

Damascus Gate (Bab al-'Amud)



Herod's Gate (Bab Al-Sahira)



The Citadel



Trail 1 The Wall and Gates of Jerusalem

Jaffa Gate (Bab al-Khalil)



التجمع السياحي المقدسي
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بتمويل من الاتحاد
الأوروبي



Funded by EU



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

Dung Gate (Bab al-Magharibah)



The gate called Dung Gate today is not actually one of the major gates of the Jerusalem. It originates from a tower built in 1540 AD, the small gate was used for dumping the dung of the city and lead also to the only water source (Silom). The opening in the city wall was expanded into a gate in 1953 and 1985 to allow for the movement of cars and to facilitate the passage of those living near the Old City. The gate connects the city with the nearest village (Silwan) and the ancient ruins of the city (Ophel).

Zion Gate (Bab al-Nabi Daoud)



The name Zion Gate (built 1540) originates from the fact that it was, and continues to be, a passageway leading to the shrine of the Prophet Daoud (David), a large architectural complex commonly acknowledged by the followers of the three monotheistic religions. The majority of architectural activities at this shrine are attributed to the Ottoman period. In Western literature, this gate was named Zion Gate on account of its proximity to Zion's cenacle or upper room ('Illiyat Suhyoun), the place that Christians believe to be the site of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with His disciples. The gate leads also to the Demission Church and the Christian cemeteries.

Jaffa Gate (Bab al-Khalil)



Jaffa Gate (built by Sultan Suleiman 1538) is the only gate located in the western side of the City Wall next to the northwest corner of the Citadel, and considered the second most beautiful gate after Damascus Gate. Jaffa Gate comprises an entrance topped by a pointed stone lintel with a commemorative inscription of the Sultan's name, titles and the construction date. Other inscription is mentioning Ibrahim (Abraham) and his Islamic nickname (al-Khalil), which is the name of the Gate. This Gate was considered the Gate that connects Jerusalem with the West through Jaffa seaport.

The Citadel



The Citadel, one of the major sites of interest in Jerusalem, is located near to Jaffa Gate. The Citadel is a model of accumulated Islamic military architecture of different periods, but contain also pre-Islamic and Crusader features, built in a strategic location to defend the western entrance of the Old City. The view from the towers of the citadel towards the city is a unique experience.

New Gate (Bab al-Jadid)



New Gate is an opening in the north-west corner of the city Wall, that turned into a gate in 1889 during the rule of the Ottoman Sultan Abdel Hamid therefore it is known as the "New Gate". The gate marks the expansion of Jerusalem outside the city wall. It was opened to facilitate the movement of residents who reside to northwestern of the Old City, an area where construction began in the second half of the 19th century and to connect several institutions with the old city like the Russian Compound, the French Hospital and the Notre Dame Hotel .

Damascus Gate (Bab al-'Amud)

Damascus Gate (built 1538) is located in the northern side of the Jerusalem Wall, leading to the most important city markets. Although known by many names throughout history, the name Damascus Gate is the most commonly used in foreign languages. Bab al-'Amud (Arabic) refers to the column ('amud) that formerly stood in the inner colonnade courtyard of the gate and featured a statue of Emperor Hadrian. This is the major Gate of city and the only gate that was built between two huge towers, considered the most beautiful Ottoman gate in the city. The gates fortifications and decorations are reflecting the majesty of the city and his patron.



Herod's Gate (Bab Al-Sahira)

Herod's Gate is a small, yet richly decorated, gate in the northern side of the Jerusalem wall to the east of Damascus Gate. It is actually an opening in a tower, therefore it so small. The name Herod's Gate refers to Herod Antipas, who had a home near to this location. The gate was built by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I in 1537-1538 AD. It is leading two major city neighborhoods: Sa'diyya and Bab Hitta, which are mostly populated by Muslims, these are located far from the major markets and the crowded streets of the Old city.



Stork Tower (Burj al-Laqaq)

The Stork Tower is one of 34 towers in the city wall, and is the most famous among them, located in the north-eastern corner of the city. The Stork Tower has four façades, the most famous of which are the northern and eastern ones that display a series of geometrical and floral motifs on stone discs and some arrow slits.

