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| **The Symbol of Jerusalem**  |  |

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| **The symbol tells the story of the very first days of the country of Israel...**Immediately upon the creation of the country it was decided that the symbol of the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel needed to convey the special meaning as the city of the Jewish people. It was designed by A.Koren .http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/imagedb/s_2112114429.jpgOn the first of the month of Adar, 1950, the symbol of the capital city of Jerusalem was officially chosen and registered.The symbol that was chosen reminds us of the great and storied past of the Jewish people: the stone wall in contrast with the surrounding olive branch exhibits the hope and peace of this new capital of a new country. The lion, the protector of the wall, symbolizes the connection of the capital city with the estate of the Tribe of Judah and is a display of one of the common symbols of the Jewish people that decorated some of their most holy instruments as well as the doors and curtains of the Holy Arks of the synagogues. |

**Where the name Jerusalem comes from?**

A city called *Rušalim* in the [Execration texts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Execration_texts) of the [Middle Kingdom of Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Kingdom_of_Egypt) (c. 19th century BCE) is widely, but not universally, identified as Jerusalem. Jerusalem is called *Urušalim*in in the [Amarna letters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_letters%22%20%5Co%20%22Amarna%20letters) of [Abdi-Heba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdi-Heba) (1330s BCE)

The name “Jerusalem” is variously etymologised to mean "foundation (Sumerian *yeru*, ‘settlement’/Semitic *yry,* ‘to found, to lay a cornerstone’) of the god [Shalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalem%22%20%5Co%20%22Shalem)", the god Shalem was thus the original [tutelary deity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutelary_deity) of the Bronze Age city.

The form *Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem) first appears in the Bible, in the book of Joshua. This form has the appearance of a [compound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compound_%28linguistics%29) of*Yireh* (an abiding place of the fear and the service of God)  and the name [Shalim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalim%22%20%5Co%20%22Shalim), the god of dusk in the Canaanite religion, whose name is based on the same root [S-L-M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-L-M) from which the Hebrew word for "peace" is derived (Salam or Shalom in modern Arabic and Hebrew). The name thus offered itself to etymologizations such as "The City of Peace","Abode of Peace","dwelling of peace" ("founded in safety"), alternately "Vision of Peace" in some Christian authors. Typically the ending *-im* indicates the plural in Hebrew grammar and *-ayim* the [dual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual_%28grammatical_number%29), thus leading to the suggestion that the name refers to the fact that the city sits on two hills. However, the pronunciation of the last syllable as *-ayim* appears to be a late development, which had not yet appeared at the time of the [Septuagint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septuagint).

The most ancient settlement of Jerusalem, founded as early as the Bronze Age on the hill above the [Gihon Spring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gihon_Spring%22%20%5Co%20%22Gihon%20Spring), was according to the Bible named [Jebus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jebusite%22%20%5Co%20%22Jebusite). Called the "Fortress of Zion" (*metsudat Zion*), it was renamed by David as the [City of David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_David), and was known by this name in antiquity. Another name, "[Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion)", initially referred to a distinct part of the city, but later came to signify the city as a whole and to represent the biblical [Land of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Israel). In Greek and Latin the city's name was transliterated *Hierosolyma* , means holy in Greek), although the city was renamed [Aelia Capitolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelia_Capitolina%22%20%5Co%20%22Aelia%20Capitolina) for part of the [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) period of its history.

Another important thing that was left in Jerusalem from the Roman period in the street called the Cardo. The cardo was a north–south-oriented street in [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) cities, military camps, and [coloniae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonia_%28Roman%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Colonia%20%28Roman%29). The cardo, an integral component of [city planning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_planning), was a kind of a market place, lined with shops and vendors, and served as a hub of economic life.

The line of the Cardo is still visible on the Jewish Quarter Street, though the original pavement lies several meters below the modern street level.

In Arabic, Jerusalem is most commonly known as القُدس, transliterated as *al-Quds* and meaning "The Holy" or "The Holy Sanctuary". Official Israeli government policy mandates that أُورُشَلِيمَ, transliterated as *Ūršalīm*, which is the cognate of the Hebrew and English names, be used as the Arabic language name for the city in conjunction with القُدس. أُورُشَلِيمَ-القُدس.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-49)

**History**

Given the city's central position in both Jewish nationalism ([Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism)) and [Palestinian nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_nationalism), the selectivity required to summarise more than 5,000 years of inhabited history is often influenced by ideological bias or background (see [Historiography and nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historiography_and_nationalism)). For example, the Jewish periods of the city's history are important to Israeli nationalists ([Zionists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionists)), whose [discourse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discourse) suggests that modern Jews descend from the [Israelites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites) and [Maccabees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees), whilst the Islamic, Christian and other non-Jewish periods of the city's history are important to [Palestinian nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_nationalism), whose [discourse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discourse) suggests that modern [Palestinians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinians) descend from all the different peoples who have lived in the region. As a result, both sides claim the history of the city has been politicized by the other in order to strengthen their relative claims to the city, and that this is borne out by the different focuses the different writers place on the various events and eras in the city's history.

Overview of Jerusalem's historical periods



Ancient period

*Further information:*[*City of David*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_David)*and*[*History of ancient Israel and Judah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Israel_and_Judah)





[Stepped Stone Structure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepped_Stone_Structure), City of David

Ceramic evidence indicates occupation of the [City of David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_David), within present-day Jerusalem, as far back as the [Copper Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copper_Age) (c. 4th millennium BCE),[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-aice-1)[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-freedman2000-57) with evidence of a permanent settlement during the early [Bronze Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_Age) (c. 3000–2800 BCE). The [Execration Texts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Execration_Texts) (c. 19th century BCE), which refer to a city called *rwš3lmm,* variously transcribed as *Rušalimum*/*Urušalimum*/*Rôsh-ramen*and the [Amarna letters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_letters%22%20%5Co%20%22Amarna%20letters) (c. 14th century BCE) may be the earliest mention of the city.[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-vaughn-60)[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-61) Some archaeologists, including [Kathleen Kenyon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Kenyon), believe Jerusalem was founded by[Northwest Semitic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Semitic_languages) people with organized settlements from around 2600 BCE. Nadav Na'aman argues its fortification as the centre of a kingdom dates to around the 18th century BCE.[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-62) The first settlement lay on the [Ophel ridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ophel%22%20%5Co%20%22Ophel).[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-63) The biblical account first mentions Jerusalem ("Salem") as ruled by [Melchizedek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melchizedek), an ally of Abraham.

In the late Bronze Age Jerusalem was the capital of an Egyptian vassal city-state,[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-64) a modest settlement governing a few outlying villages and pastoral areas, with a small Egyptian garrison and ruled by appointees such as king [Abdi-Heba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdi-Heba%22%20%5Co%20%22Abdi-Heba),[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-65) At the time of [Seti I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seti_I%22%20%5Co%20%22Seti%20I) and [Ramesses II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II%22%20%5Co%20%22Ramesses%20II), major construction took place as prosperity increased.[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-Jerome_Murphy-O.27Connor_pp.5-6-66)

This period, when Canaan formed part of the Egyptian empire corresponds in biblical accounts to[Joshua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joshua)’s invasion.[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-67) In the bible, Jerusalem is defined as lying within territory allocated to the [tribe of Benjamin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribe_of_Benjamin) ([[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-68)[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-69) though occupied by [Jebusites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jebusite%22%20%5Co%20%22Jebusite). [David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David) is said to have conquered these in the [Siege of Jebus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jebus), and transferred his capital from [Hebron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebron) to Jerusalem which then became the capital of a united [Kingdom of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_%28united_monarchy%29),[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-70) and one of its several religious centres.[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-71) The choice was perhaps dictated by the fact that Jerusalem did not form part of Israel’s tribal system, and was thus suited to serve as the centre of its federation.[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-Jerome_Murphy-O.27Connor_pp.5-6-66) Opinion is divided over whether a [Large Stone Structure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_Stone_Structure) and a nearby [Stepped Stone Structure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepped_Stone_Structure) may be identified with King David's palace, or dates to a later period.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-nytimes-72)[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-73)

According to the Bible, King [David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David) reigned for 40 years.[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-74) The generally accepted estimate of the conclusion of this reign is 970 BCE. The Bible records that David was succeeded by his son [Solomon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon),[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-wwbible-75) who built the [Holy Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_in_Jerusalem) on [Mount Moriah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moriah). [Solomon's Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon%27s_Temple)(later known as the *First Temple*), went on to play a pivotal role in [Jewish history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_history) as the repository of the [Ark of the Covenant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ark_of_the_Covenant).[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-76) For more than 400 years, until the [Babylonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonia) conquest in 587 BCE, Jerusalem was the political capital of the united [Kingdom of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_%28united_monarchy%29) and then the [Kingdom of Judah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Judah). During this period, known as the [First Temple Period](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon%27s_Temple),[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-bu2-2-77) the Temple was the religious center of the Israelites.[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-78) On Solomon's death (c. 930 BCE), the [ten northern tribes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Lost_Tribes) split off to form the [Kingdom of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_%28united_monarchy%29). Under the leadership of the House of David and Solomon, Jerusalem remained the capital of the [Kingdom of Judah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Judah).[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-autogenerated1-79) Archeological remains from the ancient [Israelite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelite) period also include [Hezekiah's Tunnel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezekiah%27s_Tunnel), an aqueduct built by [Judean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judean) king [Hezekiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezekiah) and decorated with ancient Hebrew inscription, known as [Siloam Inscription](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siloam_Inscription),[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-80) [Broad Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broad_Wall_%28Jerusalem%29) a defensive fortification built in the 8th century BCE, also by Hezekiah,[[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-81)[Monolith of Silwan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monolith_of_Silwan), Tomb of the Royal Steward, which were decorated with monumental [Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew) inscriptions,[[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-82) and [Israelite Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelite_Tower), remnants of ancient fortifications, built from large, sturdy rocks with carved cornerstones.[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-83) A huge water reservoir dating from this period was discovered in 2012 near [Robinson's Arch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robinson%27s_Arch), indicating the existence of a densely built-up quarter across the area west of the Temple Mount during the Judean kingdom.[[84]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-84)

Classical antiquity

*Main articles: [Yehud Medinata](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yehud_Medinata%22%20%5Co%20%22Yehud%20Medinata) and*[*Jerusalem during the Achaemenid period*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_during_the_Achaemenid_period)

*Further information:*[*Jerusalem during the Second Temple Period*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_during_the_Second_Temple_Period)*and [Aelia Capitolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelia_Capitolina%22%20%5Co%20%22Aelia%20Capitolina)*

In 538 BCE, after 50 years of [Babylonian captivity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_captivity), [Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) [King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_kings_of_Persia) [Cyrus the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_the_Great) invited the Jews to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple.[[85]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-85) Construction of the [Second Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple_of_Jerusalem) was completed in 516 BCE, during the reign of [Darius the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darius_I_of_Persia), 70 years after the destruction of the First Temple.[[86]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-86)[[87]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-87) In about 445 BCE, King [Artaxerxes I of Persia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artaxerxes_I_of_Persia%22%20%5Co%20%22Artaxerxes%20I%20of%20Persia) issued a decree allowing the city and the walls to be rebuilt.[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-88) Jerusalem resumed its role as capital of Judah and center of Jewish worship.

