



THE  
**EFENDI HOTEL**  
AUTHENTIC • CULTURE • HERITAGE

ACRE WESTERN GALILEE AND THE CRUSADERS SEMINAR





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### Uri - Buri Restaurant

The restaurant is quite simply, an Acre institution. Nestled among the walls of a 400 - year old Ottoman house by the ancient Acre port, this is one of the most beautiful places in the country. For over 25 years, Uri - Buri has served the finest fish and seafood the sea has to offer, and it is not by chance that its reputation has spread far and wide as one of the best fish restaurants in the country. It is now a "must visit" spot among restaurants in the North.

In addition to the marvelous dishes, you can also find a selection of world - renowned Israeli wines, impressive service, and an idyllic atmosphere.

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Typical starters at Uri Buri restaurant

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### The Efendi Hotel

The historic, authentic boutique hotel is essentially composed of two adjacent Efendi houses that have now been combined. Reflecting its past splendor, the Efendi house served as a home for rulers and rich Ottomans in the 19th century, and contained a genuine slice of Acre's history. These palaces were built on the ruins of ancient buildings from various historical eras and still contain Byzantine remnants from the 6th century, 12th century Crusader cellars and of course remnants from the early (16th century) and late (19th century) Ottoman Empire.

After purchasing the buildings from Al Tzabaj's descendants George and Alexander Jamal in 1870, Uda Hamar converted the site into "The Palace", a grandiose family mansion for him, his wives, children and servants. The Palace was decorated with intricate wall drawings, ornamental ceilings, marble floors, and magnificent lobbies. As Turkish rule drew to an end, the Efendi family departed from the house, and what had once been the epitome of luxury was abandoned and neglected. Today, the house has been restored to its former glory, bringing with it the exciting aroma of the past.

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Sunset from The Efendi Hotel rooftop





Presidential suite



North balcony



Entrance lobby



400 Years old Hamam



Royal room



The following pages present three provisional programs for set seminars which can all be customized for groups, to offer a more tailor-made experience catering to the interest and preferences of the group.

The 4 – day seminars all include

Full board with three meals a day (to be served at the hotel and local restaurants in Acre and the surrounding Galilee), lectures by academics and professionals, and field trips to Crusader sites as well as special and rarely visited archeological and historical sites.

Three academic, intellectual and artistic activities each day

Morning 10.00 – 13.30;  
Afternoon 16.30 – 19.00;  
Field trip 10.00 – 18.00;  
Evening 21.00 – 23.00.

Hospitality

Uri Buri and Efendi Hotel  
Academic Program  
Prof. Efraim Lev

Acre | The Crusaders Capital & the Galilee | Academic Seminar

An amazing and intensive scholarly academic seminar –  
Learn, tour and meet top Israeli academics and experts.

- Day I

Morning activity – History and archeology of Acre – 4000 years; emphasizing the history of the Crusades  
Afternoon – Walk around historical Acre  
Sunset with a glass of wine  
Evening discussion – Acre as a World Heritage site
- Day II

Morning & afternoon activity – Montfort and Mi'ilya – Crusader sites in the Western Galilee  
Evening discussion – Medicine during the Crusades; interaction between medieval Western and Eastern schools of medicine
- Day III

Morning activity – Medieval Arabic medicine according to Jewish sources  
Afternoon – Walking tour of Crusader's Acre including coffee and typical Israeli/Arabic desserts  
Evening discussion – Shipping and commerce in the Crusader's Acre
- Day IV

Morning & Afternoon activity – Belvoir Fortress and Horns of Hattin  
Special Israeli meal with premium Israeli boutique wine  
Evening – Learn and dance – belly dance



