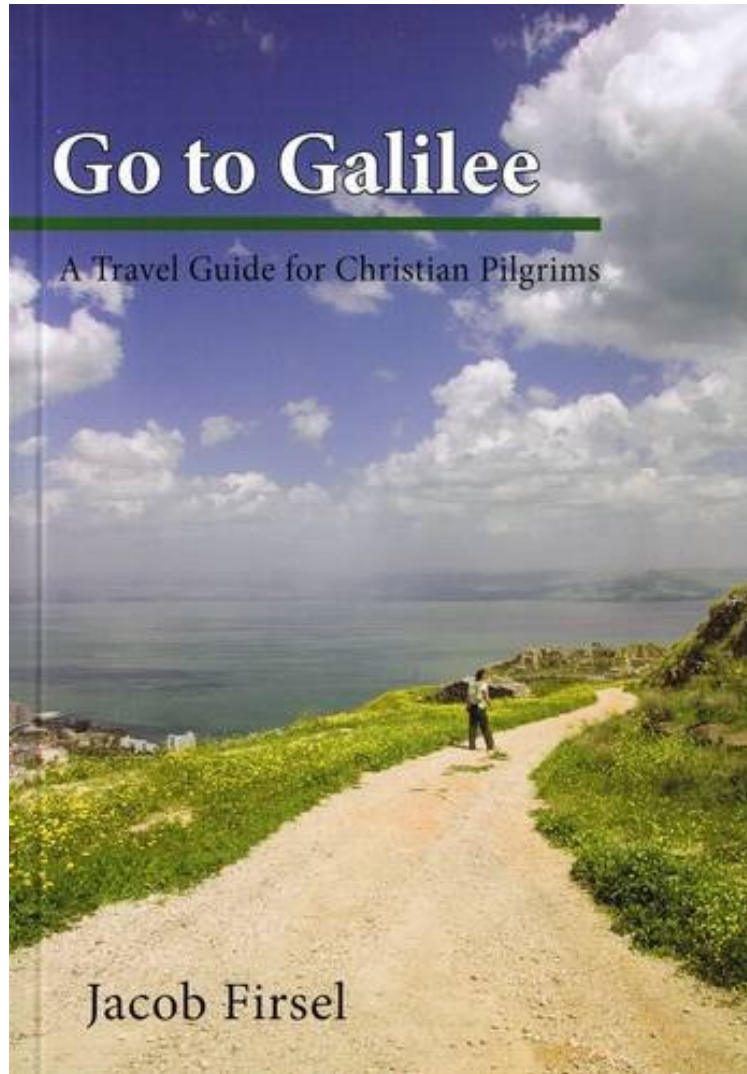


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Go to Galilee: A Travel Guide for Christian Pilgrims

Jacob Firsel

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Jacob Firsel : Go to Galilee: A Travel Guide for Christian Pilgrims before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Go to Galilee: A Travel Guide for Christian Pilgrims:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Guide!By EutawI bought this book in preparation for a trip to Israel. My wife and I ended up contracting with the author as our guide, so this review is a double: it's a review of the book and the guide services he provides. He's a well-read man of extremely broad scholarship. He's a passionate Jewish patriot, who loves the land of Israel. His understanding of the language (he speaks Hebrew and English) helps him explain bible passages by examining the roots of the words and names in their original form. I found that his familiarity with the countryside (from more than 30 years of traveling throughout Israel), was nothing short of

spectacular. He knows the bible stories, he knows the geography, and he's deeply familiar with the archaeology. I recommend the book to anyone wanting to learn about the Holy Land. I think Jacob Firsel's unique background make him an ideal companion and guide. It was very enlightening and a great treat to have the same person explain the structure and purpose of ancient synagogues also tell me which restaurants had the best chocolate rogula! I highly recommend him and the book.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A great resource for educational travel in the region!