From [Second Temple period](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple_period) many ancient Jewish tombs have been discovered in Jerusalem. Among them, The Tomb of Simon the Temple Builder, discovered north of Old City contains human remains in ossuary decorated by Aramaic inscription which reads "Simon the Temple Builder." [[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-jewishvirtuallibrary.org-89) The Tomb of Abba, also located north of the [Old City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_of_Jerusalem) contains Aramaic inscription with [Paleo-Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleo-Hebrew%22%20%5Co%20%22Paleo-Hebrew) letters reading: "I, Abba, son of the priest Eleaz(ar), son of Aaron the high (priest), Abba, the oppressed and the persecuted, who was born in Jerusalem, and went into exile into Babylonia and brought (back to Jerusalem) Mattathi(ah), son of Jud(ah), and buried him in a cave which I bought by deed"[[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-90) The [Tomb of Benei Hezir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_Benei_Hezir) located in [Kidron Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidron_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Kidron%20Valley) is decorated by monumental [Doric columns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doric_columns) and Hebrew inscription, identifying it as the tombs of [Second Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple) priests.[[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-jewishvirtuallibrary.org-89) The [Tombs of the Sanhedrin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tombs_of_the_Sanhedrin) is an underground complex of 63 rock-cut tombs located in a public park in the northern Jerusalem neighborhood of [Sanhedria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanhedria%22%20%5Co%20%22Sanhedria). These tombs, used probably by members of [Sanhedrin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanhedrin) [[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-91)[[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-92) inscribed by ancient Hebrew and Aramaic writings are dated to between 100 BCE and 100 CE.

When [Alexander the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) conquered the [Persian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire), Jerusalem and [Judea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judea) came under Macedonian control, eventually falling to the [Ptolemaic dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_dynasty) under [Ptolemy I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_I_Soter). In 198 BCE, [Ptolemy V](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_V_Epiphanes) lost Jerusalem and Judea to the [Seleucids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_Empire) under [Antiochus III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_III_the_Great). The[Seleucid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_Empire) attempt to recast Jerusalem as a [Hellenized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization) [city-state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polis) came to a head in 168 BCE with the successful [Maccabean revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees) of [Mattathias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattathias) and his five sons against [Antiochus Epiphanes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_IV_Epiphanes), and their establishment of the [Hasmonean Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasmonean%22%20%5Co%20%22Hasmonean) in 152 BCE with Jerusalem again as its capital.

In 63 BCE, [Pompey the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompey_the_Great) intervened in a Hasmonean struggle for the throne and captured Jerusalem, extending the influence of the [Roman Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic) over Judea.[[93]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-93) Following a short invasion by Parthians, backing the rival Hasmonean rulers, Judea became a scene of struggle between pro-Roman and pro-Parthian forces, eventually leading to the emergence of Edomite Herod, who would be appointed King of the Jews by the Roman senate and establish the Herodian dynasty.



Roman siege and destruction of Jerusalem (David Roberts, 1850)

As [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire) became stronger it installed [Herod](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great) as a Jewish [client king](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_state). Herod the Great, as he was known, devoted himself to developing and beautifying the city. He built walls, towers and palaces, and [expanded the Temple Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod%27s_Temple), buttressing the courtyard with blocks of stone weighing up to 100 tons. Under Herod, the area of the Temple Mount doubled in size. Shortly after Herod's death, in 6 CE Judea came under direct Roman rule as the [Iudaea Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iudaea_Province%22%20%5Co%20%22Iudaea%20Province),[[96]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-96) although Herod's descendants through [Agrippa II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrippa_II) remained client kings of neighbouring territories until 96 CE. Roman rule over Jerusalem and the region began to be challenged with the [First Jewish–Roman War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Jewish%E2%80%93Roman_War), which resulted in the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. Jerusalem once again served as the capital of Judea during the three-year rebellion known as the [Bar Kokhba revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt), beginning in 132 CE. The Romans succeeded in suppressing the revolt in 135 CE. Emperor [Hadrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian) combined [Judaea Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iudaea_Province) with neighboring provinces to create [*Syria Palaestina*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_Palaestina), erasing the name of Judea,[[97]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-97) Romanized the city, renaming it [Aelia Capitolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelia_Capitolina%22%20%5Co%20%22Aelia%20Capitolina),[[98]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-98) and banned the Jews from entering it on pain of death, except for one day each year ([9 Ab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B%27Av)). These anti-Jewish measures which affected also Jewish Christians,[[102]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-102) was taken to ensure 'the complete and permanent secularization of Jerusalem.'[[103]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-103) The enforcement of the ban on Jews entering [Aelia Capitolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelia_Capitolina%22%20%5Co%20%22Aelia%20Capitolina) continued until the 4th century CE.

In the five centuries following the Bar Kokhba revolt, the city remained under Roman then [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) rule. During the 4th century, the [Roman Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Emperor) [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) constructed Christian sites in Jerusalem, such as the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Sepulchre). Jerusalem reached a peak in size and population at the end of the Second Temple Period, when the city covered two square kilometers (0.8 sq mi.) and had a population of 200,000. From the days of Constantine until the 7th century, Jews were banned from Jerusalem.[[105]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-105)

The eastern continuation of the [Roman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire), the [Byzantine Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), maintained control of the city for years. Within the span of a few decades, Jerusalem shifted from Byzantine to [Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) rule and returned to Roman-Byzantine dominion once more. Following [Sassanid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire) [Khosrau II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khosrau_II%22%20%5Co%20%22Khosrau%20II)'s early 7th century push into [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), advancing through Syria, Sassanid Generals [Shahrbaraz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahrbaraz%22%20%5Co%20%22Shahrbaraz) and [Shahin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahin_Vahmanzadegan%22%20%5Co%20%22Shahin%20Vahmanzadegan)attacked the Byzantine-controlled city of Jerusalem ([Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language): Dej Houdkh‎). They were aided by the Jews of [Palaestina Prima](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palaestina_Prima%22%20%5Co%20%22Palaestina%20Prima), who had risen up against the Byzantines.[[106]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-AntiochusStrategos-106)

In the [Siege of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_%28614%29) (614), after 21 days of relentless [siege warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege), Jerusalem was captured. The Byzantine chronicles relate that the [Sassanid army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_army) and the Jews slaughtered tens of thousands of Christians in the city, many at the [Mamilla Pool](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamilla_Pool%22%20%5Co%20%22Mamilla%20Pool) and destroyed its Byzantine monuments and churches, including the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Sepulchre). The episode has been the subject of much debate between historians.[[107]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-107) The conquered city would remain in Sassanid hands for some fifteen years until the Byzantine Emperor [Heraclius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclius) reconquered it in 629.[[108]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-108)

Middle Ages





[Dome of the Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dome_of_the_Rock) viewed through Cotton Gate

Byzantine Jerusalem was conquered by the Arab armies of [Umar ibn al-Khattab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar_ibn_al-Khattab) in 634. Among [Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims) of Islam's earliest era it was referred to as *Madinat bayt al-Maqdis* ("City of the Temple")[[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-109) which was restricted to the Temple Mount. The rest of the city "... was called Iliya, reflecting the Roman name given the city following the destruction of 70 c.e.: *Aelia Capitolina*".[[110]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-110)Later the Temple Mount became known as *al-Haram al-Sharif*, “The Noble Sanctuary”, while the city around it became known as *Bayt al-Maqdis*,[[111]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-111) and later still, *al-Quds al-Sharif* "The Noble City". The [Islamization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamization%22%20%5Co%20%22Islamization) of Jerusalem began in the first year [A.H.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijri_year) (620 CE), when Muslims were instructed to face the city while performing their daily prostrations and, according to Muslim religious tradition, Muhammad's night journey and ascension to heaven took place. After 16 months, the direction of prayer was changed to Mecca.[[112]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-112) In 638 the Islamic [Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate) extended its dominion to Jerusalem.[[113]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-113) With the [Arab conquest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Syria), Jews were allowed back into the city.[[114]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-114) The [Rashidun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun%22%20%5Co%20%22Rashidun)caliph [Umar ibn al-Khattab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar) signed a treaty with [Monophysite Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monophysitism%22%20%5Co%20%22Monophysitism) Patriarch [Sophronius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophronius_of_Jerusalem%22%20%5Co%20%22Sophronius%20of%20Jerusalem), assuring him that Jerusalem's Christian holy places and population would be protected under Muslim rule.[[115]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-115) Christian-Arab tradition records that, when led to pray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest site for Christians, the caliph Umar refused to pray in the church so that Muslims would not request conversion of the church to a mosque.[[116]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-116) He prayed outside the church, where the [Mosque of Umar (Omar)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque_of_Omar_%28Jerusalem%29) stands to this day, opposite the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. According to the Gaullic bishop [Arculf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arculf%22%20%5Co%20%22Arculf), who lived in Jerusalem from 679 to 688, the Mosque of Umar was a rectangular wooden structure built over ruins which could accommodate 3,000 worshipers.[[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-Yisrael_Shalem-117) When the Muslims went to Bayt Al-Maqdes for the first time, They searched for the site of the Far Away Holy Mosque (Al-Masjed Al-Aqsa) that was mentioned in Quran and Hadith according to Islamic beliefs. Contemporary Arabic and Hebrew sources say the site was full of rubbish, and that Arabs and Jews cleaned it.[[118]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-118) The [Umayyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate%22%20%5Co%20%22Umayyad%20Caliphate)caliph [Abd al-Malik](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd_al-Malik_ibn_Marwan%22%20%5Co%20%22Abd%20al-Malik%20ibn%20Marwan) commissioned the construction of the [Dome of the Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dome_of_the_Rock) in the late 7th century.[[119]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-119) The 10th century historian [al-Muqaddasi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Muqaddasi) writes that Abd al-Malik built the shrine in order to compete in grandeur with Jerusalem's monumental churches.[[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-Yisrael_Shalem-117) Over the next four hundred years Jerusalem's prominence diminished as Arab powers in the region jockeyed for control.[[120]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-120) A messianic[Karaite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaite_Judaism) movement to gather in Jerusalem took place at the turn of the millennium, leading to a "Golden Age" of Karaite scholarship there, which was only terminated by the Crusades.[[121]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-121)





Medieval illustration of capture of Jerusalem during the First Crusade, 1099

In 1099, The [Fatimid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate) ruler expelled the native Christian population before Jerusalem was [conquered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_%281099%29) by the [Crusaders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades), who massacred most of its Muslim and Jewish inhabitants when they took the solidly defended city by assault, after a period of siege, and left the city emptied of people; later the Crusaders created the [Kingdom of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Jerusalem). The city had been virtually emptied and recolonized by a variegated inflow of Greeks, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Georgians, Armenians, Syrians, Egyptians, Nestorians, Maronites, Jacobite Monophysites, Copts and others, to block the return of the surviving Muslims and Jews. The north-eastern quarter was repopulated with Eastern Christians from the Transjordan.[[122]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-122) As a result, by 1099 Jerusalem’s population had climbed back to some 30,000.[[123]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-123)

In 1244, Jerusalem was sacked by the [Khwarezmian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khwarazmian_dynasty%22%20%5Co%20%22Khwarazmian%20dynasty) [Tartars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatars), who decimated the city's Christian population and drove out the Jews.[[127]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-127) The Khwarezmian Tartars were driven out by the Ayyubids in 1247. From 1250 to 1517, Jerusalem was ruled by the [Mamluks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk_Sultanate_%28Cairo%29). During this period of time many clashes occurred between the Mamluks on one side and the crusaders and the [Mongols](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongols) on the other side. The area also suffered from many earthquakes and [black plague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Death).[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*] Some European Christian presence was maintained in the city by the [Order of the Holy Sepulchre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Holy_Sepulchre).

