ON THE GALILEE

*Sail, pray & walk where Jesus walked*



PILGRIM GUIDE · SEA OF GALILEE

# Magdala

## *Mary Magdalene's Town by the Lake*

The story of Mary Magdalene, a 1st-century synagogue where Jesus may have taught, a walking tour, meditations and prayers for the town of the first witness of the Resurrection.

Cover: Magdala and the cliffs of Arbel, early 20th century. Matson Collection, Library of Congress, public domain.

MAGDALA

## At a Glance

| | |
|---|---|
| Gospel link | Hometown of Mary Magdalene, follower of Jesus and first witness of the Resurrection. |
| Name | From the Hebrew *Migdal*, "tower." In Greek sources it was also called Taricheae, "place of salted fish." |
| Time needed | About 1½ hours for the excavations and the Duc in Altum center. |
| Best time | Morning or late afternoon; the excavations have little shade. |
| Good to know | A guided tour is often included with entry. Modest dress in the chapels. |

THE STORY

## The Woman from Magdala

Of all the women who followed Jesus, none is mentioned more often than Mary Magdalene. Her name tells us where she came from: Magdala, a busy fishing town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, about 6 km north of Tiberias.

Luke introduces her among the women who traveled with Jesus and the twelve: "Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out" (Luke 8:2, WEB). Healed by Jesus, she became one of his most faithful disciples, and she and other women supported his ministry from their own means.

When the men fled, Mary Magdalene stood by the cross. She watched where he was buried. And on the first day of the week she came to the tomb and found it empty. Weeping in the garden, she heard a voice call her name:

IN THE SCRIPTURES

# Magdala in the Scriptures

LUKE 8:1–3

## The Women Who Followed Jesus

> *"With him were the twelve, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out."*
>
> LUKE 8:1–2

Mary, Joanna, Susanna "and many others" traveled with Jesus and supported his mission. Women were at the heart of his ministry.

**Read here →** the women's chapel at Duc in Altum (Stop 5)

MATTHEW 15:39

## A Boat to Magdala

> *"Then he sent away the multitudes, got into the boat, and came into the borders of Magdala."*
>
> MATTHEW 15:39

After the feeding of the four thousand, Jesus crosses the lake to this region. Some manuscripts read "Magadan."

**Read here →** the ancient harbor (Stop 3)

MATTHEW 4:23

## Teaching in Their Synagogues

"Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease." The synagogue of Magdala was standing at exactly that time.

**Read here →** the synagogue (Stop 1)

PAUSE & PRAY

## With Mary Magdalene

*Risen Lord,*
*you healed Mary of Magdala*
*and called her by name in the garden.*
*Heal what is broken in me.*
*Give me her faithfulness at the cross,*
*her courage in the dark,*
*and her joy on Easter morning.*
*Send me, as you sent her,*
*to say: I have seen the Lord.*
*Amen.*

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**Reflect:** Who first told you the good news of Jesus? Who might you tell?

A PRAYER FOR WOMEN OF FAITH

*Lord, we thank you for Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and all the women who followed you and served your Church. Bless the women who carry faith in our families and communities today, and let their witness be heard. Amen.*

FREE SAMPLE

# Continue the journey

*You have just read a few pages from our pilgrim guide to Magdala. The full guide has 24 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
- ✓ A ready-to-use service for groups
- ✓ Practical tips and a pilgrim journal

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