

Jerusalem Half Day Tour

📍 Old City of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel



Join the **Jerusalem Half Day Tour** for a focused morning exploring the most sacred and historic landmarks of the Old City. Starting from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or Herzliya, this tour delivers an immersive experience of three world religions in a single guided session that ends around 13:00 at Jaffa Gate. Visit the panoramic viewpoint at [Mount Scopus](#), walk the restored 1,500-year-old Byzantine Cardo, and stand at the [Western Wall](#), Judaism's holiest accessible site.

The Jerusalem Half Day Tour traces the path of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, beginning at the 5th Station of the Cross and concluding at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the 4th-century basilica that holds more than 30 chapels shared among six Christian denominations. The tour passes the Garden of Gethsemane and Kidron Valley tombs on the way down from Mount Scopus, then enters the [UNESCO-listed Old City of Jerusalem](#) through Zion Gate. The pace is moderate and the walking is suitable for most ages.

This Jerusalem Half Day Tour is the ideal compact introduction for cruise passengers docking at Haifa or Ashdod, travelers with afternoon flights, or anyone with limited time who still wants to experience the Holy City. Pair it with our [Christian Jerusalem Tour](#) for a fuller pilgrimage, or combine with the [Jericho and Dead Sea Tour](#) for an afternoon extension. All entrance fees are included. Modest dress is required at all holy sites: shoulders and knees must be covered.

Tour Facts

Group Size:
20

Language:
English, Spanish, French, German

Duration:
5

Tour Type:
continuous

Tour Itinerary

07:00 AM : Hotel Pickup

Your Jerusalem Half Day Tour begins with hotel pickup. Pickup times: 07:00 from Herzliya hotels, 07:15 from Tel Aviv hotels, and 08:30 from Jerusalem hotels. Please be ready in your hotel lobby 10 minutes before scheduled pickup. Travel from Tel Aviv or Herzliya takes about 75 minutes via Highway 1.

Your licensed guide will brief you on the morning's route and the history you will encounter. See the [Israel Ministry of Tourism Jerusalem guide](#) for additional context on the city's sacred geography.

Duration
1.5 Hour

09:30 AM : Mount Scopus Panoramic Viewpoint

The Jerusalem Half Day Tour begins at the [Mount Scopus](#) viewpoint, where the entire Old City unfolds below with the gold Dome of the Rock on Temple Mount and the silver dome of Al-Aqsa Mosque clearly visible.

From this elevated position you can see the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane below, and the 3,000-year-old Jewish cemetery covering the western slope. Time for photos and orientation. Your guide will explain the layout of the four quarters of the Old City before we descend toward the walls.

Duration
0.5 Hour

10:15 AM : Zion Gate and Jewish Quarter

We enter the Old City through Zion Gate, one of seven gates in the Ottoman-era walls built by Suleiman the Magnificent in 1538. The walk takes you through the rebuilt Jewish Quarter, devastated in 1948 and meticulously restored after 1967.

See the Hurva Synagogue square and walk past archaeological windows showing layers of construction back to the First Temple period. The [Israel Ministry of Tourism](#) oversees the preservation of this protected heritage zone.

Duration
0.5 Hour

10:45 AM : Byzantine Cardo

Walk the excavated [Byzantine Cardo](#), a 1,500-year-old Roman-Byzantine colonnaded street that ran north-south through Jerusalem and is depicted on the famous 6th-century Madaba Map mosaic in Jordan.

The reconstructed section is about 180 meters long and reveals the original paving stones, fluted columns, and shop fronts where Jerusalemites traded in the Byzantine era. Today a row of upscale Judaica shops occupies the modern level above the excavation, with the ancient ruins visible through glass floors.

Duration
0.5 Hour

11:15 AM : Western Wall

The tour reaches the [Western Wall](#), the most sacred Jewish prayer site in the world. This 488-meter section of wall is part of the outer retaining walls Herod the Great built to expand the Temple Mount platform in 19 BC.

The Romans destroyed the Second Temple above in 70 AD, but the retaining walls have survived nearly two thousand years. You will have about 30 minutes to approach the wall, place a written prayer in the crevices, and observe the constant prayer rhythm. Modest dress is enforced; head covering is required for men (kipot are available at the entrance).

Duration
0.75 Hour

12:00 PM : Via Dolorosa from the 5th Station

The Jerusalem Half Day Tour continues on foot along the [Via Dolorosa](#), the traditional route Jesus walked carrying his cross from his condemnation to the place of crucifixion. We join the route at the 5th Station of the Cross, where Simon of Cyrene was compelled to help carry the cross.

Your guide will narrate each station as we walk through the narrow streets of the Muslim Quarter, pointing out the markers set into the stone walls. The route is maintained by the [Custodia Terrae Sanctae](#), the Franciscan custodians of the Christian holy sites.

Duration
0.5 Hour

12:30 PM : Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The final religious site on the Jerusalem Half Day Tour is the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#), the 4th-

century basilica built by Emperor Constantine over the traditional sites of the Crucifixion (Calvary), Anointing, and Resurrection.

Six Christian denominations share custody under the historic Status Quo agreement of 1757: the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic (Franciscan), Armenian Apostolic, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syriac churches. The keys to the main door are held by two Muslim families, an arrangement dating to 1187. Inside, more than 30 chapels and shrines reward unhurried exploration.

Duration
0.5 Hour

01:00 PM : Old City Souks and Tour End at Jaffa Gate

The Jerusalem Half Day Tour concludes around 13:00. Your guide will walk you through the colorful Arab souks of the Christian and Muslim Quarters, with stalls selling spices, sweets, leather goods, ceramics, and the famous Jerusalem sesame bagel.

The tour ends at Jaffa Gate, where you are free to continue exploring independently, find lunch at one of the many cafes in West Jerusalem, or arrange your own transport back to your hotel. Note that the Jerusalem Half Day Tour does not include a return transfer.

Duration
0.5 Hour