Early modern period





David's Citadel and the Ottoman walls

In 1517, Jerusalem and environs fell to the [Ottoman Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), who generally remained in control until 1917.[[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-century1-124) Jerusalem enjoyed a prosperous period of renewal and peace under [Suleiman the Magnificent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent) – including the rebuilding of magnificent walls around the [Old City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29). Throughout much of Ottoman rule, Jerusalem remained a provincial, if religiously important center, and did not straddle the main trade route between [Damascus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus) and [Cairo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo).[[128]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-128) The English reference book *Modern history or the present state of all nations* written in 1744 stated that "Jerusalem is still reckoned the capital city of Palestine".[[129]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-129)

The Ottomans brought many innovations: modern postal systems run by the various consulates and regular stagecoach and carriage services were among the first signs of modernization in the city.[[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-multiref1-130) In the mid 19th century, the Ottomans constructed the first paved road from Jaffa to Jerusalem, and by 1892 the railroad had reached the city.[[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-multiref1-130)

Modern period





Ben-Zakai Synagogue in 1893

With the annexation of Jerusalem by [Muhammad Ali of Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt) in 1831, foreign missions and consulates began to establish a foothold in the city. In 1836, [Ibrahim Pasha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Pasha_of_Egypt) allowed Jerusalem's Jewish residents to restore four major synagogues, among them the [Hurva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurva_Synagogue%22%20%5Co%20%22Hurva%20Synagogue).[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-multiref2-131)In the [1834 Arab revolt in Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1834_Arab_revolt_in_Palestine), Qasim al-Ahmad led his forces from [Nablus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nablus) and attacked Jerusalem, aided by the [Abu Ghosh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Ghosh) clan, entered the city on 31 May 1834. The Christians and Jews of Jerusalem were subjected to attacks. Ibrahim's Egyptian army routed Qasim's forces in Jerusalem the following month.[[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-132)

Ottoman rule was reinstated in 1840, but many Egyptian Muslims remained in Jerusalem and Jews from [Algiers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers) and North Africa began to settle in the city in growing numbers.[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-multiref2-131)In the 1840s and 1850s, the international powers began a tug-of-war in Palestine as they sought to extend their protection over the region's religious minorities, a struggle carried out mainly through consular representatives in Jerusalem. According to the Prussian consul, the population in 1845 was 16,410, with 7,120 Jews, 5,000 Muslims, 3,390 Christians, 800 Turkish soldiers and 100 Europeans.[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-multiref2-131) The volume of Christian pilgrims increased under the Ottomans, doubling the city's population around Easter time.[[134]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-134)

In the 1860s, new neighborhoods began to develop outside the Old City walls to house pilgrims and relieve the intense overcrowding and poor sanitation inside the city. The [Russian Compound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Compound) and [Mishkenot Sha'ananim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mishkenot_Sha%27ananim%22%20%5Co%20%22Mishkenot%20Sha%27ananim) were founded in 1860.[[135]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-135) In 1867 an American Missionary reports an estimated population of Jerusalem of 'above' 15,000, with 4,000 to 5,000 Jews and 6,000 Muslims. Every year there were 5,000 to 6,000 Russian Christian Pilgrims.[[136]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-136) In 1874 Jerusalem became the center of a special administrative district, independent of the [Syria Vilayet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_Vilayet) and under the direct authority of [Istanbul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul) called the [Mutasarrifate of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutasarrifate_of_Jerusalem%22%20%5Co%20%22Mutasarrifate%20of%20Jerusalem).[[137]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-137)

Until the 1880s there were no formal [orphanages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphanage) in Jerusalem, as families generally took care of each other. In 1881 the [Diskin Orphanage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diskin_Orphanage%22%20%5Co%20%22Diskin%20Orphanage) was founded in Jerusalem with the arrival of Jewish children orphaned by a Russian [pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom). Other orphanages founded in Jerusalem at the beginning of the 20th century were [Zion Blumenthal Orphanage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion_Blumenthal_Orphanage) (1900) and [General Israel Orphan's Home for Girls](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=General_Israel_Orphan%27s_Home_for_Girls&action=edit&redlink=1)(1902).[[138]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-138)

British Mandate

*Further information:*[*British Mandate of Palestine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_of_Palestine)





[General Edmund Allenby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Allenby%2C_1st_Viscount_Allenby) enters the [Old City of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29) on 11 December 1917

In 1917 after the [Battle of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem_%281917%29), the [British Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army), led by [General Edmund Allenby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Allenby%2C_1st_Viscount_Allenby), captured the city,[[139]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-139) and in 1922, the [League of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations) at the [Conference of Lausanne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conference_of_Lausanne)en trusted the United Kingdom to administer the [Mandate for Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandate_for_Palestine), the neighbouring mandate of [Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan) to the east across the [River Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan), and the [Iraq Mandate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_of_Mesopotamia) beyond it.

From 1922 to 1948 the total population of the city rose from 52,000 to 165,000 with two thirds of Jews and one-third of Arabs (Muslims and Christians).[[140]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-140) The situation between Arabs and Jews in Palestine was not quiet. In Jerusalem, in particular, [Arab riots occurred in 1920](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_Palestine_riots) and [in 1929](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Palestine_riots). Under the British, new garden suburbs were built in the western and northern parts of the city and institutions of higher learning such as the [Hebrew University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem) were founded.

Division and reunification 1948–1967

*Further information:*[*1947-1948 Civil War in Mandatory Palestine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947-1948_Civil_War_in_Mandatory_Palestine)*,*[*1948 Arab-Israeli War*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_War)*, and*[*Battle for Jerusalem (1948)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_for_Jerusalem_%281948%29)

*See also:*[*United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_194)*,*[*Jordanian occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_occupation_of_the_West_Bank_and_East_Jerusalem)*,*[*East Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem)*, and*[*West Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Jerusalem)





Israeli policemen meet a [Jordanian Legionnaire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Legion) near the [Mandelbaum Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandelbaum_Gate%22%20%5Co%20%22Mandelbaum%20Gate)





Jerusalem city hall at night

As the British Mandate for Palestine was expiring, the [1947 UN Partition Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine)recommended "the creation of a special international regime in the City of Jerusalem, constituting it as a [*corpus separatum*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corpus_separatum_%28Jerusalem%29) under the administration of the UN."[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-144) The international regime (which also included the city of [Bethlehem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethlehem)) was to remain in force for a period of ten years, whereupon a [referendum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referendum) was to be held in which the residents were to decide the future regime of their city. However, this plan was not implemented, as the [1948 war erupted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_war), while the British withdrew from Palestine and [Israel declared its independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_%28Israel%29).[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-lapidoth-145) The war led to displacement of Arab and Jewish populations in the city. The 1,500 residents of the [Jewish Quarter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Quarter_%28Jerusalem%29) of the Old City were expelled and a few hundred taken prisoner when the Arab Legion captured the quarter on 28 May.[[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-146)[[147]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-147) The Arab Legion also attacked Western Jerusalem with snipers.[[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-148) Arab residents of [Katamon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katamon%22%20%5Co%20%22Katamon), [Talbiya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talbiya), and the [German Colony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Colony%2C_Jerusalem) were driven from their homes. By the end of the war Israel had control of 12 of Jerusalem's 15 Arab residential quarters. An estimated minimum of 30,000 people had become refugees.[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-149)[[150]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-150)

The war of 1948 resulted in Jerusalem being divided, with the [old walled city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29) lying entirely on the Jordanian side of the [line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Line_%28Israel%29). A no-man's land between East and West Jerusalem came into being in November 1948: [Moshe Dayan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moshe_Dayan), commander of the Israeli forces in Jerusalem, met with his Jordanian counterpart [Abdullah el-Tell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_el-Tell) in a deserted house in Jerusalem’s [Musrara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musrara%2C_Jerusalem) neighborhood and marked out their respective positions: Israel’s position in red and Jordan's in green. This rough map, which was not meant as an official one, became the final [line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Line_%28Israel%29) in the [1949 Armistice Agreements](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1949_Armistice_Agreements), which divided the city and left [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus) as an Israeli [exclave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enclave_and_exclave) inside [East Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem).[[151]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-151) Barbed wire and concrete barriers ran down the center of the city, passing close by [Jaffa Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Gate) on the western side of the [old walled city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29), and a crossing point was established at [Mandelbaum Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandelbaum_Gate%22%20%5Co%20%22Mandelbaum%20Gate) slightly to the north of the [old walled city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29). Military skirmishes frequently threatened the ceasefire. After the establishment of the State of Israel, Jerusalem was declared its capital city. Jordan formally annexed East Jerusalem in 1950, subjecting it to Jordanian law, and in 1953 declared it the "second capital" of Jordan. Only the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) and [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) formally recognized such annexation, which, in regard to Jerusalem, was on a *de facto* basis.[[155]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-155) Also, it is dubious that Pakistan recognized Jordan's annexation.

After 1948, since the [old walled city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29) in its entirety was to the east of the armistice line, [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan) was able to take control of all the holy places therein, and contrary to the terms of the armistice agreement, denied Jews access to Jewish holy sites, many of which were desecrated. Jordan allowed only very limited access to Christian holy sites.[[158]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-158) Of the 58 synagogues in the Old City, half were either razed or converted to stables and hen-houses over the course of the next 19 years, including the [Hurva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurva%22%20%5Co%20%22Hurva) and the [Tiferet Yisrael Synagogue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiferet_Yisrael_Synagogue%22%20%5Co%20%22Tiferet%20Yisrael%20Synagogue). The Jewish Cemetery on the [Mount of Olives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives) was desecrated, with gravestones used to build roads and latrines.





Map of East Jerusalem(2010)

In 1967, despite Israeli pleas that Jordan remain neutral during the [Six-Day War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War), [Jordanian forces attacked Israeli-held West Jerusalem on the war's second day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War#West_Bank). After hand to hand fighting between Israeli and Jordanian soldiers on the [Temple Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount), the [Israel Defense Forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces) captured East Jerusalem, along with the entire West Bank. East Jerusalem, along with some nearby West Bank territory, was subsequently annexed by Israel, as were the city's Christian and Muslim holy sites.

The Six-Day War, also known as the June War, 1967 Arab-Israeli War, or Third Arab-Israeli War, was fought between June 5 and 10, 1967, by [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) and the neighboring states of [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) (known at the time as the [United Arab Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Republic)), [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan), and [Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria).

