

Tel Aviv & the Coastal Plain

Tel Aviv-Yafo http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/English/home.asp		Partnered with: Los Angeles http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Israel/Partnerships/Regions/Telaviv
Map	Founded 1909 Location 32.07°N 34.77°E On the Mediterranean coastline of central Israel, along and inwards from the sand dunes, chalk and sandstone cliffs. At the heart of Gush Dan metropolitan and industrial area (Dan Region) with a fertile agricultural hinterland, to a depth of 25 km. Map urls http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gush-Dan.png [Public domain] http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Location_telaviv.png [by <i>Ynhockey</i> , public domain] Climate Mediterranean climate: hot summers with high coastal humidity, inversion at night - exacerbated by pollution; warm winters, rain. Type/ Status Primary urban center; focus of conurbation along coastal strip. Size 51.8 sq. km.; Gush Dan: < 90 x +/-20 sq. km. Population 390,100 inhabitants: 17% of Israel's population. 2 nd largest city in Israel. <i>All Gush Dan: 3.15 million: <50% of Israel's population.</i>	 <p>[Artist: <i>Drork</i>; open access image]</p>

History

Excavations date the ancient port of **Yafo** (Jaffa) as far as the 16th century BCE and is mentioned in the Book of Jonah, as well as by Josephus Flavius. In Medieval times, it served as a port for pilgrim traffic, but was destroyed during the Crusades and not rebuilt until the mid-17th century, under Ottoman rule. Destroyed again in the wars of the 18th century and captured by Napoleon, it was rebuilt for Christian pilgrims, also serving as the gateway for Jewish pilgrims, becoming a trading seaport in the early 19th century - exporting oranges. In 1820, the Jewish community was reestablished and Yafo began a period of cultural commercial and expansion with the First Aliyah (1882-1904): in 1887, its first Jewish Quarter, *Neveh Tzedek*, was founded.

Development

During the Second Aliyah (1904-1917), land was purchased privately in 1906-1907 to build a suburb NE of Yafo, starting 1909 and settled in 1910, thus establishing the first Jewish city, named Tel Aviv - Spring Hill (Ezekiel 3:15; *Altneuland*, Herzl).

Most of its Jewish population was expelled by the Turks during the First World War. Growth kicked off with the Third Aliyah (1917-1924) under the British Mandate, and Tel Aviv was partially recognized as a city in 1923. Commercial growth increased during the Fourth Aliyah (1924-1932) and the Garden City expanded northwards with the beginning of Bauhaus Architecture. Cultural institutions took root and flourished; during the Fifth Aliyah (1933-1939), industry was established, the city prospered financially, receiving full municipal status in 1934 and growing to 130,000 inhabitants.

Since 1948

Israel's Independence was declared in Tel Aviv on 5th May 1948 and the city of Tel Aviv-Yafo was united in April 1949. It began a period of intense expansion and urban sprawl that was not part of an overall plan; old neighborhoods declined into slums, even as new suburbs were built. At the same time, other cities in the coastal conurbation were also expanding: there was a population decrease in the 1970s. In the 1980s, growth became guided by modern urban planning parameters and the city has seen massive central high rise construction, as well as the restoration of some older neighborhoods. Tel Aviv's White City was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003.

Tel Aviv will celebrate its Centenary in 2009!

Economy

Tel Aviv is Israel's business capital, a globalized city. Metropolitan Tel Aviv and Gush Dan showcase: high finance – banks and the TASE, Israel's Stock Market; wholesale and retail shopping centers; business and commerce, including the Diamond Exchange; communications; Israel's silicon *wadi*; creativity and leisure 24/7. The greater Tel Aviv region is Israel's transport hub and houses Israel's international Ben Gurion Airport.

Tel Aviv: Then & Now

Archive images:

Central Zionist Archives

<http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/>

Modern images:

© The Department for
Zionist Activities, WZO

<http://www.doingzionism.org.il/>



Culture: *Tel Aviv - The City that Never Stops*

Tel Aviv is Israel's cosmopolitan cultural capital, home to most of Israel's press and performing Arts, hosts its first Symphony orchestra, the Israel Opera, Habimah National Theater, and various dance companies, as well as main museums and art galleries. The temperate climate allows cultural life and entertainment to be brought into its streets, from Art and sculpture through concerts in the Yarkon Park, to gastronomy and night clubs. Tel Aviv Metro region also hosts most of Israel's music and film industry, extending northwards to Herzliya - along with major universities, academic colleges and research institutes.



