ON THE GALILEE

Sail, pray & walk where Jesus walked



PILGRIM GUIDE · SEA OF GALILEE

The Jesus Boat

A Fishing Boat from the Time of Jesus

The remarkable story of a 2,000-year-old fishing boat found in the mud of the lake, the storms and miracles of the Gospels, meditations and prayers for those who sail with Jesus.

Cover: the Ancient Galilee Boat at the Yigal Allon Centre, Ginosar. Photo: Berthold Werner, public domain.

THE JESUS BOAT

At a Glance

Gospel link	The boats of the Gospels: the call of the fishermen, the calming of the storm, Jesus walking on the water.
Official name	The Ancient Galilee Boat, at the Yigal Allon Centre, Kibbutz Ginosar.
Size	About 8.2 m long and 2.3 m wide; room for a crew of about five and some passengers.
Time needed	45 minutes to 1 hour for the museum.
Good to know	Combine with a boat ride on the lake from the nearby piers.

THE STORY

A Boat in the Mud

In the winter of 1986 the Sea of Galilee was lower than anyone could remember. Brothers Moshe and Yuval Lufan, fishermen from Kibbutz Ginosar with a passion for archaeology, walked along the exposed lakebed looking for ancient coins. Instead they found the curved outline of a wooden hull, black against the mud.

Archaeologists were called. Pottery and nails found with the boat, and radiocarbon dating of its wood, placed it between about 50 BC and AD 50: exactly the time of Jesus. The news spread around the world. Journalists called it "the Jesus Boat."

Saving it was a race against time. Waterlogged wood that has rested in mud for 2,000 years crumbles when it dries. Working day and night for about twelve days, a team dug the boat free, supported it with fiberglass frames,

IN THE SCRIPTURES

Boats in the Gospels

MARK 1:16–20

Fishers of People

> *"Come after me, and I will make you into fishers for men."*
>
> MARK 1:17

Jesus calls two pairs of brothers from their boats and nets. James and John leave their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men.

Read here → beside the boat (Stop 2)

LUKE 5:1–11

Teaching from a Boat

> *"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."*
>
> LUKE 5:4

Jesus borrows Simon's boat as a floating pulpit, then sends him out to fish in broad daylight. The nets nearly break.

MARK 4:35–41

The Storm on the Lake

> *"He awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was a great calm."*
>
> MARK 4:39

Jesus sleeps on a cushion in the stern while waves fill the boat. Look at the stern of the Ginosar boat and imagine him there.

Read here → the stern of the boat (Stop 3)

PAUSE & PRAY

A Prayer on the Water

Lord Jesus,
you called fishermen from their boats
and calmed the storm with a word.
When the wind is against me,
come to me across the water.
When I am afraid,
say to me, "It is I. Don't be afraid."
When I sink,
stretch out your hand and lift me up.
Amen.

Reflect: What does it mean for you that Jesus was in the boat during the storm?

A SAILOR'S BLESSING

May the Lord who walked on these waters walk beside you. May the One who calmed the storm calm your heart. And may he bring you safely to the shore he has prepared for you. Amen.

FREE SAMPLE

Continue the journey

You have just read a few pages from our pilgrim guide to the Jesus Boat. The full guide has 22 pages.

- ✓ The story of the place, in the days of Jesus and today
- ✓ All the Gospel readings, with the spot to read each one
- ✓ A walking tour, stop by stop
- ✓ Three meditations and a prayer for the place
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