



# Jerusalem

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mikhail / Shutterstock.com

Destination of pilgrimages, subject of psalms, and a tormented battlefield, Jerusalem has been the scene of crucial events in the history of Western civilisation. The city contains some of the most sacred sites in the entire world. Today it is a fascinating kaleidoscope of cultures where daily life streams next to millennia-old landmarks. Visitors can find a rich music and dining scene, atmospheric cafes, crowded markets, and a number of cultural events. Jerusalem's spiritual aura and ancient, intricate beauty will be difficult to forget.



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eFesenko / Shutterstock.com

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#### Mahane Yehuda Market

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#### Israel Museum

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#### City of David and Hezekiah's...

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#### Jerusalem Season of Culture

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## THE CITY



Rostislav Ageev / Shutterstock.com

Whether one tries to grasp its history, contemplate its spirituality, or understand its different cultures, experiencing Jerusalem is a fascinating undertaking.

The Old City is Jerusalem's most touristic sight, with an array of religious and historical buildings. However, the newer districts, which started spreading in the 1860s, should not be missed - start with the quarters of Mishkenot Sha'ananim and Nahalat Shiva. For fashion, novelties, and nightlife, head to the Downtown triangle, between Jaffa Road, King George Street and Ben Yehuda Street, but explore further: you will find a bustling cultural scene and lively entertainment throughout the city. A wild, dusty natural landscape surrounds the urban area.

The history of Jerusalem is restless, and runs through thousands of years. The Canaanite population settled in the area 6,000+ years ago, near the Gihon Spring. After biblical king David conquered the city, his successor Solomon built a legendary Temple: the shrine was the most sacred place for Jewish people, who developed a strong and tormented bond with the land. Jerusalem then became part of the Roman empire. The Temple was definitively destroyed in 70 AD during a dramatic repression by the emperor Titus.

The site of Jesus Christ's death and alleged

resurrection, Jerusalem saw the birth of a new religion; it was also the site of an important spiritual journey for Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

The country was shaken by the Crusades during the Middle Ages, and important orders such as the Templar Knights were founded there. It became part of Christian, Arab, then Ottoman Kingdoms. Since the State of Israel was proclaimed in 1947, a tortuous conflict between the state and the previous inhabitants has divided its people.

## OLD CITY



Gelia / Shutterstock.com

One of the most ancient parts of Jerusalem, the Old City, teems with Jewish, Christian and Muslim believers, and it's a must-see for everyone.

It was built in the 2nd century AD by the roman emperor Hadrian, who called it Aelia Capitolina. The emperor intended it to be a pagan city, with a forum and a temple to Jupiter. However, its shape changed continuously throughout the years, while religious shrines were established inside. In 1538, the Ottomans built a wall around it.

Listed below is a selection of the unmissable sights within the Old City limits, and a short guide to the four quarters it is divided into, which are all worth exploring. At local markets

you will find a wide range of typical objects and exciting rarities - check the Shopping section for our suggestions.

Come early in the morning to avoid, or at least precede, the perennial crowds of tourists. Opening times for Temple Mount sights are very specific, so it's better to arrive on time. A popular place to enter is the Jaffa Gate, on the eastern part of the Walls, made from imposing hewn stones.

### **Tower of David and Museum of the History of Jerusalem**



Right at the entrance to the Old City, near the Jaffa Gate, this old citadel is a good way to start your visit to Jerusalem.

From the top, you can admire a great panorama of the area. To learn more about the city's history, visit the Museum of the History of Jerusalem, located inside the fortress, or come for the Night Spectacular show, which combines entertainment and education.

Built by Herod the Great, the citadel is believed to be the place where Jesus's death sentence was pronounced. It then became a hub for the Crusaders and the Ottomans, and was restored several times.

Photo: Seth Aronstam / Shutterstock.com

Address: Tower of David, in front of Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Line 38

Opening hours: Sat-Thu and holidays 9am-4pm (in August until 5pm). Fri and holiday eves 9am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 626 5333

Internet: [www.tod.org.il/en](http://www.tod.org.il/en)

Email: [contact@tod.org.il](mailto:contact@tod.org.il)

More Info: Guided tours are available: check their website

### **Ramparts Walk**



A lesser known but stunning way to see the Old City is the Ramparts Walk, which will guarantee you an aerial view from the top of the Ottoman walls that circle the city.

You can choose between two options. The longer north side walk, which covers the area from the Jaffa Gate to the Lions Gate, overlooks the Christian and Muslim Quarters and ends near the Dome of the Rock. The south side walk goes from the Tower of David to the Zion Gate, and will bring you right in front of the Western Wall.

Photo: eFesenko / Shutterstock.com

Address: at Jaffa Gate, Old City, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Line 38

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-4pm. Fri 9am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 627 7550

More Info: Located next to the Jaffa Gate

### **Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary**



This upland inside the Old City hosts places of worship for Jews (who call it Temple Mount, "Har HaBáyit") and Muslims (for whom the

place is named Noble Sanctuary, "Haram esh-Sharif"). It was also the scene of events narrated in the Gospels, and its intense atmosphere can captivate everyone.

Along with the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, here you will find the smaller Dome of the Chain and four Minarets.

The Sanctuary is enclosed in walls built by Herod the Great 2,000 years ago. Of the eleven gates, only one is open to Non-Muslim visitors: it's the Mughrabi Gate, guarded by a security check.

Dress modestly: cover your legs and shoulders and bring a cap.

Photo: Sopotnicki / Shutterstock.com

Address: Temple Mount, Old City, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu 7:30am-11am and 1:30pm-2:30pm. Winter: Sun-Thu 7am-10:30am and 12:30pm-1:30pm

Phone: +972 2 622 6250

More Info: The place has very specific opening times, so queues can be long: arrive early

### Western Wall



The Western Wall is the only part remaining of Solomon's Temple, built in the 10th century BC and destroyed twice.

Praying here carries a lot of meaning for Jewish believers, who mumble hymns and insert prayers written on small pieces of paper between the bricks - every visitor is allowed to partake.

The Temple was said to contain the Ark of the Covenant, a biblical golden chest. Moreover, Jesus reportedly visited the Temple as a child and left an impression on the wise men inside with his knowledge of the Bible.

There are separate entrances for men and women leading to different parts of the wall. Friday evenings are particularly crowded, as Jewish people celebrate the arrival of Shabbat, the day of rest. Bar Mitzvah ceremonies take place in the morning on Monday, Thursday and Saturday: it's a great time to visit, as the place comes alive with Jewish song and dance.

Photo: Phish Photography / Shutterstock.com

Address: Western Wall, Old City, Jerusalem

Opening hours: 24/7

Phone: +972 2 627 1333

Internet: [english.thekotel.org](http://english.thekotel.org)

Email: [contact\\_english@thekotel.org](mailto:contact_english@thekotel.org)

### Western Wall Tunnels



Only 70 meters of the Western Wall are visible from the outside, but the shrine continues underground for half a kilometre more. To visit

this part, join a guided tour of the tunnels. You will reach the segment of the Wall which was closer to the Holy of Holiest, the most sacred part of Solomon's Temple. Praying here has a particularly deep meaning for Jewish people, and there's a small synagogue for this purpose. Other notable sights are houses and pools from the Second Temple era, imposing stone arches, and an aqueduct from the 2nd century BC.

Photo: Peter Zurek / Shutterstock.com

Address: Western Wall, Old City of Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 7:20am until late at night. Fri 7:20am-12pm. Saturday evening on reservation

Phone: +972 2 627 1333

Internet: [english.thekotel.org](http://english.thekotel.org)

More Info: The tour has to be booked in advance and lasts around 75 minutes

### Dome of the Rock



In 620 AD, in the company of an angel, the prophet Mohamad took a night journey to Heaven: called Mi'raj, this episode is a key point in the

Islamic tradition. Located on top of the Noble Sanctuary upland, the Dome protects the rock where this journey started. On the same rock, thousands of years before, the biblical patriarch Abraham had allegedly tried to sacrifice his son Isaac, before God told him to stop.

The Dome is, according to some, the oldest existing Islamic building, and a holy place of immense importance. Byzantine artisans built it



between 687 and 691, and today its golden top stands out against the cityscape.

Non-Muslim visitors cannot enter the Dome, but its elegant architecture is definitely worth taking a look at.