Ammunition Hill ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): גבעת התחמושת‎, *Giv'at HaTahmoshet*) was a military post in the northern part of [Jordanian controlled](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_the_West_Bank_and_East_Jerusalem_by_Jordan) East [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), and the site of one of the fiercest battles of the [Six-Day War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War). In 1975, a memorial site and museum were inaugurated on the Hill, preserving a part of the old post and opening a museum in the bunker. In addition, 182 [olive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive) trees were planted on the Hill, commemorating the 182 Israeli soldiers who fell during the Six-Day War.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ammunition_Hill#cite_note-Toronto-2) In 1987, the site was declared a national memorial site. The main ceremony on [Yom Yerushalayim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Yerushalayim) (Jerusalem Day) is held here.

An estimated 200,000 visitors tour the site each year, including 80,000 soldiers.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ammunition_Hill#cite_note-6)Ammunition Hill is also the main induction center for [IDF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces) paratroopers.

On 27 June 1967, a few weeks after the war ended, Israel extended its law and jurisdiction to East Jerusalem and some surrounding area, incorporating it into the Jerusalem Municipality. Although at the time Israel informed the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) that its measures constituted administrative and municipal integration rather than annexation, later rulings by the Israeli Supreme Court upheld the government's view that East Jerusalem had become part of Israel. In 1980, Israel passed the [Jerusalem Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Law) as an addition to its [Basic Laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_Laws_of_Israel), which declared Jerusalem the "complete and united" capital of Israel. Following the annexation, 22 of the 24 countries that had previously recognized (West) Jerusalem as Israel's capital relocated their embassies in Tel Aviv. [Costa Rica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa_Rica) and [San Salvador](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Salvador) followed suit in 2006.[[167]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-167)[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Israel conducted a census of Arab residents in the areas annexed. Residents were given permanent residency status and the option of applying for Israeli citizenship.

Jewish and Christian access to the holy sites inside the [old walled city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29) was restored. Israel left the [Temple Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount) under the jurisdiction of an Islamic *[waqf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqf%22%20%5Co%20%22Waqf)*, but opened the [Western Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall) to Jewish access. The [Moroccan Quarter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moroccan_Quarter), which was located adjacent to the Western Wall, was evacuated and razed.[[168]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-168) to make way for a plaza for those visiting the wall.[[169]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-169) On 18 April 1968, an expropriation order by the Israeli Ministry of Finance more than doubled the size of the Jewish Quarter, evicting its Arab residents and seizing over 700 buildings of which only 105 belonged to pre-1948 Jewish inhabitants. The old quarter was thus extended into the Mughrabi Harat Abu Sa'ud, and other quarters steeped in Arab and Palestinian history. The order designated these areas for public use, but were intended for Jews alone. The government offered 200 [Jordanian dinars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_dinar) to each displaced Arab family.

After the Six-Day War the population of Jerusalem increased by 196% The Jewish population grew by 155%, while the Arab population grew by 314%. The proportion of the Jewish population fell from 74% in 1967 to 72% in 1980, to 68% in 2000, and to 64% in 2010.[[171]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-171)Israeli Agriculture Minister [Ariel Sharon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariel_Sharon) proposed building a ring of Jewish neighborhoods around the city's eastern edges. The plan was intended to [make East Jerusalem more Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaization_of_Jerusalem) and prevent it from becoming part of an urban Palestinian bloc stretching from[Bethlehem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethlehem) to [Ramallah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramallah). On 2 October 1977, the [Israeli cabinet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabinet_of_Israel) approved the plan, and seven neighborhoods were subsequently built on the city's eastern edges. They became known as the [Ring Neighborhoods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring_Neighborhoods%2C_Jerusalem). Other Jewish neighborhoods were built within East Jerusalem, and Israeli Jews also settled in Arab neighborhoods.[[172]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-172)[[173]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-173)





[Zion Square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion_Square)

The annexation of East Jerusalem was met with international criticism. Following the passing of the [Jerusalem Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Law), the [United Nations Security Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council) passed [a resolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_478) that declared the law "a violation of international law" and requested all member states to withdraw all remaining embassies from the city.[[174]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-174) The [Israeli Foreign Ministry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_%28Israel%29) disputes that the annexation of Jerusalem was a violation of international law.[[175]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-175)[[176]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-176) A poll conducted by Palestinian Center for Public Opinion and American Pechter Middle East Polls for the Council on Foreign Relations, among East Jerusalem Arab residents in 2011 revealed that 39% of East Jerusalem Arab residents would prefer Israeli citizenship contrary to 31% who opted for Palestinian citizenship. According to the poll, 40% of Palestinian residents would prefer to leave their neighborhoods if they would be placed under Palestinian rule.[[177]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-177)

Today

*Further information:*[*Positions on Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positions_on_Jerusalem)





Panoramic view of Jerusalem from [Gilo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilo%22%20%5Co%20%22Gilo)

The status of the city, and especially its holy places, remains a core issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israeli government has approved building plans in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City[[178]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-178) in order to expand the Jewish presence in East Jerusalem, while some Islamic leaders have made claims that Jews have no historical connection to Jerusalem, alleging that the 2,500-year-old Western Wall was constructed as part of a mosque.[[179]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-179)[[180]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-180) [Palestinians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_people) envision East Jerusalem as the capital of a [future Palestinian state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proposals_for_a_Palestinian_state),[[181]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-181)[[182]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-182) and the city's borders have been the subject of bilateral talks. A team of experts assembled by Ehud Barak in 2000 concluded that the city must be divided, since Israel had failed to achieve any of its national aims there. A poll taken at the same time indicated that 65-70% of the public regarded it as a divided city, and 56% would accept a partition.[[183]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-183)

A strong longing for peace is symbolized by the Peace Monument (with farming tools made out of scrap weapons), facing the Old City wall near the former Israeli-Jordanian border and quoting from the [book of Isaiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Isaiah) in Arabic and Hebrew.[[184]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-184)

Some states, such as [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia)[[185]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-185) and [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China),[[186]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-186) recognize the Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. UN General Assembly resolution [58/292](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_General_Assembly_Resolution_58/292) affirmed that the Palestinian people have the right to sovereignty over East Jerusalem.[[187]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-187)

Geography





Astronaut View of Jerusalem





[Mount of Olives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives)

Jerusalem is situated on the southern spur of a [plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plateau) in the [Judean Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judean_Mountains), which include the [Mount of Olives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives) (East) and [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus) (North East). The elevation of the Old City is approximately 760 m (2,490 ft).[[188]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-188) The whole of Jerusalem is surrounded by valleys and dry [riverbeds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi) (*[wadis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi%22%20%5Co%20%22Wadi)*). The [Kidron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidron_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Kidron%20Valley), [Hinnom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehenna%22%20%5Co%20%22Gehenna), and [Tyropoeon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyropoeon_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Tyropoeon%20Valley) Valleys intersect in an area just south of the Old City of Jerusalem.[[189]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-bergsohn-189) The [Kidron Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidron_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Kidron%20Valley) runs to the east of the Old City and separates the [Mount of Olives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives) from the city proper. Along the southern side of old Jerusalem is the [Valley of Hinnom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehenna), a steep ravine associated in biblical [eschatology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschatology) with the concept of [Gehenna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehenna%22%20%5Co%20%22Gehenna) or [Hell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hell). The [Tyropoeon Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyropoeon_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Tyropoeon%20Valley) commenced in the northwest near the [Damascus Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus_Gate), ran south-southeasterly through the center of the Old City down to the [Pool of Siloam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pool_of_Siloam), and divided the lower part into two hills, the Temple Mount to the east, and the rest of the city to the west (the lower and the upper cities described by[Josephus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephus)). Today, this valley is hidden by debris that has accumulated over the centuries. In biblical times, Jerusalem was surrounded by forests of [almond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almond), [olive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive) and [pine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine) trees. Over centuries of warfare and neglect, these forests were destroyed. Farmers in the Jerusalem region thus built stone terraces along the slopes to hold back the soil, a feature still very much in evidence in the Jerusalem landscape.

Water supply has always been a major problem in Jerusalem, as attested to by the intricate network of ancient [aqueducts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqueduct_%28watercourse%29), tunnels, pools and cisterns found in the city.

Jerusalem is 60 kilometers (37 mi) east of [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv) and the [Mediterranean Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). On the opposite side of the city, approximately 35 kilometers (22 mi) away, is the [Dead Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea), the [lowest body of water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extremes_on_Earth) on Earth. Neighboring cities and towns include [Bethlehem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethlehem) and[Beit Jala](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_Jala) to the south, [Abu Dis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dis) and [Ma'ale Adumim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27ale_Adumim%22%20%5Co%20%22Ma%27ale%20Adumim) to the east, [Mevaseret Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mevaseret_Zion%22%20%5Co%20%22Mevaseret%20Zion) to the west, and [Ramallah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramallah) and [Giv'at Ze'ev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giv%27at_Ze%27ev%22%20%5Co%20%22Giv%27at%20Ze%27ev) to the north.

[Mount Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Herzl), at the western side of the city near the [Jerusalem Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Forest), serves as the national cemetery of Israel.

**Demographics**

Demographic history

*Main article:*[*Demographic history of Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographic_history_of_Jerusalem)

Jerusalem's population size and composition has shifted many times over its 5,000 year history. Since medieval times, the [Old City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29) of Jerusalem has been divided into [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Quarter_%28Jerusalem%29), [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Quarter), [Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Quarter), and [Armenian quarters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Quarter).

Most population data pre-1905 is based on estimates, often from foreign travelers or organizations, since previous census data usually covered wider areas such as the [Jerusalem District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_District). These estimates suggest that since the end of the [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades), Muslims formed the largest group in Jerusalem until the mid-nineteenth century.

Between 1838 and 1876, a number of estimates exist which conflict as to whether Jews or Muslims were the largest group during this period, and between 1882 and 1922 estimates conflict as to exactly when Jews became a majority of the population.

Current demographics

In December 2007, Jerusalem had a population of 747,600—64% were Jewish, 32% Muslim, and 2% Christian. At the end of 2005, the population density was 5,750.4 /km2 (14,893 /sq mi). According to a study published in 2000, the percentage of Jews in the city's population had been decreasing; this was attributed to a higher Muslim [birth rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_rate), and Jewish residents leaving. The study also found that about nine percent of the Old City's 32,488 people were Jews.[[205]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-205)





[Ezrat Torah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezrat_Torah), a [Haredi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi_Judaism%22%20%5Co%20%22Haredi%20Judaism) neighborhood

In 2005, 2,850 new immigrants settled in Jerusalem, mostly from the United States, France and the former [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union). In terms of the local population, the number of outgoing residents exceeds the number of incoming residents. In 2005, 16,000 left Jerusalem and only 10,000 moved in.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3) Nevertheless, the population of Jerusalem continues to rise due to the high [birth rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_rate), especially in the [Haredi Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi_Judaism%22%20%5Co%20%22Haredi%20Judaism) and [Arab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_people) communities. Consequently, the [total fertility rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) in Jerusalem (4.02) is higher than in Tel Aviv (1.98) and well above the national average of 2.90. The average size of Jerusalem's 180,000 households is 3.8 people.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3)

In 2005, the total population grew by 13,000 (1.8%)—similar to Israeli national average, but the religious and ethnic composition is shifting. While 31% of the Jewish population is made up of children below the age fifteen, the figure for the Arab population is 42%.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3) This would seem to corroborate the observation that the percentage of Jews in Jerusalem has declined over the past four decades. In 1967, Jews accounted for 74 percent of the population, while the figure for 2006 is down nine percent. Possible factors are the high cost of housing, fewer job opportunities and the increasingly religious character of the city, although proportionally, young [Haredim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi_Judaism%22%20%5Co%20%22Haredi%20Judaism) are leaving in higher numbers. The percentage of secular Jews, or those who 'wear their faith lightly' is dropping, with some 20,000 leaving the city over the past 7 years (2012). They now number 31% of the population, the same percentage as the rising ultra-orthodox population. Many move to the suburbs and coastal cities in search of cheaper housing and a more secular lifestyle. In 2009, the percentage of Haredim in the city was increasing. As of 2009, out of 150,100 schoolchildren, 59,900 or 40% are in state-run secular and [National Religious](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Zionism) schools, while 90,200 or 60% are in Haredi schools. This correlates with the high number of children in Haredi families.





