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# Tell me about Al Quds Free Walking Tours



**Disclaimer for Free Tours:**

Please note: All of our scheduled tours are conducted by English speaking local guides, some others speak German or French, (our guides are students working directly for the Jerusalem Tourism Cluster). If you prefer your tour in another language, please contact us at [info@jerusalemtc.org](mailto:info@jerusalemtc.org) for available options.

In order to assure best quality of service, please get in touch with us at least 10 days prior to your desired tour.

The views expressed in this publication and the tours are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

**For inquiries, please find our contact information below:**

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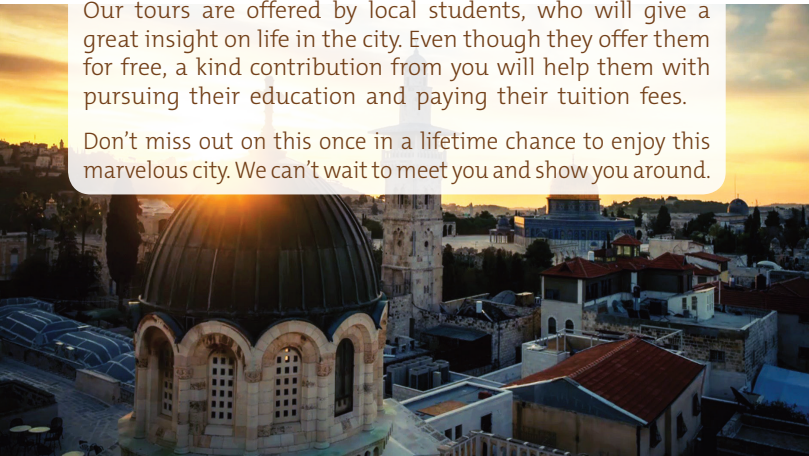
# About

We offer you walking tours in Al Quds, and yes, for free! Our tours are a great opportunity for you to learn about the culture and history of Al Quds, to meet and engage with members of the local community and make genuine and lasting friendships.

Our tours are diverse and constitute a deep cultural and historical exploration of the city. We have tours about indigenous cultures, women and youth in the city, Sufism, cuisine, souks and bazars, contemporary culture and libraries. If that's not enough, we also have a night tour through Al Quds.

Our tours are offered by local students, who will give a great insight on life in the city. Even though they offer them for free, a kind contribution from you will help them with pursuing their education and paying their tuition fees.

Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime chance to enjoy this marvelous city. We can't wait to meet you and show you around.



# The Tours

You're right to be excited. The tours we offer are an amazing blend of culture, history and everyday life. Here are the tours we passionately offer:

## Indigenous Cultures

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Meeting point: Jerusalem Hotel - 15 Antara Ben Shaddad Street
- Length: 2.5-3 hours
- Booking: Musa Afandi Interpretation Center is open from 9:00 am – 16:00 pm for booking by telephone at 02-6226859 or via WhatsApp 050-5451119
- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Break the conventions and learn about the cultures that aren't usually used to represent Al Quds
- Explore the life and history of these cultures and their magnificent architecture

### Description

Part of what makes Al Quds or Jerusalem so unique is the diversity of cultures weaving the demographic fabric of the city. On this tour, you will witness life in the Indian, Afghani, African, Moroccan, Jewish, Assyrian, German, Russian, Greek, Coptic and Ethiopian neighborhoods. We don't settle for the prevailing representation of the city as one formed out of only 4 quarters and explore all these cultures as we visit 11 major churches and 6 important mosques in the proclaimed Muslim and Christian Quarters and walk through a maze of alleys and streets. Over a cup of tea or coffee, you can hear stories and tales from the distinct corners of the city.



## Women also Built Al Quds

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Uncover the role women played in making Al Quds what it is today
- Explore the historical and religious background of these women

### Description

What what roles did women play in building the city? And which renowned monuments are actually credited to women? That's what we uncover on this tour. We'll go from Empress Helena's glorious Holy Sepulcher Church to Queen Eudocia St. Anne and pool of Bethesda. We'll also learn about the Mamluk and Ottoman Eras which witnessed the construction of a great deal of notable educational, social and religious institutions. And of course, we can't overlook the marvels of Khaski Sultan and her Tikiyyah (free kitchen), the celebrated schools of Khatun or the Mausoleum of Tunshuq Hanum. Although some of the sites are not always accessible to visitors as people live in them, the facades of the buildings reflect the splendor and the mystic that emanates out of them.

# The Trace of the Traceless

## Information

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## Highlights

- Learn all about the rise and fall of Sufism in Al Quds
- Visit the diverse Sufi institutions, which are rich in history, spirituality and culture

## Description

What is Sufism? It started in the early ages of Islam, and indicates dedication to worshipping Allah (God) the Almighty, and shunning the material aspects of life. You might not have heard a lot about it in Al Quds, and that is normal, because Sufism has almost disappeared in the city. However, Sufism had played a major role in the Jerusalemite society. The Sufi institutions are a testament to that. On this tour, we explore these institutions. We will start from the outside of the Old City at Bab al-'Amud (Damascus Gate) Bus Station, and end in the Christian Quarter in the heart of the Old City. The trail includes three Sufi types of institutions, namely, al-Zawiya (Arabic for corner), al-Khanqa (Persian for home), and al-Ribat (Arabic for standing steadfast).