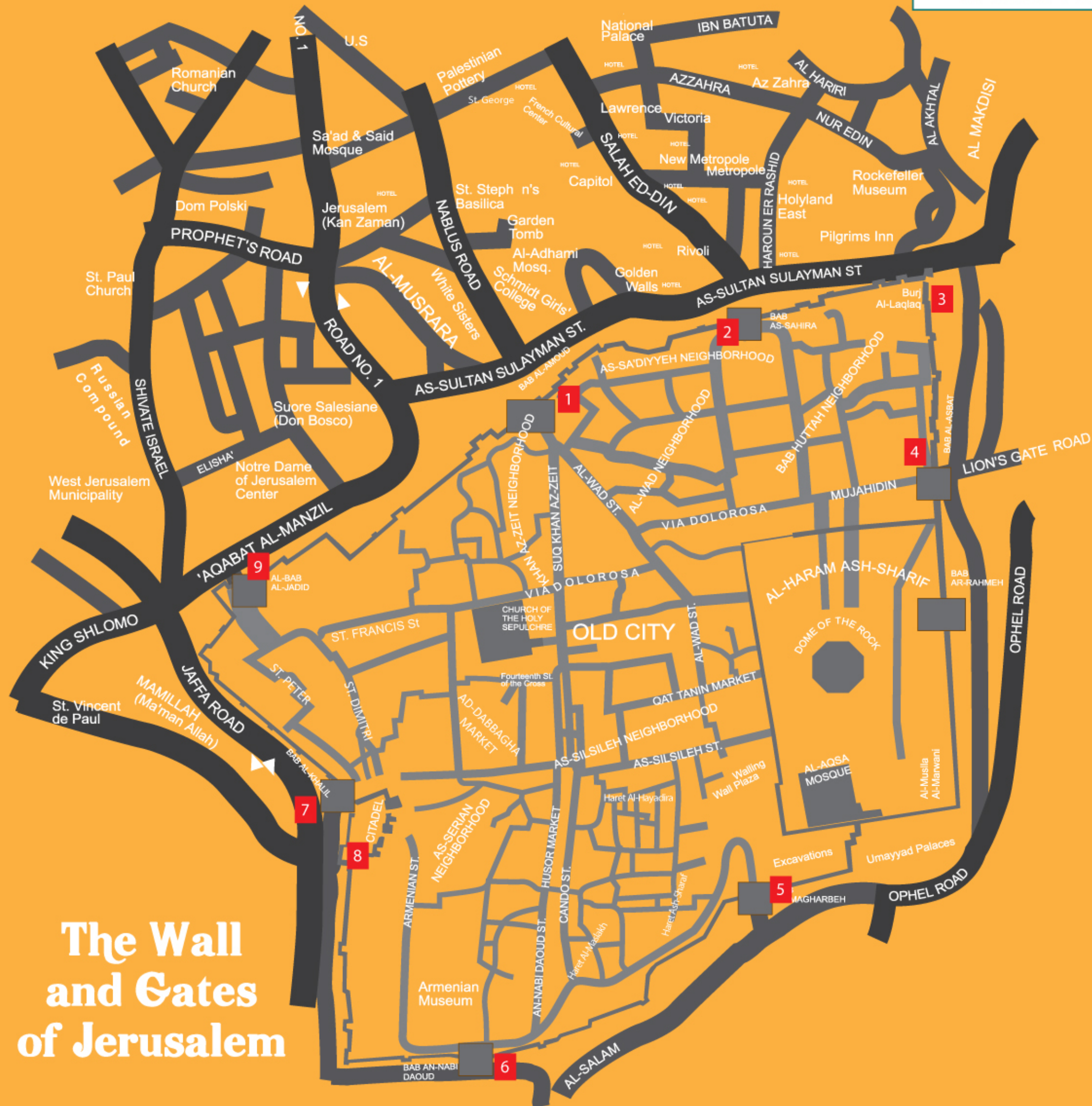


Lions Gate (Bab al-Asbat)

Lions Gate is the only gate that has remained open in the eastern side of the Jerusalem Wall. The gate has been known by a variety of names and is the subject of several myths. The gate is also famously known as Lions Gate due to the statues of four lions: two to the north and two to the south of the gate's lintel, these lions are the only fauna decorations in the city wall. It is the closest city gate to the Aqsa Mosque, leads also to St. Ann Church and used by the procession of Palm Sunday and Nabi Musa.



The Wall and Gates of Jerusalem



Trail Introduction

Jerusalem is one of few cities around the world that managed to protect its historical wall in complete form. The walls are ca. 4 km long and 10-13m height, built by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent between 1537 and 1541, certain sections of the wall are much older. The walls are built of Jerusalem stones and have seven open gates, all from the Ottoman period and four Pre-Ottoman gates closed with stones.



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