



## **Tour 1: Jerusalem Holy Water Thursday 19.09.2024**

### **Schedule**

Departure: the bus will depart at **08:30**, from ICC, Jerusalem (Conference Venue)

Lunch Break: (estimated) 13:00

Return – **18.00** (estimated) to ICC, Jerusalem (Conference Venue)

### **A tour of the water resources in Jerusalem**

The subject will be the treatment processes of drinking water.

The topic of the tour will be the water supply to ancient Jerusalem in comparison to the modern water supply today in Israel. Some of the treatment processes of modern-day drinking water actually go back thousands of years. The Jerusalem water supply has always been a challenge to the water engineers due to its height above water level and the few streams in the area. Up and until today the security of the ongoing water supply to Jerusalem and in times of crisis, keep the Israeli water authorities busy.

However, as the city grew larger and larger they had to build other water reserves with large water systems for the houses.

The Gihon Spring was Jerusalem's main water source, located outside the city walls on the west bank of the Kidron Valley. Three main covered water systems brought water from this spring to the city. The residents of the city enjoyed a water supply from within the city walls which was based on the ancient Roman water supply system and carved cisterns.

The Gihon Company, the sewerage and water company of Jerusalem. The company was founded in 1996 by the Jerusalem Municipality and operates as an independent company by virtue of the Law on Water and Sewage Corporations. As part of the

association process, Gihon changed computer systems and redefined service goals. The company supplies water to one million residents of Jerusalem and other settlements, over an area of approximately 130 thousand dunams and provides sewage services to over one million people in the entire Jerusalem area.

The tour starts in the morning at the Gihon Company that supplies water to about a million residents in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. The participants will see the drinking water supply lines to Jerusalem and mainly the drinking water reservoirs, including the largest water treatment reservoir in the middle east, and will receive explanations about the monitoring of the drinking water systems in the city and the maintenance of the drinking water reservoirs as well.

Later there will be a tourist tour in Jerusalem by a qualified guide.

The water supply in Jerusalem during ancient times will be described in detail, including a discussion on the different ways water was brought to Jerusalem in those times. The way the Ottoman rulership used the ancient water systems will be also demonstrated on the tour.