



10 AMAZING Israel Experiences Most Christians Miss



1. Akko

Because Akko is not featured prominently in the Bible, many Christians do not realize the tremendous historical significance of this ancient Mediterranean port. Akko was known for centuries as the Gateway to the Holy Land. For anyone seeking to understand the dramatic history of Christian-Jewish relations since the time of Jesus, Akko has an important story to tell. It was here that European knights carrying the banner of the cross orchestrated their quest to claim the Holy Land. Today you can almost hear the footsteps of the Crusaders as you tour the 12th century fortress and explore the tunnels leading to the harbor. You can learn more about Akko's fascinating history at visitakko.com.



2. Genesis Land

One of the most unique experiences in Israel is Genesis Land, where you step back in time more than 3,000 years to experience the world of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Located in the remote Judean Desert near the Dead Sea, visitors to Genesis Land are greeted by Abraham's servant and invited to a feast in the Patriarch's tent. Scenes from the book of Genesis come to life through talented re-enactments. Guests can choose from a range of activities that would have been part of daily life, including camel rides, creating pottery and mosaics, and listening to the beat of ancient drums as night falls on the breathtaking desert landscape. More information is available on the [Genesis Land](http://GenesisLand.com) website.



3. Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem

In the heart of central Jerusalem is a museum that encompasses all of the ancient kingdoms and cultures associated with the Bible. It is the only museum in the world that explores the ancient Near East through biblical eyes. Twenty-one permanent exhibits trace civilization from the roots of monotheism until the rise of early Christianity. Visit the [BLMJ](#) website to learn about current special exhibits or find additional information [here](#).



4. Nazareth Village

What could be more interesting than a chance to experience what life was like in Nazareth during the time Jesus lived there as a boy? The charming village and farm provides an authentic recreation of first century Nazareth, complete with live animals and skilled re-enactments of daily life. Guests can go inside houses like the one Jesus and his parents lived in, sit in the synagogue, watch weavers and carpenters demonstrate their craft, and participate in a biblical feast. Friendly and knowledgeable guides lead groups through the village on a tour that lasts just over an hour. More information about this incredible experience is available on the [Nazareth Village](#) website.

5. David's Waterfall in Ein Gedi

Mentioned throughout the Bible, Ein Gedi is a beautiful desert oasis and nature preserve adjacent to the Dead Sea. Two streams feed numerous waterfalls and pools, while the rocky cliffs are full of ancient caves. It was here that David and his men took refuge from King Saul in 1 Samuel 23 and 2vvv4. Today visitors can hike several trails of varying degrees of difficulty. The lower trail is an easy trek that leads directly to the natural swimming pool at David's Waterfall. Visit the [Israel Nature and Parks Authority](#) website to learn more.





6. Chorazin

Jesus mentioned Chorazin in Matthew 11:20-24, when he denounced three cities for rejecting him. Excavations of the first century town have unearthed a beautifully decorated synagogue similar in style to others in the area. What makes this site unique is the construction material, fragile black basalt stone, and the surviving ornate carvings and inscriptions in both Aramaic and Hebrew. The synagogue ruins include a mikveh, or ritual bath, and the honored stone seat for the reader of the Torah, called the Chair of Moses. Additional information about the 25-acre site can be found on the [Bible Places](#) website.



7. Magdala

This Galilean fishing village, today called Migdal, was the home of Mary Magdalene. Before the Roman Empire controlled ancient Judea, Magdala was an important hub for trade and agriculture. Ruins of the town that existed during the time of Jesus are undergoing excavation. Recently the remains of one of the oldest synagogues in the world, from the Second Temple period, was unearthed here. A first century fishing boat like the one used by Peter and the other disciples was found on the beach near Magdala when the Sea of Galilee was low, and is now on display in the nearby Yigal Alon Museum. Visit the [BibleWalks](#) website to learn more about this little-known gem.



8. Valley of Elah

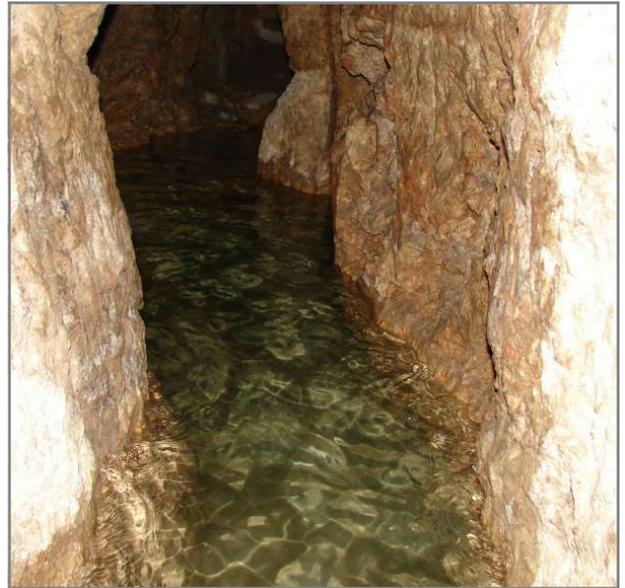
One of the most overlooked and yet most significant sites in Israel is the Valley of Elah. Home to more than one ancient biblical settlement, this valley is most famous for being the location where David fought the giant Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. It includes the stream from which David gathered the five smooth stones for his sling, and the 3,000 year old underground city of Beit Guvrin (Maresha in the Bible). Visitors can explore the ancient caves and walk among the ruins of the biblical towns of Adullam, Azekah, and Soko. Today vineyards and medieval monasteries dot the idyllic countryside. More information about this incredible site is available on the [Bible Places](#) website.



9. Grotto of Gethsemane

On Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is a large cave that many biblical scholars believe to be the place where Jesus and his disciples retreated to pray on the eve of his arrest. The name *gethsemane* comes from the Aramaic term for oil press. Archaeological remains suggest that this cave was once used to house two large oil presses, and would have been an ideal place for Jesus and his disciples to find shelter for the night. Since as early as the fourth century, the grotto has been used as a church and a place where Christian pilgrims come to pray. The grotto is owned by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The interior has been made into a chapel, and paintings left behind on the stone walls by centuries of pilgrims have been restored. More information about the grotto can be found on the official [Gethsemane](#) website or in this [article](#) from Biblical Archaeology Review.





10. Hezekiah's Tunnel

Also known as the Siloam Tunnel, this feat of ancient engineering is the tunnel described in 2 Kings 20:20 and again in 2 Chronicles chapter 32. An ancient Hebrew inscription chiseled into the rock near the tunnel's entrance describes how King Hezekiah ordered two teams of men to work from opposite ends, moving toward the sounds of each other's pickaxes, until they met in the middle. This twisting, narrow channel cut through solid rock is over 1500 feet long. It is part of the excavations of the ancient City of David, and visitors can take a 45 minute flashlight tour through the tunnel. This is one of the highlights of Jerusalem for anyone who does not mind wading in two feet of flowing water. Learn more about the tunnel on the [Bible Places](#) website or from the [Israel Ministry of Tourism](#).

A hand in a grey houndstooth suit sleeve is touching a rough, textured stone wall. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The text 'your' is written in a gold cursive font, followed by a double horizontal line. Below this, the words 'PERSONAL LINK TO THE HOLY LAND' are written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, also followed by a double horizontal line. The background shows the stone wall and some crumpled paper at the bottom left.

your

**PERSONAL LINK
TO THE HOLY LAND**