BACKGROUND

The town of Jisr a-Zarqa is named after the northern Ottoman bridge , which is located above Nahal a-Zarqa (Crocodile River). Next to the bridge were built flour mills, which were in use until after the establishment of the state of Israel. The place was called Jisr a-Zarqa (the bridge over the Blue River) by the people, due to the clear blue waters of the river. The town is the only Arab coastal town in Israel and is strategically located just north of Caesarea and south of kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, 25 meters above the Mediterranean Sea on a sandstone ridge. The town has natural and historical assets such as nature reserves, antiquities, a spectacular beach strip, two entrances and a single access road, west of Highway 4. In 1963, the settlement received local council status with a jurisdictional area of 1.61 km2 and municipal affiliation to the Haifa District. The population of Jisr a-Zarqa is currently 15,000, most of whom are Muslim. The challenge of preserving tradition on the one hand and the development of local initiatives on the other imbues the town with a unique character, always accompanied by warm hospitality. The local council and its residents are building a future in Jisr a-Zarqa that we invite you to take part in.

PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE TOWN

- Clalit and Leumit Health Services
- Police station
- Community Center
- Municipal library
- Mailboxes
- Tipat Halav (child health care clinic)
- Early Childhood Center
- Cemetery
- Soccer field
- Sports hall
- "Kavim" bus lines

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Jisr a-Zarqa community center has been operating under the Youth Department of the Local Authority since 2011. The center is usually open from 09:00 to 20:00 and operates mainly in the afternoons, running programs and activities in various fields for the general population, including group activities, cultural events, study and enrichment programs, employment skills, parenting groups, sports activities and environmental education. In addition, the Community Center operates two community anchors for afternoon activities at the Al-Wadi and Al-Shata elementary schools.

Opening hours: 09:00 to 20:00 (mainly from 15:00 onwards).
For more information and inquiries: 04-6229195
Address: 9 Altuahin Street

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The Early Childhood Center was reopened in 2017. The center offers services and runs activities during the day, mainly in the afternoon, for children aged 0-7 and for parents. The center provides services in areas such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, counselling and parenting.

Address: 11 Altuahin Street
Opening Hours:
Sunday to Thursday 14:00-19:00
Saturday 09:00 -13:00, -15:00-19:00
For more information and inquiries:
Phone: 052-6466286
Email: mgar.jisr@gmail.com

SURF CLUB

In October 2017, a surfing club was opened in Jisr a-Zarqa marking the first marine activity of its kind in the Arab sector. The club is intended for children and youth, including children and youth at risk, and offers training, swimming lessons and marine activities. Outstanding students have the opportunity to continue to the " Surfing Instructor's Assistant"course, which includes studies at Wingate College and the opportunity of integrating into the surfing industry in Jisr a-Zarqa and other areas in Israel.
* The project is headed by "3600 – The National Program for Children and Youth at Risk," in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

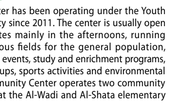
The municipal public library is accessible to and intended for the entire population from the age of two and up, and its services are free. In the library you can read and borrow nonfiction, encyclopedias, children's books, thrillers, history books, books on technology and religion, in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Visitors to the library can use the reading corners, the library computers and the sitting area. The library offers activities such as story hours, plays, help with homework and more.
Address: Al-Bahar Street, Al-Manara Comprehensive High School (1st floor)
Opening hours: Sun - Thurs 8:00 to 16:00
Phone: 04-6386948
For further information, please visit the library's **Facebook page** - "Jisr A-Zarqa Library".

NATURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSETS

UMAR IBN AL-KHATTAB MOSQUE

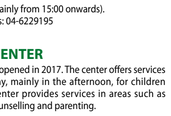
The main mosque in the village is named after the second Muslim caliph (leader). The original one-story building was built in 1968. In 2001, with the assistance of the El-Nahda Association, the mosque was rebuilt as a 1,200 m2 structure, spread over three stories, including an entrance hall, prayer halls for men and a prayer hall for women. Five daily prayer services, Friday sermons and funeral services are held at the mosque.
Address: 67 Umar ben Al-Khattab Street

BEACH



To the west of the town, on the magical coastline, there is a bathing beach with lifeguard services, a lifeguard hut, shaded areas and parking services. The beach is used by the local population as well as tourists and visitors, and entrance is free.

