

Day 10  
Sunday March 12, 2023

[Eim Karem](#)  
[Botanical Garden](#)  
[Ima Shuk Restaurant](#)  
[Valley of Elah](#)

### **Eim Karem**

Ein Kerem is a charming hillside village famed for its centuries-old holy sites. These include the Church of St. John the Baptist, containing a cave said to be the saint's birthplace, and Mary's Spring, where the Virgin Mary is believed to have drunk. Christian tradition holds that John the Baptist was born in Ein Karem, following the biblical verse in Luke saying John's family lived in a "town in the hill country of Judea". Probably because of its location between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, this location was a very comfortable one for a pilgrimage, and this led to the establishment of many churches and monasteries in the area.

### **Botanical Garden**

The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens (JBG) is located in the neighborhood southwestern Jerusalem, on the southeastern edge of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The garden is arranged in phytogeographic sections, featuring flora of various regions around the world. The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens opened to the public in 1985. The tropical conservatory opened in 1986 and the South Africa section was planted in 1989. The Hank Greenspan Entrance Plaza, Dvorsky Visitors' Center and restaurant were built in 1990. The 500-meter long "Bible Path" is planted with most of the 70 species that scientists have identified as some of the 400 types of plants mentioned in the Bible.

### **Ima Shuk Restaurant (located in Machaneh Yehuda Market)**

MENU <https://ima-rest.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/english2810.pdf>

World-famous icons of Jerusalem include the Western Wall, the Tower of David and the Machane Yehuda market. The Western Wall and the Tower of David represent the religious, historical nature of Jerusalem, the place from which the Jewish people developed. Machane Yehuda market, however, represents the contemporary—and the future—heart of Jerusalem. Machane Yehuda integrates, in a unique way, the old and the new. Both a bustling marketplace and a neighborhood, it incorporates food, drink, shopping, bars, restaurants. The shuk still retains its most important characteristics: it remains authentic, with all the flavors and aromas, the colors and the traders' interaction with the crowds.

The Machane Yehuda market is widely recognized as a symbol of the Jerusalem, and for a very good reason: Jerusalemites see it as a place that represents them, symbolizes them, and gives them a unique identity in a larger Israeli social context. It is nicknamed "MachneYuda," which is also the name of one of the finest Israeli restaurants located in the market. But this name has something inexpressible to

language. It is beyond words, because it reminds Jerusalemites of themselves, their childhoods, and the Jerusalem they love. Even though Jerusalem today has many shopping and entertainment centers, some are even at several hotels in Jerusalem, there is something about the Machane Yehuda market that attracts people, even without a shopping list. Perhaps it is the ability to simply be who we are--people who love life and who love Jerusalem.

### **Valley of Elah**

The Valley of Elah or Ella Valley, called in Arabic: Wadi es-Sunt, is a long, shallow valley in Israel and the West Bank best known as the place described in the Hebrew Bible where the Israelites were encamped when David fought Goliath. It is home to several important archaeological sites, including those identified as the ancient towns of Azekah and Socho (1 Samuel 17:1). Rising up from the valley on its extreme southeast end lies the hilltop ruin Adullam, and on its north lie the ruins of the ancient fortress city of Khirbet Qeiyafa, which is identified with the ancient town of Sha'araim (1 Samuel 17:52).

The valley is named after the large and shady terebinth trees (*Pistacia atlantica*) which are indigenous to it. On the west side of the valley, near Socho, there is a very large and ancient tree of this kind, 55 feet (17 m) in height with a trunk 17 feet (5.2 m) in circumference and a canopy at least 75 feet (23 m) in diameter. This tree is notable for being one of the largest terebinths in the area, and marks the upper end of the valley.