



Haifa & the North Coast

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Why Go?

Israel's north coast is a tranquil stretch of the Mediterranean punctuated with old farms, quaint seaside towns and historical sites.

The principle city is Haifa, a mixed Jewish-Arab city that often surprises visitors with its openness and tolerance. Sprawling across Mt Carmel, Haifa has stunning views, a wealth of museums and the magnificent Baha'i Gardens. Re-development has created a thriving nightlife and arts scene.

Haifa is the starting point for a journey north to the historic port of Akko and the spectacular grottoes of Rosh HaNikra. In the other direction, Herod's port at Caesarea and the ancient civilizations of Megiddo should be on the radar of any history buff. Also in the area, Ein Hod and Zichron Ya'acov are both fine destinations for anyone with a taste for art, wine and homemade beer. After your travels, take some time to chill out on the beaches around Nahariya and Akhziv.

Best Places to Eat

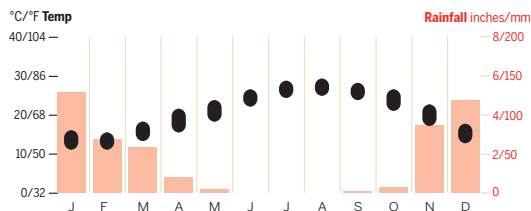
- » Mayan Habira (p169)
- » Fatoush (p169)
- » Doña Rosa (p175)
- » Uri Buri (p186)

Best Places to Stay

- » Port Inn (p168)
- » Beth Shalom Hotel (p168)
- » HI – Knights Hostel & Guest House (p185)
- » Akkotel (p185)

When to Go

Haifa



Dec Weekends feature an outdoor carnival in Wadi Nisnas, celebrating the major religious holidays.

Apr–May Temperatures are pleasant and the flowers in the Baha'i Gardens are blooming.

Sep A fine month for road trips, hikes or relaxing days on the beach.

Climate

The north coast sees warm summer temperatures that reach into the low thirties (Celsius) and winter temperatures dip to the low teens. It's one of the wettest parts of the country, with more than 150mm of rain falling in December and January, a fact

that allows most of the region to stay green through the year.

Getting There & Around

There are plenty of bus and train links from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to Haifa and the north coast. If you are driving, the usual drive is up Hwy 2 (though Hwy 4 is the scenic route). Note that Hwy 6 is a toll road; if you travel on it your



Haifa & the North Coast Highlights

1 Stop to smell the roses in the spectacular **Baha'i Gardens** (p158), Haifa's most recognisable site

2 Wait for Armageddon at **Megiddo** (p180), a biblical site expected to host the end of the world

3 Explore the impressive ruins at **Caesarea** (p176), Herod's port city

4 Weave through the underground passages of **Akko** (p181), an extraordinary walled city-on-the-sea

5 Feel the power of Mother Nature at **Rosh HaNikra** (p188), where the Mediterranean crashes into time-worn grottoes

6 Sample some wine and cruise the main street of

quirky **Zichron Ya'acov** (p175), home to museums and galleries

7 Stretch your legs on themild hike to **Montfort** (p187), an impressive Crusader castle only reached on foot