



Jerusalem

Photo: DeltaOFF/Shutterstock.com



mikhail / Shutterstock.com

Jerusalem, where history and spirituality converge, contains sacred sites central to world religions. The kaleidoscope of cultures results from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Armenian communities. Experience a vibrant music scene and diverse cuisine, while the Light Festival and Jerusalem Film Festival provide cultural events. The city's spiritual aura and beauty are evident in its mosaics, architecture, and views from the Mount of Olives. A trip to Jerusalem is sure to leave a lasting impression.



volkova natalia / Shutterstock.com

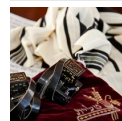


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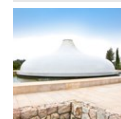
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THE CITY



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Whether you're trying 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 popular attraction, with an array of religious and historical buildings. However, don't miss the newer districts that started spreading in the 1860s — 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 be sure to 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 connection with the land. Jerusalem then became part of the Roman Empire through a dramatic conquest. The Temple was definitively destroyed in 70 AD during a brutal 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.

During the Crusades and Middle Ages, Jerusalem played a significant role in the region's history, with important orders like the Templar Knights founded there. Since the State of Israel was proclaimed in 1947, a tortuous conflict between the state and the city's 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, all of which are worth exploring. At local markets, you will find a wide range of typical objects and

exciting rarities.

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 & Museum of the History of Jerusalem



Located at the entrance to the Old City, near the Jaffa Gate, the old citadel (popularly known as the Tower of David) offers a great way to begin your visit to Jerusalem. From the top, you can admire the panoramic view of the surrounding area. To delve deeper into the city's history, visit the Museum of the History of Jerusalem, situated inside the fortress, or catch the Night Spectacular show, which combines entertainment and education.

Built by Herod the Great, the citadel is thought to be the place where Jesus's death sentence was pronounced. It later served as 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: Sun-Thu & Sat 9am-4pm; Fri 9am-2pm
Phone: +972 2 626 5333
Internet: www.tod.org.il/en
Email: contact@tod.org.il
More Info: Please note that the museum & the Night Spectacular show have specific opening times, so plan accordingly.

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 sidewalk, 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 sidewalk 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: 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: the Mughrabi Gate, which is guarded by a security check.

It's important to dress modestly when visiting the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary. Visitors should cover their 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 / 1:30pm-2:30pm. Winter: Sun-Thu 7am-10:30am / 12:30pm-1:30pm

Phone: +972 2 622 6250

Internet: noblesanctuary.com

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

Email: contact_english@thekotel.org

Western Wall Tunnels



Only 70 metres 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-noon. Saturday evening on reservation

Phone: +972 2 627 1333

Internet: 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: Thales Botelho de Sousa/Unsplash

Address: Temple Mount, Old City, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu 7:30am-10:30am / 1:30pm-2:30pm. Winter: Sun-Thu 7:30am-11:30am / 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 marble. The Mosque used to host the King of Jerusalem and the Templar Knights during the Crusades era.

Photo: Kyrylo Glivin / Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Aqsa Mosque, Temple Mount, Jerusalem

Internet: 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 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: Ali Burhan/Unsplash

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

Internet: 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 Street, 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 to September: Mon-Sat 5am-9pm, Sun 5am-8pm. October to March: daily 4am-7pm

Internet: 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 the 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: Mario La Pergola/Unsplash

Address: Cardo, Old City, Jerusalem

Muslim Quarter



Located in the Northeastern part of the city, the Muslim quarter will strike you as it is a lot busier than the adjacent Jewish one. Men

smoke nargile inside the cafés 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 a resemblance to 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

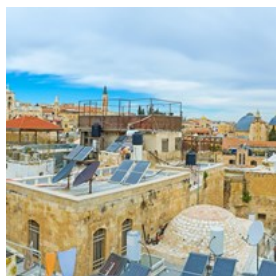
teenagers head to their Yeshivas, schools for Torah studies.

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: Esther Wechsler/Unsplash

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 Sepulchre, 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 cafés, 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.

Mahane Yehuda Market



The most popular street market in Jerusalem, this busy place feels authentic: locals come to buy groceries 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

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: Snowscat/Unsplash
Address: Yad Vashem, Mount Herzl, Jerusalem
Opening hours: Sun-Wed 8:30am-5pm, Thu 8:30am-8pm, Fri & holiday eves 8:30am-2pm
Phone: +972 2 644 3400
Internet: www.yadvashem.org
Email: webmaster@yadvashem.org.il
More Info: Children under 10 cannot enter the Holocaust History Museum

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 & holidays 10am-5pm; Tue 10am-9pm; Fri & holiday eves 10am-2pm
Phone: +972 2 670 8811
Internet: www.imj.org.il/en
Email: info@imj.org.il

City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel



At the City of David, you can explore the remains of the oldest part of Jerusalem and walk through the meanders of a subterranean stream.

