



the **NOW** year  
*Folies Bergere*

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Acre, with 3500 years of recorded history, is one of the oldest cities in the world. Sieged 17 times during the course of her long and turbulent past, Acre (Biblical "Akko") has known many masters, among them the Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks and, during the period of the Mandate, the British.

Once an important seaport, Acre is situated on a peninsula that juts out into Haifa Bay and is surrounded by crenellated sea walls. Within the walls the Old City is virtually a living museum filled with signposts of the past.

One of the most famous buildings is the Citadel, erected during the Turkish reign at the end of the 18th century on 13th century foundations. The building was used by the British to incarcerate captured members of the Jewish underground resistance movement, and anyone familiar with the novel or the film "Exodus" will recall the heroic jailbreak from the Acre central prison in 1947. There are tablets in the execution chamber, now a small museum, recording the names of those resistance fighters who were hanged. The huge structure presently serves as a temporary hospital for mental patients.

The city's most exotic building is the magnificent, 200-year-old Mosque of el-Jezzar. Erected by the Ottoman governor Ahmed Jezzar Pasha, the mosque, graceful and white, brings to mind pages from the "Arabian Nights."

Two more historic sites have recently been restored and opened to the public. The first, the Burg-e-Sultan, is a fortified watchtower which separated the Venetian quarter of Old Acre from the 13th century shipyard. The panoramic view from the roof takes in the old harbor, the sea-wall, the Crusader arsenal and the mountains of Carmel and Galilee. Another relic, on the grounds below, is a cannon captured from the



THE PORT CITY OF ACRE IS DOMINATED BY THE PASHA. ACROSS THE BAY CAN BE SEEN THE SPIRE AND DOME OF THE MOSQUE OF JAZZAR INDUSTRIAL HINTERLAND OF HAIFA

French during Napoleon's brief siege of the city.

Then there is the Hammam el-Pasha, a 19th century bathhouse that was operational until just 20 years ago. Now a gem of a municipal museum, the Hammam is filled with Oriental objects from Acre's Past, medieval ceramics, architectural fragments and tableaux showing the village life and costumes of the Druze and Arab peoples of Acre.

Signs point the way to the two sites, which are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. An admission ticket costing IL 1 (28 cents) with hundreds of group tour permits entrance to both.

and the Khan el-Umdan commercial center as well.

Perhaps the most exciting part of your visit to Acre will be to wander through the streets and narrow alleys feeling the Eastern rhythms of the city. Acre's bazaar, winding and noisy, is a "must" for browsing and (further evidence that this is a city of the past) bargaining.

Thrown into the bargains to be found in the Bazaar at Acre are El Al summer fares to Israel, lowest ever in the airline's history. There are now some 25 flights per week, 11 of them non-stop, packages to choose from.

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