

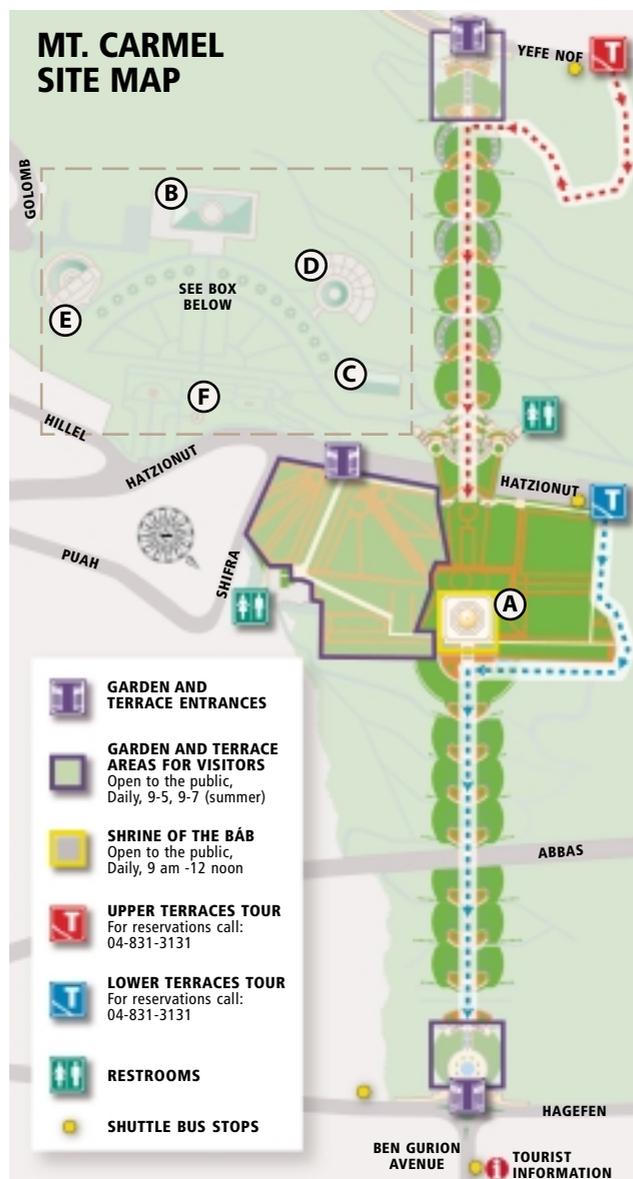
## The Shrine of the Báb

The Báb (Siyyid 'Alí-Muḥammad, 1819-1850) was a young merchant in Persia when He announced in 1844 that He had been sent by God to prepare humanity for a new age and the imminent appearance of another Messenger even greater than Himself. He is considered by Bahá'ís as an independent Messenger of God and the Herald of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

Because of His challenging teachings, which called for spiritual and moral renewal, the Báb was publicly martyred in 1850. His remains were preserved and concealed for almost 60 years, eventually transferred to the Holy Land, and in 1909 interred in a mausoleum on the slopes of Mt. Carmel.

The colonnade and golden dome over the mausoleum were completed in 1953. Their design, by Canadian architect William Sutherland Maxwell, harmonizes Eastern and Western proportions and styles. The Shrine's superstructure is of Chiampo stone cut and carved in Italy; the monolithic columns are of Rose Baveno granite; and the 12,000 fish-scale tiles on the dome were made in Holland by a process of fire-glazing over gold leaf.