Belvoir Fortress



Monfort Fortress



Acre and its Wonders | The Crusader & Galilean Experience

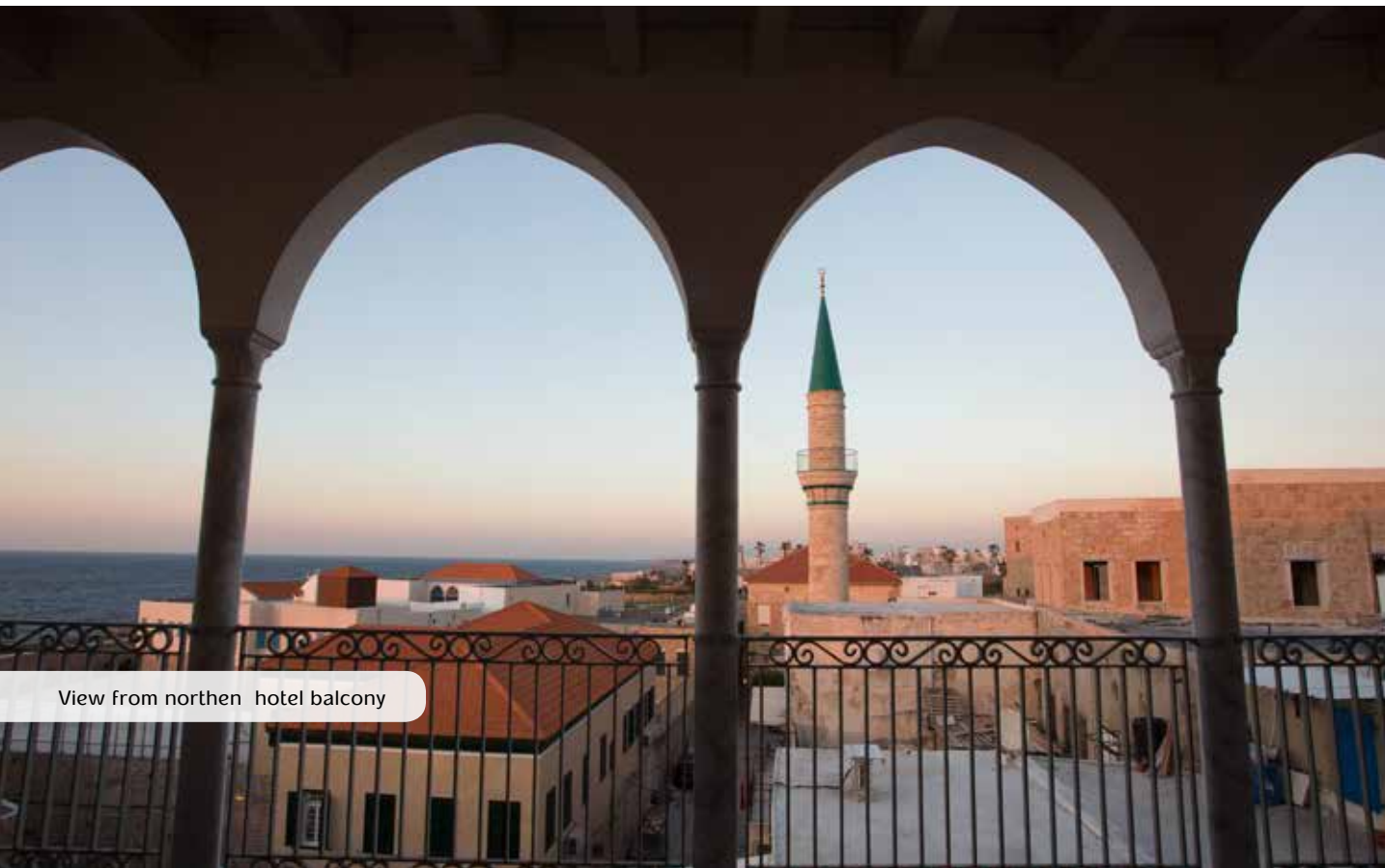
Watch, smell, touch & learn – The sights, spices, history and archeology in one of the most ancient and interesting cities by the Mediterranean .The seminar will be led by first class tour guides and internationally renowned Israeli scholars.

- Day I** Morning activity – History and archeology of Acre - 4000 years and more  
Noon- Markets tour in Acre with Uri Buri + lunch at the market/Arabic house  
Evening discussion – Daily life in Crusader’s Acre
- Day II** Morning – Medicine during the Crusades  
Afternoon activity – Spices and medicinal substances  
Sunset with a glass of wine  
Evening – Ethnic Galilean music
- Day III** Morning & afternoon activity – Montfort and Mi’ilya – Crusader sites in the Western Galilee  
Evening – Dine, drink and learn – dinner with an Israeli wine sommelier
- Day IV** Morning activity – Medieval Arabic medicine according to Jewish sources/Medicine of the Crusaders  
Afternoon – Walking tour of the Crusader’s Acre  
Evening – Fun and Dance – belly dance

Fun, dine and wine + history in the ancient city of Acre

Unique experience – light semi – academic vacation in colorful, historical Acre. Learn and ‘touch’ Acre history and archeology, meet its multicultural citizens, enjoy the aromas of markets and dine on local delicacies from the sea.

- Day I** Morning activity – Muslim – Christian relationship at the Middle Ages – Acre as a test case  
Afternoon – Israeli wine tasting in the Efendi hotel wine cellar  
Evening – Drumming circle
- Day II** Morning – Walking tour of Acre  
Afternoon – Medical activity in the Crusades/ Medieval Arabic medicine according to Jewish sources  
Evening – belly dance/Acre from the sea (weather permitting)
- Day III** Morning & Afternoon activity – Western Galilee (Rosh Ha – Nikra, Mi’ilya, Yehiam)  
Evening – Israeli/Arabic ethnic music
- Day IV** Morning – Markets tour in Acre with Uri Buri  
Afternoon – Spices and medicinal substances  
Evening – Learn & eat – dinner at the most famous sea food restaurant in Israel and discussion with Uri Buri about food



View from northern hotel balcony



Pizani harbour walls and St. John's church in Acre

Primary list of activities

Here are some more details regarding our activities:



View of old Acre and the Northern Galilee

Lectures –

History and archeology of Acre:

Over 4000 years: an introductory talk about the geographical evolution and history of Acre throughout ages; the story of adoption to the changing needs and protection abilities of the city (military and natural catastrophes).