The archaeological site spans two levels: an aboveground area and underground excavations. It is much older than Jerusalem's Old City, with the ancient Canaanites building it near the waters of the Gihon Spring before 2,000 BCE. The biblical King David later 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-hour walk inside will take you past many archaeological remains, including a millennia-old pool that was said to have healing powers.

If you plan to walk through the water, be sure to 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 77 996 6726
Internet: www.cityof david.org.il/en

Email: rcv@cityofdauid.org.il

More Info: Entrance near the Dung Gate

Jerusalem Season of Culture



The Jerusalem Season of Culture is a rich and fascinating festival that takes place every summer and lasts for an entire month. With its

complexity and long history, Jerusalem becomes a vibrant, bustling stage for a wide range of events that gather musicians, DJs, visual artists, chefs, and many more. One of the main goals of the festival is to bring together people of all religions and nationalities, creating 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 & Thu 9:30am-5:30pm; Wed

9:30am-9:30pm; Fri, Sat & 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

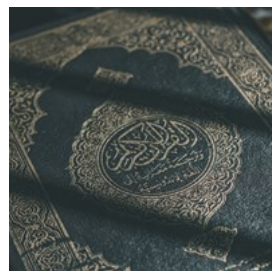
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9:30am-8pm, Fri & holidays 9:30am-1:30pm

Phone: +972 2 540 6505

Internet: www.hebrewmusicmuseum.com

Email: contact@hebrewmusicmuseum.com

Museum for Islamic Art



The 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: freebiespic/Pixabay

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 & Sat 9am-3pm; Thu 9am-6pm
Phone: +972 2 627 2531
Internet: dartifl.org/en
Email: 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.

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
Email: bookings@mots.org.il

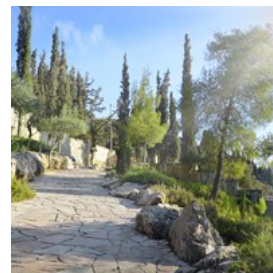
Ades Synagogue



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 & 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 — 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 Saint Peter in Gallicantu



The Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu, a Byzantine-style Catholic church located on Mount Zion, offers stunning views of the City of David

and the village of Silwan, a Palestinian community. The current building, which has some interesting decorations such as stained glass windows, was completed in the 1930s on the site of earlier churches, including a Byzantine monastery. Inside, visitors can admire mosaics and remains from previous churches.

According to tradition, the church marks the spot where the Apostle Peter wept in regret after denying 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: Thomas Bormans/Unsplash

Address: Ma'aleh Hashalom, Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 673 1739

Internet: www.stpeter-gallicantu.org

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 to September: daily 8am-noon / 2pm-6pm. October to March: daily 8am-noon / 2pm-5pm

Phone: +972 2 628 3285

Dormition Church & 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.

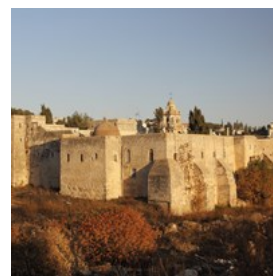
Photo: Rostislav Glinsky / Shutterstock.com

Address: Dormition Abbey, Mount Sion, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 565 5330

Email: 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 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: The Wohl Museum of Archaeology is currently closed for renovations as of June 2022.

Unfortunately, there is no reopening date available at this time

Phone: +972 2 626 5906

Internet: travelrova.co.il/language/en/the-herodian-quarter-wohl-archeological-museum

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

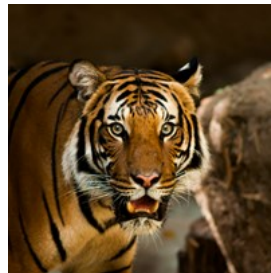
Address: Ma'alot Harav Shlomo Goren, Jerusalem

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

Phone: +972 2 626 5906

Internet: www.rova-yehudi.org.il/en

Biblical Zoo & 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. Children will enjoy exploring the zoo and seeing the animals up close. 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: Jessica Weiller/Unsplash

Address: Derech Aharon Shulov 1, Jerusalem

Public Transport: Bus lines 33, 26a, 99

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-6pm, Fri & holiday eves 9am-4pm, Sat & holidays 9am-5pm

Phone: +972 2 675 0111

Internet: www.jerusalemzoo.org/en/biblical-zoo

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

Herodyon National Park



The Herodyon 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: Dmitriy Feldman svarshik / Shutterstock.com