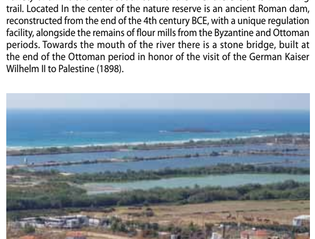
FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE



The Fisherman's Village in Jisr a-Zarqa was founded in 1922 and is the only remaining fishing village along the coast of Israel that is still active. It once served as the main source of income for the families of Jisr a-Zarqa and today continues to support about thirty families who own fishing boats. The activity in the fishing village still takes place in the original buildings. The fishing village, located on the town's coastal strip, has accommodation and is open to visitors.

NAHAL TANINIM NATURE RESERVE

Nahal Taninim Nature Reserve marks the northern limit of the town and brings together nature-rich surroundings and ancient technology. The nature reserve has a number of main sites, such as the strong Nahal Taninim, which maintains a wide channel along the nature reserve until it spills into the Mediterranean Sea and sustains rich vegetation and a wide variety of animals. On the south bank of the river there is a 1.5 km hiking trail. Located in the center of the nature reserve is an ancient Roman dam, reconstructed from the end of the 4th century BCE, with a unique regulation facility, alongside the remains of flour mills from the Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Towards the mouth of the river there is a stone bridge, built at the end of the Ottoman period in honor of the visit of the German Kaiser Wilhelm II to Palestine (1898).



ADDITIONAL ASSETS SLATED FOR REHABILITATION MEASURES

THE ROMAN AQUEDUCT was built during Roman rule in Israel and its water source is from various springs. The aqueduct crosses the kurkar (sandstone) ridge of Jisr a-Zarqa in a 442 m long quarried tunnel with 15 shafts. The tunnel is considered one of the most impressive findings in Israel and connects the other parts of the aqueduct in Beit Hanania and Caesarea.

TEL TANNINIM (CROCODILE MOUNT), located south of the mouth of Nahal Taninim, reveals evidence of the ancient city of Crocodilopolis from different periods. Among the ruins are remains of a tower and a pool from the Crusader period, a mosaic floor and an aqueduct from the Byzantine period. There are also historical relics from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. From the top of the mound you can view the entire town of Jisr and the adjacent towns.

GAN HASHALOM (PEACE PARK) is located in the north of the town and became a public park in 1996 after a garbage dump was removed from the area. Today, Gan Hashalom, the only public park in Jisr serves as a meeting place, ideal for walks and picnics.

FUTURE PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BATHING BEACH with the aim of protecting the beach from pollution and improving its overall appearance. The project will include a new structure for storage and educational activities, walking paths, seating areas for families and recreation areas for children.

SPORTS COMPLEX AND PUBLIC PARK: slated to be built on an area of
12,000 m2 east of the beach. The sports complex will include an indoor court for basketball, volleyball and futsal, an artificial turf soccer field, playgrounds, sitting areas and landscaped areas.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHWEST JISR: a new neighborhood is to be built that will include 520 housing units, public structures and various tourist sites such as an affordable vacation village and a motel with 300 guest rooms. Just north of the neighborhood, it is planned to set up a communal kitchen, a closed banquet hall, a marine center, a municipal street market and a parking lot.

JISR TRAIL: a combination of several different plans for developing the outskirts of the town. The trail will include a promenade along the coastal strip and a public park on the eastern side of the town.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

THE ISRAEL NATIONAL TRAIL

Jisr az-Zarka is a special section of the Israel National Trail, a trail that offers hikers landscapes, flora and fauna, historical and archeological sites, various kinds of settlements and an opportunity to meet all sectors of Israeli society. The Bishvilenu project of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority in partnership with Mifal Hapayis, recognizes the value of the trail experience and strives to empower it and create opportunities to meet communities close to the trail, with the aim of encouraging dialogue and cultural diversity and encouraging hikers and local residents to make a mutual contribution. The youth of Jisr, in partnership with the local association "Basmalah", are taking responsibility for their section of the trail by hosting groups of hikers and imparting to them the fascinating history of Jisr a-Zarqa.

