History of the City of Tiberias

The city of Tiberias, named after Emperor Tiberius, was founded by Herod Antipas, son of King Herod, in the year 20 AD; it was intended to be the capital of Herod Antipas's kingdom. In 61 AD, Tiberias was incorporated into the kingdom of Agrippa II.

At the outbreak of the Great Revolt (67 AD), Tiberias was fortified with walls, which remained standing even after the city's surrender to the Roman forces.
Tiberias was part of the kingdom of Agrippa II until his death in 96. When Tiberias came under Roman rule in 100, it enjoyed the prosperity that characterised the entire empire. In the middle of the 2nd century, following the Bar Kokhba revolt, the city was purified of the defilement caused by its graves by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, thereby making it suitable as a seat for scholars. Towards the end of the 2nd century, Rabbi Judah the Prince moved his seat from Sepphoris to Tiberias.
The institutions governing the Jewish people were now transferred from Sepphoris to Tiberias: first the Sanhedrin, headed by Rabbi Yochanan, and later the Nesi'ut, headed by Rabbi Judah the Prince.

In Tiberias, Rabbi Yochanan established the 'Great Beit Midrash'; tradition holds that it was in this institution, frequently mentioned in rabbinic literature, that the bulk of the Palestinian Talmud (Talmud Yerushalmi) was compiled. Once Tiberias became the capital of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel and throughout the Diaspora, it enjoyed a prolonged period of prosperity. The sages of Tiberias made it a city of Torah and wisdom.

In the sixth century, the Yeshivat Eretz Yisrael was established in Tiberias, succeeding the Sanhedrin in leadership. During this period, the era of the Geonim, schools of liturgical poets and exegetes flourished in Tiberias, alongside scribes and vocalisers. The Hebrew vocalisation system, which is still in use today – 'Tiberian vocalisation' – is named after the city.

Milestones in the City's History
The conquest of Tiberias by Muslim forces proved beneficial to the city; Tiberias was designated the capital of the 'Jordan District' ('Gundi Ordun') and served as an important centre of government and administration. Even under Muslim rule, the majority of the city's population were Jews, alongside a fairly large Christian community and a smaller Muslim minority.
749 – During the period of Muslim rule, Tiberias was struck several times by devastating earthquakes. The most famous of these – the 'Seventh Earthquake' – occurred in 749 CE. The destruction it caused is clearly evident at all the excavation sites in and around the city.
During the 10th century, Tiberias, like the rest of the Land of Israel, suffered repeated raids by invading armies and bands of nomads.
1033 – Tiberias was struck by another earthquake, which destroyed many buildings.
Despite this damage, Tiberias retained its status as the capital of the Galilee until its conquest by the Crusaders.
1099 – Tancred, commander of the conquering army, captured Tiberias as the capital of the 'Principality of the Galilee', whose boundaries roughly corresponded to those of the 'Jordan District' during the period of Muslim rule.
The walls of Tiberias were restored, and a large fortress was built to the north of the Roman-Byzantine city, around which the inhabitants gathered; in the process, the city's previously inhabited area was abandoned, creating the nucleus for the growth of modern-day Tiberias.
1187 – Conquest of Tiberias by the Muslims. Following the Battle of Karni Hittin, the city fell to Saladin and remained under Ayyubid Muslim rule until 1240, when Tiberias and the entire Galilee returned to short-lived Crusader rule.
1247 – The city fell to the Mamluk forces and was ruled continuously by the Muslims from then on, until the British conquest of the Land of Israel (1917–1918). During this prolonged period, the city suffered greatly: a breakdown in security, famine, epidemics and earthquakes.

1564 – The revival of the Jewish settlement in Tiberias, initiated by Don Joseph Nasi and Dona Gracia. The walls of the Crusader city were rebuilt, first by Don Joseph Nasi's representative, Joseph Ibn Ardite, and subsequently by D'Ahar al-'Umar.
1745 – D'Ahar's son, Chuleibi, built a fortress on a hill to the north-west of the Crusader city. Parts of the wall and its towers, as well as the fortress, still stand today.
1833 – Restoration of the walls by Ibrahim Pasha, Governor of Egypt.
1837 – A severe earthquake struck the city and its inhabitants, causing the destruction of the walls.
1913 – Construction of the new city of Tiberias began with the establishment of the Ahava neighbourhood, the first neighbourhood built outside the walls.
1920 – The Kiryat Shmuel neighbourhood was established in the area of the fortress.
1934 – A severe flood struck the city, destroying parts of the Old City. The British Mandate authorities rebuilt the city and laid out the streets in a new grid pattern.
1948 – During the War of Independence, Tiberias was the first mixed city to be liberated, and Jewish rule was declared there on the 9th of Nisan 5708 (19 April 1948), four days after the establishment of the State of Israel.

(Translated with DeepL.com)