

Site: Magdala (In Jesus' day it was known as Migdal)

Scripture References: Matthew 27:56-28:1; Mark 15:40-16:1; Luke 8:2, 43-48, 24:1-11; John 19:25, 20:1-2, 18

Historical Significance:

1. Home of Mary Magdalene.
2. It was a wealthy city during the first century and the center of agriculture, fishing, shipbuilding and trade.
3. Located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.
4. Magdala is considered to be the crossroads between the Jewish and Christian faiths.
5. Located on the road between Nazareth and Capernaum.

Things to look for:

1. Archaeological digs on the site that have uncovered the ruins of a first century town including a synagogue, houses, and commercial facilities related to the fishing industry.
2. Synagogue with 2 rows of stone seating
3. Replica of the Magdala Stone (the original is in the Israel Museum) which provides the earliest representation of the Menorah in synagogue art. Some archeologists believe it is a model symbolic of the 2nd temple during the time of Jesus. It has carvings of a menorah, golden altar, shewbread table and a scene into the Holy of Holies. Based on the book of Zachariah, they believe it depicts God in a divine chariot since they were forbidden to have any graven images.
4. Duc In Altum Center is a place for people of all faiths to worship. The Latin name is taken from the book of Luke where Jesus tells Peter to launch into the deep.
 - The Atrium honors Jewish women who followed Jesus in the New Testament.
 - 4 chapels have mosaics depicting Biblical events
 - Boat chapel has a boat shaped altar that overlooks the Sea of Galilee
 - The Encounter Chapel is downstairs where some believe God is healing the divisions between Christians and the Jewish community. The floor is actually the first century road.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. God works in mysterious ways.
2. Jesus came for all people.