The [Armenian Quarter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Quarter)

While some Israelis see Jerusalem as poor, rundown and riddled with religious and political tension, the city has been a magnet for Palestinians, offering more jobs and opportunity than any city in the [West Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank) or [Gaza Strip](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_Strip). Palestinian officials have encouraged Arabs over the years to stay in the city to maintain their claim.

Demographics and the Jewish-Arab population divide play a major role in the dispute over Jerusalem. In 1998, the [Jerusalem Development Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Development_Authority) proposed expanding city limits to the west to include more areas heavily populated with Jews.

Within the past few years, there has been a steady increase in the Jewish birthrate and a steady decrease in the Arab birthrate. In May 2012, it was reported that the Jewish birthrate had overtaken the Arab birthrate. Currently, the city's birthrate stands about 4.2 children per Jewish family and 3.9 children per Arab family. Jerusalem's Jewish population is overwhelmingly religious. Only 21% of Jewish residents are secular. In addition, [Haredi Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi_Judaism%22%20%5Co%20%22Haredi%20Judaism)comprise 30% of the city's adult Jewish population. In a phenomenon seen rarely around the world, the percentage of Jewish men who work, 47%, is exceeded by the percentage of Jewish women who work, 50%.





[Sheikh Jarrah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Jarrah), a predominantly Arab neighborhood on the road to [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus)

Municipality of Jerusalem

*Main article:*[*Municipality of Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipality_of_Jerusalem)





Jerusalem City Hall





[Jerusalem Historical City Hall Building](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Historical_City_Hall_Building)





The [Knesset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset) building in [Givat Ram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Givat_Ram%22%20%5Co%20%22Givat%20Ram)





[Supreme Court of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Israel)





[Israeli Foreign Ministry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_Ministry_of_Israel) building





[Beit Aghion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_Aghion), the official residence of the [Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Israel)





[National Headquarters of the Israel Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Headquarters_of_the_Israel_Police)





[Bank of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_of_Israel)

The Jerusalem [City Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_council) is a body of 31 elected members headed by the mayor, who serves a five-year term and appoints eight deputies. The former mayor of Jerusalem, [Uri Lupolianski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uri_Lupolianski), was elected in 2003.[[227]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-corridors-227) In the November 2008 city elections, [Nir Barkat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nir_Barkat) came out as the winner and is now the mayor. Apart from the mayor and his deputies, City Council members receive no salaries and work on a voluntary basis. The longest-serving Jerusalem mayor was [Teddy Kollek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Kollek), who spent 28 years—-six consecutive terms-—in office. Most of the meetings of the Jerusalem City Council are private, but each month, it holds a session that is open to the public.[[227]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-corridors-227) Within the city council, religious political parties form an especially powerful faction, accounting for the majority of its seats.[[228]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-228) The headquarters of the Jerusalem Municipality and the mayor's office are at [Safra Square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safra_Square%22%20%5Co%20%22Safra%20Square) (*Kikar Safra*) on [Jaffa Road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Road). The municipal complex, comprising two modern buildings and ten renovated historic buildings surrounding a large plaza, opened in 1993 moved from the [Jerusalem Historical City Hall Building](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Historical_City_Hall_Building).[[229]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-229) The city falls under the [Jerusalem District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_District), with Jerusalem as the district's capital.

The **Supreme Court** is at the head of the court system and highest judicial instance in [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel). The Supreme Court sits in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem).

The area of its jurisdiction is all of Israel and the [Israeli-occupied territories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-occupied_territories). A ruling of the Supreme Court is binding upon every court, other than the Supreme Court itself. This is the principle of binding precedent ([*stare decisis*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stare_decisis)) in Israel. The Supreme Court can sit as an [appellate court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appellate_court) and a [court of first instance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_of_first_instance).

The Court has ruled on numerous issues relating to the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-Palestinian_conflict), the rights of [Arab citizens of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_citizens_of_Israel), and on discrimination between Jewish groups in Israel.

The number of Supreme Court justices is determined by a resolution of the [Knesset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset). At the present time there are 15 Supreme Court Justices.

At the head of the Supreme Court and at the head of the judicial system as a whole stands the President of the Supreme Court, and at his or her side, the Deputy President. A judge's term ends when he or she reaches 70 years of age, resigns, dies, is appointed to another position that disqualifies him or her, or is removed from office.

Religious significance

*Main article:*[*Religious significance of Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_significance_of_Jerusalem)





The [Western Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall), known as the Kotel





The [al-Aqsa Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque), a sacred site for Muslims

Jerusalem has been sacred to Judaism for roughly 3000 years, to Christianity for around 2000 years, and to Islam for approximately 1400 years. The 2000 Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem lists 1204 synagogues, 158 churches, and 73 mosques within the city.[[254]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-254)Despite efforts to maintain peaceful religious coexistence, some sites, such as the Temple Mount, have been a continuous source of friction and controversy.





Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Jerusalem has been sacred to the Jews since King David proclaimed it his capital in the 10th century BCE. Jerusalem was the site of [Solomon's Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon%27s_Temple) and the Second Temple.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-1000BCE-10) Although not mentioned in the [Torah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah) / [Pentateuch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentateuch),[[255]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-255) it is mentioned in the Bible 632 times. Today, the [Western Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall), a remnant of the wall surrounding the Second Temple, is a Jewish holy site second only to the [Holy of Holies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_of_Holies) on the Temple Mount itself.[[256]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-256) Synagogues around the world are traditionally built with the Holy Ark facing Jerusalem,[[257]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-257) and Arks within Jerusalem face the ["Holy of Holies"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kodesh_Hakodashim).[[258]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-returning-258) As prescribed in the [Mishna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mishnah%22%20%5Co%20%22Mishnah) and codified in the *[Shulchan Aruch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shulchan_Aruch%22%20%5Co%20%22Shulchan%20Aruch)*, daily prayers are recited while facing towards Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. Many Jews have "[Mizrach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mizrah%22%20%5Co%20%22Mizrah)" plaques hung on a wall of their homes to indicate the direction of prayer.

Christianity reveres Jerusalem for its [Old Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament) history, and also for its significance in the life of Jesus. According to the [New Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament), Jesus was brought to Jerusalem soon after his birth and later in his life cleansed the Second Temple.[[261]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-261) The [Cenacle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cenacle), believed to be the site of Jesus' [Last Supper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Supper), is located on [Mount Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Zion) in the same building that houses the [Tomb of King David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David%27s_Tomb). Another prominent Christian site in Jerusalem is [Golgotha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary), the site of the [crucifixion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion). The [Gospel of John](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_John) describes it as being located outside Jerusalem,[[264]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-264) but recent archaeological evidence suggests Golgotha is a short distance from the Old City walls, within the present-day confines of the city. The land currently occupied by the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Sepulchre) is considered one of the top candidates for Golgotha and thus has been a Christian pilgrimage site for the past 2000 years.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the site is venerated as [Golgotha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary) (the Hill of Calvary), where [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) was [crucified](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion), and is said also to contain the place where Jesus was buried (the [Sepulchre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sepulchre)). The church has been a paramount – and for many [Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christians) the most important – [pilgrimage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_pilgrimage) destination since at least the [4th century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_the_4th_century), as the purported site of the [resurrection of Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_of_Jesus).





The [Temple Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount)

Jerusalem is considered by some as the [third-holiest city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holiest_sites_in_Islam_%28Sunni%29) in Sunni Islam.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-3rd-holiest-14) For approximately a year, before it was permanently switched to the [Kaaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaaba%22%20%5Co%20%22Kaaba) in [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca), the *[qibla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qibla%22%20%5Co%20%22Qibla)* (direction of [prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salah)) for Muslims was Jerusalem.[[268]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-268) The city's lasting place in Islam, however, is primarily due to [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad)'s [Night of Ascension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isra_and_Mi%27raj) (c. CE 620). Muslims believe Muhammad was miraculously transported one night from [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, whereupon he ascended to [Heaven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jannah) to meet previous [prophets of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam). The first verse in the [Qur'an's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an) *[Surat al-Isra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Isra%22%20%5Co%20%22Al-Isra)* notes the destination of Muhammad's journey as*al-Aqsa* (the farthest) mosque, in reference to the location in Jerusalem. The [hadith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith), the recorded sayings of the Prophet Mohammad, name Jerusalem as the location of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Today, the Temple Mount is topped by an Islamic landmark intended to commemorate the event—[al-Aqsa Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque), derived from the name mentioned in the [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an), and also the place from which Muslims believe Muhammad ascended to Heaven.

Culture





The [Shrine of the Book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrine_of_the_Book), housing the Dead Sea Scrolls, at the [Israel Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum)





[Jerusalem Botanical Gardens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Botanical_Gardens)





[Bible Lands Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_Lands_Museum)

Although Jerusalem is known primarily for its [religious significance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_significance_of_Jerusalem), the city is also home to many artistic and cultural venues. The [Israel Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum) attracts nearly one million visitors a year, approximately one-third of them tourists. The 20-acre (81,000 m2) museum complex comprises several buildings featuring special exhibits and extensive collections of Judaica, archaeological findings, and Israeli and European art. The [Dead Sea scrolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea_scrolls), discovered in the mid-20th century in the [Qumran Caves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qumran_Caves) near the Dead Sea, are housed in the Museum's [Shrine of the Book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrine_of_the_Book).

The **Israel Museum** was founded in 1965 as [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel)'s [national museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_museum). It is situated on a hill in the [Givat Ram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Givat_Ram%22%20%5Co%20%22Givat%20Ram) neighborhood of [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), near the [Bible Lands Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_Lands_Museum), the [Knesset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset), the [Israeli Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Supreme_Court), and the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem). Among the unique objects on display are a carved female figurine considered the oldest artwork in the world; the interior of a 1736 [synagogue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synagogue) from Suriname; necklaces worn by [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish) brides in [Yemen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews_of_Yemen); a mosaic Islamic prayer niche from 17th-century Persia; and a nail attesting to the practice of crucifixion in Jesus’ time.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum#cite_note-2) An urn-shaped building on the grounds of the museum, the [Shrine of the Book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrine_of_the_Book), houses the [Dead Sea Scrolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea_Scrolls) and artifacts discovered at [Masada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masada).

