

## **Bahá'í Holy sites in Israel**

Compiled by M. W. Thomas

### **'Abbúd, House of**

Two adjacent houses (that of 'Údí Khammár to the east and the larger one of Ilyás 'Abbúd to the west) in 'Akká whose common wall has been opened to make one building—now known as the House of 'Abbúd. Turn inland from Ha-Hagana St to Zalman Ha-Tsoref St. Grid co-ordinates 32.921563, 35.067297

### **'Abdu'l-Bahá, House of**

7 Haparsim St, Haifa. Turn right on HaGefen St at the bottom of the terraces, and turn left into Ha-Pasim St. It is on the right or east side of the street.

### **'Abdu'lláh Páshá, House of**

Now a Bahá'í Centre in 'Akká. Turn inland from Ha-Hagana St to Nur e-Din El Yashruti St, and then first left to HaTsalvanim St. Grid co-ordinates 32.923799, 35.068098

### **Acre prison**

The prison is in the Citadel of Acre, to the east of the House of 'Abdu'lláh Páshá. Grid co-ordinates 32.923752, 35.069379

### **Bahá'í cemetery**

Entrance is down the side lane between the cemetery and the National Maritime Museum on Derech (Road) Allenby. In the centre are the burial sites of Hands of the Cause of God and members of the House of Justice. Grid co-ordinates of the entrance gate are 32.829198, 34.972105

### **Bahá'í temple site, Haifa**

The future temple site is marked by an obelisk. It is 1.5 km NW along Tchernikhouski St from the Shrine of the Báb. There is a bus stop on the east side just beyond HaRav Perets Hayul (on the left). Walk back a few metres to the steps and path on the east side leading to Hatsav St. Walk up the path to the end of Hatsav St—the gates are on the left side at the end. If you walk from the Shrine of the Báb, turn right (opposite Ze'ev Jabotinsky St, the first section of the street on the right has the same name) and walk to the end of David Marcus St. Obtain a key for the small side gate on the left (it is not the key for the main gate) from the Pilgrim House Reception. Grid co-ordinates 32.822789, 34.975765

An interesting quotation regarding a possible future connection between the Shrine of the Báb and the temple site:

"After the land [for the Baha'i temple site in Haifa] had been acquired Milly Collins one night asked the Guardian if in future the Temple land and the Shrine properties, two kilometers distant, would not be joined together with gardens. The Guardian said yes, and we will have our own road between the two, but we have to purchase the intervening land where houses are now built. A month or two later Leroy was in the office of the Mayor on other business, when the Mayor said, 'Today I signed a contract with the Carmelites that will interest you—it was a contract whereby they will permit the city of Haifa to make a permanent Open Space of green trees and flowers on their land on the flank of the mountain. Ideally this should be linked up with your lands and gardens, so the entire area would be a Green Place.' Leroy immediately told him that the Bahá'ís had every intention of acquiring that linkage when possible. The Mayor added, 'You had to build your own gardens around the Shrine, now we will build gardens for you on the front of the mountain.'" *Leroy loas: Hand of the Cause of God*, p. 216.

### **Bahá'u'lláh, House of**

It is about 6 km north of 'Akká. Travel 4 km north along Route 4 from the turnoff to Bahjí. Take the side road on the right 630 m north of the Mazra'a (Persian, Mazra'ih) turnoff—the house is 360 m along this road on the right. Grid co-ordinates 32.987063, 35.099924

## Bahjí

About 25 km north from Haifa along Routes 22 and 4 travelling towards Nahariyya. Turn left into Route 8510 and first left into Route 8501. Grid co-ordinates 32.943356, 35.092366

## Crimson spot (Buq'atu'l-Ḥamrá')

A term used in several allegorical and symbolic senses in the Bahá'í Writings, including for the prison-city of 'Akká. Samariyyih Hill (32.961469, 35.092595, designated Buq'atu'l-Ḥamrá' by Bahá'u'lláh), 2 km north of Bahjí, opposite the kibbutz of Lohamei HaGeta'ot, where red flowers grew in abundance in the time of Bahá'u'lláh.

## Junaynih (Ar. Junayna) Garden

*see more on next page*

Located at 23 Lotus Street, Nahariya (32.993857, 35.095354). See <https://bahaiwritings.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/junayn-garden/>. Directions are adapted from those supplied at the Pilgrim House, Haifa:

1. From Bahjí travel north on the road to Nahariya along Highway 4 (Gdud 21).
2. Go past the main turnoff for Mazra'a on the right, and continue for about 500 metres to the next set of traffic lights.
3. Turn left at the traffic lights onto Sderot Zalman Shazar. This turn is just before the shopping mall on the left hand side.  
**Note:** Do not miss this turn because the next one is closed.
4. Follow Sderot Zalman Shazar for 500 m to the second roundabout.
5. Turn right onto Sakhlav.
6. Take the first right onto Lotus Street and follow the road for 600 m until you see the white stone walls and black gates of the Junaynih Garden, and the 'Bahá'í Holy Place' sign on your left. You may park on the street in this area.