JUHA'S GUESTHOUSE

Located in the center of town, along the Israel National Trail and a short walk from the beach, Juha's Guesthouse was established as a social initiative for the promotion of tourism based on local resources and which creates a source of income for residents. The guesthouse offers a wonderful atmosphere, free Wi-Fi and shared guest space that includes a living room, a dining area and a kitchen for recreational activities and gatherings. The guesthouse also organizes tours of Jisr and its surroundings, cooking workshops, local meals, and coordinates various projects such as "The Open Gallery", a cultural and educational center, and the "Young Leaders" program that teaches English and leadership skills to local youth so as to enable them to be tour guides and share their knowledge of the town with guests from all over Israel and the world.

For further details and inquiries -
Website: www.zarqabay.com
Phone: 052-6146265 | 052-8622088
Email: officejuha@gmail.com
Facebook: Juha's Guesthouse

BRIDGE TO ARABIC

A project for Arabic language studies and Arab culture in Jisr a-Zarqa that was set up by local teachers in 2012 and is proud to offer Arabic studies in an Arabic-speaking setting, through meetings, educational tours, workshops and meals. The syllabus is designed for different levels of Arabic and focuses on spoken and literary Arabic so that learners can engage in real communication, both one-to-one and on social media. The format of the study program is flexible, and classes can be held on a weekly basis, over a weekend that includes a stay in the community, or over an entire week of living in the community. Bridge to Arabic is a social action project in which families in Jisr a-Zarqa are involved and as such it is attracts visitors outside the community, thus promoting the development of new and stable sources of income for Jisr residents.

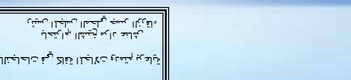
For further details and registration:
Website: www.jisrazrabic.org
Email: arabic.jisr@gmail.com
Facebook: Bridge to Arabic

THE BLUE BRIDGE EXPERIENCE

A local tourism initiative, which was established in 2016 with an emphasis on home hospitality and personal sharing. Hospitality may include a tour, a meal, a workshop and conversing with visitors, allowing them to observe and connect to the town's environment and heritage. The duration of the activities is flexible and coordinated with the visitor. Activities are suitable for individuals and groups.

For details and inquiries:
Facebook : The Blue Bridge Experience
Email: thebluebridge2017@gmail.com
Address: 7 Almouares St., Jisr az-Zraqa

נבנה בשבילינו



ברוכים הבאים

ג'דיידות וכבוד,
שייח' מוראד עמאש
ראש המועצה המקומית ג'סר א-זרקא 2018

أهلا وسهلا بكم

ومدني واحترامي
الشيخ مراد عماش
رئيس المجلس المحلي جسر الزرقاء ٢٠١٨

Dear citizens and guests,

We are honored to introduce you to the 2018 updated map of Jisr a-Zarqa.
Jisr a-Zarqa is moving towards a promising and flourishing future. We strive to work according to our vision, which is to make place before our eyes the advancement and development of our citizens, the history and the wonderful nature that God has bestowed upon us, praise his name, and harnessing these resources to build a bridge to a brighter future.
This map bears the names of the streets and institutions that were chosen through partnership with our citizens, as part of the desire to strengthen the sense of belonging to our community and promote it on all levels of life.
Jisr a-Zarqa is in the process of implementing many different projects, such as the approval of the master plan, marketing housing units and touristic facilities in the towns' western part and in the sea-lands, addition of sports fields and public areas, increasing the area of construction and much more to be seen.
Our goal is to create a bridge for a shared and developed future, which begins together today.

Welcome and enjoy your stay,
Sincerely,
Sheikh Murad Ammash
Head of Council, Jisr a-Zarqa, 2018

المواطنون، الضيوف الأعزاء،

نضع بين أيديكم لمرة جهد كريم، كجزء من الخدمة التي نقدمها لتعزيز الهوية الانتماء لبلدنا ورفع اسمه ومستواه بين البلدان في كافة مجالات الحياة.

