

## Armon Hanatziv

The Armon Hanatziv Promenade overlooks most of Jerusalem and offers a beautiful view of the city. The promenade is one of the more successful projects initiated by former mayor Teddy Kollek under the auspices of the Jerusalem Foundation.

Armon Hanatziv means the Commissioner's Palace. The name is a bygone of another era, when the British High Commissioner's house, was down the road. The house was later used, after 1948, as the headquarters for UN observers.

The promenade, which is about two-thirds of a mile long (one kilometer), is at the southern end of the city, viewing northwards, you can see on the left, (westwards), new Jewish Jerusalem; straight ahead, the Old City, Mount Zion, and the three valleys which surround ancient Jerusalem.

Beyond the Old City to the north is French Hill and Mount Scopus. To the East you can see the Mount of Olives, with its three hallmark towers on the crest, and beyond it the Judean wilderness. Way off the right is "the hill of evil counsel," or the governor's mansion, now a UN enclave.

## Old city of Jerusalem



\*Photo courtesy of Trek Earth. [http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Middle\\_East/Israel/](http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Middle_East/Israel/)

The Old City covers roughly 220 acres (one square kilometer). The surrounding walls date to the rule of the Ottoman Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566). Work began on them in 1537 and was not completed until 1541.

The Old City has a total of 11 gates, but only seven are open (Jaffa, Zion, Dung, Lions' [St. Stephen's], Herod's, Damascus [Shechem] and New). One of the closed gates is the Golden Gate, located above ground level and below the Temple Mount. It is only visible from outside the city. According to Jewish tradition, when the Messiah comes, he will enter Jerusalem through this gate. To prevent him from coming, the Muslims sealed the gate during the rule of Suleiman.

The main entrance to the city is the Jaffa Gate, built by Suleiman in 1538. The name in Arabic, Bab el-Halil or Hebron Gate, means "The Beloved," and refers to Abraham, the beloved of God who is buried in Hebron. A road allows cars to enter the city here. It was originally built in 1898 when Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany visited Jerusalem.

The ruling Ottoman Turks opened it so the German Emperor would not have to dismount his carriage.

The Old City is divided into four neighborhoods, which are named according to the ethnic affiliation of most of the people who live in them. These quarters form a rectangular grid, but they are not equal in size. The dividing lines are the street that runs from Damascus Gate to the Zion Gate — which divides the city into east and west — and the street leading from the Jaffa Gate to Lion's gate — which bifurcates the city north and south. Entering through the Jaffa Gate and traveling to David Street places the Christian Quarter on the left. On the right, as you continue down David Street, you'll enter the Armenian Quarter. To the left of Jews Street is the Muslim Quarter, and, to the right, is the Jewish Quarter.

### Wailing Wall



The First Temple or Solomon's Temple was built in the 10th century BCE. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, the Second Temple was destroyed by the Roman Empire in 70 CE as a result of the Great Jewish Revolt. Each Temple stood for a period of about 400 years.

According to Judaism's religious texts, when the legions of Titus destroyed the Temple, only a part of an outer court-yard "western wall" remained standing. Jewish texts teach that Titus left it as a bitter reminder to the Jews that Rome had vanquished Judea. The Jews, however, attributed it to a promise made by God that some part of the holy Temple would be left standing as a sign of God's unbroken bond with the Jewish people in spite of the catastrophes which had befallen them. Jews have prayed at the Western Wall for two thousand years, believing that that spot has greater holiness than any other accessible place on Earth, or the fourth holiest overall, after the Holy of Holies, the rest of the Temple area, and the Courtyard, and that God is nearby listening to their prayers. The tradition of placing prayer written on the small piece of paper into a crack in the Wall goes back hundreds of years. Included in the thrice daily Jewish prayers are fervent pleas that God return to the Land of Israel, ingather all the Jewish exiles, rebuild the Third Temple, and bring the messianic era with the arrival of Jewish Messiah. Non-Jewish observers watching the Jews cry there (mourning the destruction of the Temple) gave the site its popular, but incorrect name, the *Wailing Wall*. The site is also holy to Muslims who believe Solomon to be a prophet. Muslims believe that Muhammad made a spiritual journey to Jerusalem on a winged horse, al-Buraq, in 620 CE. Due to the holiness of the site in Islam, in 687 CE Muslims built the Dome of the Rock and the nearby Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount, encompassed by the wall. Following the victory of the Israel Defense Forces during the 1967 Six-Day War, the Western Wall, together with all of Jerusalem and the West Bank came under Israeli control. Many foreign heads of state who visit Israel, come to the Western Wall, and it continues to have a powerful hold on the devotion of Jews all over the

world. Over the decades, millions have come as tourists and pilgrims to be able to touch the Wall with their hands and feel the sanctity that emanates from it.