**Note:** Please enter the Junaynih Garden via the Lotus Street entrance.

## Rábi'ih, House of

Bahá'u'lláh's family lived four months with the Rábi'ih family in 'Akká. The house is adjacent to the small Shrine of Shaykh Ghánim (the building with two small, green domes, east of bend in SE corner of Salah and Basri St, 32.919514, 35.068102).

## Riḍván Garden, 'Akká

A small island in what was the Na'mayn Stream, 2.5 km SE of old 'Akká. Na'mayn means "two yeses". Travel along Ben Ami and turn south into Schlom Ha-Galil St, continue to the end and follow the lane on the south side. Grid co-ordinates 32.915381, 35.090901. 'Alí Ashraf (south, smaller) and Firdaws (north, larger) Gardens are to the west of the Riḍván Garden.

## Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Located north of the Riḍván Garden—in what was the Bagh-i-Firdaws, centre is ≈ 32.916752, 35.090301

## Western Pilgrim House, Haifa

10 Haparsim St, Haifa. Turn right on HaGefen St at the bottom of the terraces, and turn left into Ha-Pasim St. . It is on the left or west side of the street. Work started by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and completed during the time of the Guardian. Originally the building acted as the Western Pilgrim House and from 1951 also housed the International Bahá'í Council. It served as the Seat of the Universal House of Justice 1963–1983. Occupied by the International Teaching Centre 1983–2000. Currently the Bahá'í International Community Secretariat and related offices utilize the premises.

## Junaynih Garden

from [bahaiwritings.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/junayn-garden](http://bahaiwritings.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/junayn-garden)

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The Junaynih garden is not part of the regular pilgrimage but you are free to visit this place during its opening hours. It is located close to the Mansion of Mazra'ih and Bahá'u'lláh used to occasionally visit this garden.



Exterior view. The two windows seen on each side of the corner wall, are the windows of the room Bahá'u'lláh used to occupy when in the Junaynih Garden.

The Universal House of Justice stated in a letter dated 12 May 2008:

“Work has also been completed on the restoration of the Junaynih Gardens, a small farmhouse and orchard north of Bahjí visited occasionally by Bahá'u'lláh, which was subsequently donated to the Faith.”

Ḥusayn-i-Áshchí writes the following in his memoirs:

“The Blessed Beauty used to spend much of His time in the countryside ... From the mansion of Bahjí He often went to the Mansion of Mazra'ih, to the garden of Junaynih and the Garden of Ridván” (*Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, Vol. 4, p. 244)

### Notable Bahá'ís at the Junaynih Garden

Among the notable Bahá'ís who attained the presence of the Blessed Beauty in the Junaynih Garden are: Ṭarázu'lláh Samandarí, Nabíl-i-A'ẓam, Jináb-i-'Andalíb, Mírzá Muḥammad, 'Alí-i-Salmání and Mishkín Qalam.

E. G. Brown was also in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh in the Junaynih Garden (this occurred sometime during his 15–20 April 1890 visit to Bahjí).

The gardener of Junaynih Garden (also sometimes known as Bagh-i-Jamál) was Áqá Muḥammad-Ibráhím (he was also the gardener of Bahjí).

### Recollections of Mírzá Habíbu'lláh Afnán

Mírzá Ḥabíbu'lláh Afnán writes in his memoirs (*Khátirát-i-Ḥayát*) on the occasion of him being in the presence of the Blessed Beauty at the Junaynih Garden.

One evening, Abú-Hurayrih announced that the Beloved of the world had decided to visit the Garden of Junaynih on the following morning and had asked all pilgrims and resident believers to accompany Him. I speak the truth when I say, the joy of knowing that we would be in the presence the Blessed Beauty for several hours the next day kept me awake that night until morning. At times, I was rapt in supplication and prayer, and at other moments filled with euphoria and excitement. The night passed in this way and, at early dawn, I faced His blessed chamber offering prayers of thanksgiving and praise. Before sunrise, we all gathered by the gate of the Mansion. An hour later, Bahá'u'lláh came downstairs. A white donkey was brought for Him to ride on it. This donkey was a gift of the late Áqá Ghulám-'Alí-i-Kashí and Áqá Muḥammad-Háshim-i-Káshí. The rest of the friends followed Him on foot towards Junaynih. Ḥájí Khávar,

a resident of the Holy Land for many years and a fairly tall man, held an umbrella over the head of Bahá'u'lláh to protect Him from the sun. The air was extremely fresh and invigorating. We sensed that, from the pleasant air of 'Akká, the spirit of the poet of Shíráz had soared with the verse:

