

The 65-by-65-foot bathhouse includes the frigidarium (cold room), tepidarium (warm room) and caldarium (hot room), as well as a courtyard attached to its northeast section. The bathhouse is believed to have been used as an inn situated on an ancient road running along Nahal Harel through the southeastern Ayalon Valley, or as part of a wealthy country estate.



"Bathing in bathhouses during the Byzantine period is a continuation of the Roman tradition," said Dr. Rina Avner, Excavation Director, Israel Antiquities Authority. "Similar bathhouses were found in the past at Latrun and Caesarea.

"This remarkable new discovery will serve as a valuable addition to Israel's vast collection of archeological treasures," said Oded Grofman, Consul for Tourism, Israel Government Tourist Office - Canada," and will provide some additional excitement to historic-minded travelers arriving in Israel this year."