Address: Herodion National Park, Israel

Opening hours: Summer: Sun-Thu & Sat 8am-5pm; Fri & holiday eves 8am-4pm. Winter: Sun-Thu & Sat 8am-4pm; Fri & holiday eves 8am-3pm

Phone: +972 2 595 3591

Internet: en.parks.org.il

Email: 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

Monastery of Saint George of Choziba

For an off-the-beaten-path, adventurous, and possibly spiritual hiking trip, head to the Monastery of Saint George in the West Bank. Hidden in the rocky landscape and hanging solitary in the deep gorge of Wadi Quelt, it is a breathtaking destination. Hermits founded it in the 5th century, and it spreads over three floors, boasting a beautiful mosaic and a reliquary inside. The monastery is also well-known for its hospitality and friendliness towards female pilgrims.

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

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-1pm by appointment only

Phone: +972 54 730 6557

Internet: www.cicts.org

More Info: You will need a car to reach the place, and the journey will take almost an hour.

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 & 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](mailto:moshertest@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: Public Domain/PxHere

Address: Beit Yaakov Street 10, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12:30pm-4pm / 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 bakdoonsiyyeh, 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: danad94d/Pixabay
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: Lars Blankers/Unsplash
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
Email: 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 a hotel in 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: Jay Wennington/Unsplash
Address: Louis Vincent Street 1, Jerusalem
Phone: +972 2 627 9719
Internet: www.americancolony.com/en-gb
Email: 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: The Design Lady/Unsplash
Address: Betsal'el Street, Jerusalem
Phone: +972 2 625 5222
Internet: 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: Freunde des Snacks e.V./Unsplash
Address: Iraqi Market, Ha-Eshkol Street 4, Jerusalem
Phone: +972 2 623 5204
Internet: www.instagram.com/azura_restaurant
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 noon-midnight, Fri 11:30am-2 hours before Shabbat

Phone: +972 2 631 0050

Internet: hamotzi.co.il/en/hamotzi-restaurant

Email: 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 noon-11pm

Phone: +972 2 626 0034

Internet: www.instagram.com/nafoura_restaurant

Email: dine.nafoura@gmail.com

CAFÉS



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, cafés 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-11pm, Fri 8:30am-1 hour before Shabbat
Phone: +972 2 623 2758
Internet: www.tmol-shilshom.co.il/en
Email: 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 Street 37, Jerusalem
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +972 2 626 5800
Internet: www.austrianhospice.com/en
Email: office@austrianhospice.com

Mousseline Ice Cream Parlor (Mahane Yehuda)



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-midnight, Thu 9am-midnight, Fri 7:30am-5pm, Sat 8:30am-midnight
Phone: +972 2 500 3601
Internet: www.mousseline-jerusalem.com/en
Email: 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

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

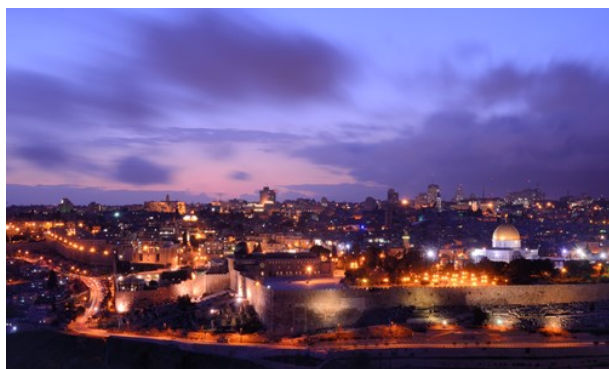
Address: Via Dolorosa Street 38, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-7pm

Phone: +972 54 573 9629

Internet: www.bassemgallerycafe.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Sean Pavone / Shutterstock.com

Jerusalem's nightlife may not be as big and loud as Tel Aviv's, but there are still plenty of hidden gems to discover. The atmosphere is informal and relaxed, with lively student bars featuring pop and alternative music, as well as traditional European-style pubs and bars. Social hotspots can be found on Ben Yehuda Street, King David

Street, Mahane Yehuda Market, and at First Station. Nightlife starts late, with people usually gathering after midnight.

Jerusalem's music scene is brilliant and renowned, with performances ranging from street musicians to concerts in prestigious venues. For cinema enthusiasts, there are also good options available. The Israel Museum and the Bible Lands Museum often organise cultural events, and the Jerusalem Season of Culture held every summer features 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 Street 13, Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 679 4040

Internet: www.yellowsubmarine.org.il

Email: 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
Email: 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 Arrack, an Israeli anise spirit with a heavy liquorice taste.

