



Jerusalem ירושלים القدس

02 / POP 780,200

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Best Places to Eat

- » Amigo Emil (p93)
- » Mahane Yehuda Market (p77)
- » Hamarackia (p93)
- » Little Jerusalem (p94)

Best Places to Stay

- » Harmony (p88)
- » Abraham Hostel (p87)
- » Lutheran Guest House (p89)
- » St Andrew's Guesthouse (p88)

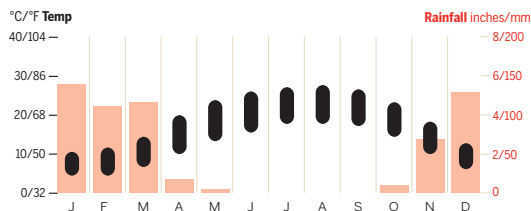
Why Go?

Jerusalem has been seducing travellers, pilgrims and curiosity seekers since time immemorial. Holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims, the city is overflowing with sites of intense religious importance, not the least of which are the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Even for the nonreligious, it's hard not to be moved by the emotions and history that come alive in the narrow alleys of the Old City.

Jerusalem feels like a loosely connected patchwork of 20 or so distinct villages, each inhabited by a unique subset of the population. A cross-town journey could pass through Muslim East Jerusalem to ultra-Orthodox Mea She'arim and onto the progressive German Colony. Take a wander through each area to contemplate the historical significance of the city and to better understand its passionate citizenry: Muslims, Jews and Christians warily co-habiting in order to keep a toehold on the most spiritual city on Earth.

When to Go

Jerusalem



Apr Temperatures are pleasant and flowers are blooming, but prepare for crowds around the Easter holiday.

May Jerusalem hosts the Israel Festival, a good time for arts and culture events.

Sep–early Nov The best time weather-wise, with blue skies, pleasant temperatures and fewer tourists.

Getting Around

The Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR) passes in front of Central Bus Station. You can hop on the JLR for a ride down Jaffa Rd to Zion Sq and East Jerusalem. For Jaffa Gate, take the JLR to City Hall and walk downhill for five minutes. For Mamilla and the German Colony, take bus 18 from Central Bus Station.

A taxi to/from the airport costs 250NIS on weekdays or 300NIS on Shabbat. Neshet service taxis provide a door-to-door airport shuttle service charging 60NIS per head. The public bus costs 35.80NIS per head but requires a bus change; see p103 for details.

ORIENTATION

Navigation in Jerusalem is complicated by the rolling topography, winding roads and one-way streets, not to mention the labyrinth of alleys in the Old City. In the New City, the main artery is Jaffa Rd, which is now only open to the new Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR).

In West Jerusalem, the main areas of shopping and commerce are located on and near Ben Yehuda and Hillel Sts. In East Jerusalem the main road is Salah ad-Din St.

Most visitors enter the Old City at Jaffa Gate (which has a tourist information office) and work their way downhill. It's easy to get lost, but just walk one or two minutes in any direction and you eventually reach a familiar landmark or street.

Egged 99 Circular Line, which makes a loop around the city while providing commentary in English, is a good way to orient yourself upon arrival.

Climate & Holidays

- » Summer temperatures here are milder – with daytime averages of between 20°C and 25°C – than in other parts of the country, making this a good time to visit. However, tourist numbers rise, so book ahead to make sure you get a room.
- » In winter (mid-October to mid-March), daylight hours are reduced (it gets dark as early as 4.30pm) and, with daytime temperatures down to between 8°C and 10°C, you'll need to come equipped with warm clothes and rain gear.
- » During major holidays such as Passover (April) and Jewish New Year (September), visitor numbers spike and hotel prices increase.

MEDIA

The *Jerusalem Post* (www.jpost.com) and *Ha'aretz* (www.haaretz.com) newspapers are both in English and are great for local news and events.

Top Views

- » Citadel (Tower of David)
- » Mount of Olives
- » Haas Promenade
- » Rooftop cafe, Hashimi Hotel
- » Church of the Ascension tower

Internet Resources

- » Jerusalem Municipality website (www.jerusalem.muni.il)
- » Jerusalem Shots (www.jerusalemshots.com)
- » Il Museums (www.ilmuseums.com)

Handy Tips

- » Some sights, including the Western Wall Tunnels tour, Chain of Generations Centre and the Herzl Museum, require reservations.
- » Visit the Muslim and Christian Quarters on Shabbat (Friday afternoon and Saturday), when other parts of the city close down.
- » Egged buses and the light rail don't run on Shabbat but the Arab buses from East Jerusalem do, allowing you to reach the West Bank cities and the Mount of Olives.
- » Most places of interest are religious in nature, so modest dress – pants for men and long skirts for women – is respectful.