Photo: SarahTz / Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Temple Mount, Old City, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu 7:30am-10:30am and 1:30pm-2:30pm. Winter: Sun-Thu 7:30am-11:30am and 1:30pm-2:30pm

### Al-Aqsa Mosque



Built to celebrate Mohamed's spiritual journey, this imposing Mosque is open to visitors of all faiths. More sober than the Dome, it was built in an early Islamic style; however, due to its complicated history, it features elements from different art styles, such as Romanesque arches, Corinthian columns, and Italian marbles. The Mosque used to host the King of Jerusalem and the Templar Knights during the Crusades era.

Photo: Kyrlyo Glivin / Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Aqsa Mosque, Temple Mount, Jerusalem

Internet: [www.visitmasjidalaqsa.com](http://www.visitmasjidalaqsa.com)

More Info: Non-Muslims cannot visit during the Ramadan period, in late spring

### Islamic Museum



Adjacent to the Al Aqsa Mosque, the Islamic Museum is dedicated to the Islamic history and different Muslim religions. The building once belonged to the Knights Templar.

The museum boasts as many as 600 Qur'an copies from various eras, each of them with an interesting history and different decorations.

Other exhibits display traditional furnishings, weapons, and historical objects.

Photo: Ludvig14 / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Islamic Museum, at Al Aqsa Mosque, Temple Mount, Old City of Jerusalem

Internet: [www.visitmasjidalaqsa.com/islamic-history-of-al-masjid-al-aqsa](http://www.visitmasjidalaqsa.com/islamic-history-of-al-masjid-al-aqsa)

### Via Dolorosa



The next unmissable landmark is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built allegedly on Jesus's burial place. A historically accurate and possibly emotional way to reach the church is through the Via Dolorosa: this street of the Old City is said to have been walked by Jesus on his way to crucifixion.

Every Friday, Roman Catholic believers walk the same street in a procession and stop at nine Stations: spots that commemorate significant events in Jesus's last hours. The last four Stations are located inside the church.

Photo: Cornelia Pithart / Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Dolorosa, Old City of Jerusalem

### Church of the Holy Sepulchre



A destination of Christian pilgrimages for centuries, this church sits on the place where Jesus is said to have been killed, buried and resurrected.

Some of the most riveting parts of the church are the richly decorated Calvary or 'Golgotha', where Jesus was crucified, and the Stone of Anointing, where the preparation for his burial was held.

The huge complex was built by the emperor

Constantine in the 4th century, and was damaged and restored several times.

Photo: Nickolay Vinokurov / Shutterstock.com

Address: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, HaNotsrim Street, Old City, Jerusalem

Opening hours: April-September: Mon-Sat 5am-9pm, Sun 5am-8pm. October-March: daily 4am-7pm

Internet: [www.churchoftheholyssepulchre.net](http://www.churchoftheholyssepulchre.net)

## Cardo



During Roman times the Cardo was Jerusalem's main street, and it must have been quite a view: lined by columns that linked as roofed arcades

above pedestrians, it was 22 meters wide and teemed with carriages and cattle.

The street has been rediscovered and partially restored by archaeologists in 1975. While walking, you'll see wall remains of the First and Second Temple, columns, and typical stone brick pavements. In the north there is an authentic bazaar which dates back to the Crusades era.

Photo: David King / Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Cardo, Old City, Jerusalem

## Muslim Quarter



Located in the North-Eastern part of the city, the Muslim quarter will strike you as a lot busier than the adjacent Jewish one. Men smoke

nargila inside the cafes while children play in the streets. The roads are lined with stands, and vendors loudly present their products.

In the northern part you will find the beautiful Damascus Gate. Built by Suleiman the Magnificent, it has triangular spires at the top, which gives it resemblance of a crown.

Photo: Dmitry Polonskiy / Shutterstock.com

Address: Muslim Quarter, Old City, Jerusalem

## Jewish Quarter



The narrow alleyways of the Jewish quarter contain homes of many ancient Hebrew families. Here, while tourists take pictures, Jewish

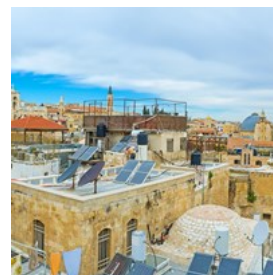
teenagers head to their Yeshivas, schools for Torah studies.

Near the Cardo you will find the Hurva Synagogue: recently restored, it offers beautiful views over the roofs of the quarter. Built by Ashkenazi Jews in the 16th century, the synagogue has been destroyed and banned several times; for Jewish people it's a symbol of their tormented history.

Photo: israeltourism / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Jewish Quarter, Old City, Jerusalem

## Armenian Quarter



Smaller and less crowded, The Armenian Quarter has an ancient and intriguing atmosphere. The Armenian community is

indeed one of the oldest in the city: it is believed that a group of Christian pilgrims founded it in the 4th century AD.

If you're interested in religious architecture, take some extra time to visit. Head to St. Mark's Chapel, one of the oldest churches in Jerusalem, dating back to the 12th century. It's located on the exact spot where Jesus's Last Supper happened, and where the Virgin Mary was baptised. Today, it belongs to Syriac Orthodox believers, and it is richly decorated, with a carved throne and beautiful interiors.

St James Cathedral is also worth a visit: it is a site of martyrdom and it's only open during masses.

Finally, stop by the Armenian Compound. A monastery and hospice, it was a refuge for those who escaped the dramatic Armenian genocide. Today, it is also the seat of the Armenian Patriarchate.

Photo: eFesenko / Shutterstock.com

Address: Armenian Quarter, Old City, Jerusalem

### Christian Quarter



Constructed around the Church of the Holy Sepulcre, in the north-western part of the Old City, the area is home to several Christian

sights. Few houses can be found here - it's mostly about religious buildings, educational facilities, and a plethora of cafes, restaurants and shops.

The streets are packed with vendors. It is especially worth exploring the area of Mauristan, teeming with shops and colourful stalls. Used as a market during the Roman Empire, the area hosted churches and hospices during the Crusades (in Persian, "Mauristan" means hospital).

Photo: JekLi / Shutterstock.com

Address: Christian Quarter, Old City, Jerusalem

### DO & SEE



John Theodor / Shutterstock.com

With spiritual milestones and millennia-old landmarks around every corner, Jerusalem is a labyrinth of things to do for sightseeing enthusiasts - exciting, but easily overwhelming. Below is a selection museums, places of worship, archaeological sites, and excursion ideas.

### Yad Vashem



This solemn memorial is Israel's tribute to the millions of Jewish victims of the Shoah, and an intense, thought-provoking

experience for visitors. The conceptual design conveys a striking feeling of how enormous the disaster was. The exhibits mix historical displays with personal testimonies and remains. Yad Vashem also hosts an important research centre.

Photo: Godot13 / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Yad Vashem, Mount Herzl, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Wed 8:30am-5pm. Thu 8:30am-8pm. Fri and holiday eves 8:30am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 644 3400

Internet: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

Email: [webmaster@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:webmaster@yadvashem.org.il)

More Info: Children under 10 cannot enter the Holocaust History Museum



### Mahane Yehuda Market



The most popular street market in Jerusalem, this busy place feels authentic: locals come to grocery shop and vendors are loud. Catch the

opportunity to try out some reasonably priced specialities from the food stands. Lately, the place has also become a vibrant nightlife hangout, with restaurants and live music. Mahane Yehuda is also called as "The Shuk", which means "market" in Hebrew. A recent project has filled the walls with contemporary urban art.

Photo: illpaxphotomatic / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Mahane Yehuda Market, Jerusalem  
Internet: en.machne.co.il

### Israel Museum



This museum boasts a rich and informative series of exhibits, and it's very helpful in understanding the past and present of

Jerusalem.

The collection of Dead Sea Scrolls, hundreds of manuscript copies of the Bible found in Qumran, is astonishing. Moreover, you'll view the biggest exhibition of biblical archaeology in the world, a selection of modern artwork, and a stylish, impressive garden of contemporary sculpture.

Photo: Aleksandar Todorovic / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ruppin Boulevard 11, Jerusalem  
Public Transport: Bus lines 7, 9, 14, 35, 66  
Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun, and holidays 10am-5pm. Tue 10am-9pm. Fri and holiday eves 10am-2pm  
Phone: +972 2 670 8811  
Internet: www.imj.org.il/en  
Email: info@imj.org.il

### City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel



Here you can explore the remains of the oldest part of Jerusalem, and walk into water through the meanders of a

subterranean stream. The archaeological site of the City of David spreads over two levels: an above-the-ground area and underground excavations. It is much older than Jerusalem's Old City: the ancient population of Canaanites built it near the waters of the Gihon Spring before 2,000 BCE. The biblical king David conquered it and made it the capital of his domain.