Photo: PopTika / Shutterstock.com
Address: Gershon Agron Street 24, Jerusalem
Opening hours: Daily 5pm-2am
Phone: +972 54 901 0076
Internet: www.glen.co.il
Email: 18glen@gmail.com
More Info: Happy hour 5pm-8pm

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 Street 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

Email: 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 an eclectic mix of genres. 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, excellent pizza and typical brunch dishes.

Photo: Free-Photos / Pixabay.com
Address: Shoshan Street 3, Jerusalem
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2am, Sat 6pm-2am, Sun closed
Phone: +972 2 582 2090
Internet: mazkeka.com
Email: info@mazkeka.com

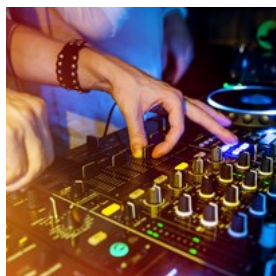
Gatsby Cocktail Room



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

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.

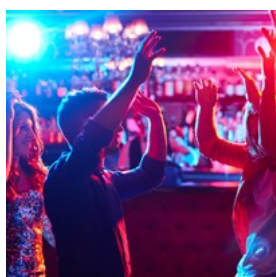
Photo: Maxim Blinkov / Shutterstock.com

Address: Ben Sira Street 4, Jerusalem

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

Email: gootel@gmail.com

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

SHOPPING



mariakraynova / Shutterstock.com

Typical art, craftwork and souvenirs can be found in the tourist 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 craftwork from different faiths: along with crucifixes and nativities, you'll find menorahs (typical seven-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. 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



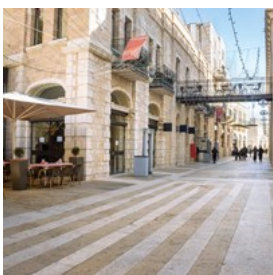
The Old City teems with stalls and vendors selling a wide array of typical items: religious items such as rosaries and crucifixes, nativity sets and Christmas decorations, wood-carved chess, semi-precious stones and much more.

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: fizzone / 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

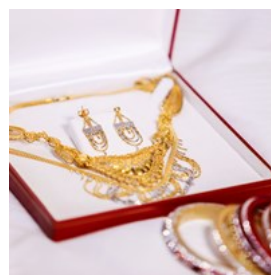


Established in 1967, this lane hosts more than 20 art shops: come for a variety of handmade craft products, including jewellery, metal art, paintings, sculptures, photography, and pottery. You can meet the creators in a lively environment, and find both traditional and modern items. The Collective is 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 & holiday eves 10am-2pm
Internet: www.artistscolony.co.il
Email: artistscolonyjlm@gmail.com

Baltinester Bros. Jewellery



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

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
Email: 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 & Sat noon-6pm
Phone: +972 2 672 1707
Internet: www.sunbula.org
Email: info@sunbula.org

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

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-1 hour before Shabbat

Phone: +972 76 543 3800

Internet: www.holzerbooks.com

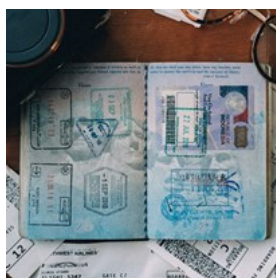
Email: holzerbooks@gmail.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Ella Hanochi / Shutterstock.com

Passport/Visa



To visit Israel, your passport should be valid for at least the duration of your stay. While Israel recommends six months of validity, it's no longer a strict requirement as long as your passport remains valid during your visit.

Most visitors from countries with visa exemption agreements, including the EU, USA, Canada, and Australia, can enter Israel for up to 90 days without a visa. However, as of August 2024, an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA-IL) must be obtained online at least 72 hours before travel. For those from non-exempt countries, a visa is required in advance.

In addition, Israel issues an entry card instead of stamping passports, which helps avoid complications when travelling to certain Arab or Muslim countries. Carry your passport if you plan to visit Palestinian territories, as it may be required at checkpoints.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash

Best Time to Visit



Jerusalem is pleasant to visit at any time of year. For affordable prices, relatively limited visitor numbers, and 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: Dan Gold/unsplash

Health & Safety



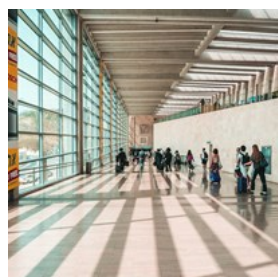
Medical care in Jerusalem is very good but very expensive — make sure you have good medical insurance for your trip. Although Jerusalem isn't usually a dangerous city, it's better to avoid the Old City at night. With Palestinian-Israeli issues coming to a boil, areas around places of worship

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: Cristina Gottardi/unsplash

Tel Aviv-Ben Gurion Airport (TLV)



Jerusalem does not have an airport within the city, but the closest airport is Ben Gurion International Airport, located around 50km away. This is the main international airport in Israel and offers many flight options from various destinations around the world.