## Caesarea



A small port city on the Mediterranean coast was rebuilt by King Herod, who renamed it Caesarea in honor of the Roman emperor. In 6 A.D., Caesarea became the capital of the Roman province of Judea. The city continued to flourish under Byzantine rule. In early 12th century, Caesarea was conquered by the Crusaders; later the city was captured by Mameluk sultan Baybars and destroyed. Now Caesarea is a large archaeological site, with remains from Roman, Byzantine and Crusader periods. Although parts of Roman pillars are seen here and there, the remains of the city's Roman buildings were mostly used for construction in other towns. The ancient harbour is now several meters below the sea level. Nevertheless, there is a well-preserved Roman aqueduct, north to the city; in the southern part of the city, there is a restored [Roman theatre](#), one of the largest of its kind in Israel. In the summer, concerts and other performances are held here. One can also find the ruins of Roman amphitheatre and hippodrome. The remains of residences from the Byzantine period, some with mosaic floors, are what you meet across the site. [Byzantine street](#) was discovered and unearthed in a grove near the Crusader walls; in the street you can see two impressive headless Roman statues, one of white marble and one of red porphyry.

The Crusader city was fortified in the 13rd century; the thick city walls and the [Crusader gate](#) are preserved until today. To enter the crusader city, we had to walk over a drawbridge and to turn around two corners inside the gate (such a design of the gate was a simple attack-preventing measure). Remains of some Crusader buildings are inside the walls, as well as bits of ancient glass and pottery, etc.

Besides the archaeological sites, Caesaria also hosts Ralli Museum of modern art. Harry Recanati founded four such museums, two in South America, one in Israel, and one in Spain. The museums are based on the founder's private collection. Caesarea's Ralli museum has a collection of 20th century art, mostly by Latin American artists; sculpture includes several works of Salvador Dali. A small archaeological wing of the museum contains various findings from the area, and a copy of a plate mentioning Pontius Pilatus, the Roman prefect of Caesarea (discovered in 1961).

## Technion



**Faculty of Computer Science**

### **Dalia Maydan Center for Advanced Materials Study**

The Technion - Israel Institute of Technology is a university in Haifa, Israel. Founded in 1924, it is the oldest university in Israel. While the Technion focuses on science and engineering, architecture and medicine are also taught.

The Technion offers both undergraduate and graduate studies in a wide range of fields. The Technion was conceived in the early 1900s by the German-Jewish fund Ezrah, as a school of engineering and sciences, and the only higher learning institution, in then Ottoman Palestine. The cornerstone was laid in 1912, but studies began only 12 years later, following an intense debate over the language of instruction. Ezrah deemed the then-developing Modern Hebrew inappropriate for scientific instruction, and demanded that German be used instead. However, in the aftermath of World War I and the decline of Germany's influence as a European superpower, Hebrew was adopted. The Technion was opened in 1924, although the official opening ceremony took place in 1925. The first class amounted to 16 students, majoring in civil engineering and architecture. During the 1930s, the Technion absorbed many Jewish scientists fleeing Nazi Germany and its neighboring countries. Until the opening of the school of engineering in the Ben Gurion University in the early 1970s, the Technion was the only institution in the country offering engineering degrees. The Technion is often compared to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and has contributed to a large number of successful Israeli technical exports and businesses.

Famous graduates include:

- Uzia Galil - founding father of the Israeli science-based industries
- Zohar Zisapel - BSEE 1970, founder of the RAD corporations
- Uzi Landau - Israeli politician
- Yaron Brook - president and executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute

## Haifa



Haifa is the third-largest city in Israel, with a population of about 267,800 (as of September 2005). Areas and towns around it are deemed to be in the Haifa District, of which it is also a part. It is a seaport, located below and on Mount Carmel, and lies on the Mediterranean coast.

Haifa is first mentioned in Talmudic literature around the 3rd century CE, as a small town near Shikmona, the main Jewish town in the area at that time. The Byzantine ruled there until the 7th century, when the city was conquered — first by the Persians, then by the Arabs. In 1100, it was conquered again by the crusaders, after a fierce battle with its Jewish inhabitants. Under crusader rule, the city was a part of the Principality of Galilee until the Muslim Mameluks attacked in 1265, leaving the city ruined and mostly abandoned until the 17th century.

In 1761 Daher El-Omar, Bedouin ruler of Acre and Galilee, destroyed and rebuilt the town in a new location, surrounding it with a thin wall. This event is marked by many as the beginning of the town's modern era. After El-Omar's death in 1775, the town remained under Ottoman rule until 1918, except for two brief periods: in 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Haifa as part of his brief and failed campaign to conquer Palestine and Syria, but withdrew the same year; and between 1831 and 1840, the Egyptian viceroy Mehemet Ali governed, after his son Ibrahim Pasha wrested control from the Ottomans.