By Eric Trinka

As a licensed educator and educational travel entrepreneur who leads groups to Israel/Palestine during my summers off, I was introduced to Firsel's book on my most recent tour. His work has contributed a helpful resource to my own library of sources used to conduct biblical studies in the region. I found this work particularly helpful when used in conjunction with the Jesus Trail and Other Biblical Walks in the Galilee guidebook, also published by Village to Village Press. Throughout the guide, Firsel presents solid academic research in layman's terms, combining historical knowledge and scriptural interpretation to give the reader the chance for intimate encounters with the geography of the Bible and the life of Jesus. While I don't subscribe fully to his interpretation of Jesus' celebrity status in the Galilee region, I appreciate the historical sketch he creates of Jesus in the milieu of Galilean society during the early first century. As suggested by Firsel, this book is best utilized as a companion text while you visit each of the sites mentioned throughout the book. Although this guide is concise, Firsel does a wondrous job including a wide variety of information concerning each site. Each of the five tours is accompanied by thorough transit and visitation information for the areas surrounding the sites. Firsel has gone above and beyond in anticipating common traveler's questions about a variety of topics encountered in the region and offers helpful summaries along the way of different religious groups present in the region, etymologies in Arabic, Hebrew and Greek, traveler etiquette and modern commentaries concerning the resettlement of the modern state of Israel. Each tour is accompanied by the thorough yet extremely readable maps for which Village to Village Press is so well known. One can be certain that they will be able to navigate each of the sites and the broader region with ease while carrying this guide. Readers will also be pleased to find the pages full of photos of important locations and artifacts found along the way. Accompanying these maps and photos are more than helpful descriptions of local lodging, restaurants and other points of interest. If you are interested in seeing Galilee through the lens of a first century traveler, this guide can help you on your way. The five main tours, in conjunction with the side trips offer first-time and seasoned travelers to the region with a substantial collection of information in an accessible format. I know I will continue to use it as I plan future tours of the region.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing, Essential, Four-Color Guide to Sites in Northern Israel! Highly Recommended!

By Robert J. Hutchinson

Jacob Firsel's amazing travel guide to the Galilee region of Israel, "Go to Galilee: A Travel Guide for Christian Pilgrims," is one of the most delightful and informative books about Israel to come around in years. Having spent a considerable amount of time in "the Galilee" during my wild youth, in the late 1970s and early '80s, I thought I knew a lot about the area. But this detailed, lavishly-illustrated, four-color guide quickly showed me how wrong I was. Firsel is Jewish, an American born in Chicago who made aliyah (immigrated to Israel) in 1977 about the same time I first visited. Unlike me, however, Firsel stayed. He served in the IDF and married an Israeli girl from Nazareth-Illit, the Jewish town near the historic Arab city of Nazareth. Eventually Firsel became a highly-sought-out and popular tour guide, specializing in showing Christian pilgrims the wonders and beauty of the Galilee area. What's amazing about "Go to Galilee," however, is that it's so detailed and up-to-date... and includes so many stunning photographs... you almost feel like you've gone on one of Firsel's tours just by reading the book. In addition to providing detailed background information on the various sites, Firsel also includes many very useful practical tips and details about restaurants, hotels and so on. His maps and organized "tours" and itineraries for different areas of Galilee are alone worth the price of the book. Christian pilgrims will especially appreciate Firsel's formidable knowledge of contemporary historical Jesus research, his easy familiarity with the New Testament and appreciation of Christianity generally, and his willingness to help Christians understand the Jewish background to what the early Jesus movement was all about. (Growing up in multicultural Chicago must have given Firsel his very-American appreciation of other people's faiths.) In short: Jacob Firsel's "Go to Galilee" is an essential book for anyone (Christian or non-Christian) visiting northern Israel. I hate taking books with me when I travel, but this is one book I shall bring with me on a return visit to Israel no matter what. Also, anyone visiting Israel should first visit Firsel's website which is itself an amazing resource: [...] I can't praise "Go to Galilee" enough.

Join experienced licensed Israeli tour guide Jacob Firsel for five illuminating tours in the Galilee. Including full-color photos, detailed tour and site maps, information about driving and public transport, and detailed site information, Go to Galilee provides everything you need for pilgrimage travel in the region that Jesus called home 2,000 years ago. Travel through the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus in the land where it all took place. Nazareth: behind-the-scenes insight in to Jesus' hometown.

About the Author

Jacob Firsel is a licensed Israeli tour guide with 24 years of experience of helping visitors to explore the history, sites, nature and hidden gems of Israel. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Jacob studied anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and received an M.A. in education from Northwestern University. He also

graduated from Northwestern University's Archaeological Field School and the WUJS Institute in Arad and the Ministry of Tourism guide's course. Jacob lives in Afula, in the Galilee, with his wife Rivka. He has three adult children, Manny, Chen and Lee.