



Sar-El Tours News Flash

“For the LORD your God brings you into a good land” (Deut. 8:7)



Special Report: Mt. Carmel Ablaze for Four Days

Starting on Thursday, December 2nd around 11 in the morning, the Carmel Forest near Haifa erupted into flames, lasting a total of four whole days. Preliminary investigations by a joint team of the police and fire department indicate that the worst wildfire in the country's history was caused by negligence. Evidence gathered from the scene suggests that the fire began in an unlawful garbage dump in the Druze village of Usfiya, kindling a massive wildfire that swept through the area.

After arriving on scene and witnessing the enormity of the disaster, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked for international help. Over the course of the next few days fire extinguishing planes and firefighters arrived from over 20 countries, including Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia, the United States, and our immediate neighbors: Jordan, Egypt, and even the Palestinian Authority. What really helped extinguish the blaze was the Supertanker from the USA, only able to arrive Sunday. The world's largest fire-fighting aircraft is a modified Boeing 747, appearing on the outside to be any normal jumbo cargo plane. The plane can carry about 94,000 liters of water and fire retardant material, almost 20 times more than an average fire truck. With the aid of the Supertanker, as well as joint international help, the fire was put out on Sunday December 5th in the afternoon, after 82 grueling hours of fire.

The Mt. Carmel disaster has seen its number of victims. Only several hours after the fire started, a bus carrying Israel Prison Service cadets on their way to evacuate a prison in the area caught on fire, killing 40 people. In addition a 16 year-old volunteer firefighter was killed. Many people also have been severely injured in their efforts to extinguish the fire. The fire has destroyed over 12,000 acres of Carmel forestland, burned 5 million trees, completely annihilated 74 structures, forced roughly 17,000 people to evacuate their homes, damaged at least 250 homes, and caused over NIS 200 million in damage, according to initial estimates. Investigations in to the cause of the fire will continue, as families, the government, and the nation as a whole work through the aftermath of this national disaster.

In regards to tourism, none of the sites in northern Israel were affected by the fire. Tourist groups will still be able to visit places such as Muhraka, the place of the fire of God according to 1 Kings 18.

If any of you feel moved to help the nation of Israel recover from this unfortunate situation, please email us at: Samuel@sareltours.com and we can direct you to appropriate organizations.

“May the LORD, the Maker
of heaven and earth, bless
you from Zion”

Psalm 134:3