The Shrine of the Book

The [Shrine of the Book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrine_of_the_Book) houses the [Dead Sea Scrolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea_Scrolls), the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world, as well as rare early medieval biblical manuscripts. The scrolls were discovered in 1947–56 in 11 caves in and around the Wadi [Qumran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qumran) in the Judea Desert. An elaborate planning process of seven years led to the building's eventual construction in 1965 which was funded by the family of [David Samuel Gottesman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Samuel_Gottesman), the Hungarian émigré, the philanthropist who had purchased the scrolls as a gift to the State of Israel.

The building consists of a white dome over a building located two-thirds below the ground. The dome is reflected in a pool of water that surrounds it. Across from the white dome is a black [basalt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basalt) wall. The colors and shapes of the building are based on the imagery of the Scroll of the [War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Sons_of_Light_Against_the_Sons_of_Darkness), whereas the white dome symbolizes the Sons of Light and the black wall symbolizes the Sons of Darkness. The interior of the shrine was designed to depict the environment in which the scrolls were found.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum#cite_note-im-12) There is also a permanent display on life in the Qumran, where the scrolls were written.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum#cite_note-im-12) The entire structure was designed to resemble a pot in which the scrolls were found.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Museum#cite_note-architect-11) The shrine was designed by [Armand Bartos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armand_Bartos) and [Frederick Kiesler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Kiesler), and was opened in 1965

Beside Israel Museum is the [Bible Lands Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_Lands_Museum) near [The National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Antiquities_Authority#The_National_Campus_for_the_Archaeology_of_Israel), which includes the [Israel Antiquities Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Antiquities_Authority) offices. A World Bible Center is planned to be built next to [Mount Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Zion) on a place called: *the Bible Hill*. The planned [World Kabbalah Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=World_Kabbalah_Center&action=edit&redlink=1) is to sit on the nearby promenade overlooking old city.





[National Library of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_Israel)

The Youth Wing, which mounts changing exhibits and runs an extensive art education program, is visited by 100,000 children a year. The museum has a large outdoor sculpture garden and a scale-model of the [Second Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple).[[274]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-il-mus-about-274) The [Rockefeller Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Museum), located in East Jerusalem, was the first archaeological museum in the Middle East. It was built in 1938 during the British Mandate.





The entrance of [Mount Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Herzl) - the national cemetery of Israel

The national cemetery of Israel on Mount Herzl is located at the city's western edge, near the [Jerusalem Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Forest)on [Mount Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Herzl).

**Mount Herzl** ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): הר הרצל‎), also *Har HaZikaron* ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): הר הזכרון‎ lit. "**Mount of Remembrance**"), is the site of Israel's national [cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cemetery) and other memorial and educational facilities, found on the west side of [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) beside [Jerusalem Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Forest). It is named for [Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl), the founder of modern political [Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism), who was the first person to be buried there. Herzl's tomb lies at the top of the hill.  [Israel's war dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_casualties_of_war) are also buried there. Mount Herzl is 834 meters above the sea. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed at war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. Mount Herzl has served as Israel's [national cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_cemetery) since 1951, following a government decision to establish a cemetery for Israeli leaders and fallen soldiers.

In 1903, [Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl) wrote in his will:

I wish to be buried in a metal coffin next to my father, and to remain there until the Jewish people will transfer my remains to Eretz Israel. The coffins of my father, my sister Pauline, and of my close relatives who will have died until then will also be transferred there.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Herzl#cite_note-1)

When Herzl died a year later, he was interred in [Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna). Forty-five years later, Herzl's remains were brought to Israel and re-interred in Jerusalem.

The western extension of Mount Herzl is the Mount of Remembrance, where the main Holocaust museum of Israel is located. [Yad Vashem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yad_Vashem%22%20%5Co%20%22Yad%20Vashem), Israel's national memorial to the victims of the [Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust), houses the world's largest library of Holocaust-related information. It houses an estimated 100,000 books and articles. The complex contains a state-of-the-art museum that explores the genocide of the Jews through exhibits that focus on the personal stories of individuals and families killed in the Holocaust. An art gallery featuring the work of artists who perished is also present. Further, Yad Vashem commemorates the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis, and honors the [Righteous among the Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Righteous_among_the_Nations). Those are non-Jews who helped saving Jews during the Holocaust, risked their lives and did it with not return given to them. Until today 24,356 people were recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous among the Nations.

The Museum on the Seam (Al Hatefer), which explores issues of [coexistence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peaceful_coexistence) through art, is situated on the road dividing eastern and western Jerusalem.





The [International Convention Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Convention_Center_%28Jerusalem%29)





[Yad Vashem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yad_Vashem)

The [Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Symphony_Orchestra), established in the 1940s,[[281]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-iba-history-281) has appeared around the world.[[281]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-iba-history-281) The [International Convention Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Convention_Center_%28Jerusalem%29) (*Binyanei HaUma*) near the entrance to city houses the [Israel Philharmonic Orchestra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Philharmonic_Orchestra). The Jerusalem Cinemateque, the Gerard Behar Center (formerly Beit Ha'am) in downtown Jerusalem, the [Jerusalem Music Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Music_Centre) in [Yemin Moshe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemin_Moshe), and the Targ Music Center in [Ein Kerem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ein_Kerem%22%20%5Co%20%22Ein%20Kerem) also present the arts.

The [Israel Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Festival), featuring indoor and outdoor performances by local and international singers, concerts, plays, and street theater has been held annually since 1961, and Jerusalem has been the major organizer of this event. The [Jerusalem Theater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Theater) in the [Talbiya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talbiya%22%20%5Co%20%22Talbiya) neighborhood hosts over 150 concerts a year, as well as theater and dance companies and performing artists from overseas. The [Khan Theater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jerusalem_Khan_Theatre), located in a [caravanserai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caravanserai) opposite the old Jerusalem train station, is the city's only [repertoire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repertory) theater.[[284]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-284) The station itself has become a venue for cultural events in recent years as the site of *Shav'ua Hasefer* (an annual week-long book fair) and outdoor music performances. The [Jerusalem Film Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Film_Festival) is held annually, screening Israeli and international films.





[Jerusalem Biblical Zoo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Biblical_Zoo)





[Jerusalem Cinematheque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Cinematheque)

**The Tisch Family Zoological Gardens in Jerusalem** popularly known as the **Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**, is a [zoo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoo) located in the [Malha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malha%22%20%5Co%20%22Malha) neighborhood of [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel). It is famous for its collection of [wildlife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_in_Israel%2C_the_West_Bank%2C_and_the_Gaza_Strip) featured in the [Hebrew Bible](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible), as well as its success in [breeding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captive_breeding) [endangered species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species). According to [Dun and Bradstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dun_and_Bradstreet), the Biblical Zoo was the most popular [tourist attraction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourist_attraction) in Israel from 2005 to 2007, and logged a record 738,000 visitors in 2009. The zoo had about 55,000 members in 2009. The Jerusalem Biblical Zoo opened in September 1940 as a small "animal corner" on Rabbi Kook Street in central Jerusalem. The zoo was founded by [Aharon Shulov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aharon_Shulov%22%20%5Co%20%22Aharon%20Shulov), a professor of [zoology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoology) at the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem), [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus). Among Shulov's goals were to provide a research facility for his students; to gather animals, reptiles and birds mentioned in the Bible; and, as he wrote in 1951, to break down the "invisible wall" between the intellectuals on Mount Scopus and the general public. The zoo, which is open every day of the year except [Yom Kippur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur), [Yom HaShoah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_HaShoah), and [Yom Hazikaron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Hazikaron), schedules special activities on selected dates. Tree-planting activities are an annual [Tu Bishvat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_Bishvat%22%20%5Co%20%22Tu%20Bishvat) tradition. On both days of [Purim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim) there is a parade, a family costume competition, and a [tug of war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tug_of_war) between the entire [Hapoel Jerusalem Basketball Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hapoel_Jerusalem_B.C.%22%20%5Co%20%22Hapoel%20Jerusalem%20B.C.) and one of the elephants (the elephant always wins). On Israel's [Election Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections_in_Israel), zoo goers are encouraged to vote for their favorite animal.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Biblical_Zoo#cite_note-Tisch2006-49) During the summer, the zoo conducts tours of [nocturnal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nocturnality) animals in the wee hours of the night. It also schedules jazz concerts, juggling, and workshops during school vacations

The [Ticho House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ticho_House%22%20%5Co%20%22Ticho%20House) in downtown Jerusalem houses the paintings of [Anna Ticho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Ticho) and the Judaica collections of her husband, an ophthalmologist who opened Jerusalem's first eye clinic in this building in 1912. Al-Hoash, established in 2004, is a gallery for the preservation of Palestinian art.

In 1974 the [Jerusalem Cinematheque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Cinematheque) was founded. In 1981 it was moved to a new building on Hebron Road near the [Valley of Hinnom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_of_Hinnom) and the Old City.





[Heichal Shlomo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heichal_Shlomo)

Jerusalem was declared the [Capital of Arab Culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Capital_of_Arab_Culture) in 2009. Jerusalem is home to the [Palestinian National Theatre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_National_Theatre), which engages in cultural preservation as well as innovation, working to rekindle Palestinian interest in the arts. [The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Edward_Said_National_Conservatory_of_Music) sponsors the Palestine Youth Orchestra which toured the Gulf states and other Middle East countries in 2009.[[292]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-292) The [Islamic Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Museum) on the Temple Mount, established in 1923, houses many Islamic artifacts, from tiny [kohl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kohl_%28cosmetics%29) flasks and rare manuscripts to giant marble columns.[[293]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-293) While Israel approves and financially supports Arab cultural activities, Arab Capital of Culture events were banned because they were sponsored by the Palestine National Authority.[[289]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-ynetnews.com-289) In 2009, a four-day culture festival was held in the [Beit 'Anan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_%27Anan%22%20%5Co%20%22Beit%20%27Anan) suburb of Jerusalem, attended by more than 15,000 people[[294]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-294)

The Abraham Fund and the Jerusalem Intercultural Center] (JICC) promote joint Jewish-Palestinian cultural projects. The Jerusalem Center for Middle Eastern Music and Dance[[295]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-295) is open to Arabs and Jews and offers workshops on Jewish-Arab dialogue through the arts.[[296]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-296) The Jewish-Arab Youth Orchestra performs both European classical and Middle Eastern music.[[297]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-297)

In 2006, a 38 km (24 mi) [Jerusalem Trail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Trail) was opened, a hiking trail that goes to many cultural sites and [national parks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_parks) in and around Jerusalem.

In 2008, the [Tolerance Monument](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolerance_Monument), an outdoor sculpture by [Czesław Dźwigaj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czes%C5%82aw_D%C5%BAwigaj%22%20%5Co%20%22Czes%C5%82aw%20D%C5%BAwigaj), was erected on a hill between Jewish [Armon HaNetziv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Talpiot%22%20%5Co%20%22East%20Talpiot)and Arab [Jebl Mukaber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabel_Mukaber%22%20%5Co%20%22Jabel%20Mukaber) as a symbol of Jerusalem's quest for peace.

