

We welcome you to enjoy the quiet, contemplative atmosphere of the Bahá'í Shrines, Terraces and Gardens. No admission fee is charged, nothing is offered for sale.

The Bahá'í World Centre, located in the twin cities of Acre and Haifa, is the spiritual heart of the Bahá'í Faith, an independent world religion with more than 5 million adherents living in almost every country.

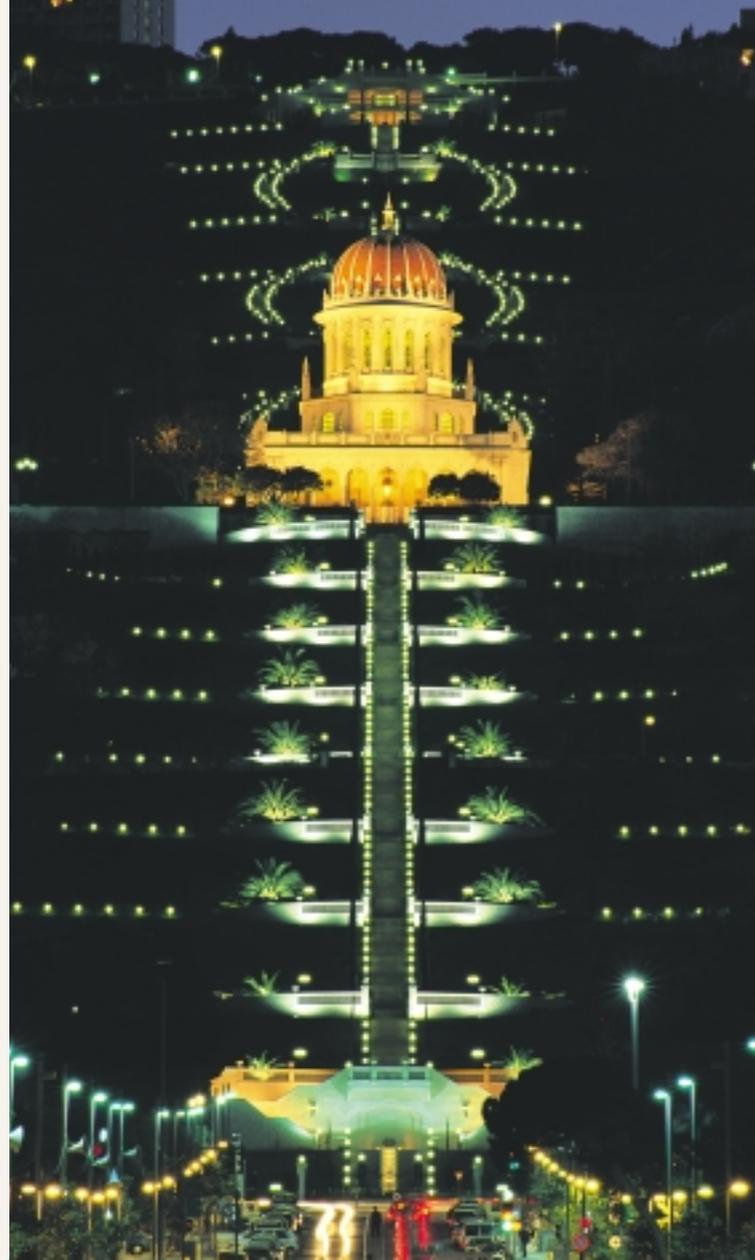
The Faith's holiest Shrine is the resting place of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, considered by Bahá'ís as the most recent in a line of Messengers of God that includes the Founders of the world's major religions. The **Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh** is located at Bahjí, in Acre (see inside).

The **Shrine of the Báb**, one of Haifa's most prominent landmarks, is the Faith's second-holiest Shrine. It is the resting place of the Báb, regarded by Bahá'ís as a Messenger of God whose primary mission was to prepare the way for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh. The **Terraces of the Shrine of the Báb**, opened to the public in June 2001, were designed to provide an appropriate setting and approach for pilgrims and visitors to this Bahá'í Holy Place.

About the Bahá'í Faith

The Bahá'í Faith is the most recent of the world's religions. Since its birth in 1844, it has become the world's second-most widespread religion, as reported by both the *1999 Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year* and the *2001 World Christian Encyclopedia*.

The Founder of the Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, brought an essential message of unity, teaching that there is only one God, one human race, and that all the world's religions have been progressive stages in the revelation of God's will and purpose for humanity.



Bahá'u'lláh declared that humanity's long-awaited age of maturity is at hand, an age when the oneness of humankind will be recognized and established. He laid down principles, laws and institutions for a world civilization, including:

- Abandonment of all forms of prejudice
- Full equality between the sexes
- Recognition of the common source and essential oneness of the world's great religions
- Elimination of the extremes of poverty and wealth
- Universal compulsory education
- Right and responsibility of each person to search independently for truth
- Establishment of a world federal system
- Recognition that faith must be consistent with reason and that science and religion should be in harmony

The Bahá'í Faith has no clergy and its affairs are administered through a system of elected councils at the local, national and international levels. There are currently over 180 national councils and more than 12,000 local councils around the world. The international governing body, known as the Universal House of Justice, functions from its seat at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa.

All the costs associated with the activities of the Bahá'í World Centre are covered by voluntary contributions from Bahá'ís around the world. No donations are accepted from other sources.

For more information about the Bahá'í Faith,
please visit www.bahai.org
