

Congregation B'nai Yisrael

Fourth Grade Guide Book

Israel Trip

February 2018

Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem is over 2000 years old and is home to many religions. The modern new city of Jerusalem contrasts with the photo below of the Old City of Jerusalem. In the center is the Dome of the Rock, which is in the Old City of Jerusalem and is currently a mosque where Muslims pray three times a day. The rock, which sits inside the mosque under the gold dome, is where Jews believe that Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac, a story that we read on Yom Kippur each year.



Dome of the Rock and Old City of Jerusalem

The photo below is of the Western Wall, which is Judaism's most holy site. It is the outermost western wall of the Temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70. When Jews pray at the Western Wall, they put small notes in the cracks of the wall in hopes that their prayers will reach God.



Western Wall

This is a photo of the Western Wall Plaza. The Dome of the Rock overlooks the Western Wall, and the wall is the dividing line between the Jews and the Muslims in Jerusalem. It divides West Jerusalem from East Jerusalem.



Western Wall Plaza

Below is an aerial view of the New City of Jerusalem. It is known as the New City because it is built outside the city walls of the original Jerusalem, which is now known as the Old City.



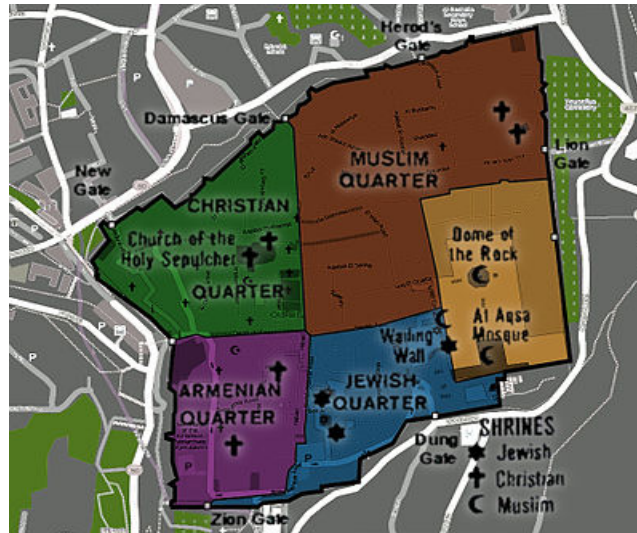
New City of Jerusalem

Below is a photo of the Arab Shuk (or market) in Jerusalem's Old City. It is a place where bargaining for goods is the norm and everything is sold from food to jewelry to clothing to coffee. It is a must see on your visit to Jerusalem.



Arab Shuk/Market

The four sections of the Old City of Jerusalem can be seen below. They are Christian, Muslim, Armenian and Jewish. The Dome of the Rock is considered part of the Muslim Quarter. The section names are given because each of the four religions has control of its given area. These are holy places for each religion and many people visit each year.



Map of the Old City of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is also a very modern city. It has stores, cars and a train and bus system. It is a law in Jerusalem that all of its buildings have to be built with Jerusalem stone in order to keep the city looking ancient. As a result, Jerusalem has a special glow that no other city in Israel has.



Tel Aviv & Surrounding Areas

Tel Aviv is known as the *City that Never Sleeps* and sits on the shore of the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. Its beaches are gorgeous and the nightlife in Tel Aviv rivals that of any major city in Europe or the United States. Tel Aviv is a city for foodies, artists and cutting edge living.



Tel Aviv Beach

Old Jaffa, or Yaffo, is the oldest part of the city of Tel Aviv and was there even before Tel Aviv was founded out of the desert that surrounded it. There are great restaurants, market places and the ancient port of Yaffo (seen below) to visit. Each Friday you will find live music and great ambiance in its tight, winding and ancient streets.



Yaffo/Jaffa

Below are a number of different views of Tel Aviv. As you can see, it is a modern city in every way.



Tel Aviv is also a city for sports lovers. Maccabi Tel Aviv has popular soccer and basketball teams that its residents always cheer for.



Here you can see how modern Tel Aviv is.



Modern Tel Aviv

Below is Dizengoff Street, one of Tel Aviv's oldest and most central shopping areas. As you can see, there are many restaurants and stores and even things being sold on the street. Dizengoff is only a few blocks from Gordon Beach, one of Tel Aviv's most popular beaches.



Dizengoff Street

This aerial view of modern Tel Aviv shows the streets and buildings and how close the sea is to everything.



Aerial view of Tel Aviv

The Negev Desert and South

The Negev is the southernmost part of Israel as you can see on the map below. Although the Negev is all desert, it is home to many important parts of Israel.



The Negev

Below is a photo of the Negev Desert. From this picture, you can see how dry it is and how dangerous a desert can be. The Negev Desert doesn't only have yellow rocks and sand, but it also has rainbow rocks and sand. In ancient times these materials were used for make-up.



Negev Desert

Below is the Ramon Crater, or Mahktesh Ramon. This is not a crater made from a meteor or volcano, but it is the world's largest natural crater and is just part of the desert landscape.



Ramon Crater

David Ben-Gurion was Israel's first Prime Minister and he is buried at his home, Kibbutz Sde Boker. He lived and died there because he wanted to encourage Israelis to move to the Negev and populate it.



Grave of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister

Eilat is a popular vacation spot for both Israelis and tourists. It is known for its resorts, beaches, hiking trails and more. It sits right on the shores of the Red Sea and the Red Sea Coral Reef. The view across the sea from Eilat is the country of Jordan.



Masada sits on top of a mountain in Israel's Negev Desert. It was originally King Herod's Summer Palace, built between 37 and 31 BCE, and one of his homes until he abandoned it. Masada is known for the Jewish zealots who committed mass suicide during the siege of Masada by troops of the Roman Empire at the end of the First Jewish–Roman War. The bodies of 960 Sicarii rebels and their families were found hiding there.



