

INTERACTIVE TRAVEL GUIDE

DESTINATION: *Acts*

Acts is the history of how Christianity was founded and organized and solved its problems. The gospel writer Luke tells the story of how the community of believers began by faith in the risen Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, the promised Counselor and Guide, who enabled them to witness, to love, and to serve.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- c. 37 A.D.
Paul's conversion on the Road to Damascus
- c. 47-49 A.D.
Paul's first missionary journey
- c. 50-53 A.D.
Paul's second missionary journey
- c. 53-57 A.D.
Paul's third missionary journey
- c. 62 A.D.
Paul under house arrest in Rome
- c. 63-64 A.D.
Writing of the book of Acts

TRIP PLANNER:

Acts presents the history of a dynamic, growing community of believers from Jerusalem to Syria, Africa, Asia, and Europe. The apostles witnessed to their faith in Christ by personal testimony, preaching, and defense before authorities. They told the gospel story with boldness and courage, even when faced with imprisonment, beatings, plots, and riots. The persecution, by both Jews and Gentiles, became a catalyst for the spread of Christianity. Beginning with chapter 13, the Book of Acts focuses almost exclusively on the missionary journeys of Paul, and his trip to Rome as a prisoner.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Judea – Area that includes Jerusalem, where the church began.

Samaria – Area north of Judea where Phillip met the man from Ethiopia.

Syria – Country north of Palestine; capital is Damascus.

Cyprus – Island in the Mediterranean; first stop on Paul's first missionary journey with Barnabas.

Jerusalem – Site of a special council between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians over the matter of keeping the law, with delegates from the churches in Antioch and Jerusalem.

Macedonia – Area of northern Greece where the Holy Spirit directed Paul on his second missionary journey.

Achaia – Area of Greece that contains Athens and Corinth.

Ephesus – A major city in Asia Minor.

Caesarea – City on the Mediterranean Sea where Paul was held before he went to Rome.

Rome – The capital of the Roman Empire, and the long-awaited destination of Paul.

PEOPLE OF INTEREST:

Theophilus – Person to whom the book of Acts is written. He may have been a Jew of Alexandria or a converted Roman official. Because the word means “lover of God,” one tradition maintains it refers to anyone who fits that description.

Philip – One of the twelve disciples of Jesus. To escape persecution in Jerusalem, Philip fled to Samaria, where he converted an Ethiopian official.

Stephen – The first man martyred for faith in Jesus Christ. He boldly proclaimed Jesus to the very Jewish leaders who rejected and crucified Him.

Peter – Most prominent of the twelve disciples of Jesus. He was one of the leaders of the church after Jesus’ resurrection, and preached the first Gospel sermons on and after the day of Pentecost.

Paul – A young Jewish rabbi who persecuted the church but turned into its most powerful spokesman after his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Formerly named Saul.

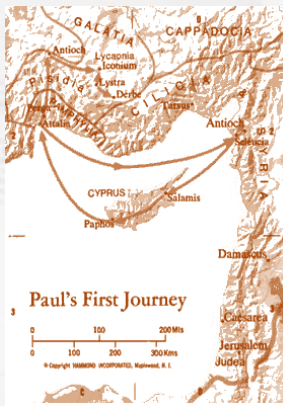
Barnabas – A compassionate and sensitive Christian who sponsored Paul in Jerusalem, and accompanied him on his first mission journey.

FUN FACTS:

Jesus is referred to by a score of different names and titles, including the Holy One and the Just, the Judge of the living and the dead, and the hope of Israel.

Early on, the book was called “The Acts,” “The Gospel of the Holy Spirit,” and “The Gospel of the Resurrection.” The title “Acts of the Apostles” was given to the book at a later date.

MAPS:



NOTES:



BOOK OF

DATE

As all maps unless a statement of scale is given, indicate the nature, extent of scale is the one used for the entire map, the distance, in a given direction the distance from the center of the earth to the center of the sun is 93,000,000 miles.

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes, overlaid on a faint background map of the United States. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the page width.