Located in the underground part of the site, Hezekiah's tunnel was used to channel water from the spring. The half-an-hour walk inside will show many archaeological remains, including a millennial pool which was said to have healing powers.

If you wish to walk into water, bring your swimsuit and suitable shoes.

Photo: Sopotnicki / Shutterstock.com  
Address: City of David, Ma'alot Ir David Street, Jerusalem  
Public Transport: Bus lines 1, 2, 38  
Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu 8am-7pm, Fri 8am-4pm.  
Winter: Sun-Thu 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-2pm  
Phone: +972 2 626 8700  
Internet: www.cityofdavid.org.il/en  
Email: rcv@cityofdavid.org.il  
More Info: Entrance near Dung Gate

### Jerusalem Season of Culture



This rich, fascinating festival takes place every summer and lasts for one entire month. With its complexity and long history, Jerusalem

becomes a vibrant, bustling stage for the wide



program of events, which gather musicians, DJs, visual artists, chefs, and many more. One of the main goals is to bring together the population, regardless of religion and nationality, and to create a forum for potential conflict resolution.

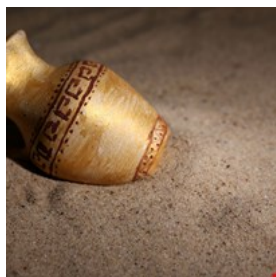
Photo: Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com

Phone: +972 2 653 5854

Internet: en.mekudeshet.com

Email: info@mekudeshet.com

### Bible Lands Museum



The Bible Lands museum focuses on the history of various cultures listed in the Bible, mixing archaeological findings, information from sacred

texts and historical research. You will see religious representations and funerary art as well as jewellery, secular artwork and everyday items. The collection is so extensive it can easily become overwhelming: it's best to get an audio guide or join a free guided tour (in English or Hebrew).

Photo: Africa Studio / Shutterstock.com

Address: Shmuel Stefan Wise Street 21, Museum Row, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Bus lines 7, 9, 14, 35, 66

Opening hours: Sun-Tue and Thu 9:30am-5:30pm. Wed 9:30am-9:30pm. Fri, Sat and holiday eves 10am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 561 1066

Internet: www.blmj.org/en

Email: contact@blmj.org

### Hebrew Music Museum



The Hebrew Music museum is a different and lesser-known experience: its display of original ancient musical instruments is

impressive, and it's accompanied by interactive content and fascinating historical information on Jewish diasporas. You can get to know the Jewish people's history through their musical tradition, which is quite an interesting perspective. It is also possible to hear what each of the instruments sounded like.

Photo: ismel leal pichs / Shutterstock.com

Address: Yoel Moshe Salomon Street 10, Nahalat Shiva, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9:30am-8pm. Fri and holidays 9:30am-1:30pm

Phone: +972 2 540 6505

Internet: www.hebrewmusicmuseum.com

Email: contact@hebrewmusicmuseum.com

### LA Mayer Institute for Islamic Art



The LA Mayer Memorial Museum for Islamic Art is a hub for beliefs, traditions and artwork of the Islamic civilisation.

Nine different exhibitions display a limited but highly informative ensemble. One of the most interesting features is their rare collection of clocks, which counts more than 200 items.

Photo: Henry Walters / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: HaPalmach Street 2, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Bus line 13

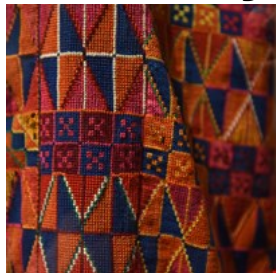
Opening hours: Mon-Wed 10am-3pm. Thu 10am-7pm. Fri-Sat 10am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 566 1291

Internet: www.islamicart.co.il/english

Email: office@iam.org.il

### Palestinian Heritage Museum



A visit to this museum is a good way to learn more about Jerusalem's culture and complexity. The exhibitions keep a memory of important personalities and dramatic events in the Palestinian community; they also preserve the people's material culture, such as traditional pottery, weaving and working tools, dresses, and jewellery. Ultimately, the museum is a testimony to the strong connection between the Palestinians and the city of Jerusalem.

Photo: Yacoub Rabah / Shutterstock.com

Address: Abu Obaidah Al-Jarrah Street, Jerusalem

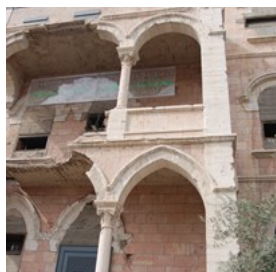
Opening hours: Mon-Wed and Sat 9am-3pm. Thu 9am-6pm

Phone: +972 2 627 2531

Internet: [www.dta-museum.org/en](http://www.dta-museum.org/en)

Email: [dar.iltfel.museum@gmail.com](mailto:dar.iltfel.museum@gmail.com)

### Museum on the Seam



The past of Jerusalem is hugely fascinating, but the present is at least equally as important. Located on the very border between West and East Jerusalem, the Museum on the Seam provides great food for thought on contemporary social issues in the land. It has hosted exhibitions from some of the most important artists of our time (Bill Viola, Wim Wenders, and Anselm Kiefer to name a few). Since the exhibitions are often strongly connected to ongoing debates, they can be controversial; however, it is worth paying a visit to the museum, marked as a must-see destination by the New York Times.

Photo: Raphie Etgar / Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Chel Handassa Street 4, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Thu 10am-5pm. Tue 2pm-8pm. Fri 10am-2pm

Phone: +972 2 628 1278

Internet: [www.mots.org.il](http://www.mots.org.il)

Email: [bookings@mots.org.il](mailto:bookings@mots.org.il)

### Ades Synagogue

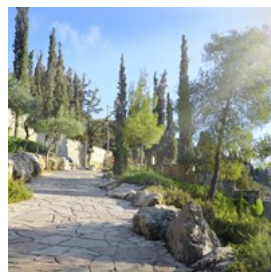


Lesser known by tourists, Ades Synagogue boasts typical, well-kept interiors, with chandeliers and a walnut ark inlaid with mother-of-pearl. If you're visiting in winter and you're interested in Jewish religious culture, come early on Saturday (Shabbat) morning and listen to bakashot, songs based on Kabbalistic poetry.

Photo: MstudioG / Shutterstock.com

Address: Be'er Sheva Street 1, Jerusalem

### Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane



According to the Bible and the Gospels, this is one of the holiest places in Jerusalem. The hill offers a beautiful view over the city and the Dome of the Rock, and it's especially beautiful in the morning, with the sun on visitors' backs. The backstory is rough - allegedly, Jesus prayed here the night before he was killed, while his disciples were sleeping. Some believe that at the end of days God will stand there to redeem the dead.

Photo: ArtMari / Shutterstock.com

Address: Mount of Olives Road, Jerusalem

More Info: Sunglasses recommended

### Church of St. Peter of Gallicantu



This Byzantine-style Catholic church on Mount Zion offers great views over the City of David and the village of Silwan, inhabited by Palestinians.

The current building was finished in the 1930s on the site of previous churches, including a Byzantine monastery, and has some interesting decorations (check the stained glass windows). Inside, you will be able to view mosaics and remains from previous churches.

According to the tradition, the church is the place where the apostle Peter cried in regret having denied Jesus before his death. The Roman stairs next to the church are believed to have been used by Jesus on his way to Gethsemane.

Photo: Dennis Jarvis / Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Ma'aleh Hashalom, Mount Zion, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 673 1739  
Internet: [www.assomption.org](http://www.assomption.org)  
Email: [stpeter@gallicantu.co.il](mailto:stpeter@gallicantu.co.il)

### St Anne's Church



St Anne's Church was built by crusaders in the 12th century in a Romanesque style. Many pilgrims take advantage of the perfect acoustics

inside and sing religious hymns. Hidden in the courtyard you'll find some remains of a Roman pagan temple. The church was a Muslim school for some time under the Saladin, and is considered to be the site of many important events in the Christian religion: the home of Virgin Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, and of the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a sick man.

Photo: Zvonimir Athletic / Shutterstock.com

Address: Church of St. Anne, Derech Sha'ar HaArayot, Jerusalem

Opening hours: April-September 8am-noon and 2pm-6pm.