Masada

The Dead Sea got its name because of its high salt level. There is no life in the sea. As a result, one can float in the sea without knowing how to swim. Dead Sea mud, salt and minerals are known to be healing to the skin because it has been cut off from the Jordan River for so long. The Dead Sea is also the lowest point on earth at 1412 feet below sea level. When you go there, you can eat at the lowest Burger King on the face of the earth!



Dead Sea

The Ein Gedi Nature Preserve is an oasis in the Negev Desert. It is a premiere hiking spot in Israel with its waterfalls and lush gardens. It sits between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.



Ein Gedi Nature Preserve

The Golan Heights

These are the mountains of the Golan Heights. They include: Mt. Hermon, Mt. Bental, Mt. Avital, Mt. Hermonit, Mt. Arbel, Mt. Ram, Mt. Baron and Mt. Yosifon. The Golan Heights sit on Israel's border with Syria and was Syrian territory until the Six Day War in 1967.



Mountains of the Golan Heights

Below is a photo of the Mt. Hermon Ski Resort. Mt. Hermon is the only ski resort in Israel because it is the tallest mountain in the Heights at about 9300 feet. It is the only mountain in Israel that gets snow.



There are many kibbutzim and farms in the Golan Heights.



Golan Heights Landscape

Many people come to the Golan Heights for hiking, jeep rides, and zip-lining. The hiking trails in the Golan are beautiful.



This is a photo of Israeli soldiers hiking in the Golan.

The Galil and Surrounding Areas

Haifa is the third largest city in Israel and is built on the slopes of Mt. Carmel. Haifa is home to a major seaport in the Bay of Haifa and is also home to a large Arab community.



Haifa

The Bahai Temple is home to the most holy site of the Bahai Faith. Its gardens are a site to see with 19 terraces and geometric shapes.

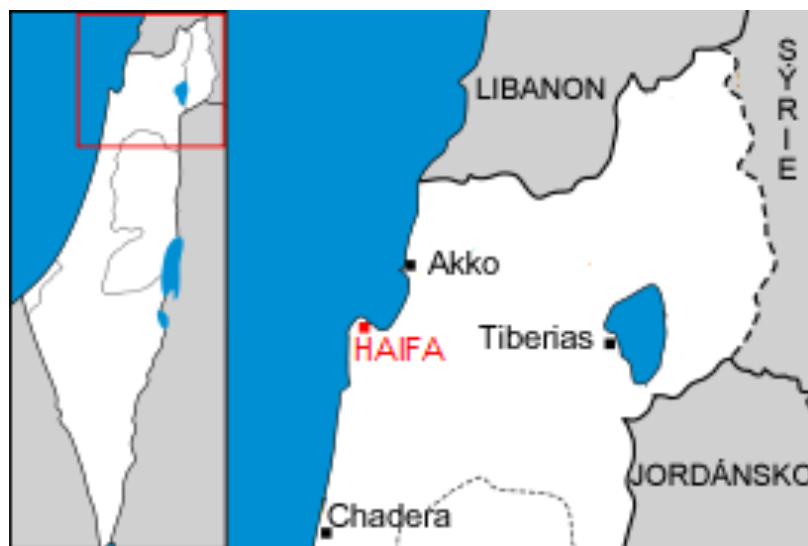


Bahai Temple, Haifa

Sports are also very popular in Haifa. Maccabi Haifa has both a soccer and basketball team, which are named after Judah Maccabee from the Hanukkah story.



The map below shows Haifa's location within Israel. It is situated in the Carmel Mountains in the northern part of the State. There is a navy base in Haifa because it sits right on the Mediterranean Sea.



Tiberias sits on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, also known as Lake Kinneret. Tiberias is a vacation spot for both Israelis and tourists alike. There is a water park on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and well as many boating and swimming opportunities. The Sea of Galilee is Israel's only source of fresh drinking water.



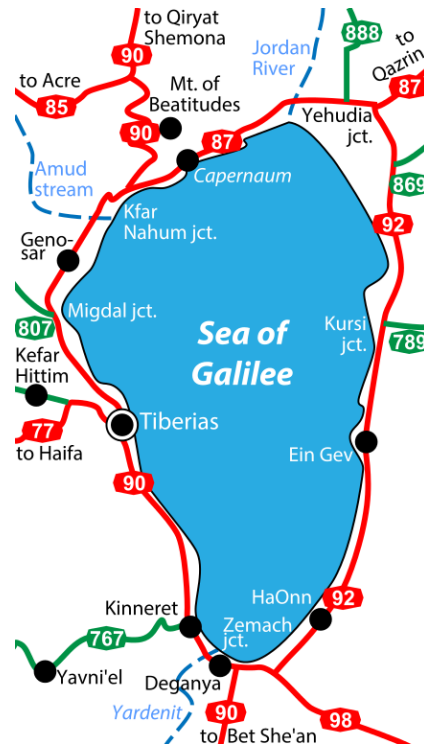
Tiberias

Safat is where the study of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism began in the 16th Century. At 2953 feet, it is Israel's highest city and, as a result, gets hot summers and snowy winters.



Safat

The Sea of Galilee, or Lake Kinneret, is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth and the second lowest lake in the world (after the Dead Sea, a salt water lake). The lake is fed partly by underground springs, although its main source is the Jordan River, which flows through it from north to south. It is at this location that many believe that Jesus walked on water.



Sea of Galilee



Sea of Galilee/Lake Kinneret

Thank you to our 2016-17 Fourth Graders for putting this Israel Guidebook together!

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