From Ben Gurion Airport, you can reach Jerusalem by taxi, shared shuttle, or train. Taxis and shared shuttles are available at the airport terminal. 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 and runs around the clock 6 days a week, excluding Shabbat. The last service is at 2 pm on Friday, followed by the next bus at 7 pm on Saturday.

The train station is located at the airport itself, at level S. The train is a convenient option as it offers a direct connection between the airport and Jerusalem-Yitzhak Navon Station, with a travel time of around 25 minutes.

It is important to note that security measures are strict in Israel, especially at the airport, so be prepared to go through a thorough security check.

Photo: Joseph Barrientos/unsplash

Address: Tel Aviv-Ben Gurion Airport, Israel

Phone: +972 3 972 3333

Internet: www.iaa.gov.il/en

Public Transport



Public transport in Jerusalem includes an extensive bus network and a light rail line, operated by companies like Egged and CityPass.

To use the system, you must have a 'Rav Kav' smart card, which can be purchased and reloaded at various locations, including bus and light rail stations, kiosks, and convenience stores. Tickets cannot be bought on board, so make sure your Rav Kav card is loaded with sufficient credit beforehand.

The bus network covers the entire city, with key hubs around the Central Bus Station and the Downtown Triangle. The light rail runs from Mount Herzl to Pisgat Ze'ev, passing through major areas like Jaffa Road and the Mahane Yehuda Market, with the Mount Herzl station conveniently located near the Yad Vashem memorial. For planning routes, use official public transport apps or the Egged website for real-time information.

Photo: Laura Siegal/unsplash

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

Phone: +972 3 694 8888

Internet: www.egged.co.il

Taxi



Taxis are widely available in Jerusalem, and they are usually white with a yellow sign on the roof.

They run on meters, but it's a good idea to agree

on a price beforehand to avoid any issues. It's also common to tip the driver a small amount, around 10% of the fare.

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.

Ridesharing apps such as Uber (only with licensed cab drivers) and Gett operate in Jerusalem, and they can be a convenient and reliable option for transportation.

Photo: Gustavo/Unsplash

Post



Jerusalem's postal service, managed by the Israel Postal Company, is your go-to for sending postcards and packages back home. Find their

offices scattered around the city, ready to serve

tourists and locals alike. Don't forget to grab some unique Israeli stamps for a special touch.

You can also find postal services at some larger shopping centres and malls. International mail usually takes around 7-10 days to arrive at its destination. Keep an eye out for operating hours, as they may vary depending on the location.

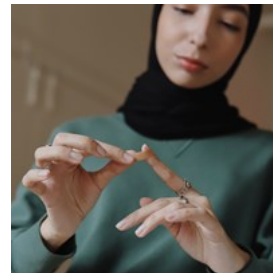
Photo: Simona Sergi/unsplash

Address: Agripas Street 42, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-6pm, Fri 8am-noon, Sat closed

Internet: www.israelpost.co.il

Pharmacy



Pharmacies take turns being open on Shabbat.

To find where an open pharmacy is during these off-hours, dial 106 from any local phone.

Photo: Good Faces/unsplash

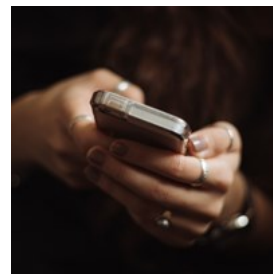
Address: Super-Pharm Mamilla, Shlomo ha-Melekh Street 9, Jerusalem

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri 8:30am-4pm, Sat from 1 hours after Shabbat to midnight

Phone: +972 77 888 1450

Internet: shop.super-pharm.co.il

Telephone



Country Code: +972 Area Code: 2

Photo: Priscilla Du Preez/unsplash

Electricity



Israel operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. You will usually find plug type C (two round pins, common in Europe). You can also see plug H (three pins in a triangular shape), which is compatible with type C.

Photo: Neven Krcmarek/unsplash

Population

Metro area: 983,000 (2024)

Currency

New Israel Shekel (ILS)

Opening hours

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

Newspapers

The Jerusalem Post: www.jpost.com
Israel Hayom: www.israelhayom.com
Haaretz: www.haaretz.com

Emergency numbers

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

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre
Omar Ibn Katab, Jerusalem
+972 2 627 1422
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 9am–3pm, Fri & Sat closed