

The Wall and Gates of Jerusalem

The Trail's Nature and Stations



always cut it short and settle for a visit along a quarter of the length of the Wall. There is also an opportunity to climb onto the Wall in the area of Bab al-Khalil (Jaffa Gate) for a fee, to view the Old City with its scenery and architecture.



schools of the Mamluk and Ottoman periods. Apart from its historical value and significance, the Wall is essentially an embracing protector of the Holy City and its heritage.

The current Wall of Jerusalem was built at the beginning of the Ottoman era upon the orders of Sultan Suleiman I (Suleiman al-Qanuni or Suleiman the Magnificent) (1520-1566 AD / 926-974 H).



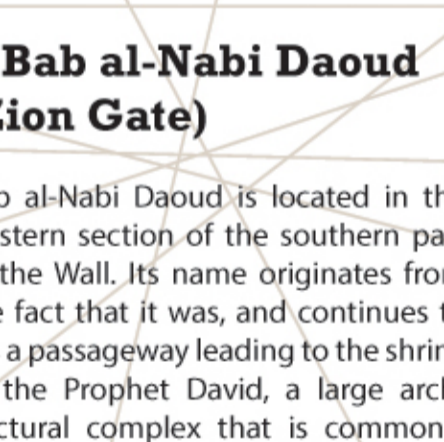
its size and expansive area. Bab al-'Amud is located in the northern part of the Jerusalem Wall, where al-Wadi al-Markazi (Central Valley), commonly known to Jerusalem's residents as al-Wad, begins its descent, cutting through the old city from north to south.

Bab al-'Amud was known by many names throughout history, such as Bab Nablus (Nablus Gate), Bab Dimashq (Damascus Gate), and Bab al-Qiddis Stephan (St. Stephen's Gate). The name Bab al-'Amud, however, is the most well-known



3. Burj al-Laqlaq (Stork's Tower)

Burj al-Laqlaq constitutes the northeast angle of the Jerusalem Wall and is located across from the Palestinian Museum (Rockefeller). Burj al-Laqlaq was built during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I (Suleiman al-Qanuni) in 1538-1539 AD (945 H), as indicated by the inscription on the eastern façade of the tower.

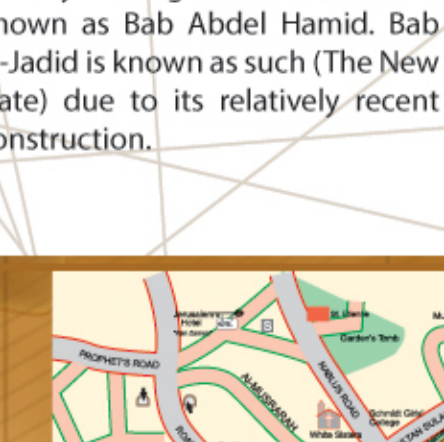


6. Bab al-Nabi Daoud (Zion Gate)

Bab al-Nabi Daoud is located in the western section of the southern part of the Wall. Its name originates from the fact that it was, and continues to be, a passageway leading to the shrine of the Prophet David, a large architectural complex that is commonly acknowledged by the followers of the three monotheistic religions.

7. Bab al-Khalil (Jaffa Gate)

Bab al-Khalil is located in the western Wall of the Old City, near the northwest corner of the Citadel. The gate was known as Bab Mihrab Daoud in the early Islamic period, Bab Daoud in the Franks era, and today it is called Bab al-Khalil (Hebron Gate) in Arabic and Jaffa Gate in English.



is why the gate is sometimes known as Bab Abdel Hamid. Bab al-Jadid is known as such (The New Gate) due to its relatively recent construction.

Jerusalem Wall

The Wall of Jerusalem carries major significance. It is one of the most prominent features of the City of Jerusalem and is characterized by the fact that it is complete, unlike the partially surviving walls that surround other historical cities. In addition, the evident parts of the Wall were notably built during a single architectural era. The Wall's structure abounds with geometric and floral reliefs and motifs, as well as writings, representative of the architectural



The trails main stations are:

- 1- Bab al-'Amud (Damascus Gate).
- 2- Bab al-Sahira (Herod's Gate)
- 3- Burj al-Laqlaq (Stork's Tower)
- 4- Bab al-Asbat (Lions' Gate)
- 5- Bab al-Magharibah (Dung Gate)
- 6- Bab al-Nabi Daoud (Zion Gate)
- 7- Bab al-Khalil (Jaffa Gate)
- 8- The Citadel
- 9- Bab al-Jadid (New Gate).

1. Bab al-'Amud (Damascus Gate)

Bab al-'Amud is one of the prominent examples of architecture in the 10th Century Hijra/16th Century AD, not only in Jerusalem, but in all the towns and cities of Palestine. It is the most beautiful gate of the Jerusalem Wall and the richest in terms of architectural and decorative design, not to mention

2. Bab al-Sahira (Herod's Gate)

Bab Al-Sahira is a small, modest gate, but it is richly decorative. It is located in the northern part of the Jerusalem Wall to the east of Bab al-'Amud, leading to Harat (neighborhood) al-Sa'diyya and Harat Bab Hitta. The word al-Sahira in Arabic means the expansive level area, but its pronunciation changed to al-Zahira due to colloquial distortion

The gate was also known as Herod's Gate, referring to Herod Antipas, who had a home in the area, accessible through a gate in this location. It was also known as Madeleine's Gate during the Crusaders era. Bab al-Sahira is relatively small, compared to Bab al-'Amud or Bab al-Asbat, but its construction was confirmed to be in the era of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I (Suleiman al-Qanuni) in 1537-1538 AD (944 H).

4. Bab al-Asbat (Lions' Gate)

Bab al-Asbat is the only gate that has been open in the eastern part of the Jerusalem Wall from the time of its construction until today. Bab al-Asbat is accessible through an inclining road from Wadi Qadrin (Wadi Juhannam). Bab al-Asbat was known by a variety of names, most of which are still used these days. In addition to Bab al-Asbat, some of these names are Bab Sitna Mariam (Mother Mary Gate), Bab Al-Qiddis Stephan (St. Stephen's Gate), and Bab l-Usud (Lions Gate).

5. Bab al-Magharibah (Dung Gate)

It is noteworthy that the gate called Bab al-Magharibah today is not one of the original gates of the Jerusalem Wall. It originates from a tower that was built in 1540 AD / 947 H, and later expanded into a gate in 1953 AD.

8. The Citadel

One of the most prominent features of Jerusalem, the Citadel is located in the western part of the Jerusalem Wall, near Bab al-Khalil to the south. The Citadel is a model of Islamic military architecture. It was built in a strategic location to defend the western entrance of the Old City, and the selection of this site was directly influenced by the presence of fortifications dating back to past eras. As it stands today, the Citadel dates back to the era of Sultan Nasir Muhammad Ibn Qalawun, who ordered its reconstruction in 1310 AD (710 H).

9. Bab al-Jadid (New Gate)

Bab Jadid is similar to Bab al-Magharibah, being more of an opening in the Wall than an original gate. The opening was turned into a gate in 1899 in the era of Sultan Abdel Hamid, which

This publication comes under the policy of developing a community based tourism program in Jerusalem by the Jerusalem Tourism Cluster (JTC). The program offers the city identity focusing on community and other historical richness of Jerusalem.

This project is funded by the European Union. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.



Jerusalem Tourism Cluster
Telefax: 02-5003497
Email : info@jerusalemctc.org
Website : www.jerusalemctc.org

