perfect time for a hot-spring dip) and parched in summer (you can beat the heat in the Sea of Galilee), this is where Jesus of Nazareth lived, preached and is believed to have performed some of his most famous miracles. But these days even Nazareth is much more than a place of Christian pilgrimage – it now boasts one of Israel's most sophisticated dining scenes. The shimmering Sea of Galilee (in Hebrew, the Kinneret), too, juxtaposes holiday pleasures with archaeological sites linked to Jesus's ministry.

When to Go

Nazareth



Dec–Mar Mt Gilboa is carpeted with daffodils, red poppies and, in March, purple Gilboa irises.

Jul–Sep Oppressively hot at the Sea of Galilee and in the Beit She'an Valley.

Early Dec & early May The twice-yearly Jacob's Ladder Festival brings music to Ginosar.

NAZARETH

الناصرة

נצרת

📍 04 / POP 74,000

Nazareth has come a long way since its days as a quiet Jewish village in Roman-ruled Galilee, so if you're expecting bucolic rustic-

ity be prepared for a surprise. These days, Israel's largest Arab city is a bustling metropolis with shop-lined thoroughfares, blaring car horns, traffic jams and young men with a penchant for showing off at the wheel. The Old City, its stone-paved alleys



Lower Galilee & Sea of Galilee Highlights

- 1 Visiting the sites of Jesus's ministry at **Capernaum** (p214), **Tabgha** (p209) and **Mount of the Beatitudes** (p209).
- 2 Dining in the Arab-fusion restaurants of **Nazareth**, the Galilee's culinary capital (p184).
- 3 Identifying the zodiac signs, Jewish symbols and biblical personages depicted on the mosaic at the 6th-century **Beit Alpha Synagogue** (p199).
- 4 Hiking from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee along the **Jesus Trail** (p188).
- 5 Imagining what Roman-era life was like as you explore the colonnaded streets of ancient **Beit She'an** (p198).
- 6 Admiring the brilliant mosaics of **Tzippori National Park** (p195).
- 7 Taking a dip in the refreshing waters of the **Sea of Galilee** (p208) on a scorching summer's day.
- 8 Lolling about in the steaming mineral-water pools of **Hamat Gader** (p219) on a chilly winter's day.
- 9 Getting lost among the spring wildflowers atop **Mt Gilboa** (p199).