



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 tour will focus on the treatment processes of drinking water, comparing the ancient water supply to Jerusalem with the modern water supply in Israel. Interestingly, some modern drinking water treatment processes date back thousands of years. The water supply to Jerusalem has always posed challenges to engineers due to its elevation above water level and the limited number of streams in the area. Ensuring a continuous water supply to Jerusalem, particularly during crises, remains a priority for Israeli water authorities. As the city expanded, additional water reserves and extensive water systems were constructed to meet the needs of its residents.

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

Modern Water Management: The Gihon Company, founded in 1996 by the Jerusalem Municipality, is responsible for water and sewerage services in Jerusalem. Operating as an independent entity under the Law on Water and Sewage Corporations, Gihon supplies water to one million residents in

Jerusalem and surrounding settlements, covering approximately 130,000 dunams. The company also provides sewage services to over one million people in the entire Jerusalem area.

Tour Itinerary:

- **Morning:** The tour begins with a visit to the Gihon Company. Participants will observe the drinking water supply lines to Jerusalem, focusing on the drinking water reservoirs, including the largest water treatment reservoir in the Middle East. They will receive explanations about the monitoring and maintenance of the city's drinking water systems and reservoirs.
- **Later:** A guided tourist tour of Jerusalem will follow. The guide will provide a detailed description of the ancient water supply methods to Jerusalem and discuss the various techniques used to bring water to the city in ancient times. The tour will also demonstrate how the Ottoman rulers utilized the ancient water systems.