

צפת



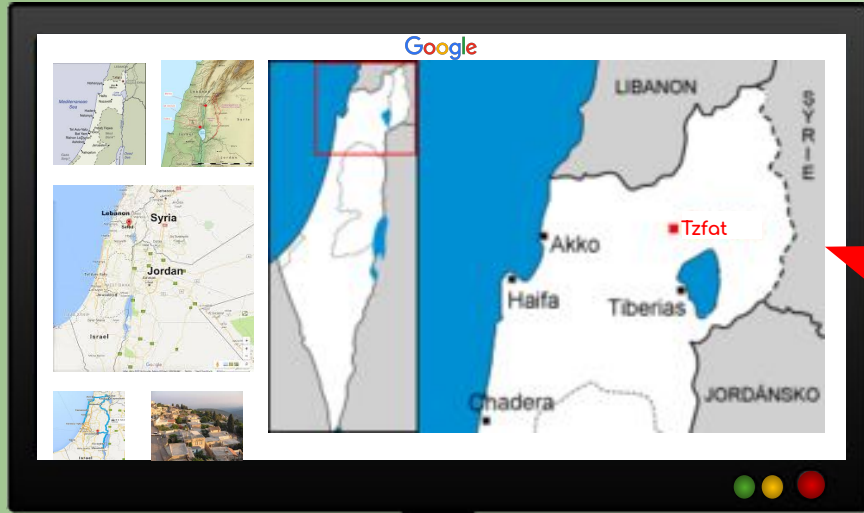
אריאל שפיר

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Where is צפת Located?

Tzfot is a city in Israel located in the Upper Galilee. It is about 3,000 feet above sea level, making it the highest city in Israel!

Since the city is this elevated, it experiences almost every season vividly. In the summer, it gets very hot while during winter, it get extremely cold!



Summer in Tzfot



Winter in Tzfot

The People and Diversity of צפת



← Abuhav Synagogue

Red Mosque →



According to a count in 2019, the city of Tzfat has a population of about 36,000 people! While about 90% of all residents in Tzfat are Jewish, there is still a big Muslim community who live there due to its holiness! There are dozens of Muslim along with Jewish statues and monuments such as the Red Mosque of Tzfat (which was supposedly built by Momlukes) and the Abuhav Synagogue which holds great importance to the Jewish people.

The Overall History of צפת

Kicking Out the
Jews of Spain



The Crusaders

In 1168, the Crusaders built a fortress in Tzfat because of its elevation! However in 1219, it was taken over by the conquer Saladin, a Muslim military leader. Then 50 years later, the Crusaders took the city back and created the strongest fortress in the Middle East, only to fall to the Mamluks in 1266! The majority of Jews in Tzfat only began coming after being kicked out of Spain by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492!



The Spirituality in צפת



In Tzfat, religion and spirituality plays a huge role in the lives of its people! Such as the Kabbalah for the Jews, which originated from Tzfat. The Kabbalah is a ritual performed by some which allows them to better understand the Torah through

mysticism. On Friday nights, chants can be heard throughout the city from the Kabbalists. Almost everything in Tzfat is based on spiritual and holy thinking.

Did you know that Tzfat is one of the four holy cities for Jews? Along with Jerusalem, Hebron, and Tiberias!



The Artist's Corner in צפת

Since Tzfat is located in such a beautiful area, it has always been a lure for many Israeli artists. So much so that an artist's corner was created in the old city of Tzfat as far back as the Crusader times! Famous artists including Ziona Tagger, Aryeh Merzer, Mordechai Levanon, and Yitzchak Amitai got started off in Tzfat and even opened up galleries, becoming some of Israel's most famous artists. FUN FACT: In the 50s and 60s, Tzfat was known as Israel's art capital!



פה יש תמונות על ידי אמנים של צפת

How Did צפת Help in the Independence of Israel?

On April 15th, 1948 Britain withdrew from most areas in Palestine, including Tzfat. This left the small thousand Jews of the city unprotected against the 12,000 Arabs who were already in strategic points, ready to fight! In May of 1948, most of the important battles took place. After losing fight after fight to the Arabs, the Jews launched a mortar barrage on May 9th that lasted until May 10th. This bombardment scared off the rest of the Arabs, and in the end, the Jews of Tzfat took control of the city! The battles that took place here were extraordinary. The Jews were faced with an army a dozen times their size, yet still came out victorious! This played a huge role in the safety of the city and in the independence of Israel!

The Jews
with an
extremely
small group
of people



The Arabs with their
strong military



Historic Landmarks In and Near צפת

As mentioned before, the Abuhav Synagogue and the Red Mosque are two major landmarks in Tzfat. But the Biriya Forest is also another one. The forest was planted in the 1950's and grew into a 20,000 acre forest in the Upper Galilee. It provides a home for many historic sites such as the Tombs of the Sages (which is where Yonatan Ben Uziel is buried) and the Biriya Fortress which was built in 1946 by the Jews for their defence and used as a way-station for Jewish immigrants coming from Syria. The Montfort Castle is also an important landmark. However, it is not as close to Tzfat as the other ones are. Not only was it a fortress used by the Crusaders in the first Crusader period, but also by the Momlukes under Saladin. This landmark brings thousands of tourists to the city every year!

בצפת יש הרבה מקומות ארץ היסטורית, אבל זה החשוב ביותר



The Montfort Castle

The Biriya Forest



The Tombs of the Sages



That's all Folks!
Thanks for taking me into
consideration!

Sources

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