*The morning breeze is fragrant as ambergris today,  
As my beloved moves towards the meadow.*

Eventually, we reached the Garden, which had been prepared by attendants and believers. They had assembled all the items necessary for receiving the Blessed Perfection and the other friends. The Garden paths were very charming and attractive. The trees, grass, flowers and orchard danced with joy in the breeze, while the sweet-singing birds were crying out in ecstasy and merriment, all praising the grace and blessing of the presence of their Beloved. On that day, the Countenance of the Blessed Perfection radiated with the greatest joy and He paid tribute to and commended each of the friends. In such an atmosphere, lunch was served.

After lunch, all the believers were present at yet another spiritual gathering in Bahá'u'lláh's presence. It was then that 'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived from the city [of 'Akká] and the Ancient Beauty commanded us: "The Master is coming. Hasten to welcome Him." I should note that a similar event occurred on several other occasions. I will describe the details at a later stage. It was evident that, from that time, the Blessed Perfection was planting in the spirit and hearts of the friends seeds of humility, submissiveness, mindfulness of the Covenant and faithfulness towards Him Whom God hath purposed ['Abdu'l-Bahá]. He would always teach the believers about the exalted station and hidden reality of the beloved Master.

And so we went out to welcome 'Abdu'l-Bahá and, in His company, once again attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláh. With extreme humility and attention, 'Abdu'l-Bahá sat in His presence and gave permission for the pilgrims to sit as well. Then, the Tongue of Purity spoke words with this meaning: "*The garden was not pleasant enough this morning. But now, with the arrival of the Master, it has become most pleasant.*" Then, turning towards 'Abdu'l-Bahá, He observed, "*It would have been exceedingly good if you had come this morning.*" 'Abdu'l-Bahá replied, "The Mutaṣarrif Páshá and some other of the city's inhabitants sent word that they were coming. On Your behalf, I had to receive them and offer them hospitality."

The Blessed Perfection smiled and said, "*The Master is Our shield and the shield of everyone else. All live at ease, all know utmost comfort and tranquility. Associating with men such as these is very, very difficult. It is the Master who stands up to everything and supplies the means for the well-being and peace of all the friends. May God preserve Him from the evil of the envious and inimical.*"

In short, on that day, the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh towards all [of us] were extremely generous. About an hour before sunset, the Sovereign of the world decided to return to the Mansion and, as in the morning, we all walked back. At the gate, we were dismissed from His presence.



Inner courtyard of Junaynih. The door to the right is where the visitors can enter. To the left of the entrance room, there are two more rooms and finally the third room from the right side, is the room used by the Blessed Beauty.

## Recollections of Ṭarāzu'lláh Samandarí

Mr Samandarí gives his recollections of the occasion when he attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláh in Junaynih Garden (translated by Mirzieh Gail)

... Toward morning [of Naw-Rúz] we were told that Bahá'u'lláh would be visiting Junaynih that day, and that He had summoned all the settlers and pilgrims to that spot. They provided us with conveyances and brought us there. It is quite a long way from Haifa to Junaynih, and in those days people went by carriage. Junaynih is near the Mansion of Mazra'ih; not far from there, in fact, quite near.

We came to Junaynih, where we found Bahá'u'lláh. So there, too, I entered His presence. About thirty of us, perhaps, were guests at luncheon; among the poets were, it seems to me, Jináb-i-'Andalíb, Ustád Muḥammad-'Alí [Salmání] was there and Nabíl-i-A'ẓam. The last-named and 'Andalíb sang verses that day, from an ode. Lunch had been made ready for us.

They had prepared a lamb for our luncheon; cooked it in the stove; and brought it on a large tray, which they placed on the table in Bahá'u'lláh's room. I was at that moment standing near Him, with my arms folded across my chest. He touched the lamb with His finger and said, "*Take it away*".

They took it out to the outer room where they had laid the luncheon cloth on the floor. We had bread too, with the lamb. We all ate luncheon there. Following the meal, it seems to me there was also a revelation of verses. I listened a little from outside the door; I heard a little. Then, that afternoon, Bahá'u'lláh was to return to the mansion of Bahjí. There was a white donkey which, I know, Ḥájí Ghulám-'Alí Káshání had brought to Bahá'u'lláh at that time. The Blessed Beauty mounted, and a servant held an umbrella over Him, for a light rain was falling. I also accompanied Him. On His right hand [side], the servant held up the umbrella, while I was on His left. And thus we came from Junaynih to the Mansion of Bahjí.

## Driving directions to 23 Lotus Street, Nahariya

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