

Walk Across the Holy Land



1st Destination Judean Desert:

You have now walked with Jesus about 6 miles into the wilderness or desert in Judea, where he spent 40 days fasting, praying and confronting temptation. There the Devil tried three times to tempt Jesus to break his fast or compromise his mission.



Judean Desert (Wilderness)



The Judean Desert is bordered by the Mountains of Judea to the west and by the Dead Sea to the East. It is considered a relatively small desert, spanning only 1,500 square kilometers. It has been mostly uninhabited throughout history. It was an ideal place for those seeking refuge from enemies or retreat from the world. Herod the Great built two fortresses in this area for protection should his people ever revolt against him.

In the Byzantine period Monks flooded the area seeking seclusion. There were approximately 65 monasteries in the Judean Desert until the Muslim conquest when most of them were abandoned. Mar Saba Monastery was one of the few that survived.



Mar Sabas Monastery

Mar Saba was founded by Sabas in 483 A.D. An earthquake destroyed much of the monastery in 1834; a great deal of it had to be reconstructed.

Every spring, the wilderness blossoms for a short time. Then the sun comes out and everything dries up.



Biblical References:

Matthew 4:1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

1Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

7Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

11Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Mark 1:12-13

12At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, 13and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Luke 4:1-13

The Temptation of Jesus

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.' "

5The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

8Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' "

9The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

11they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Next Destination Sea of Galilee:

After resisting temptation, Jesus walked 60 miles north back to Galilee along the sea, where he met and recruited the first of his disciples, fisherman Peter and his brother Andrew and the brothers John and James. Much of the ministry of Jesus occurred on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Walk with Jesus 60 miles then click on your 2nd destination to receive your next packet.