Maritime Acre:

Acre’s harbor was one of the most important ones in the Mediterranean, where cultures, traders and products crossed paths; this lecture will discuss the city’s reaction to the development of marine activities and the commercial needs of each period, with particular emphasis on the Crusades.

The Baha’is and Acre:

This talk will tell the story of the intriguing relationship between Acre and the Baha’is; the youngest religion in the region that was formed in 19th century Acre while its founder was imprisoned in an Ottoman jail. Acre is the holiest site in the Baha’is religion and includes beautiful sites, some of which are not generally open to the public.

Collections of anecdotes from the history of Acre:

The city’s history revealed in the most amazing and historical anecdotes; for example the origin of the Paratriskaidekaphobia (fear of Friday the 13th) and Triskaidekaphobia (fear of number 13).



A tower in Yechiam Fortress

Medicine during the Crusades:

The complete story of physicians, diseases, hospitals, and medicine during the Crusades in the Holy Land and the East – based on European and Arabic historical sources as well as archeological findings.

Medieval Arabic medicine according to Jewish sources:

This talk will discuss the story of Cairo Genizah as the main source of our knowledge on every aspect of life in the Middle East in the Middle Ages. Focus will be placed on practical and theoretical medicine and pharmacology, based on dozens of prescriptions, list of drugs, physicians’ letters and parts of medical books found in the Genizah.

The Muslim facet of the Crusades:

as usual in history, the winners are those who live to tell the tale. In this case there is a particularly wide discrepancy between the well known Christian narrative of the crusades and the virtual unknown Muslim side of the story. This lecture sheds lights on the Muslim elements in this historical period.

Spices and medicinal substances:

In recent years, Chinese herbal medicine has gained popularity in Western cultures, but it is still virtually unknown that medieval herbal medicine was extremely advanced in the Middle East. Most of this knowledge is still preserved in local and ethnic traditional medicine in Israel and its surroundings.



### Evening activities –

The Muslim – Christian relationship at the Middle Ages – Acre as a Case Study  
Acre as World Heritage (UNESCO 2001)  
Crusader art  
Culinary tastes & talk  
Learn and dance – belly dancing  
Ethnic Galilean music  
Drink and learn – wine specialist night  
Drumming circle

### Tours/visits –

Daily life in Crusader Acre  
Walk around historical Acre  
Othman Acre  
Visit to the Suffi community of Acre  
Walking tour of Crusader Acre  
Markets tour in Acre with Uri Buri

### Field trips –

Montfort and Mi'ilya – Crusader sites in the Western Galilee.  
Belvoir Fortress and Horns of Hattin (crusader's and Muslims between battle field site).  
Caesarea and Atlit (Crusader's cities, settlements and fortress)  
Nazareth and Mount Tabor  
The Baha'is in Northern Israel

### Special meetings –

Mi'ilya's people  
Acre's inhabitants  
Talk with Uri Buri

### Special gastronomic activities –

Lunch at the market (Acre)  
Lunch with a family (Acre)  
Lunch at Caesarea (Helena)  
Lunch at Diana (Nazareth)

### Alternative activities for spouses –

Fresh fish grilled & planche  
Massage & alternative treatments  
Shopping at the market  
Buying and handling fish & seafood  
Grand tour of the Efendi Hotel (1500 years of history, archaeology) and conservation



The Efendi Wine cellar from crusader's time



\* Option for extending the seminar 3 – 4 more days at Jerusalem.

\* Option for extending the seminar 3 – 4 more days at Upper Galilee and Golan.

Uri Jeremias



Autodidact Chef, legendary restaurateur, entrepreneur, hotel owner and developer. Uri is the co-owner of Uri Buri restaurant, one of the best fish and sea food restaurant in Israel and the Middle East, The Efendi Hotel in the Old City of Acre and Helena at the Port restaurant in Caesarea. Uri is also known for his long gray beard that he raised for the past 40 years.

Prof. Efraim Lev



Efraim Lev is a Professor at the Department of Land of Israel Studies, University of Haifa. He is a historian of medicine and ethno-pharmacologist. Prof. Lev wrote 10 books and published more than 80 scientific articles and chapters, and won several prizes and international awards including the George Urdang Medal for pharmaco-historical writings 2012. Prof. Lev is a certified tour guide since 1987 and was the coordinator of the Israeli tourist guide course for a decade.





Courtesy of the Old Acre Development Companies Ltd.



Louis IX St. P.O.B 2503, Old Acre  
Tel: 972-(0)-74-7299799  
[www.efendi-hotel.com](http://www.efendi-hotel.com)  
[reservation@efendi-hotel.com](mailto:reservation@efendi-hotel.com)