

Israel
ROSH HA'AIN



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Geographical Location and Population

Rosh-Ha' Ayin is located in 26km east of Tel Aviv, on hills at 200m above sea level, facing south Sharon. It was founded in 1949 after the Revolutionary War in the area of an abandoned British base Mandate. Original inhabitants of the city were Jewish immigrants from Yemen, who immigrated to Israel in Operation "Magic Carpet" in 1949-1950. According to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), in 2001 the ethnic makeup of the city was 99.8% Jewish, with a predominant number of young people below the age of 19. The population growth rate was 2.5%. The city has a population of 38,600 in 2008.



History

The name of the city is derived from springs on the outskirts concerning the ancient city. Related ancient roots in Israel's history, strategic location between Jaffa and Jerusalem would buy her more importance in antiquity. King Solomon passed Arazi Lebanon to build the Temple siege, by sea, the sources of the Yarkon River and from there to Jerusalem. Biblical Reference stone was found in the lower hills to the east of Rosh-Ha' Ayin, and in great battle took place between the children of Israel, occupiers of land, and the Philistines.

The earliest inscription in Hebrew (4000 years), revealed a few years ago excavations Ebenezer. Herod, who built the fortress Antiftris, and later the Crusaders and Turks, who established the tower where his neighbor was right, attributed to eye first-rate strategic importance.



Intangible Cultural Heritage

Rosh-Ha' Ayin has made its goal to promote music as a cultural bridge connecting its residents. It is currently branded in Israel as a "city of music". The largest event held in the city and dealing with the preservation of the heritage of Yemenite Jews is the "Teimana Festival". The festival is held once a year, in October, and lasts 3 days. In 2012, Rosh-Ha' Ayin will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the festival.

Tens of thousands of the city's residents and guests from throughout Israel and the world participate in the festival each year. This year, approximately 60,000 people participated, and enjoyed rich evenings of folklore, music and food. Visitors also enjoyed an authentic Yemenite dining area, a Yemenite Jewry heritage area, exhibitions and authentic traditional activities. The climax of the festival is a spectacular "Zapa" ceremony, with the participation of women who emigrated from Yemen together with girls from the city (the "Zapa" ceremony is the traditional Yemenite wedding ceremony).

