

### Nazareth

The town in southern Galilee in which Jesus grew up and spent His hidden years.

Nazareth was set in an upland basin which meant that it was somewhat secluded, yet it was close to the trade routes and to the main road from Rome to Jerusalem. There is no reference to it in the Old Testament and its ordinariness later led Nathanael to speak disparagingly of it. [John 1: 43-51](#)

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Nazareth in history

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Yet, it was here that the angel Gabriel appeared to a virgin called Mary, betrothed to a man named Joseph, to announce to her the coming of Messiah. [Luke 1: 26-38](#). {cimovie}Gospel1

Jesus was born in Bethlehem; born a king, which made Him a threat to the temporal power of the day - Herod the Great. Jesus' earliest years were spent in Egypt to escape the slaughter of the innocents by Herod. After Herod's death it was safe to return, but not to Judea. [Matthew 2: 19-23](#)

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Consequently, Mary and Joseph came back to live in Nazareth. Scripture gives an indication that Jesus was well received by the people of Nazareth in these early years. [Luke 2: 46-52](#). This is changed dramatically when He began His public ministry, and the people of Nazareth rejected him on two occasions.

[Luke 4: 16-30](#)

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[Mark 6: 1-6](#)

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After Nazareth, Jesus moved to Capernaum.

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The Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth is built over the remains of Byzantine and Crusader churches. It incorporates the cave in which Mary received the news from Gabriel that she would give birth to Jesus.



Nazareth is the capital and largest city in the North District of Israel. It is the most important city for Israel's Arab citizens who make up the majority of Nazareth's population.

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### Papal Schedule in Nazareth

#### **Thursday 14th May, 2009**

10 a.m. Celebrate Mass on the Mount of Precipice in Nazareth.

3.50 p.m. meet the Israeli prime minister in the city's Franciscan convent

4.30 p.m. greet and address religious leaders of Galilee in the auditorium of the Basilica of the Annunciation

5.30 p.m. Vespers at Grotto of the Annunciation, with bishops, priests, religious, ecclesial movements and pastoral workers. [next map location: Jerusalem]

Pope asks Christians to build bonds with Muslims

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The family . . place of faith, prayer and loving concern

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Pope Benedict talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
in the Franciscan convent in Nazareth.

Pope meets religious leaders of Galilee  
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Lets talk about peace. . . above all, let's pray together  
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Benedict XVI: God's creative power guides history  
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Pope revisits biblical history in Nazareth  
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Other Map Locations at which to view Pope Benedict's visit to the Holy Land:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>See</b>	<b>MAP LOCATION</b>	<b>(s)</b>
Fri 8th May	Philadelphia (Amman)		
Sat 9th May	Mt Nebo, Amman		
Sun 10th May	Amman, Baptism in the Jordan		
Mon 11th May	Amman, Joppa (Tel Aviv), Jerusalem		
Tue 12th May	Jerusalem		
Wed 13th May	Bethlehem		
Thu 14th May	Nazareth		
Fri 15th May	Jerusalem, Joppa (Tel Aviv)		