Specialties: *Tel Aviv - The City that Never Stops*

Gush Dan is a region of contrasts - with something for everyone:

- Beaches, the Marina, a desolate sand dune coastline and folksy, pedestrianized Yaffo port;
- Busy Mediterranean café life and street gastronomy, wild nightlife, shop til you drop malls, bright, bustling main streets, commuter traffic, airports and a safari park;
- Skyscrapers set against low rise White City architecture, urban sprawl, the Ayalon Highway, hotels, business and conference centers;
- Concerts in the Park, theaters, exhibition centers, museums, art galleries, sports centers, football teams...



Challenges / Food for Thought

Urban deterioration:

- Southern "inner" city/poverty;
- drainage overload;
- air and water pollution;
- traffic congestion;
- The most expensive city in the Mid East.

Urban Renewal & Green Projects:

- White City;
- Sewage and waste recycling;
- Hiriya landfill reclamation

http://www.hiriya.co.il/hiriya/default_e.asp

Tel Aviv Places

Rehov Herzl

One of the most important streets in Tel Aviv, was Rehov Herzl, a main commercial street named for Theodor Herzl and built in the 1920s. This street is a historic location and was nominated as "The First Hebrew Street", although there were others before it. However, it was the first street that was designed as part of an urban development plan.

The building at the end of the street was "Herzlia Gymnasium" - the first highschool in Tel Aviv. Today, the Shalom Tower stands there – look at the photo. In 1965, the Shalom Tower became the highest building in the Middle East. Since 1999, the highest building has been the Azrieli Tower.





Tel Aviv Seashore

The Tel Aviv seashore is one of the main attractions in the city. Israelis and tourists love to visit its beautiful beaches, stay in its modern hotels and enjoy the restaurants and café life in the area. Many artists have chosen to portray views of the seashore in their works.

Tel Aviv People

[Nahum Gutman](#), Artist, Israel Prize Laureate

One of the artists who painted Tel Aviv and its seashore was Nahum Gutman. His picture, *Samuel and Hagar fight on the sand*, shows Gutman's impression's of Tel Aviv - in particular, the seashore.

In another picture, Nahum Goodman shows Rehov Herzl and Tel Aviv in the 1920s.

Gutman helped pioneer a distinctively Israeli style of painting, moving away from the European influences of his teachers. He worked in many different media: oils, watercolours, gouache and pen and ink. He was also a well-known writer and illustrator of children's books.

In 1978, he received the Israel Prize for his contribution to Hebrew children's literature.

Notes

Did You Know? Other Tel Aviv People:

[Chaim Nahman Bialik](#), Writer and Poet

[Meir Dizengoff](#), first Mayor

[Israel Meir Lau](#), Chief Rabbi

[Hannah Rovina](#), Habimah Actress, Israel Prize Laureate

[Reuven Rubin](#), Artist

Additional References

History, Overview

Tel Aviv Timeline/Garden City & Metropolis

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA%20Publications/Photo%20Exhibits/The%20Transformation%20of%20Israeli%20Cities-%20Tel-Aviv>

Tel Aviv History

<http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Jewish+Education/Compelling+Content/Eye+on+Israel/Places+in+Israel/Tel-Aviv-Yafo.htm>

<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/moriya/telaviv/index.html>

Tel Aviv http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv

Overview <http://www.iexplore.com/cityguides/Israel/Tel+Aviv/Overview>

Development, Architecture

Tel Aviv-Yafo Strategic Urban Plan [PPT in pdf: images, data, maps]

http://switchurbanwater.lboro.ac.uk/outputs/pdfs/CTEL_PRS_TA_Yafo_Strategic_Urban_Plan.pdf

Transformation of Tel Aviv <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA+Publications/Photo+exhibits/The+Transformation+of+Israeli+Cities-+Tel-Aviv++pg2.htm>

Bauhaus Architecture <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/mfa%20publications/photo%20exhibits/the%20transformation%20of%20israeli%20cities-%20tel-aviv%20-ex#bauhaus>

Sites and Sights, Virtual Tours

Neighborhoods, Sites – Old and New [ipix]

<http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/English/Tourism/Tours/VirtualTours.htm>

3-D image gallery <http://www.3disrael.com/telaviv/>

Browse and Tour http://www.goisrael.com/vt/Tour.aspx?map_id=3

A-Z of Tel Aviv places http://www.about-family-travel.com/travel/israel_tel_aviv.htm

Culture

Tel Aviv Museums <http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/English/culture/museums/list.htm>

Identifying Globalization Trends in the Cultural Industries of Tel Aviv

<http://urbanstudies.huji.ac.il/12cult2-v5.pdf>

Film

Tel Aviv-Jerusalem

<http://www.60israel.org/JewishAgency/English/Jewish+Education/Focus+Areas/60Israel/Shabbat/Resources/Media/TLV+-+JM.htm>

The Story of Israel, Air France travelogue (1951) <http://www.road90.com/watch.php?id=V8B8RekAJJ>