

Beith She'an National Park

Many a Saturday our best friends - the Cohen's come up with yet another gem.



A place in Israel that we have either never been to before or if we have it was on a field trip in grade school some 60 years ago.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UumnXaHUHM&feature=youtu.be>

Travelling with the Cohen's is a form of entertainment not just tourism. We've known each other for almost 50 years and even though we live some 8000 miles apart for the past 41 years we always feel like they are our next door neighbors. We know each other stories, children, grandchildren and lately share our aches and pains freely.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5W8T5CHKbw&list=UUFmWNqi5QHk6u_rXpbRiGIQ&index=4&feature=plcp

We traveled in Europe, together, we see them every time we come to Israel, they came to Toronto for Sharon's wedding and then another time on their way to or from Alaska. It may be presumptuous to say but we think of them as family.

Yesterday we went to Beith She'an National Park



and on the way back climbed (by car) Mount Gilboa overlooking the spectacular Valley of Izrael

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN9AlgzyhYE&feature=youtu.be>

in search for the famous Gilboa Iris, a rare species of Iris that blooms in March. In fact this was probably the last weekend to see it.



If you do not know or remember much of the ancient Beith She'an history go to:http://www.parks.org.il/BuildaGate5/general2/data_card.php?Cat=~25~~961220707

But if you're too lazy, here is a snippet:

Bet She'an, in the northern Jordan Valley was first settled in the fifth millennium NCE on a mound south of the Harod Stream, in the heart of a region of great fertility and abundant water, and at what became a major crossroads.

During the Late Bronze Age (16th-12th centuries BCE), the Egyptians made Bet She'an the center of their rule over Canaan. According to the Bible, the Israelite tribes were unable to capture Canaanite Bet She'an. After a battle at nearby Mount Gilboa, the Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons on the city's ramparts.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy-6amodNV4&feature=youtu.be>

The rest of the story in photos and videos.



This was another gorgeous Saturday (although on the very cool side even in comparable Toronto terms).



Even in ancient times a man got to do what a man got to do... a closer look:



We could have missed all these beautiful places had we been Haredim.