October-March 8am-noon and 2pm-5pm

Phone: +972 2 628 3285

### Dormition Church and Monastery

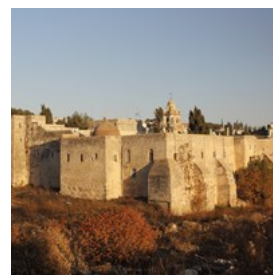


The Dormition Church and Monastery is an imposing, elegant complex just outside the Old City, near the Sion Gate; it belongs to

Benedictine monks, and showcases beautiful decorations and Romanesque revival architecture. The luxuriously decorated crypt celebrates the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which is believed to have happened here.

Photo: Rostislav Glinsky / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Dormition Abbey, Mount Sion, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 565 5330  
Internet: [www.dormitio.net/english/en.places/en.abbey/](http://www.dormitio.net/english/en.places/en.abbey/)  
Email: [abtei@dormitio.net](mailto:abtei@dormitio.net)

### Monastery of the Cross



An Eastern Orthodox Monastery, this Georgian-style building is said to be located where the head of the biblical ancestor Adam was

buried. The origins of the foundation are mysterious, possibly dating back to the 4th century and emperor Constantine's mother. Inside the church you'll find colourful ceremonial art, Georgian frescoes and manuscripts, remains from the Crusade Era, and a small museum.

Photo: Alon Adika / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Rehavia Valley (Valley of the Cross), Jerusalem  
Public Transport: Bus line 15



### Herodian Quarter - Wohl Museum of Archaeology



The Herodian Quarter Museum is a small but surprisingly well preserved mansion from two thousand years ago. The house of a wealthy

Jewish family until Titus's destruction in 70 AD, it gives a taste of what life of the richest was like in Jerusalem at the time. Tours and audio guides are available.

Photo: InnaFelker / Shutterstock.com

Address: Hakaraim Street 1, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu 9am-6pm, Fri and holiday eves 9am-1pm. Winter: Sun-Thu 9am-5pm, Fri and holiday eves 9am-13pm

Phone: +972 2 626 5906

Internet: [www.rova-yehudi.org.il/en](http://www.rova-yehudi.org.il/en)

### Jerusalem Archaeological Park & Davidson Centre



The Jerusalem Archaeological Park & Davidson Centre comprises remains from the Second Temple era, 2,000 years ago. You'll

admire columns, gates, streets, and the typical Jewish baths (mikve'ot). Audio guides and educational videos will help you understand the site's history.

Photo: Dmitry Rozental / Shutterstock.com

Address: Ma'alot Harav Shlomo Goren, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-6pm. Fri 9am-1pm

Phone: +972 2 626 5906

Internet: [www.rova-yehudi.org.il/en](http://www.rova-yehudi.org.il/en)

### Biblical Zoo and Tisch Zoological Gardens



If you feel in need of a break from cultural sightseeing, find some natural beauty and light-hearted entertainment in this

62-acre-big zoo. Kids will have a great time. The facility hosts a variety of endangered species. The zoo's main theme is peculiar: it focuses on animals mentioned in the Bible - you're in the cradle of western religion, after all.

Photo: Mathias Appel / Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Derech Aharon Shulov 1, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Bus lines 33, 26a, 99

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-7pm. Fri and holiday eves 9am-4:30pm. Sat and holidays 10am-6pm

Phone: +972 2 675 0111

Internet: [www.jerusalemzoo.org](http://www.jerusalemzoo.org)

More Info: You can buy tickets until 1 hour before closing time

### Herodion National Park



The Herodion National Park, not to be confused with the Herodian Quarter, is located on the top of a hill, and showcases what remains

of Herod the Great's megalomania for palaces. It is the best place to combine a relaxing nature hike, some archaeological sightseeing, and a stunning natural environment: on sunny days, the Dead Sea sparkles in the distance.

Photo: Dmitry Feldman svarshik / Shutterstock.com

Address: Herodion National Park, Israel

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu and Sat 8am-5pm, Fri and holiday eves 8am-4pm. Winter: Sun-Thu and Sat 8am-4pm,

Fri and holiday eves 8am-3pm

Phone: +972 2 595 3591

Internet: [en.parks.org.il](http://en.parks.org.il)

Email: [gl-erodyon@npa.org.il](mailto:gl-erodyon@npa.org.il)

More Info: The easiest way to reach it is by car - follow the instructions on the website or a sat-nav

### St. George Koziba Monastery



For an off-the-track, adventurous, and possibly spiritual hiking trip, head to the Monastery of St. George, in the West Bank. Hidden in the rocky

landscape, hanging solitary in the deep gorge of Wadi Quelt, it is a breathtaking destination. Hermits founded it in the 5th century. It spreads over three floors, and boasts a beautiful mosaic and a reliquary inside. It is also well known for its hospitality, and friendliness towards female pilgrims.

You will need a car to reach the place. The journey will last almost an hour.

Photo: Ester Inbar / Wikimedia Commons

Address: St. George (Mar Jaris), Wadi Quelt, Jericho Governorate, West Bank

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-1pm

Phone: +972 54 730 6557

Internet: [www.cicts.org](http://www.cicts.org)

### DINING



Asya Nurullina / Shutterstock.com

Jerusalem has been a melting pot of cultures for millennia, which is reflected in its cuisine that boasts an exciting variety of specialities - your culinary experience here will be one to

remember.

In the city, local, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean dishes mix with Jewish tradition brought back from around the world: Israeli Jewish Fusion Cuisine has been a thing since the 1970s.

"Mizrahi", Middle-Eastern Jewish cuisine, is similar to the Arab one, focusing on rice, roasted meat, salads and stuffed vegetables. Along with the obvious falafel, hummus, pita and couscous, try Middle-Eastern dishes like mujaddara (a typical Israeli rice dish), shakshuka (poached eggs, fried onion and peppers), local variations of shawarma (the Arab name of kebab), and spicy sauces (skhug, amba and pilpelchuma).

When Ashkenazi Jews came back from central Europe, they brought schnitzel, Russian salad and cholent, a beef stew for Shabbat; Sephardi Jews from the Balkans introduced yogurt and Turkish dishes. Most distinctively, Jews prepare food according to the religious rules of the Kosher tradition.

Jerusalem is also an ideal spot for vegans and vegetarians: many traditional dishes are plant-based, and 13% of Israelis were vegetarian or vegan in 2015 according to a poll by Globe. With such a variety of options, you just can't go wrong.

### First Station



Inaugurated at the turn of last century, this Ottoman building no longer operates as a train station, and has been transformed into a lively entertainment, culture and leisure complex.

There's always something going on and plenty of restaurants to choose from, especially for dinner, when live music is played and the atmosphere is vibrant. Take the occasion to explore the nearby

downtown area in the new part of Jerusalem.

Photo: Alon Adika / Shutterstock.com

Address: David Remez Street 4, Jerusalem

Opening hours: 24/7

Phone: +972 2 653 5239

Internet: firststation.co.il/en

Email: digital@firststation.co.il

### The Eucalyptus



With a focus on cultural memory and local produce, this fine Kosher restaurant in the Artist Quarter won't be a cheap eat, but it will provide a memorable experience. All dishes are based on biblical scenes, and give a modern interpretation to meals mentioned in the sacred text. The chef uses spices and herbs that have been typical of the land for millennia. The location is also great: from their elegantly decorated balcony, you'll be able to admire the sun set over the Old City walls.

Photo: ziashusha / Shutterstock.com

Address: Felt Alley (between Hativat Yerushalayim 14 and Dror Eliel Street), Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-11pm. Sat 8:15pm-11pm

Phone: +972 2 624 4331

Internet: www.the-eucalyptus.com

Email: mosherest@gmail.com

### MachneYuda



Loved for its vibrant, typically loud atmosphere, the MachneYuda restaurant offers great food, and music to dance to while the staff sing. They use fresh ingredients from nearby stalls of the Mahane Yehuda Market, and change the menu according to seasonal produce

availability. While in the Old Town, make sure to give it a try.

Photo: PxHere.com

Address: Beit Yaakov Street 10, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12:30pm-4pm and 6:30pm-1:30am.

