

OLD CITY JERUSALEM

This day will be spent in and around Old City Jerusalem. Optional group activities with tour guide, time-permitting, will include visiting the following:

- **Mount of Olives**
- **Garden of Gethsemane**
- **Garden Tomb**
- **City of David OR Western Wall Tunnels**
- **Western Wall Plaza**
- **Shopping**
- **Dinner at Nafoura Restaurant**

There are many other activities and places to visit in the Old City. Or you may just want to take a taxi to another place in Jerusalem or spend the day shopping in the Old City marketplace just inside Jaffa Gate. This is **“THE SOUK,”** a traditional Middle Eastern marketplace that sells foods and souvenirs. An excitement in the air compels visitors to want to stay all day. Most of the shops have passed through multiple generations of family members. Watching vendors from all quarters of the Old City pile their goods into carts and crates, and even on their shoulders and heads, is fascinating! Tip: Typically, the farther into the market you venture, the better the deals.

DINNER AT NAFOURA RESTAURANT. You are on your own for lunch with many choices in the Old City. Dinner is included at the lovely, tranquil Nafoura Restaurant just inside Jaffa Gate, located on the Old City wall. This highly rated restaurant offers mouthwatering Armenian and Israeli dishes, perfectly cooked hummus salads, falafel, and skewers of delicious meat, and much more.



MOUNT OF OLIVES

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, with its spectacular view of the eastern side of the Old City, acquired its name from the many groves of olive trees that covered its slopes in ancient times.

It is referred to eleven times in the Bible. King David fled from the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives to take refuge from his son, Absalom. After King Solomon turned away from the Lord, he built pagan temples here for the gods of his foreign wives. Ezekiel had a vision of “the glory of the Lord” ascending from Jerusalem and resting on the Mount of Olives. Jesus travelled often to the Mount of Olives to teach, to pray, and to rest. It was here that He prayed with His disciples the night before His arrest, it was here where He ascended into heaven, and it is this very same place where He will return at His Second Coming.

On the Mount of Olives is a 3,000-year-old Jewish cemetery that holds roughly 150,000 graves and is still in use today. For centuries, Jews have fervently sought to be buried here because of their belief that the Mount of Olives is associated with the resurrection and the coming of the Messiah, as prophesied in Zechariah.

“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.” (Zechariah 14:4–5)



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

This is the site of the Lord's passionate prayer at Gethsemane, His last action prior to His arrest. This is also the site of His final instructions to His disciples. The peaceful Garden of Gethsemane, adorned with beautiful, ancient olive trees, sits at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Gethsemane means "oil press." Similarly, the weight of our sins pressed down upon Jesus like the heavy rock of the oil press, and His blood flowed from Him like olive oil. Scholars estimate the age of the olive trees at between one and two thousand years old.



GARDEN TOMB

The Garden Tomb is an alternative site to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It essentially fits the description of the location and narrative in Scripture: outside the city walls, close to a city gate (Hebrews 13:12), and along a busy thoroughfare—making it a credible place for a public execution. The tomb also is carved out of a rock (Matthew 27:60), sealed with a rolling stone, has an entry through a low doorway (John 20:5), and a burial chamber is situated to the right of the entrance (Mark 16:5). Today the site is a lovely, serene garden and the empty tomb is a fitting reminder of a risen, living Savior to a sinful, hurting world - whether or not it is the actual site.



CITY OF DAVID



Here you will find many archaeological artifacts including **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and the **Pool of Siloam**.

The City of David goes back to the days of Abraham, as a fortified and impressive Canaanite city, Jerusalem's original inhabitants did not live on the site of today's Old City; they lived on a narrow ridge, just twelve acres in area, descending south from the present Temple Mount. This was the "City of David," purposefully built around the Gihon Springs, the area's primary source of plentiful water. Today, the City of David National Park is located just south of the Old City walls. Most biblical archaeologists believe this to be the actual hilltop where King David dedicated Jerusalem as his capital nearly three millennia ago. If so, the exclusive hilltop would have been inhabited by many kings and prophets of old— including kings Solomon, Hezekiah, and Josiah and prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Elegant homes designed especially for Jerusalem's elite have been uncovered in the City of David. The artifacts, cosmetics, and imported Syrian furniture all attest to the affluence of its residents. Likewise, the devastating destruction of the Roman conquest is also evident in the relics strewn across the basement level.

WESTERN WALL RABBINICAL TUNNELS

THE ORIGINAL GREAT STONE ROUTE

- **Approximately one hour tour**
- **The walk is not difficult but does include steps and narrow passages.**
- **About 1/3 mile.**

The Western Wall of the Temple Mount (also known as the Kotel) is one of the most magnificent and significant remnants in Jerusalem from the days of the Second Temple, destroyed approximately 2,000 years ago.

The Western Wall stretches along approximately 1/3 mile, but today, the part exposed to all at the Western Wall Plaza is a mere 230 feet of it. This tour allows visitors to reach the segments of the Wall hidden from view, and to touch the original and special stones that tell the story of the Jewish nation. The Western Stone forms part of the lower level of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. This is the largest stone in the Western Wall as well as one of the largest building blocks in the world.



Visitors to the Western Wall Tunnels walk through ancient and fascinating spaces under the Old City with exquisite archeological findings, such as large stone vaults and arches, cisterns, an ancient water aqueduct trench that ends at the Strouthion Pool and more. This tour includes innovative virtual models.

WESTERN WALL PLAZA

This is your opportunity to pray and place a prayer in the Western Wall if you would like. The “WESTERN WALL,” known as the “KOTEL” in Hebrew, stands tall at 50 ft high. In the nineteenth century, Jews would gather here to mourn their fallen state and the wall became known as the “WAILING WALL.”

Since the Talmud teaches that all prayers ascend to God in heaven from Jerusalem, and the Western Wall is the most holy place on the Temple Mount accessible to the Jewish people; it has been the foremost site for prayer and pilgrimage of Jewish people for centuries. However, from 1948–1967 (when the Old City was under Arab control), Jews were forbidden access. Today, Jews worldwide place more than a million written prayers in the cracks of the Wall each year.

At the lower northeast corner of the Western Wall Plaza is Wilson’s Arch, the present-day name for the 25 ft high remains of an ancient stone arch. At one time, Wilson’s Arch was 75 ft high and 42 feet long; only the top of the arch is visible today. According to Josephus, the arch was a segment of a bridge adjoining the Temple Mount to the Upper City. It also serviced an aqueduct that transported water from Solomon’s Pools, south of Bethlehem, all the way to the Temple Mount.