In the years following the Egyptian occupation, Haifa grew in terms of traffic, population and importance, as Acre suffered a decline in a succession of battles and wars. Development in Haifa increased further with the arrival of members of the Temple Society in 1868, who settled in Haifa and built their sturdy houses in what is now called the "German colony". The Templars greatly contributed to the town's commerce and industry, playing an important role in its modernization.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Haifa had emerged as an industrial port city and growing population center. At that time Haifa district was home to approximately 20,000 inhabitants, comprised of 82% Muslim Arab, 14% Christian Arabs, and 4% Jewish residents. Jewish population increased steadily with immigration primarily from Europe, so that by 1945 the population had shifted to 38% Muslim, 13% Christian and 47% Jewish.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> Haifa is located in the northernmost reach of

the Coastal Plain designated as Jewish territory in the 1947 UN Partition Plan dividing mandatory Palestine. On 30 December, 1947 two bombs were hurled from a passing vehicle into a crowd of Arabs who were waiting for construction jobs outside the gates of the Consolidated Refineries in Haifa killing 6 and injuring 42 whereupon 2,000 Arab employees ran amok, killing 39 Jews during a murderous riot that lasted until British troops brought the situation under control 90 minutes later. As the major industrial and oil-refinery port in the Palestine, Jewish forces deemed control of Haifa a critical objective in the ensuing 1948 Arab-Israeli War. It was captured on April 23rd, 1948 by a force of 5,000 Israeli soldiers led by the Carmeli Brigade. The

campaign resulted in Israeli control over the area and the flight of about 60,000 Palestinian Arabs from Haifa District.

Today, Haifa is a thriving and diverse cultural and ethnic center, home to Jews, Arabs, Ahmedis, Bahá'ís and Druze, and marked for its relatively high level of peaceful coexistence.

Haifa is a mosaic of relatively peaceful — yet visibly segregated — coexistence between Jews, Muslim and Christian Arabs, Ahmadis (in Kababir), Druze (in Daliyat al-Carmel), Bahá'ís, and others.

Noted by Jews for the Cave of Elijah and the historic Jewish town of Shikmona at the foot of Mount Carmel, Haifa is also cherished by the Muslim, Christian and Bahá'í faiths. The Bahá'í World Centre (comprising the Shrine of the Báb, terraced gardens and administrative buildings on the Carmel's northern slope; *see photo above*) is an important site of worship and administration for the members of the Bahá'í Faith, as well as providing the city with a much visited tourist attraction. Haifa was a favourite monastic spot for the Carmelites in the 12th century; a 19th century monastery, Stella Maris, was rebuilt at Carmel's head. It is now a popular tourist and pilgrim's attraction, and the site of two prestigious universities, the University of Haifa and the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

In the past, Haifa's docks and industrial areas have made the city a consistent stronghold for the Israeli Labor party; these Socialist tendencies lead to the nickname 'Red Haifa'. One ramification of this history is that Haifa is the only major city in Israel in which public transport operates on Shabbat.

Haifa's Labor-leanings are now debatable: Yona Yahav of centrist party Shinui won the 2003 municipal elections for mayor. On the other hand, the labor party's candidate, Elize Shenhar, removed her candidacy prior to the elections in order to raise Yahav's chances of overcoming the Likud party's candidate, since the polls indicated that Yahav had much more electoral support than she did. Since then, Shinui has all but disappeared from the Israeli Political map and Yahav joined another centrist party, Kadima.

The industrial region of Haifa is north of the city, near the Wadi Kishon. Haifa is home to one of the two oil refineries in Israel (the other located in Ashdod). The refinery in Haifa is capable of processing about 9 million tons of crude oil a year and is the center of a wide array of petrochemical industries located in and around Haifa. Its twin 76-meter cooling towers, built in the 1930s, have long symbolized the city of Haifa.

Matam (Mirkaz Ta'asiya v'Meida/Scientific Industries Center), the largest and oldest business park in Israel, is located at the southern entrance to the city, hosting manufacturing and R&D facilities for a large number of Israeli and international hi-tech companies, such as Intel, IBM, Elbit, Zoran, Microsoft, and Amdocs. Another IBM office is on top of Carmel at Haifa University.

Maccabi Haifa is one of the most successful football clubs today in Israel, with 9 championships, 5 cups and 2 league-cups (as of 2005). Both Hapoel and Maccabi have football schools in Haifa suburbs and other villages (including Arab and Druze villages) in the northern part of Israel. Haifa also has basketball, volleyball, tennis, and handball clubs. The city boasts some of the best surfing beaches in the country near Bat Galim, with kite surfing and sailing clubs. The tennis club located nearby the south-west entrance is one of the largest in Israel.