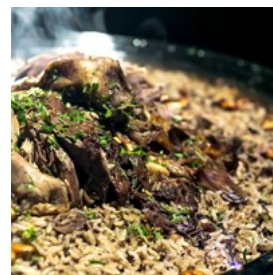
Fri 11:30am-3:30pm. Sat 8pm-1am

Phone: +972 2 533 3442

Internet: www.machneyuda.co.il

Email: machneyuda@gmail.com

### Azzahra



Try out authentic Palestinian cuisine at Azzahra, located in a beautiful mansion only a ten minute walk away from the Old City. If in doubt, choose their typical, well-reviewed makloubeh: its Arab name literally means "upside down", because this dish of lamb, rice and toasted almonds is served upside down after cooking. Their bakdoonsiyeh, a parsley salad served with bread and tahini dip sauce, is also recommended. They also offer stone-baked pizzas, and their wine list is extensive.

Photo: Mazen Said / Shutterstock.com

Address: Azzahra Street 13, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 628 2447

Internet: www.azzahrahotel.com

Email: info@azzahrahotel.com

### Abu Shukri



An institution in the Old City, Abu Shukri offers great value for money, serving Middle-Eastern cuisine for every budget: this traditional, unassuming restaurant is a favourite among locals, and prepares delicious hummus and falafel served with pita bread and vegetables. It



is only open for lunch, and it's usually quite crowded.

Photo: Marco Verch / Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Al Wad Street 63, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 627 1538

### Chakra



Lively and elegant, Chakra boasts a creative and eclectic choice of dishes, accompanied by an extensive list of drinks. Located in the centre, it's the perfect place to taste different specialities – share with your friends, and maybe order a tasting menu. Just be aware that the prices are rather high.

Photo: anokarina / Flickr.com  
Address: King George Street 41, Jerusalem  
Opening hours: Sun-Fri from 5pm until last guest. Sat from 12:30pm until last guest  
Phone: +972 2 625 2733  
Internet: [www.chakra-rest.com](http://www.chakra-rest.com)  
Email: [mail@chakra-rest.com](mailto:mail@chakra-rest.com)

### American Colony Hotel



A dinner in this historical palace is worth its price, if only for the beautiful location and peaceful, charming interiors. Found near the Damascus

Gate, the building was formerly a pasha's estate, converted into an hotel 1902. Inside, there are several high-class eateries open for non-guests: the Arabesque dining room specialises in Middle-Eastern cuisine, while Val's Brasserie Lounge offers European dishes. Underground you will find a popular, atmospheric Cellar Bar, for a refined drink after dinner.

Photo: Bruce Matsunaga / Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Louis Vincent Street 1, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 627 9719  
Internet: [www.americancolony.com/en-gb](http://www.americancolony.com/en-gb)  
Email: [events@amcol.co.il](mailto:events@amcol.co.il)

### Menza



Open seven days a week, this cosy restaurant mixes traditional ingredients and international dishes. Set in a central location, it serves meals all around the clock and has tasty vegan options. Try their fattoush, a typical salad made with fried or toasted bread, tomatoes and other vegetables.

Photo: Hungry Dudes / Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Betsal'el Street, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 625 5222  
Internet: [www.menza.today](http://www.menza.today)

### Azura



Another well-loved and unpretentious spot for lunch, Azura serves Iraqi Jewish dishes in huge portions, and also features many alternatives in the Jewish Fusion Style. The Cube Soup is a must try. The restaurant is located in the Iraqi section of the Mahane Yehuda Market and has tables to sit outside. Expect to find it packed with people.

Photo: Austin Kirk / Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Iraqi Market, Ha-Eshkol Street 4, Jerusalem  
More Info: Only open at lunchtime - no dinner

### HaMotzi



Experience some North African cuisine in this kosher restaurant, whose creative chef mixes traditional Algerian recipes with elements

from Jerusalem. In a central position inside the Old City, the restaurant is set in an ancient building, and carefully re-decorated - in a North African-inspired style, of course.

Photo: Gecko Studio / Shutterstock

Address: Jaffa Street 113, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12pm-12am. Fri 11:30am-3pm

Phone: +972 2 631 0050

Internet: [hamotzi.co.il/en/hamotzi-restaurant](http://hamotzi.co.il/en/hamotzi-restaurant)

Email: [hamotzi31@gmail.com](mailto:hamotzi31@gmail.com)

### Nafoura



At Nafoura, a very charming location and good dishes come reasonably priced. With its beautiful outside area in front of the Old City

Walls, near Jaffa Gate, it is a good option for an atmospheric dinner, especially on Saturday, when many other restaurants close for Shabbat. They have a lot of space, so big groups will have an easy time finding seating. Cuisine is mainly Middle-Eastern - try their well-reviewed eggplant starter.

Photo: neildodhia / Shutterstock.com

Address: Latin Patriarchate Road 26, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12am-11pm

Phone: +972 2 626 0034

Internet: [www.nafoura-rest.com](http://www.nafoura-rest.com)

Email: [dine.nafoura@gmail.com](mailto:dine.nafoura@gmail.com)

### Shanty



Shanty is particularly loved for its steaks - some say they're the best in Jerusalem - but this cosy hidden gem also offers a good range of

seafood and international dishes. Seize the occasion to visit the historical quarter of Nahalat Shiva, built in 1860 outside the Old City, with its crowded promenade.

Photo: Lukas Gojda / Shutterstock.com

Address: Nahalat Shiva 4, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7pm-3am

Phone: +972 2 624 3434

Internet: [www.shantyres.co.il/en/home](http://www.shantyres.co.il/en/home)

### CAFES



Roniuru / Shutterstock.com

Coffee culture in Jerusalem is well established: European expats have imported the cosy, relaxed Viennese-style coffee houses, and you'll find plenty of atmospheric places to take a break, have a chat, and possibly mingle with locals. Along with espressos and iced coffees, cafes often serve Turkish coffee: it is prepared by pouring boiling water over fine-ground coffee beans, and often flavoured with cardamom. Tea is another favourite that comes in a variety of flavours and brews. Other typical drinks are lemonana, made from fresh lemons and mint, and sahlab, prepared with cornstarch, topped

with cinnamon or pistachio, and commonly drunk in winter.

Make sure to try some typical pastries as well: kugel pudding, Ashkenazi babka (a sweet yeast pie), and bourekas (filled pastries from Eastern Europe).

### Tmol Shilshom



The half old-fashioned, half hippie decor give this central coffee shop a cosy, intimate vibe, and make it the perfect relaxing spot after hours of sightseeing. They serve breakfast, lunch and snacks, and are also well-loved among locals. Food is tasty - try their shakshuka, a delicious poached egg dish.

Photo: Elena Veselova / Shutterstock.com

Address: Yo'el Moshe Salomon Street 5, Nachalat Shiva, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8:30am-11:30pm. Fri 9am-4pm. Sat 8:30pm-11:30pm

Phone: +972 2 623 2758

Internet: [www.tmol-shilshom.co.il/en](http://www.tmol-shilshom.co.il/en)

Email: [tmol@tmol-shilshom.co.il](mailto:tmol@tmol-shilshom.co.il)

### Austrian Hospice



Located in the centre of the Old City, this guesthouse cafe boasts a stunning view from the rooftop and beautiful gardens. The menu is typically Austrian, with Strudel and different types of coffee. The first national pilgrim guesthouse in Israel, Austrian Hospice opened in 1863. Its architecture is inspired by the beautiful palaces of the Ring, in Vienna. Stop for a coffee break or a refreshing beer.

Photo: eFesenko / Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Dolorosa 37, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +972 2 626 5800

Internet: [www.austrianhospice.com/en](http://www.austrianhospice.com/en)

Email: [office@austrianhospice.com](mailto:office@austrianhospice.com)

### Mousseline Ice Cream Parlor



Need something sweet and refreshing? Mousseline's ice cream is one of the best and most loved in the city: it tastes homemade and comes in a variety of flavours, including some very unusual must tries - their wasabi-flavoured ice cream is probably a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Photo: Zivica Kerkez / Shutterstock.com

Address: HaArmonim Street 2, Mahane Yehuda Market (next to Morduch), Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Wed 10am-12am. Thu 9am-12am. Fri 7:30am-5pm. Sat 8:30am-12am

Phone: +972 2 500 3601

Internet: [www.mousseline-jerusalem.com/en](http://www.mousseline-jerusalem.com/en)

Email: [mousseline.jerusalem@gmail.com](mailto:mousseline.jerusalem@gmail.com)

More Info: The company owns a second cafe in the city, located at HaNasi Street 10, near the Jerusalem Theatre and the Islamic Art Museum

### Jaffar Sweets



A highly recommended destination for typical middle eastern pastries, Jaffar Sweet is said to prepare the best knafeh pastry in all of Jerusalem. Knafeh is based on goat cheese and syrup, and it's a must try. Other specialities are murtabah, a stuffed pancake, and burma, a wrap of twisted dough and cashews.

