



VIEW SOUTH: THE BATH NEXT TO THE ONE PICTURED ON PAGE 289. HAMAT GADER OFFERED VISITORS SEVEN HOT-WATER BATHS.

BELOW (VIEW EAST): ONE OF THE CHANNELS (RIGHT) THAT CARRIED HOT SPRING WATER BETWEEN THE THERMAL BATHS. ALSO VISIBLE IS PART OF THE THEATER (LOWER LEFT). **INSET:** A LEAD PIPE AT THE END OF THE STONE CHANNEL.





VIEW NORTH: THE ARCHED ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN ANCIENT BATH LINED WITH STEPS FOR EASY ACCESS. THE BATH COMPLEX WAS REACHED VIA A 39-FOOT (12-METER) WIDE PAVED STREET.

HAMAT GADER AND THE YARMUK RIVER

(SEE MAP ON PAGE 151)

Hamat Gader is in the Yarmuk River Valley, 4.5 miles (7 kilometers) east of the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. The name means “hot springs of Gader,” which are known for their curative powers. The bath structures in these photos date to the Byzantine Period (fifth to sixth centuries AD). The fourth-century AD historian Eunapius described the pools: “Gadara, a place which has warm baths in Syria, inferior only to those at Baia in Italy, with which no other baths can be compared.” Hamat Gader belonged to the city of Gadara on the plateau south of the springs (see the top photo on page 290).

The pools were maintained in separate halls, connected by passageways that led between them (see inset). Visitors accessed the pools by descending steps built around them (see *above*).

Hot water was brought from the warm springs through interlocking stone channels, then through lead pipes to and from the pool (see the bottom photo on page 288 with inset). At one of the pools, excavators found thirty-two marble fountains. Water poured into the pools through the mouths of sculptured heads (human and animal) at the top of the fountains.

Today, Hamat Gader is one of Israel’s favored resorts, just as it was for the Romans. It’s mentioned by ancient historians (e.g., Strabo and Origen) as well as in first-century AD rabbinic literature.





VIEW SOUTH: THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN ABOVE HAMAT GADER (LOWER LEFT IN THE TREES), LOOKING TOWARD THE COUNTRY OF JORDAN. THE RUINS OF ANCIENT GADARA ARE ON THE PLATEAU ABOVE HAMAT GADER (NOT PICTURED).

BELOW: THE CROCODILE FARM AT HAMAT GADER IS THE LARGEST IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH OVER 200 CROCODILES. IT ALSO INCLUDES ALLIGATORS, CAIMANS, AND GAVIALS.





VIEW EAST: FISH FARMS LOCATED IN THE YARMUK RIVER VALLEY, A LITTLE EAST OF THE HOT SPRINGS AT HAMAT GADER. BEYOND THE PONDS ARE THE COUNTRIES OF SYRIA AND JORDAN.

BELOW: VERY LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. MODERN ISRAELIS ENJOY THE THERMAL HOT SPRINGS AT HAMAT GADAR TODAY AS THE ROMANS DID ANCIENTLY.

