



## BOOK A SCHOOL TOUR OF "AL-AQED"

### The House of the Mukhtar, Old Village Hall

Druze Village of Isifiya, Est.1836

Step inside the museum where Druze-Jewish relations first began: the house of the Mukhtar in Isifiya at the summit of Mount Carmel. The house of the Mukhtar served a function similar to a town hall, and also played a central role in the governance of the Ottoman Empire.



The Mukhtar was the official who acted as the ambassador between the villagers of Isifiya and the Ottoman official in Acre (north).

**Al-Aqed was where Druze-Jewish relations, and ultimately alliance, began:** it served as the meeting house of Druze leaders with their Jewish counterparts, from David Ben-Gurion to Menachem Begin to Moshe Sharett.

For more on its history, visit <https://www.druzevillagehall.com/history>.



Al Aqed and its surroundings served as **the location of several films** about the Israeli War of Independence, including:

- "Hill 24 Doesn't Answer" (1955), starring Edward Mulhare and Haya Harareet
- "Exodus" (1960), starring Paul Newman

During the British Mandate, the Mukhtar protected Jewish labor activist Abba Hushi from the British police by hiding him in Al Aqed, where Mr. Hushi sat disguised as a woman wearing traditional Druze religious garb, sewing with other Druze women! **Abba Hushi later went on to become the celebrated mayor of Haifa.**



Al Aqed can be booked to include traditional Druze food for all visitors, with Druze baking on site.

For inquiries or to visit, please contact Carmel at +972 53 596 4803 or by email at [info@druzevillagehall.com](mailto:info@druzevillagehall.com).