The pastry shop is tucked away in a busy, crowded street of the Muslim Quarter market. Search for it among clothing and souvenir stalls:

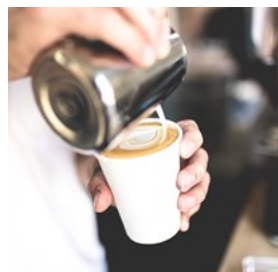


you won't regret it.

Photo: Alexander Turovsky / Shutterstock.com

Address: Beit HaBad Street, Muslim Quarter, Jerusalem

### Cofix



For a traditional coffee break, Cofix offers a wide range of beverages. The company has several branches around the city: the one in question is in

the vibrant quarter of Nahalat Shiva, a few steps away from the Old City.

Photo: Pexels / Pixabay.com

Address: Lunz Street 3, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 7am-11pm. Fri 7:30am-5pm. Sat 8pm until last customer

Phone: +972 9 973 3150

Internet: [www.cofix.co.il/en](http://www.cofix.co.il/en)

### Bassem Gallery & Cafe



While visiting the Via Dolorosa, in the Old City, stopping at Bassem's is recommended. Its interiors are a burst of red and golden

Middle-Eastern decor, and every corner is full of interesting items to buy. While enjoying the coffee and music, take a look at the books and ask the warm-hearted owner for some tips.

Photo: JOAT / Shutterstock.com

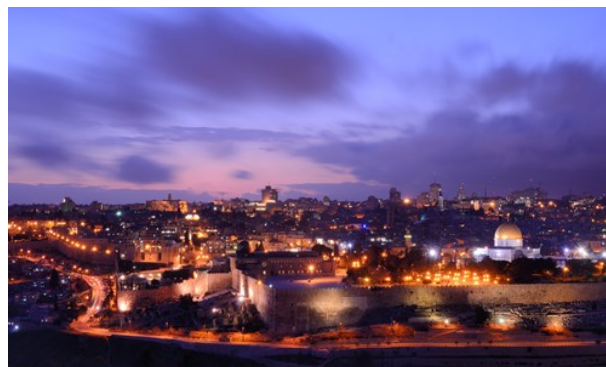
Address: Via Dolorosa 38, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-7pm

Phone: +972 54 573 9629

Internet: [www.bassemgallerycafe.com](http://www.bassemgallerycafe.com)

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Sean Pavone / Shutterstock.com

Jerusalem's nightlife is not as big and loud as the one of Tel Aviv, but there are many hidden gems. The atmosphere is informal and relaxed: you'll find lively student bars with pop and alternative music choices, and traditional, European-style pubs and bars. Many social hubs are located in Ben Yehuda Street and King David Street, as well as in the Mahane Yehuda Market and at First Station. Nightlife starts quite late - people usually start gathering after midnight.

Jerusalem's music scene is well-renowned and brilliant, and can be found almost everywhere, from street performances to concert halls. There are also good options for cinema enthusiasts. The Israel Museum and the Bible Lands Museum often organise cultural happenings, and the Jerusalem Season of Culture, held every summer, has a wide range of proposals. A monthly Calendar of Events is available at the Tourist Information Office.

### Yellow Submarine



This concert venue boasts a rich offer of live music in different genres, and has been a favourite in Jerusalem for almost 30 years. Head to their performance stage and bar to discover Israeli

and international artists - the complete list of events is available on their website.

Photo: Syda Productions / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ha-Rekhavim St 13, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 679 4040  
Internet: [www.yellowsubmarine.org.il](http://www.yellowsubmarine.org.il)  
Email: [zolelet@gmail.com](mailto:zolelet@gmail.com)

### Jerusalem Cinémathèque



Located in an atmospheric setting on Hebron Hill, this historical cinema was opened by a couple of movie enthusiasts in the 1970s. Today it has a hugely varied program of night screenings: classics, art film from all over the world, commercial works, and rare finds from the owners' archives. The Cinémathèque also hosts several film festivals.

Photo: Fer Gregory / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Hebron Road 11, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 565 4333  
Internet: [www.jer-cin.org.il](http://www.jer-cin.org.il)  
Email: [contact@jer-cin.org.il](mailto:contact@jer-cin.org.il)

### Glen Whisk(e)y bar



Listing hundreds of whiskey options (literally), this well-loved bar is a few steps away from Jaffa Gate. It also offers good burgers, and a careful selection of craft beers. The ambience is vibrant, and prices are fair. Try Arrat, an Israeli anise spirit with a heavy liquorice taste.

Photo: PopTika / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Gershon Agron St 24, Jerusalem  
Opening hours: Sun-Tue 5pm-4am. Fri-Sat 6pm-6am  
Phone: +972 54 901 0076  
Internet: [www.glen.co.il](http://www.glen.co.il)

Email: [18glen@gmail.com](mailto:18glen@gmail.com)

### Beer Bazaar



One of the best beer places in Jerusalem, Beer Bazaar is located in the Mahane Yehuda market. It offers a wide menu of more than 100 locally produced craft beers, which has earned it many great reviews - especially for the IPAs. Expect the place to be crowded, mostly on Thursdays.

Photo: Rawpixel.com / Pexels.com  
Address: Etz Hayyim 3, Jerusalem  
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 11am-2am. Fri 10am-4pm. Sat from an hour after sunset until last customer  
Phone: +972 2 671 2559  
Internet: [beerbazaar.co.il](http://beerbazaar.co.il)  
Email: [bbjshuk@gmail.com](mailto:bbjshuk@gmail.com)

### Mazkeka



An alternative event venue, Mazkeka is best known for its concerts, which feature avant-garde music proposals, a great sound system and a varied genre selection. The place is a lively cultural centre and lab, also focusing on performing arts, film and new media; it hosts famous personalities as well as emerging artists. Frequented by hip people, it also serves nice drinks.

Photo: Free-Photos / Pixabay.com  
Address: Shoshan Street 3, Jerusalem  
Phone: +972 2 582 2090  
Internet: [www.mazkeka.com](http://www.mazkeka.com)  
Email: [info@mazkeka.com](mailto:info@mazkeka.com)

### Off The Wall Comedy Theatre



Spend a light-hearted evening at this frisky stand up comedy place, which offers clean entertainment, suitable for families. Off The Wall hosts shows in English and Hebrew - check the dates and hours on the website. It also organises karaoke nights.

Photo: Skitterphoto / Pexels.com

Address: King David Street 32 (corner of Keren HaYesod Street), Jerusalem

Phone: +972 50 875 5688

Internet: [www.israelcomedy.com](http://www.israelcomedy.com)

Email: [offthewallcomedy@yahoo.com](mailto:offthewallcomedy@yahoo.com)

### Gatsby Cocktail Room



As suggested by the name, this bar oozes retro glamour, with a sophisticated decor inspired by speakeasy bars of the Prohibition era. Cocktails are as cool and stylish as the interiors, and their food is much appreciated. Not far from the Old City, Gatsby is tucked away in an ordinary street, but it's worth the trip.

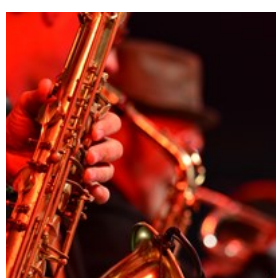
Photo: Bru-nO / Pixabay.com

Address: Hillel Street 18, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 54 814 7143

Email: [gatsby18a@gmail.com](mailto:gatsby18a@gmail.com)

### Birman



With live music every night, Birman offers high quality food and entertainment for those into jazz, blues and soul. Exhibitions and jam sessions are accompanied by creative cocktails

and delicious Middle Eastern bar food, making this place a real treat for a sophisticated yet cosy evening.