فلا شك أن جسر الزرقاء تسير بنفسها نحو المستقبل المزهر والغد الواعد، فنحن نعمل جاهدين وفق رؤيا مستقبلية ومهنيه، تعتمد على بناء الإنسان وتطوير وتسويق المعالم الطبيعية والتاريخية الجميلة التي وهبنا إياها الله سبحانه وتعالى وتسخير هذه لمرافق وللمعالم لبناء جسر المستقبل.

هذه الخارطة ليست مجرد خارطة بل أنها تحمل أسماء الشوارع والمؤسسات والتي اخترت بمشاركتكم ووفق نظرتكم وهدفنا أن تكون الأسماء خالدة بما فيها من توجيهات رشيدة تعزز الانتماء وتساهم في التغيير.

جسر الزرقاء أصبحت جسر للمستقبل خاصة بعد:

ولا زالت أفكارنا بازدياد .....
هذا يعني أننا نقول بحق جسر الزرقاء،
جسر نحو المستقبل

תושבים ואורחים יקרים,

אנו מתכבדים להציג בפניכם את מפת השיפורים המעודכנת לשנת 2018.
ג'סר א-זרקא פוסעת בצעדה לקראת עתיד פורח ובטוח, אנו שואפים לעבוד לפי חזון עתידי וקהילתי שלפיו אנו שמים לנגד עינינו את קידום ופיתוח הארץ, תוך הסבא והתיישנות ההיסטורית המופלאים אשר העניק לנו אלוהים, ושבחו שמו, ורתימת משאבים אלה לבניית גשר אל העתיד.

מפה זו נושאת את שמות הרחובות והמוסדות אשר נבחרו בשיתופכם ולפי בחירתכם ובהתאם לשאיפה לחיזוק תחושת השייכות לישובנו ולקידומו בכל רבדי החיים.

ג'סר א-זרקא נמצאת בתהליכי מימוש ועשייה של תכניות רבות ומגוונות, כגון אישור תכנית המתאר של הישוב, שיווק יחידות הדיור ומתקני התיירות במערב הישוב ובקרקע הים, הוספת מגרשי ספורט ומתחמים ציבוריים והגדלת שטח הבניוי והרף עוד נמשיך.

מטרתינו היא לייצר לישוב גשר לעתיד משותף ומפותח, שמתחיל כבר היום.

ג'סר אלזרקא
Jisr a-Zarqa
גשר א-זרקא

Bridge to the Future

רקע כללי

הישוב ג'סר א-זרקא נקרא על שם הגשר העותמאני שפוצץ בישוב מעל נחל אלזרקאא (נחל תנינים). בצמוד לגשר נבנו טחנות קמח אשר היו בשימוש עד לאחר קום המדינה. בשל מיזרח הכחולים והצלולים של הנחל, באי הטחנות קראו לסקום ג'סר אל זרקא (הגשר מעל הנחל הכחול). זהו הישוב הערבי החופי היחיד בישראל והוא ניתן במיקום גיאוגרפי אסטרטגי ומרכזי, מעט עפותית לקיסריה ודרומית למעגן מיכאל, כ-25 מ' מעל פני הים התיכון על רכס כורכר.

ובישוב נכסים טבעיים והיסטוריים כגון שמורות, עתיקות, רצועת חוף מרהיבה, שתי כניסות וכביש גישה יחיד, מטעבר לכביש 4. בשנת 1963 הוכרז הישוב כמועצה מקומית בעלת שטח שיפוט של 1.61 קמ"ר ושייכות מוניציפלית למחוז חיפה. כיום מונה אוכלוסיית הישוב כ-15,000 תושבים ותושבות, רובם ככולם מוסלמים. השילוב שבין שמירה בשל מיוחד של המסורת תוך ופיתוח יוזמות מקומיות מאיץ, מייצרים בג'סר א-זרקא מרקם מיוחד בתיון, המלווה תמיד בהכנסת אורחים חמה. המועצה המקומית ותושביה בונים עתיד בג'סר א-זרקא. אנו מזמינים אתכם לבוא ולקחת חלק.

נבנה בשבילינו