

USEFUL WORDS

Good Morning • Boker Tov
Good Afternoon • Achar-ha-Tzahoraim Touim
Good Day • Yom Tov
How Much? • Kama
Thank You • Toda Raba
Please • Bebakasha

NOTES

Multiple horizontal lines for taking notes.

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Haifa ISRAEL

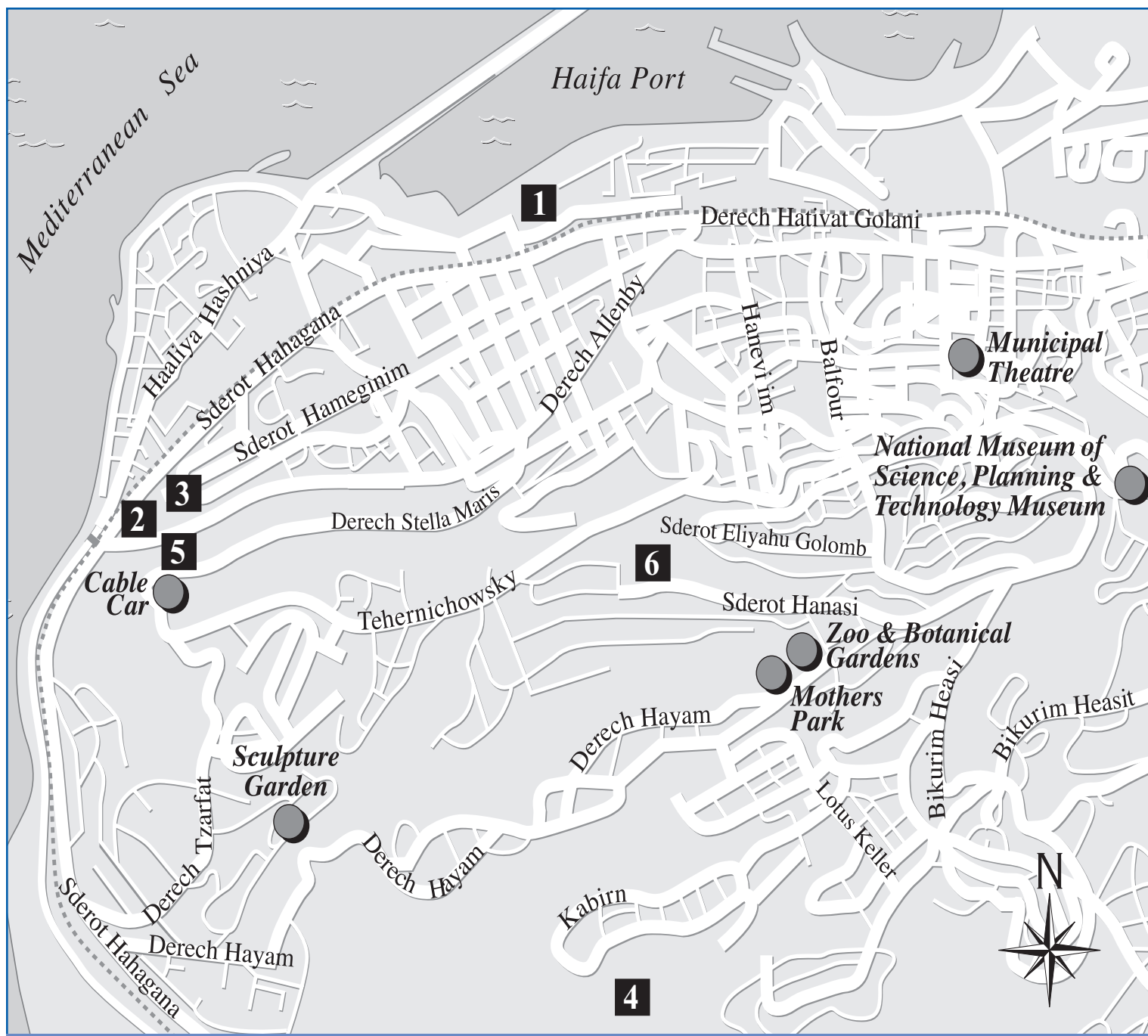
GENERAL INFORMATION Israel’s third largest city, Haifa is located in northwestern Israel and lies along the Bay of Haifa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The city, with a population of around 240,000 inhabitants is built on three levels on the northern slopes of Mount Carmel, ascending from the port section and waterfront area through the foothills of Mount Carmel, the residential and business district and rising to the summit where the fine residences and resort hotels are to be found. The city is sometimes called the “San Francisco of the Middle East.”

Haifa is a pleasant, sophisticated modern city and has two universities, numerous museums, parks, gardens and theaters. It is also a center for international trade, commerce and heavy industry. It has the country’s biggest deepwater port and the principle industries are steel foundries, food processing and the production of chemicals, textiles and cement. A prosperous city with good beaches, it is an ideal base for visiting numerous biblical and archaeological sites in the region.

HISTORY Haifa is first mentioned in the Talmud around the 1st to 4th century A.D., when it was referred to as Sykaminos. Elijah, the Hebrew prophet fled to this city to escape the wrath of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, hiding in a cave near the waterfront. In 1100 the town was conquered by the Crusaders who then called it Caiphas. The Crusaders built the first of several monasteries above Elijah’s cave.

