# **A short tour of the Holy Land**

Christians everywhere have heard of the Holy Land. The Holy Land is where Jesus was born, lived, suffered, died, rose from the death. The Holy Land is where salvation history comes to life. The Holy Land today is both modern and ancient shared by the three major monotheistic religions Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

One of the Christian shrines of the Holy Land is **Nazareth**. In Nazareth an angel, Gabriel came to Mary to announce the good news that she had been chosen to be the mother of God. Verbum caro hic factum est (Here the Word became flesh) on the tablet in this small cave in the *Basilica of the Annunciation* marks the spot where the Son of God entered into human history.

After a journey Mary and Joseph stopped in **Bethlehem** where Jesus was born. The *Church of the Nativity* is one of the most sacred shrines of Christianity. Here every visitor must bow low to enter. Pilgrims can venerate the Silver Star that marks the place of Jesus birth. On this grotto, a Basilica with a nave and 4 aisles was built and it is accessible through a humble entrance.

Nearby there is *the Shepherd's field* where shepherds watching their flocks by night. They were first surprised by a bright star and then a heavenly host of angels singing “Glory to God in the heights”.

Nearby, in **Galilee**, are the locations for many gospel stories. In *Cana*, Jesus performed his first miracle turning water into wine. On a hillside Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes to feed his followers, he also taught them how to pray. Jesus is believed to have delivered the Sermon on the *Mount of Beatitudes*.

In Galilee, the *Basilica of the Transfiguration*, at the top of Mount Tabor recalls how Jesus was transformed before his disciples Peter, James and John. On *the Sea of Galilee* the tranquil waters call out the visitors to rest a while. Many of Jesus’s miracles are also said to have occurred here including his walking on water or calming the storm.

Salvation history reaches its apex on these hills of Judea. You can walk the Palm Sunday root of the triumphal entry into **Jerusalem**.

You can pray at the *Dominus Flevit*, which is a Roman Catholic church on the *Mount of Olives*, where Jesus wept, you can walk in the *Garden of Gethsemane*, where Jesus prayed to the Father hours before his crucifixion. The *Church of Saint Pete*r in *Gallicantu* recalls the arrest of Jesus or he was taken to be sentenced to die on the cross and where Peter denied knowing Jesus.

The way of the Cross guides you through the streets of the old city of Jerusalem. *The Church of the Holy Sepulcher* commemorates the hill of crucifixion and the tomb of Christ’s burial. Here you can see where Jesus rose from the dead, where the women found the stone rolled away.

The Holy Land is a special place of pilgrimage and prayer.

*Source*:

A Virtual Tour of the Holy Land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IIZJ4YUjSY>

1. **Decide if the statements are *true* or *false*.**

The Holy Sepulcher is found in Jerusalem. True False

The shepherds were watching sheep when they saw a bright star. True False

Jesus was born in Nazareth. True False

One of his disciples denied Jesus before he was arrested. True False

The Holy Land is a country in the East of Asia. True False

People was taught on the Mount of Beatitudes by Jesus. True False

Jesus turned water into wine in Galilee. True False

The Church of Nativity commemorates the appearence of Gabriel. True False

The angel who appeared to Mary was Gabriel. True False

Jesus was transformed at the top of Mount Tabor before his cousins. True False