Photo: 375395 / Pixabay.com

Address: Dorot Rishonim Street 8, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 7pm-4am

Phone: +972 2 623 6115

Internet: [www.rol.co.il/sites/birman](http://www.rol.co.il/sites/birman)

### The Sira Pub



An institution in Jerusalem, Sira is a carefree (if somewhat chaotic) student bar offering good beer and a crowded dance floor. DJs play electronic music as well as jazz and funk, keeping up a cool eclectic mix.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov / Shutterstock.com

Address: Ben Sira Street 4, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 4pm-3am. Fri-Sat 2pm-5am

Email: [gootel@gmail.com](mailto:gootel@gmail.com)

### Cactus9



A chill place to dance to electronic music and dubstep and sip on cocktails, this disco bar has a cosmopolitan, underground atmosphere and hosts DJs every night. The staff is friendly and relaxed, prices affordable, and crowds made up primarily of hipsters and students. Cactus9 is mostly frequented by locals, but newcomers are heartily welcomed.

Photo: Pressmaster / Shutterstock.com

Address: Shushan Street 4, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 54 482 3671

Email: [cactus9pub@gmail.com](mailto:cactus9pub@gmail.com)



## SHOPPING



*mariakraynova / Shutterstock.com*

Typical art, craftwork and souvenirs can be found in the touristic areas of the Old City and the Mahane Yehuda Market, as well as the Downtown triangle - especially Ben Yehuda Street. Look for clothing, jewellery, local pottery (the Armenian tradition is particularly beautiful), Palestinian embroidery, and so on. Of course, there's plenty of religious craft work from different faiths: along with crucifixes and nativities, you'll find menorahs (typical six-branched Hebrew lamps), mezuzahs (parchments with verses from the Torah), and Judaica (Jewish ceremonial art).

Nearby King David Street hosts a plethora of art galleries exhibiting works by local talents, many of which graduated from Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. The Hutzot Hayotzer Artists Colony is another good spot for visual artwork.

Those into fashion should head to Bezalel Street and Shatz Street, where they will find the best of Israeli design and international galleries. The Mamilla Avenue, between the Old City and the Downtown area, is a well-furnished shopping centre.

Prices can vary from shop to shop and, since most sellers don't accept returns, it's better to compare prices before buying an item.

Bargaining - in a polite way - is a common

practice at most tourist shops.

### Old City Markets



The Old City teems with stalls and vendors selling a wide array of typical items: religious items such as rosaries and crucifixes, nativity sets and Christmas decorations, wood-carved chess, semi-precious stones and much more.

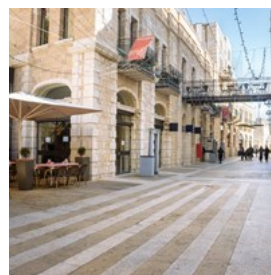
The restored Cardo used to be the city's main street during Roman times, and today its stalls sell souvenirs and Judaica ceremonial art; you will also find jewellery and artwork, well-made but often high-priced.

The Jewish Quarter is filled with bronze menorahs, kippahs and other traditional craftwork.

Photo: fizzle / Shutterstock.com

Address: Old City, Jerusalem

### Alrov Mamilla Avenue



This big, fancy open air shopping mall is located close to the Old City, and offers a huge range of stores - from locally owned boutiques and Israeli design to high end fashion brands and affordable stores like Zara and Mango. The street is full of street artists, painters and musicians, and there's plenty of cafes and dining options.

Photo: Dmitry Polonskiy / Shutterstock.com

Address: Alrov Mamilla Avenue, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9:30am-11pm. Fri 9am-3pm. Sat 8:30pm-11pm

Phone: +972 2 636 0000

### Hutzot Hayotzer Artists Colony



Established in 1967, this lane hosts more than 20 art shops: come for a variety of handmade craft products, including jewellery, metal art, paintings, sculptures, photography, and pottery. You can meet the creators in a lively environment, and find both traditional and modern items. The Collective is found near the Mamilla Mall and on the way to the Old City. In August, during the Jerusalem Arts and Crafts Festival, you can visit the artists' studios and listen to live music at night.

Photo: maratr / Shutterstock.com

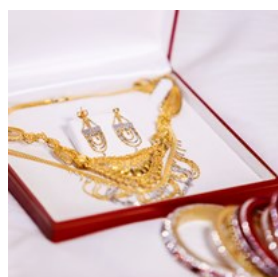
Address: Hutzot Hayotzer Artists Colony, Felt Street, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am-5pm. Fri and holiday eves 10am-2pm

Internet: [www.artistscolony.co.il](http://www.artistscolony.co.il)

Email: [artistscolonyjlm@gmail.com](mailto:artistscolonyjlm@gmail.com)

### Baltinester Bros. Jewelry



For an unique, luxury souvenir of your trip, visit one of the most loved jewellery shops in Jerusalem. Baltinester Bros. have been working since 1949: they create custom pieces of jewellery, greeting every customer with friendly and knowledgeable service. They also sell Judaica.

Photo: Syed Ali Ashraf / Shutterstock.com

Address: Jaffa Street 31, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10:30am-8:30pm. Fri 10:30am-3pm

Phone: +972 2 625 2967

Internet: [www.baltinesterjewelry.com](http://www.baltinesterjewelry.com)

### Ophir



Don't miss a visit to Ophir: open since 1956, this shop is an institution. Their jewellery is hand-crafted and draws inspiration from the European Victorian and Art Deco eras, as well as from Middle Eastern tradition. The collection of antiques is curious, unusual and well-selected. Prices are high, but fair.

Photo: Kim Diaz / Shutterstock.com

Address: Jaffa Street 38, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-7pm. Fri 9am-1pm

Phone: +972 2 624 9078

Internet: [www.ophir-jewelry.com](http://www.ophir-jewelry.com)

Email: [info@ophir-jewelry.com](mailto:info@ophir-jewelry.com)

### Sunbula



Traditional Palestinian embroidery bristles with bright colours and fascinating motives: shop the best pieces at Sunbula, a non-profit fair trade organisation that sells a wide range of beautiful craft products. Here you will find rugs, pillowcases, tablecloths, napkins and gift ideas, and you'll be able to order pieces of clothing. Come for an ethical - and exciting - shopping experience.

Photo: TalaZeitawi / Shutterstock.com

Address: Nablus Road 15, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem

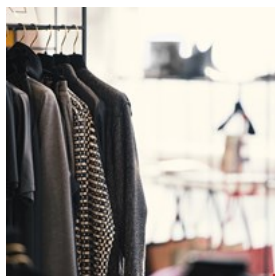
Opening hours: Mon-Thu and Sat 12pm-6pm

Phone: +972 2 672 1707

Internet: [www.sunbula.org](http://www.sunbula.org)

Email: [info@sunbula.org](mailto:info@sunbula.org)

### Dorin Frankfurt



An Israeli fashion brand with a well-defined vision and personality, Dorin Frankfurt radiates classic, effortless elegance. The collections

include ready-to-wear clothing, handbags, and shoes. The garments are manufactured in an ecological open-space factory. Extra care is dedicated to choosing quality fabrics and achieving perfect fits.

Photo: Creative Lab / Shutterstock.com

Address: Alrov Mamilla Boulevard, Floor 1, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am-10pm. Fri 9am-14:30pm. Sat from half an hour after end of Shabbat until 10:30pm

Phone: +972 3 554 0844

Internet: [www.dorinfrankfurt.com](http://www.dorinfrankfurt.com)

Email: [customercare@dorinfrankfurt.com](mailto:customercare@dorinfrankfurt.com)

### Naama Bezael



This Jerusalem-born fashion designer has made a name for herself thanks to her retro inspired aesthetic, reinterpreted in a

nostalgic and romantic style. With an eye for sustainability and a focus on comfortable and flattering cuts, Naama's collections are charming and diverse. For affordable prices, check the nearby outlet, across the road.

Photo: Africa Studio / Shutterstock.com

Address: King George Street 27, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am-10pm. Fri 9:30am-2:30pm

Phone: +972 2 625 5611

Internet: [www.naamabezael.com](http://www.naamabezael.com)

Email: [info@naamabezael.co.il](mailto:info@naamabezael.co.il)

### Sofia



Another interesting spot for fashion lovers, this stylish gallery boasts a carefully selected collection of clothing and accessories from local

brands. Quality materials and exciting design are showcased in a tastefully decorated interior, and the staff is ready to give help and suggestions.

Photo: nd3000 / Shutterstock.com

Address: Bezalel Street 2, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 625 2765

### Bassem Gallery & Cafe



While visiting the Via Dolorosa, in the Old City, stopping at Bassem's is recommended. Its interiors are a burst of red and golden

Middle-Eastern decor, and every corner is full of interesting items to buy. While enjoying the coffee and music, take a look at the books and ask for some tips to the warm-hearted owner.