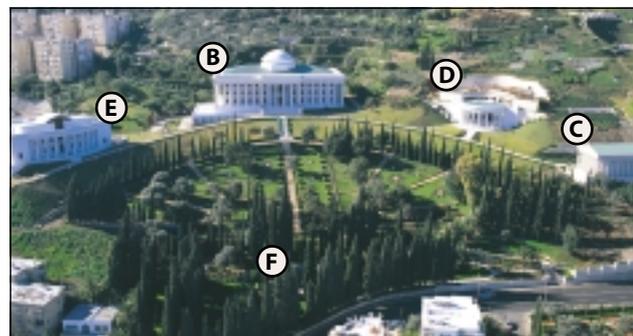
The Shrine is a place for quiet prayer and meditation where no ceremonies or religious services are held. The ornaments in the Shrine have no religious significance and serve only an aesthetic purpose. A special prayer used by Bahá'ís when visiting the Shrine, known as the "Tablet of Visitation," is hung on the wall in both the original Arabic and an English translation.



## Terraces of the Shrine of the Báb

In 1987 Canadian Architect Fariborz Sahba was assigned by the Bahá'í World Centre the task of designing 18 monumental terraces as a path of approach to the Shrine of the Báb, one of the most holy pilgrimage sites for the Bahá'ís of the world. The Terraces stretch about a kilometer up the mountain, reaching a height of 225 meters, and the width of the landscaped gardens ranges from 60 meters to almost 400 meters. In order to create a continuous pedestrian pathway from the foot to the crest of the mountain, bridges and pedestrian underpasses have been provided for crossing Yefe Nof Street, Hatzionut Avenue and Abbas Street.

The Terraces and Gardens are unique in style, with meticulous attention to detail. The natural elements of light and water form the main decoration of the terraces. The ornaments in stone and metal that beautify them are chosen for their aesthetic appeal and have no religious significance. One of the distinguishing features of these gardens is the attention paid to the conservation of the mountain environment and water resources. The formal gardens along the Terraces' central axis blend on either side into informal gardens featuring drought-resistant native trees and wildflowers.



*Administrative areas (not open to the public):*

**(B) Seat of the Universal House of Justice** — This building serves as the seat of the international governing body of the worldwide Bahá'í community, the Universal House of Justice, which is a body of nine Bahá'ís elected by secret ballot once every five years by the members of National Bahá'í Assemblies around the world (currently numbering over 180).

**(C) International Bahá'í Archives** — contains the personal effects of the Founders of the Faith, as well as Their original writings and other relics and historical materials.

**(D) Centre for the Study of the Texts** — houses an institution of scholars whose role is to research the Bahá'í sacred writings, historical documents and other related materials.

**(E) International Teaching Centre building** — houses the appointed Institution of Counselors, who plan and promote programs for the world-wide development of Bahá'í communities.

**(F) Monument Gardens** — These peaceful gardens contain four white Carrara marble monuments erected over the resting places of members of the immediate family of Bahá'u'lláh.

- The Shrine of the Báb is open to the public every day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Enter near the corner of Hatzionut Avenue and Shifra Street.
- The Gardens around the Shrine are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The Terraces can be visited by reservation. For information call: 04-831-3131



## Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and Gardens at Bahjí

The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith was Mírzá Ḥusayn-'Alí (1817-1892), a Persian nobleman who took the title Bahá'u'lláh, Arabic for "The Glory of God." Because of His religious teachings He was imprisoned and banished from Persia with His family and a small group of followers. They arrived in Acre in 1868, then a prison-city under Ottoman rule, condemned to perpetual confinement.

Although the order of strict confinement was never lifted, the conditions of Bahá'u'lláh's imprisonment were gradually relaxed. After nine years of living within the walls of Acre, He moved to a country home known as Mazra'ih and then to a nearby estate called Bahjí, or Delight.

The Mansion of Bahjí was built in 1821 by 'Abdu'lláh Páshá, then the Turkish governor of Acre. Bahá'u'lláh occupied the mansion from 1879 until His passing in 1892. He is buried in a small building adjacent to the Mansion known as the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. This Shrine is the holiest place on earth for Bahá'ís and the point toward which they turn in prayer each day. Over the years, this Holy Place has been beautified with formal gardens extending in a large circle around the Shrine.

- The Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Friday through Monday
- The formal gardens are open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Bahjí is located in Acre on the road to Nahariyya.*



For more information about the Bahá'í Faith, please visit [www.bahai.org](http://www.bahai.org)