The **Jerusalem Marathon** is an annual [marathon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marathon) running event held in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) during the month of March. The starting point of the marathon is Israel's parliament, the [Knesset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset), in the western part of the city. Runners thence loop around the [Giv'at Ram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giv%27at_Ram) campus of the Hebrew University, pass alongside the [Valley of the Cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_of_the_Cross), and cross through various neighborhoods on their way up to Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus in eastern Jerusalem. The route then descends to the Old City, taking runners through [Jaffa Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Gate) and the [Armenian Quarter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Quarter) and out [Zion Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion_Gate), on their way to the [Jerusalem Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Forest). The race's finishing point is Sacher Park.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon#cite_note-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon#cite_note-8) Jerusalem's hilly terrain makes the marathon especially challenging.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon#cite_note-9) The religious and ethnic diversity of the Jerusalem Marathon led one *[Haaretz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haaretz%22%20%5Co%20%22Haaretz)* reporter to describe the race as "the most cosmopolitan event around."[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon#cite_note-10) Races at shorter distances and a [fun run](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fun_run) are held in conjunction with the marathon

The Jerusalem Marathon is an international running competition held annually in Jerusalem during the month of March. Half-marathon races had been held in the city prior to the first official Jerusalem Marathon in 2011, but it was not until Jerusalem mayor [Nir Barkat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nir_Barkat) pushed for a race conforming to international standards that the municipality made the full marathon an official annual event in the city.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon#cite_note-1) The first full 42-kilometer (26.2-mile) race took place in March 2011 and drew 10,000 participants from forty countries. That year, the three leading runners in the men's race veered off course and arrived at the wrong finish line. The 2012 event, which drew 15,000 runners including 1,500 from fifty countries outside Israel, was marked by rain, strong winds and pounding hail. 20,000 runners from fifty-four countries participated in the third Jerusalem Marathon in 2013.

Mahane Yehuda Market , often referred to as "The [Shuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuk%22%20%5Co%20%22Shuk)" (or "Machne", the "shorthand nickname" used by locals), is a marketplace (originally open-air, but now at least partially covered) in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel). Popular with locals and tourists alike, the market's more than 250 vendors sell fresh fruits and vegetables; baked goods; fish, meat and cheeses; nuts, seeds, and spices; wines and liquors; clothing and shoes; and housewares, textiles, and Judaica.

In and around the market (whose name literally means "Judah's camp") are [falafel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falafel) and [shawarma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shawarma%22%20%5Co%20%22Shawarma) stands, juice bars, cafes, and restaurants. The color and bustle of the marketplace is accentuated by vendors who call out their prices to passersby. On Thursdays and Fridays, the marketplace is filled with shoppers stocking up for [Shabbat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shabbat) until the Friday afternoon sounding of the bugle that signifies the market will close for the Sabbath. However, although the market stalls close before Shabbat, some cafes and restaurants now remain open.

Media





[Israel Broadcasting Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Broadcasting_Authority) office

Jerusalem is the state broadcasting center of Israel. The [Israel Broadcasting Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Broadcasting_Authority)'s main office is located in Jerusalem, as well as the TV and radio studios for [Israel Radio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Radio) ,[Channel 2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel_2_%28Israel%29), [Channel 10](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel_10_%28Israel%29), and part of the radio studios of [BBC News](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_News). Local media entities include newspapers such as [*The Jerusalem Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jerusalem_Times).

Economy



Mamilla Avenue adorned with upscale shops adjacent to the Old City Walls.





Hadar Mall, [Talpiot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talpiot%22%20%5Co%20%22Talpiot)





[Har Hotzvim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Har_Hotzvim) high-tech park

Historically, Jerusalem's economy was supported almost exclusively by religious pilgrims, as it was located far from the major ports of [Jaffa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa) and [Gaza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza). Jerusalem's religious landmarks today remain the top draw for foreign visitors, with the majority of tourists visiting the [Western Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall) and the [Old City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_%28Jerusalem%29),[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3) but in the past half-century it has become increasingly clear that Jerusalem's providence cannot solely be sustained by its religious significance.





[Jerusalem Technology Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Technology_Park)

During the British Mandate, a law was passed requiring all buildings to be constructed of [Jerusalem stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_stone) in order to preserve the unique historic and [aesthetic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesthetics) character of the city.[[142]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-ingeborg-mandate-142) Complementing this building code, which is still in force, is the discouragement of [heavy industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_industry) in Jerusalem; only about 2.2% of Jerusalem's land is zoned for "industry and infrastructure." By comparison, the percentage of land in Tel Aviv zoned for industry and infrastructure is twice as high, and in Haifa, seven times as high.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3) Only 8.5% of the [Jerusalem District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_District) work force is employed in the manufacturing sector, which is half the national average (15.8%). Higher than average percentages are employed in education (17.9% vs. 12.7%); health and welfare (12.6% vs. 10.7%); community and social services (6.4% vs. 4.7%); hotels and restaurants (6.1% vs. 4.7%); and public administration (8.2% vs. 4.7%).[[301]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-301) Although Tel Aviv remains Israel's financial center, a growing number of [high tech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_tech) companies are moving to Jerusalem, providing 12,000 jobs in 2006.[[302]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-302)Northern Jerusalem's [Har Hotzvim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Har_Hotzvim%22%20%5Co%20%22Har%20Hotzvim) industrial park is home to some of Israel's major corporations, among them [Intel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intel_Corporation), [Teva Pharmaceutical Industries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teva_Pharmaceutical_Industries%22%20%5Co%20%22Teva%20Pharmaceutical%20Industries), [Ophir Optronics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ophir_Optronics%22%20%5Co%20%22Ophir%20Optronics) and [ECI Telecom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ECI_Telecom). Expansion plans for the park envision one hundred businesses, a fire station, and a school, covering an area of 530,000 m2 (130 acres).[[303]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-303)

Since the establishment of the State of Israel, the national government has remained a major player in Jerusalem's economy. The government, centered in Jerusalem, generates a large number of jobs, and offers [subsidies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsidy) and incentives for new business initiatives and start-ups.[[299]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-politics-1967-299)

In 2010, Jerusalem was named the top leisure travel city in Africa and the Middle East by [*Travel + Leisure magazine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travel_%2B_Leisure).[[304]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-304)

Transportation

*Main article:*[*Transport in Jerusalem*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_in_Jerusalem)





[Jerusalem Chords Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Chords_Bridge)





[Light Rail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Light_Rail) tram on the [Jerusalem Chords Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Chords_Bridge)





[Jerusalem Central Bus Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Central_Bus_Station)

Jerusalem is served by highly developed communication infrastructures, making it a leading logistics hub for Israel.

The [Jerusalem Central Bus Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Central_Bus_Station), located on [Jaffa Road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Road), is the busiest bus station in Israel. It is served by [Egged Bus Cooperative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egged_%28company%29), which is the second-largest bus company in the world,[[305]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-305) The [Dan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Bus_Company) serves the [Bnei Brak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bnei_Brak%22%20%5Co%20%22Bnei%20Brak)-Jerusalem route along with Egged, and [Superbus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superbus_%28company%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Superbus%20%28company%29) serves the routes between Jerusalem, [Modi'in Illit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modi%27in_Illit%22%20%5Co%20%22Modi%27in%20Illit), and[Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modi%27in-Maccabim-Re%27ut). The companies operate from [Jerusalem Central Bus Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Central_Bus_Station). Arab neighborhoods in [East Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem) and routes between Jerusalem and locations in the [West Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank) are served by the [East Jerusalem Central Bus Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem_Central_Bus_Station), a transportation hub located near the Old City's [Damascus Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus_Gate). The [Jerusalem Light Rail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Light_Rail) initiated service in August 2011. According to plans, the first rail line will be capable of transporting an estimated 200,000 people daily, and has 23 stops. The route is from Pisgat Ze'ev in the north via the Old City and city center to Mt. Herzl in the south.

Another work in progress is a new [high-speed rail line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-speed_railway_to_Jerusalem) from [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv) to Jerusalem, which is scheduled to be completed in 2017. Its terminus will be a [new underground station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Binyanei_HaUma_Railway_Station) (80 m (262.47 ft) deep) serving the [International Convention Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Convention_Center_%28Jerusalem%29) and the Central Bus Station, and is planned to be extended eventually to [Malha station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Malha_Railway_Station%22%20%5Co%20%22Jerusalem%20Malha%20Railway%20Station). [Israel Railways](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Railways) operates train services to [Malha train station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Malha_Railway_Station%22%20%5Co%20%22Jerusalem%20Malha%20Railway%20Station)from Tel Aviv via [Beit Shemesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_Shemesh%22%20%5Co%20%22Beit%20Shemesh).

[Begin Expressway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highway_50_%28Israel%29) is one of Jerusalem's major north-south thoroughfares; it runs on the western side of the city, merging in the north with [Route 443](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Route_443_%28Israel%29), which continues toward Tel Aviv. [Route 60](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highway_60_%28Israel%29) runs through the center of the city near the [Green Line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Line_%28Israel%29) between East and West Jerusalem. Construction is progressing on parts of a 35-kilometer (22 mi) [ring road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beltway) around the city, fostering faster connection between the suburbs. The eastern half of the project was conceptualized decades ago, but reaction to the proposed highway is still mixed.

Education





Entrance to the [Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Academy_of_Sciences_and_Humanities)





[Hebrew University of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem), [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus) campus





Hand in Hand, a bilingual Jewish-Arab school in Jerusalem





[Academy of the Hebrew Language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_of_the_Hebrew_Language)

Jerusalem is home to several prestigious universities offering courses in [Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language), [Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language%22%20%5Co%20%22Arabic%20language)and English. Founded in 1925, the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_of_Jerusalem) has been ranked among the top 100 schools in the world.[[312]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-312) The Board of Governors has included such prominent Jewish intellectuals as [Albert Einstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Einstein) and[Sigmund Freud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigmund_Freud). The university has produced several [Nobel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize) laureates; recent winners associated with Hebrew University include [Avram Hershko](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avram_Hershko%22%20%5Co%20%22Avram%20Hershko), [David Gross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Gross), and [Daniel Kahneman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Kahneman). One of the university's major assets is the [Jewish National and University Library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Library_of_Israel), which houses over five million books. The library opened in 1892, over three decades before the university was established, and is one of the world's largest repositories of books on Jewish subjects. Today it is both the central library of the university and the national library of Israel.[[317]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-317) The Hebrew University operates three campuses in Jerusalem, on [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus), on [Giv'at Ram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Givat_Ram%22%20%5Co%20%22Givat%20Ram) and a medical campus at the [Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadassah_Medical_Center). the [Academy of the Hebrew Language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_of_the_Hebrew_Language) are located in the Hebrew university in Givat Ram and the [Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Academy_of_Sciences_and_Humanities) located near the Presidents house.

[Al-Quds University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Quds_University) was established in 1984 to serve as a flagship university for the Arab and Palestinian peoples. It describes itself as the "only Arab university in Jerusalem". New York [Bard College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bard_College) and Al-Quds University agreed to open a joint college in a building originally built to house the [Palestinian Legislative Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_Legislative_Council) and [Yasser Arafat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat)’s office. The college gives [Master of Arts in Teaching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_of_Arts_in_Teaching) degrees.[[320]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-Matthew_Kalman-320) Al-Quds University resides southeast of the city proper on a 190,000 square metres (47 acres) [Abu Dis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dis)campus. Other institutions of higher learning in Jerusalem are the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and [Bezalel Academy of Art and Design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bezalel_Academy_of_Arts_and_Design%22%20%5Co%20%22Bezalel%20Academy%20of%20Arts%20and%20Design), whose buildings are located on the campuses of the Hebrew University.