# The Story of Healing in Al Quds



## Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

## Highlights

- Discover how Jesus's healing miracle evolved into current myth practices
- Visit some of the most spiritual, and often overlooked sites in the city

## Description

The story begins with Jesus's healing miracle in Al Quds that later became associated with physical and spiritual healing traditions in the city. This is a tour in myths, stories, beliefs, and one's own fragilities and vulnerabilities. We'll uncover this story in various eras and visit some of the most spiritual sites associated with this narrative, like the Bethesda pool, some of the troughs and water springs of the city, the Patriarchs pool and some of the hidden museums. We'll tell you an exciting story filled with compassion, care, spirituality and healing.

## Cuisine of Al Quds

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- There is plenty to learn about: Mezza, spices, signature dishes and restaurants
- Explore the locals' routines in roaming in the markets and souks

### Description

The cuisine of Al Quds is not limited to what you normally read about. The city is rich with diverse specialties that we would introduce you to. Palestinian mezza, the dish 'Maqluba' meaning upside down, ka'k bissimsim, falafel, cheese, and oven baked eggs are only some of what this city has to offer. When you finish from this tour, you'll know everything that you need to on the city's cuisine, spices, signature restaurants, traditional ovens and mills. We'll then follow a daily routine of the locals and roam in the markets and souks, and explore some of the ancient communal ovens and sesame mills.





## Europe in Al Quds



### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Explore the European print on Al Quds
- Visit many organisations and institutions
- See a blend of local and foreign influences in the architecture

### Description

Yes, you can find a little bit of Europe in Al Quds. Europeans have left their own signature on the city, and this is evident in the culture, language, religion, architecture, cuisine and some seasonal traditions. On this tour, we go through various European organisations and institutions that have existed in the city since its inception. These institutions, mostly religious in nature and comprised of schools and hospitals, are very integrated in the daily life of the local community, and so offer a great insight on it. The architectural styles of these buildings are also very exciting as it constitutes a blend of European and local influences.



## Walls & Gates of Al Quds

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Get the chance to walk along the legendary walls of the city
- Experience Al Quds from above and all around
- Get to know the city's history, architecture and urban fabric

### Description

Have you been wondering about the walls and gates of Al Quds? This tour is designed to answer your questions. We walk on the walls surrounding the old city, either in a full 4 km circle or half, and experience the city from above and all around. As we walk, we'll tell you all about the wall's history, structure, geometric and floral reliefs, motifs and writings. You also learn about its seven legendary gates, their contemporary state and significance as well as their history.



## Meet the Youth of Al Quds

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Learn about AL Quds through its youth and their everyday life
- Mingle, interact and make friends

### Description

The youth of a city reflect its aspirations, creativity and thoughts. Al Quds is no different. Youth constitute a large percentage of the Palestinian society and are filled with a great deal of vitality and energy. To help you see through the common misrepresentation of a Palestinian youth, we introduce you to a number of youth clubs, organisations and folkloric and dance groups. You'll get the chance to meet and interact with them, get to know them, and perhaps even form a long-lasting friendship.



## Contemporary Culture & Libraries

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Meeting point: Jerusalem Hotel - 15 Antara Ben Shaddad Street
- Length: 2.5-3 hours
- Booking: Musa Afandi Interpretation Center is open from 9:00 am – 16:00 pm for booking by telephone at 02-6226859 or via WhatsApp 050-5451119
- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Visuals arts, music, theatres, literature. It's all on the agenda.
- Uncover how the contemporary art is shaped by political, economic and social dimensions

### Description

Al Quds is filled with literary, musical and artistic talents that enrich the cultural scene in the city. If you're interested in exploring what contemporary art and culture in the city are like, and how they have been shaped and transformed by political, economic and social spheres, then you should definitely join this tour. We'll visit a number of cultural, visual arts, musical and theatrical centres as well as some of the renowned historical libraries. You'll be amazed by the richness you'll experience.



## Suqs & Bazars in Al Quds

### Information

- Starts: The tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Meeting point: Jerusalem Hotel - 15 Antara Ben Shaddad Street
- Length: 2.5-3 hours
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- Other conditions: The tour starts with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 10 persons

### Highlights

- Visit historical commercial centres and monuments
- Roam in the Souks and Bazars where a bustling atmosphere awaits

### Description

Although its religious status usually overshadows this fact, but commerce and markets have historically constituted a major part of Al Quds. We take you through the heart and centre of the old city and introduce you to both the traditional and contemporary economic and commercial life in the old city of Al Quds. We'll visit architectural monuments like the Khans and Bazars. We'll roam in the bustling narrow alleyways of the Souks and witness daily social activity, historical flavours, oriental variety, and uniqueness rarely found in other places.



## Details About the Tours

Each tour lasts for 2-3 hours, has a maximum of ten participants and starts from the Jerusalem Hotel on 15 Antara Ben Shaddad Street, which lies across the Garden Tomb. Of course, you can feel free to consult and benefit from the hotel's assistance if you arrive early and happen to wait for your guide. We don't include food and drinks in the tours, but feel free to bring a snack, and we'd be happy to make some recommendations for you.

The tours are run by the Jerusalem Tourism Cluster and sometimes by one of its partner organisations, depending on the type and nature of the tour. In case you'd like a more extensive tour, the JTC and the Jerusalem Hotel have a number of other tours, and we can also guide you to other agencies and companies offering a variety of other excursions.

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