Photo: JOAT / Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Dolorosa 38, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-7pm

Phone: +972 54 573 9629

Internet: [www.bassemgallerycafe.com](http://www.bassemgallerycafe.com)

### Holzer Books



Every available shelf at Holzer Books is packed with volumes, both new and second hand: this atmospheric bookshop near the Old City has an

impressive selection of texts in Hebrew, English, and more languages. Cultural events, talks and laboratories are frequently held in the cosy



reading area upstairs.

Photo: MorningbirdPhoto / Pixabay.com  
Address: Jaffa Street 91, Jerusalem  
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9:30am-11pm. Fri 10am-3pm  
Phone: +972 76 543 3800  
Internet: [www.holzerbooks.com](http://www.holzerbooks.com)  
Email: [holzerbooks@gmail.com](mailto:holzerbooks@gmail.com)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Ella Hanochi / Shutterstock.com

### Passport / Visa



To visit Israel you need a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry. If you hold an Israeli passport, you will be required to present it

upon arrival.

Many countries have a Visa Waiver Program with Israel, which allows their citizens to visit Israel without a pre-arranged visa. Citizens of Australia, Canada, the EU, and the USA do not need a visa for touristic stays up to 90 days. Citizens of other countries can check if they need a visa at [www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Documents/VisaRequirements-Tourists.pdf](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Documents/VisaRequirements-Tourists.pdf) Because of diplomatic issues, you might not be able to travel to some Arab or predominantly Muslim countries if your passport shows an Israeli visa or stamp. To solve this problem, your

visa will be stamped on a separate entry card when you arrive in Israel.

Remember to bring your passport with you on trips to Palestinian territories: it will probably be required at checkpoints and border crossings.

Photo: TukTuk Design  
Internet:

[www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/consularservices/pages/visas.aspx](http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/consularservices/pages/visas.aspx)

### Best Time to Visit



Jerusalem is pleasant to visit at any time of year. For affordable prices, relatively limited visitor numbers, and a warm, enjoyable weather,

choose March-May and October-November. Summer is peak season, and hosts the busy, interesting Jerusalem Season of Culture festival; temperatures are high (around 25 to 35 °C, possibly more), and the city is packed with people. Winters are cool, much more than in nearby Tel Aviv, and can have unpredictable weather.

The city gets particularly crowded and expensive during Jewish holidays (High Holy Days, Passover, and Sukkot) and the Christian Easter.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Health and Safety



Medical care in Jerusalem is very good, but very expensive: find yourself a good medical insurance for your trip. Although Jerusalem isn't usually a

dangerous city, it's better to avoid the Old City at night. With Palestinian-Israeli issues coming to a boil, areas around places of worship in the Old City can become contentious, especially at noon

on Friday.

It is important to note that trips to the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Syrian and Lebanese borders must be carefully considered and require extra precautions. Make sure you get all the information you need and up-to-date travel and safety advice issued by your government prior to travel.

Photo: Brothers Good / Shutterstock.com

### Tel Aviv-Ben Gurion Airport



The Ben Gurion Airport is located near Tel Aviv, 52km northwest of Jerusalem. It takes about an hour by taxi to get to the city. The easiest way

to reach Jerusalem from the airport is probably by taxi. Taxi ranks at the airport are found at ground level at the Gate 3 exit, and on the second level at the Gate 21 exit.

To help you hail a taxi, a taxi dispatcher service is available at two locations: Terminal 3, Level G, Gate 42 exit; or Terminal 1, near Gate 3.

Alternatively, you can take the cheaper bus 485, run by the Afikim company. It goes from the airport to Jerusalem's Central Bus Station. It works Sun-Thu 24 hours a day, Fri 12pm-2pm and Sat from 7pm.

**Afikim:**

+972 052 999 6686

[www.afikim-t.co.il](http://www.afikim-t.co.il)

Nesher Taxi Service runs a mini-bus service from the airport to Jerusalem. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It works like a shared taxi: the route changes according to passengers' destinations, so be aware that the trip can take some time - you may have to be patient.

Call them 48 hours in advance to book your seat.

**Nesher Taxi Service:**

+972 072 264 6059

[www.neshertours.co.il/en](http://www.neshertours.co.il/en)

Reaching Jerusalem by train is a bit complicated. You need to take a train from the Ben Gurion Airport station (located on Level S at the airport) to the Tel Aviv Hahagana station, and here change to a train to the Jerusalem station. You will then have to catch a bus to reach the city centre.

**Israel Railways:**

[www.rail.co.il/en](http://www.rail.co.il/en)

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Tel Aviv-Ben Gurion Airport, Israel

Phone: +972 3 972 3333

Internet:

[www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/BenGurion/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/BenGurion/Pages/default.aspx)

### Public Transport



Public transport in Jerusalem consists of a bus service and a light rail, and it's run by the Egged company. Search for the most convenient

routes on their website.

Be aware that it is not possible to buy tickets directly on board. In order to use the transport system, you need to load a smart card called "Rav Kav": it is available at bus stations, kiosks, Cofix branches, and more. To re-load it, you can also go to automatic machines and light rail stations.

The bus service runs mostly around the Central Bus Station and the Downtown Triangle (between Ben Yehuda Street, King George Street and Jaffa Road). The light rail line goes from Mount Herzl to Pisgat Zeev, South-West to North-East; it has stops near Jaffa Street and the

Mahane Yehuda Market. The Mount Herzl final stop is close to the Yad Vashem memorial.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Opening hours: The system shuts down from Friday afternoon to Saturday after sunset

Phone: +972 3 694 8888

Internet: [www.egged.co.il/HomePage.aspx](http://www.egged.co.il/HomePage.aspx)

## Taxi



The best way to get around Jerusalem is probably by taxi: there's plenty of them on the street and they're not expensive by Western

standards.

You can hail them on the street, call their phone number, or ask your hotel reception. There is a small additional fare if you call by phone, and the tariff is higher at night (9pm-5:30am), on Friday afternoons and Saturdays, and on holiday eves. Make sure the taxi driver turns on the meter when you get in. For trips outside of town, you might want to negotiate a fare with the driver instead of using the meter.

Bar-Ilan Taxis:

+972 2 586 6666

[eyal.benovadia@gmail.com](mailto:eyal.benovadia@gmail.com)

Hapisga Taxis:

2 Ha-Pisga Street, Jerusalem

+972 2 642 2222

Photo: Taxi

## Post



Find a centrally located post office at:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Agripas Street 42, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-6pm. Fri 8am-12pm

Internet: [www.israelpost.co.il](http://www.israelpost.co.il)

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies take turns being open on Shabbat: find an English list of them on the printed version of the Jerusalem Post ( [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

).

Super-Pharm Mamilla:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Shlomo ha-Melekh Street 9, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8:30am-12am. Fri 8:30am-4pm. Sat from an hour before Shabbat to 12am

Phone: +972 77 888 1450

## Telephone



Country Code: +972 Area Code: 2

Photo: Jardson Almeida



## Electricity



230 V / 50 Hz The power sockets are type H; they also work with plug C.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

857,700

### Currency

New Israel Shekel (NIS), 1 shekel = 100 agurot (singular form: agura)

### Opening hours

Most shops open Sunday to Thursday 9am-7pm. Jewish-owned stores are closed on Friday afternoon and Saturday to celebrate Shabbat. Some re-open on Saturday after 8:30pm. The Muslim day of rest is Friday, while Christians do not work on Sunday.

### Newspapers

Haaretz - national newspaper published in both Hebrew and English; the English version is sold together with the International New York Times: [www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)  
The Jerusalem Post - national newspaper in English and French: [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

Kol Ha'ir - local newspaper in Hebrew: [www.kolhair.co.il](http://www.kolhair.co.il)  
B'Sheva - national newspaper in Hebrew: [www.besheva.co.il](http://www.besheva.co.il)  
Kul al-Arab - national newspaper in Arabic: [www.alarab.com](http://www.alarab.com)

### Emergency numbers

Police: 100  
Emergency Medical Services: 101  
Fire and Rescue: 102

### Tourist information

Tourist Information Old City  
Jaffa Street 1 (inside the Jaffa Gate), Jerusalem  
+972 26 271 422  
Open Sun-Thu 8:30am-5pm, Fri 8:30am-12pm.