The [Jerusalem College of Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_College_of_Technology), founded in 1969, combines training in engineering and other high-tech industries with a Jewish studies program. It is one of many schools in Jerusalem, from elementary school and up, that combine secular and religious studies. Numerous religious educational institutions and *[Yeshivot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeshiva%22%20%5Co%20%22Yeshiva)*, including some of the most prestigious yeshivas, among them the Brisk, Chevron, [Midrash Shmuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midrash_Shmuel_Yeshiva) and [Mir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir_yeshiva_%28Jerusalem%29), are based in the city, with the Mir Yeshiva claiming to be the largest. There were nearly 8,000 twelfth-grade students in Hebrew-language schools during the 2003–2004 school year.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-cbs-3) However, due to the large portion of students in [Haredi Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi_Judaism%22%20%5Co%20%22Haredi%20Judaism) frameworks, only fifty-five percent of twelfth graders took [matriculation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matriculation) exams (*[Bagrut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagrut%22%20%5Co%20%22Bagrut)*) and only thirty-seven percent were eligible to graduate. Unlike [public schools](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_school_%28government_funded%29), many Haredi schools do not prepare students to take standardized tests. To attract more university students to Jerusalem, the city has begun to offer a special package of financial incentives and housing subsidies to students who rent apartments in downtown Jerusalem.

Schools for Arabs in Jerusalem and other parts of Israel have been criticized for offering a lower quality education than those catering to Israeli Jewish students. While many schools in the heavily Arab [East Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem) are filled to capacity and there have been complaints of overcrowding, the Jerusalem Municipality is currently building over a dozen new schools in the city's Arab neighborhoods. Schools in [Ras el-Amud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ras_al-Amud%22%20%5Co%20%22Ras%20al-Amud) and [Umm Lison](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Umm_Lison&action=edit&redlink=1) opened in 2008. In March 2007, the Israeli government approved a 5-year plan to build 8,000 new classrooms in the city, 40 percent in the Arab sector and 28 percent in the Haredi sector. A budget of 4.6 billion shekels was allocated for this project. In 2008, Jewish British philanthropists donated $3 million for the construction of schools in Arab East Jerusalem. Arab high school students take the *[Bagrut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagrut%22%20%5Co%20%22Bagrut)* matriculation exams, so that much of their curriculum parallels that of other Israeli high schools and includes certain Jewish subjects.

Sports





Teddy Stadium, [Malha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malha%22%20%5Co%20%22Malha)

The two most popular sports are [football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) (soccer) and basketball. [Beitar Jerusalem Football Club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beitar_Jerusalem_F.C.%22%20%5Co%20%22Beitar%20Jerusalem%20F.C.) is one of the most well known in Israel. Fans include political figures who often attend its games. Jerusalem's other major football team, and one of Beitar's top rivals, is [Hapoel Jerusalem F.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hapoel_Jerusalem_F.C.%22%20%5Co%20%22Hapoel%20Jerusalem%20F.C.) Whereas Beitar has been [Israel State Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_State_Cup) champion seven times, Hapoel has won the Cup only once. Beitar has won the top league six times, while Hapoel has never succeeded. Beitar plays in the more prestigious [Ligat HaAl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Premier_League%22%20%5Co%20%22Israeli%20Premier%20League), while Hapoel is in the second division [Liga Leumit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liga_Leumit%22%20%5Co%20%22Liga%20Leumit). Since its opening in 1992, [Teddy Kollek Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Stadium) has been Jerusalem's primary football stadium, with a capacity of 21,600.[[333]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#cite_note-333) The most popular Palestinian football club is [Jabal Al Mukaber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabal_Al_Mukaber_%28football_club%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Jabal%20Al%20Mukaber%20%28football%20club%29) (since 1976) which plays in[West Bank Premier League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank_Premier_League). The club hails from [Mount Scopus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Scopus) at Jerusalem, part of the[Asian Football Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Football_Confederation), and plays at the [Faisal Al-Husseini International Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faisal_Al-Husseini_International_Stadium) at[Al-Ram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ram), across the [West Bank Barrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank_Barrier).

[**Hapoel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hapoel)**Katamon Jerusalem F.C.** ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): הפועל קטמון ירושלים‎) is an [Israeli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) fan-owned [association football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) club in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel). It was conceived and founded in 2007 by [Hapoel Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hapoel_Jerusalem_F.C.) fans that were unhappy with the team's management. The club currently plays in [Liga Alef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liga_Alef) (the third league in Israel) and is based at [Teddy Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Stadium). At its founding, Hapoel Katamon Jerusalem became the first fan-owned football club in Israel.

In basketball, [Hapoel Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hapoel_Jerusalem_B.C.%22%20%5Co%20%22Hapoel%20Jerusalem%20B.C.) plays in the [top division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Basketball_Super_League). The club has won the [State Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Basketball_State_Cup) three times, and the [ULEB Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ULEB_Eurocup) in 2004.

The [Jerusalem Marathon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Marathon), established in 2011, is an international marathon race held annually in Jerusalem in the month of March. The full 42-kilometer race begins at the Knesset, passes through Mount Scopus and the Old City's Armenian Quarter, and concludes at Sacher Park. In 2012 the Jerusalem Marathon drew 15,000 runners, including 1,500 from fifty countries outside Israel.

High-rise construction

Jerusalem has traditionally had a low-rise skyline. About 18 tall buildings were built at different times in the downtown area when there was no clear policy over the matter. One of them, Holyland Tower 1, Jerusalem's tallest building, is a [skyscraper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skyscraper) by international standards, rising 32 stories. Holyland Tower 2, which has been approved for construction, will reach the same height.

A new master plan for the city will see many high-rise buildings, including skyscrapers, built in certain, designated areas of downtown Jerusalem. Under the plan, towers will line [Jaffa Road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Road) and [King George Street](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_George_Street_%28Jerusalem%29). One of the proposed towers along King George Street, the Migdal Merkaz HaYekum, is planned as a 65-story building, which would make it one of the tallest buildings in Israel. At the entrance to the city, near the [Jerusalem Chords Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Chords_Bridge) and the [Central Bus Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Central_Bus_Station), twelve towers rising between 24 and 33 stories will be built, as part of a complex that will also include an open square and an [underground train station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Binyanei_HaUma_Railway_Station) serving a new express line between Jerusalem and [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv), and will be connected by bridges and underground tunnels. Eleven of the skyscrapers will be either office or apartment buildings, and one will be a 2,000-room hotel. The complex is expected to attract many businesses from Tel Aviv, and become the city's main business hub. In addition, a complex for the city's courts and the prosecutor's office will be built, as well as new buildings for Central Zionist Archives and Israel State Archives. The skyscrapers built throughout the city are expected to contain public space, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues, and it has been speculated that this may lead to a revitalization of downtown Jerusalem.

Famous people who lived in Jerusalem

**Shmuel Yosef Agnon** (July 17, 1888 – February 17, 1970) was a [Nobel Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_literature) [laureate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laureate) writer and was one of the central figures of [modern Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Hebrew) [fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiction). In Hebrew, he is known by the [acronym](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronym) **Shai Agnon** (ש"י עגנון). In English, his works are published under the name **S. Y. Agnon**.

Agnon was born in [Galicia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia_and_Lodomeria), [Austro-Hungarian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Empire) (today [Ukraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine)). He later immigrated to [the British Mandate of Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_British_Mandate_of_Palestine), and died in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel).

His works deal with the conflict between the traditional [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew) life and language and the [modern world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_world). They also attempt to recapture the fading traditions of the European *[shtetl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shtetl%22%20%5Co%20%22Shtetl)* (village). In a wider context, he also contributed to broadening the characteristic conception of the [narrator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrator)'s role in literature. Agnon shared the Nobel Prize with the poet [Nelly Sachs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelly_Sachs) in 1966.

In 1966, he was awarded the [Nobel Prize in Literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) "for his profoundly characteristic narrative art with motifs from the life of the Jewish people".[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shmuel_Yosef_Agnon#cite_note-Literature1966-11) The prize was shared with German Jewish author [Nelly Sachs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelly_Sachs). In his speech at the [award ceremony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Award_ceremony), Agnon introduced himself in Hebrew: "As a result of the historic catastrophe in which [Titus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus) of Rome destroyed Jerusalem and Israel was exiled from its land, I was born in one of the cities of the Exile. But always I regarded myself as one who was born in Jerusalem."

In later years, Agnon's fame was such that when he complained to the municipality that traffic noise near his home was disturbing his work, the city closed the street to cars and posted a sign that read: "No entry to all vehicles, writer at work!"[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shmuel_Yosef_Agnon#cite_note-13)

In 2005, he was voted the 19th-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website *[Ynet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ynet%22%20%5Co%20%22Ynet)* to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shmuel_Yosef_Agnon#cite_note-14)

Agnon, with a list of his works and his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, appears on the fifty-shekel (NIS) bill.

**Theodor "Teddy" Kollek** ([Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_language): טדי קולק‎; May 27, 1911 – January 2, 2007) was an[Israeli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Jew) who served as the [mayor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor) of [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) from 1965 to 1993, and founder of the[Jerusalem Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Foundation). Kollek was re-elected five times, in 1969, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1989. After reluctantly running for a seventh term in 1993 at the age of 82, he lost to [Likud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likud%22%20%5Co%20%22Likud)candidate and future [Prime Minister of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Israel) [Ehud Olmert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehud_Olmert).

During his tenure, Jerusalem developed into a modern city, especially after its reunification in 1967.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Kollek#cite_note-washpostobit-1) He was once called "the greatest builder of Jerusalem since [Herod](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great)."

In 1965 Teddy Kollek succeeded [Mordechai Ish-Shalom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mordechai_Ish-Shalom%22%20%5Co%20%22Mordechai%20Ish-Shalom) as Mayor of Jerusalem. On his motivations for seeking the mayor’s office in Jerusalem, Kollek once recalled:

*I got into this by accident[...] I was bored. When the city was united, I saw this as an historic occasion. To take care of it and show better care than anyone else ever has is a full life purpose. I think Jerusalem is the one essential element in Jewish history. A body can live without an arm or a leg, not without the heart. This is the heart and soul of it.*

During his tenure Jerusalem developed into a modern city, especially after its reunification in 1967. Kollek was re-elected five times, in 1969, 1973, 1978, 1983, and 1989, serving 28 years as mayor of Jerusalem.

 The biggest stadium in Jerusalem, located in the south of the city is called after him – The Teddy Stadium. In a reluctant seventh bid for mayor in 1993, Kollek, aged 82, lost to [Likud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likud) candidate [Ehud Olmert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ehud_Olmert). On November 13, 1972, Kollek appeared alongside New York Mayor [John Lindsay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lindsay) on [The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tonight_Show_Starring_Johnny_Carson).



