

# Bahá'í International Community

## World Heritage nomination - fact sheet



The last residence and burial place of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith, are located outside of Acre, in northern Israel.

The Bahá'í sites nominated for World Heritage recognition include the shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, Mount Carmel in the city of Haifa itself. Both are near the Mediterranean coast in northern Israel.

### Description of the sites:

The shrine of Bahá'u'lláh is the resting place of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, considered by Bahá'ís to be a messenger of God.

Born in Iran, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled to Acre in 1868 and died there in 1892. According to Bahá'í scripture, His burial place is the focal point of prayer for Bahá'ís all over the world. Thus its significance is comparable to that of the Western Wall in Jerusalem for Jews and the Kaaba in Mecca for Muslims.

The shrine of the Báb is the second most holy place for Bahá'ís. The Báb was the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh and is also considered a prophet of God. He was executed in 1850 in Iran and His remains were later brought to Haifa and laid to rest on Mount Carmel. The golden dome of the shrine is one of the most famous landmarks in Israel.

Both shrines are framed by formal gardens that not only provide an appropriate setting for such sacred places but also reflect the hope and optimism that are part of Bahá'í belief.

Thousands of Bahá'í pilgrims come each year to pray at the shrines, and the sites also attract more than a half million visitors and tourists annually.



The Shrine of the Bab on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel.

### About the Bahá'í Faith:

- The Bahá'í Faith is an independent, monotheistic religion dating back to 1844.
- It has about 5 million adherents and is established in virtually every country of the world.
- The central teaching is the unity of humanity under one God.

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For background materials and a collection of photographs, see <http://news.bahai.org/story/world-heritage/photographs.html>