ON THE GALILEE

Sail, pray & walk where Jesus walked



PILGRIM GUIDE · JORDAN RIVER

Yardenit

Baptism in the Jordan River

The baptism of Jesus, practical guidance for baptism or renewal of baptismal vows, a walking tour, meditations and prayers for the waters where the Jordan leaves the Sea of Galilee.

Cover: the Jordan River at Yardenit. Public domain.

YARDENIT

At a Glance

Gospel link	The baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3).
Location	On the Jordan River just south of where it leaves the Sea of Galilee, next to Kibbutz Kinneret.
Time needed	1 hour to visit; 1½–2 hours for a group baptism service.
Best time	Early morning or late afternoon, outside the busiest group times.
Good to know	White baptismal robes can be rented or bought on site. Changing rooms and showers available.

THE STORY

Into the Jordan

The Jordan River runs through the whole story of the Bible. The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land. The prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven beside it. Naaman the Syrian washed in it seven times and was healed.

In the days of Jesus, a prophet named John began calling people to the river. Dressed in camel's hair, he preached repentance and baptized those who confessed their sins. Crowds came from Jerusalem and all Judea. Then one day Jesus came too. "In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan" (Mark 1:9, WEB).

As Jesus came up out of the water, "the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him. Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well

IN THE SCRIPTURES

The Jordan in the Scriptures

MARK 1:9–11

The Baptism of Jesus

> *"In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan."*
>
> MARK 1:9

This short verse is written on the Wall of New Life in dozens of languages. Find yours.

Read here → the Wall of New Life (Stop 2)

MATTHEW 3:13–17

This Is My Beloved Son

> *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*
>
> MATTHEW 3:17

The Spirit descends like a dove; the Father's voice speaks from heaven.

Read here → at the water's edge (Stop 4)

JOHN 1:29–34

Behold, the Lamb of God

John sees Jesus coming and points to him: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" He testifies that he saw the Spirit descend and remain on him.

JOSHUA 3:14–17

Crossing into the Promised Land

When the priests carrying the ark stepped into the Jordan, the waters stood still and Israel crossed on dry ground. Baptism is a crossing too: from the old life into the new.

PAUSE & PRAY

At the Jordan

Lord Jesus,
you went down into the Jordan
and stood with sinners in the water.
Wash me, renew me,
and let me hear the Father's voice:
you are my beloved child.
Fill me with your Spirit,
and lead me out of the river
to walk in newness of life.
Amen.

Reflect: When were you baptized? Who brought you to the water? Give thanks for them today.

A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Do you turn away from sin and all that draws you from God? I do. Do you believe in God the Father, in Jesus Christ his Son, and in the Holy Spirit? I do. Will you follow Jesus as your Lord? With God's help, I will. (A simple form; use your own church's words if you prefer.)

FREE SAMPLE

Continue the journey

You have just read a few pages from our pilgrim guide to Yardenit. 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
- ✓ A ready-to-use service for groups
- ✓ Practical tips and a pilgrim journal

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ON THE GALILEE

PILGRIM GUIDES TO THE SEA OF GALILEE