Napoleonic forces took the city in 1799 and in 1839 Ibrahim Pasha, the great Egyptian general and viceroy, captured Haifa. In 1840 the city was surrendered to Turkey and the Ottoman Empire. Close to the end of World War I, in 1918, British forces occupied the city. This was also the time of the legendary Lawrence of Arabia. In the 1930’s the massive immigration of Jews seeking refuge from Nazism in Europe brought many to Haifa where they became the majority in a formerly Arab dominated city. In 1933 the deepwater port was developed under the British mandate while in 1939 Haifa’s petroleum refineries were constructed. During the Palestine War of 1948-49 Haifa, with its key port and industries became important to both Arab and Jewish defense forces who fought to control the city. The Arabs surrendered in April, 1949 and Haifa was the first territory secured after the Israeli declaration of independence and it became the early industrial center of the young country, Israel.





PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Dagon Silo and Archaeological Museum is located on Plummer Square. This is one of the most unusual granaries in the world, looking something like a modern Crusader's Castle, storing about 90% of the country's grain. A small museum is in the tourist center lobby.

2 Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum can be found at 204 Allenby Street. The exhibits explain the times of the struggles of immigrants into Israel during the British mandate.

3 The National Maritime Museum at 198 Allenby Street contains models of vessels from ancient days to the present.

4 The Hecht Museum is located in the main building of Haifa University with a permanent exhibit entitled "People of Israel."

5 Elijah's Cave, across Allenby Street from the Maritime Museum, is believed to be where the prophet hid from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. It is considered holy to Christians and Muslims as well as Jews.

6 The Mane-Katz Museum at 89 Yefeh Nof Street contains exhibits of the Paris Jewish Expressionist Group.

Beyond Haifa

Baha'i Shrine and Gardens are located halfway up Mount Carmel on Haziyonut Avenue, southwest of the city. This is one of Haifa's most impressive attractions. This is considered to be the world center of the Baha'i faith. It contains the tomb of the first prophet.

Acre (Akko in Arabic) is located across the mouth of Haifa Bay and is an interesting combination of cultures as Romans, Crusaders, Arabs and Napoleon all passed through this region. Highlights are the Crusades buildings, which include the Knight Hospitallers Quarters.

Galilee and Nazareth are several hours journey inland through an area rich in religious history. Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes as well as Jesus' boyhood home are found in this area.

Jerusalem is one of the most fascinating cities in the world, as well as one of the most beautiful. It is certainly one of the most holy. The capital of Israel is full of historic sites, religious shrines, markets and warm colored stone architecture. Nearby, you will find the town of Bethlehem with the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave where it is believed that Jesus was born.

Caesarea is one of the most important archeological sites in the region. It was founded by King Herod in 20 B.C. to honor Caesar Augustus, and served as the capital of the Roman providence for nearly 600 years. Caesarea is also where Peter baptized the first gentile convert and where Paul was imprisoned for two years while awaiting trial in Rome. Today, Caesarea is filled with ruins and excavations continue.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Haifa we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Bargain only in markets (both Arab and Jewish) and not in stores.

Tipping: Generally a 10% to 15% gratuity is the norm in restaurants. In more modest locations, small change is all that is required.

Local Cuisine: A variety of international kitchens can be found. Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Hungarian and, of course, Jewish kosher food is served in the local restaurants. As for fast foods, hamburgers and pizzas can be found, but falafel, hummus and kebabs are the most common.

Drink Specialties: Tea and coffee are the most popular beverages. Arab tea is said to be the best and can be flavored with mint or sage. "Coffee" usually means Turkish coffee. "Nescafe" is used for instant coffee. Soft drinks tend to be expensive. As for alcohol, the Israelis do not drink very much,

but it can be found. Wine is usually drunk only on holy days. The local beers, Nesher, Goldstar and Maccabee are very popular.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shops are generally open from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm -7:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday.

Department stores are usually open all day long. The main items of interest in Haifa are sandals, ceramics, leather, fur, glassware, copper and brassware.

LOCAL CURRENCY The national currency is the new Israeli Shekel (NIS). The Hebraically correct plural is shekelim but even Israelis when speaking English tend to Anglicise and use 'shekels'. The 'old shekel' was dropped in 1985 as part of a rescue plan to reduce inflation. The new shekel is divided into 100 agorot. There are coins of 10 and 50 agorot and 1 and 5 NIS, and notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 NIS.

OFFICE/TELEPHONE FACILITIES A post office is located to the left of the main gate of the port.

Israel has a state-of-the-art, card operated public telephone system and international calls can be made from any street call box. Telecards are bought from lottery kiosks, news agents or bookshops and come in denominations of 10 units (12 NIS), 20 units (24 NIS) and 50 units (48 NIS).

To call the U.S. from Tel Aviv, dial 00 International access + 1 (U.S. country code) + area code + local number.

To call Tel Aviv from the United States or Canada, dial 011 International access + 972 (Israel country code) + 03 (Tel Aviv and Jaffa area code) or 02 (Jerusalem and the West Bank area code) + local number.

There are no public telephone facilities in the harbor area.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Municipal Tourist Information Office is located at 106 Hanassi Avenue. Tel.: 04-374010.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are plentiful and the drivers are more than happy to accept any foreign currency, as well as Israeli Sheqels. Taxi fare to the Mount Carmel center is approximately \$12.00 USD and to the midtown area \$10.00 USD.

Buses are available from the central bus station located outside the port area. The fare is \$1.00 (local currency only).

The Carmelite subway station is located within a five minute walk from the port area. Stops are at Hadar (mid-town) and Mount Carmel (Gan Ha'em) residential shopping area. The cost is approximately \$1.00 USD payable in local currency only.