

## **Jesus Trail Updates SPRING 2018**

Dear hikers! All the paint blazes on the Jesus Trail have been fixed and renewed entirely, as of September 2017. Next maintenance is planned for Feb 2018. All the route in the 2017 edition of “Walking the Jesus Trail” guidebook is up to date. We are still including this file to make it easier to navigate, as it may happen that some blazes become damaged or missing. It also happens that people lose the way while not paying attention to the paint blazes. This is a brief overview of the entire route, and certain locations you should pay special attention to.

### DAY 1 – Nazareth to Cana

- 1) Once you get to the top of Nazareth (up the long stairs and then big uphill to the left) you will come to a big street with an observation point, from where you can see the view, and the Zippori National Park on the far hill in front of you. Take a LEFT on the promenade, passing the Mennonite Church (strangely shaped concrete building), and at the next roundabout take the FIRST right. You’ll be walking down the hill, passing a school building on your right. There is another roundabout next to it, take a LEFT there. Continue walking down the street, for some time there will be no houses along it, until you see something which looks like a newly made dirt road going down to your left. Right after it, there is a steep unpaved descent to a parallel street below to the left, which will take you further down the hill in the same direction. Keep walking until the next roundabout, take a right turn straight after it, passing by a wire fence on your left, passing by a newly erected grey house on your right, and from there you’ll be leaving the city and heading into the wilderness.
- 2) Leaving Nazareth: The trail continues, passing on a hill covered with some thorns and large rocks, it will lead you under a tree, where you can rest in the shade. There are a lot of blazes there, and if standing next to one, you should always be able to see the next one. After you reach the lowest point you will start ascending the hill on the other side. Follow the blazes towards the forest, take right turn when you see the forest in front of you, and left at the next road split. Crossing the forest (there is some garbage along that part) you will eventually arrive to a paved road. There is a lot of construction currently going on around it. A large ditch filled with mud has recently appeared there, just before approaching the first paved road, but there is a way to walk over it. Cross the paved road carefully. Once crossed the road, the trail goes back into the forest on the other side, with a new paved road and construction to it’s right. Go into the forest following the dirt road with the construction to your right, and soon you will arrive to another, bigger and busier road (highway 79) – cross it carefully to the other side, as there is no pedestrian crossing, and follow the blazes and the signs towards ZIPPORI. Very shortly the paved road splits in two (left to Zippori village, and right to Zippori National Park – there is a sign pointing to the park at that junction). You aren’t taking either – instead, follow the trail going over the railing and up on the hill into the forest BEHIND the junction. After the forest and agricultural areas there is one place where it’s easy to get confused: you will be walking past large greenhouses surrounded by a barb wire fence to your right. Right after the

greenhouse, there will be a cattle gate right in front of you, with a little triangular passage for pedestrians. It looks a bit like a fence and is easy to miss, but you should go straight through this gate, and after it follow the blazes. Shortly you will connect to the paved road for cars leading into the national park. If at any point you happen to lose your way, just follow the paved road leading to the park entrance, which should always be located to the East of you.

- 3) After Zippori National Park, the trail continues with other trails and is marked as an orange dot.
- 4) In Mashad at the mosque, the Jesus Trail splits from the other trails (Israel National Trail, marked white-orange-blue) and heads LEFT into the city. After it splits, stay on the right hand side of the road and look carefully for the marker. The trail takes a right turn into the 3rd street to the right after the mosque.
- 5) To follow the Jesus Trail inside Cana, take a left once you get to the main street. After some distance, there will be a turn into a street to the right, towards the Cana Wedding Church and the big solar clock, which looks like a big statue and is easy to see. There is also a big sign pointing to the Cana Wedding Guesthouse at the street entrance.

#### DAY 2 – CANA TO LAVI

- 6) To exit Cana, follow the trail through the streets to the top of the hill, where you'll see a big green mosque to your left. After some time there are no more houses, and you will find yourself on a dirt road going into the forest. Unfortunately, there is currently a lot of garbage at this part. Make sure to follow the trail to the right at the first dirt road split, and then another right when the road splits again (p.81 in the book). After you reach the paved road, keep walking down with it, until the Jesus Trail takes a right turn, shortly before it meets the big highway.
- 7) You reach the Golani junction when meeting the 65 road. After walking past the military base entrance, go straight into the field in front of you, and continue with the blazes. You will eventually be walking next to a stone wall, with a big tunnel entrance on your right. Don't go into the tunnel – continue straight into the forest, until you reach the paved road, where you'll have to climb over a small drainage ditch, and get over to the junction with pedestrian crossing and traffic lights. There, use the pedestrian crossing to cross from the SOUTH to the NORTH side, going under the highway, crossing another junction, and then over to a little bridge for pedestrians, to cross from the WEST to the EAST side. After you cross the bridge, take a left with the trail into the trees, through the cactuses, towards the Roman Road and to Kibbutz Lavi, which you'll see on the hill in front of you. Currently, a little barb wire fence for cattle has appeared between the pasture and the Roman Road. There is a pedestrian crossing, where you can undo the wire held by a piece

of string, and then close it behind you. For people staying at the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, take a RIGHT turn after the trail reaches the cemetery and Holocaust memorial, instead of continuing left with the Jesus Trail. Follow the dirt road right until you meet the paved road going up the hill into the kibbutz. Next morning, after leaving the hotel, just keep heading straight at the roundabout, past the industrial area and out of the kibbutz, until you meet the Jesus Trail passing to the North of the kibbutz. You will see the two Karnei Hitin hills to the East of you.

#### DAY 3 – LAVI TO ARBEL

- 8) After descending from the **Horns of Hattin**, the trail emerges onto a paved road (the second, lower road). The official trail markings will tell you to head right. If you wish to enter Nebi Shu'eib, take a left on the second road. It is a good place to fill water (natural spring & fountain). Afterwards you will have to backtrack to the same place to continue with the trail.
- 9) After passing through the Hamam valley, after Nebi Shweib, you'll eventually reach an abandoned building, which is an old pumping station. From there the trail climbs up the hill and meets the paved road leading to Arbel National Park entrance. Keep walking until the ancient synagogue, take a right turn to the synagogue – on the other side of it there is a small trail leading into the village of Arbel. The next morning, go back to the synagogue, meet the paved road, and keep walking up towards the gates of the national park.

#### Day 4 – ARBEL TO CAPERNAUM

- 10) After you descend from the Arbel cliff, you have two choices. You can either continue with the blazed Jesus Trail through the banana plantations, until you reach the Sea of Galilee next to Karei Deshe youth hostel. Or, you can choose to visit Magdala, which is a new site recently opened near Migdal Junction – at the location of the Biblical Magdala. From there you exit out of their back gate, which is closer to the shore, and continue walking North along the shore where possible, via Kibbutz Ginosar, to eventually meet the Jesus Trail next to Karei Deshe. Please note there are no marks of any kind inside of Kibbutz Ginosar. After that, the trail will make a big detour around the huge pumping station on the Sea of Galilee, going past Tabgha Pilgerhouse, and towards Tabgha and will eventually finish in Capernaum.
- 11) There is a beautiful spring and waterfall right on the shore between Tabgha and Capernaum, called Ein Eyoub (Job's Spring) – very recommended for a short visit.
- 12) ENJOY YOUR HIKE!