

שלום וברוכים הבאים לירושלים, עיר של זהב.

Hello, and welcome to Jerusalem, the city of gold. As a holy city in three of the religious traditions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - Jerusalem has a reputation for being a serious, conservative, straight place. But something brought you here, right?



Jerusalem has an enduring appeal bolstered by its undeniable energy. Despite its holy nature - or perhaps because of it - people assume that there's not an active or visible LGBT community here. But we are happy to tell you that this assumption could not be further from the truth. As this guide shows, there are plenty of opportunities for LGBT Olim and visitors to have an active social and religious life in Israel's largest city.

From welcoming congregations and universities; to bars, restaurants, shopping, the arts, weekly parties, organized LGBT-themed tours, festivals and concerts; to support groups, social groups, youth groups and more; Jerusalem has something for everyone.

As a dynamic, modern city, the social landscape of Jerusalem is always growing and changing. To that end, we will make every effort to regularly update this guide so it remains relevant and useful. We hope that it serves you well as you seek out a new community here and throughout Israel.

We are proud to present a resource guide for LGBTQ Jerusalem. we will do your best to update it, but please make sure to contact the places, to get updated info. If we are missing something, let us know.

Sincerely,
The Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance

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Community Services

The Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance

Founded in 1997, JOH is a community center that provides resources for the city's LGBT community, including: Affinity groups based on age, language, level of religious observance; subsidized one-on-one counseling; anonymous HIV/AIDS testing; school support; a large lending library (with many books in English); educational programming; and organizing the annual Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance.

The Open Clinic: Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing is available every week at Jerusalem Open House. A physician is available to see patients at the Open House. The clinic works in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital.

Open Counseling: Mental health counseling and alternative therapies are available with social workers, trained therapists, and psychological professionals. The team of therapists is certified in various treatment* fields and receives training on behalf of Jerusalem Open House. *Treatment is subsidized and in some cases may be free.

Education: Workshops for educational and therapeutic teams about the LGBT community and issues facing students and the community in Jerusalem. In addition, meetings are held with students, gap year programs, the IDF, and local and national groups. The program is in cooperation with Shefi Psychological Counseling Service of the Ministry of Education.

Young Adults: Weekly meetings and social activities. Different groups for specific ages, religious communities, and the transgender community. Offers tutoring as well as a music project. Summer vacation programs are available. Program is in cooperation with the Youth Advancement Division of the Jerusalem Municipality.

Community: The community center is open from 12:00 to 16:00 from Sunday to Thursday.

At the Open House: A younger women's group; women 45+; men 50+; transgender meeting; a group for bisexuals and asexuals; LGBT parents; Russian-speaking groups; creative writing; board game nights; movie nights, and more!

Throughout the city: Develops relationships with community groups and organizations to promote tolerance. Produces and participates in seminars, workshops (education, health, senior citizens) and LGBT events in Jerusalem.

March for Pride and Tolerance: Every year, the Jerusalem Open House produces the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance, motivated by the belief that visibility is key for change in raising awareness for those who need and deserve someone working on their behalf.

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Web: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Facebook: [הבית הפתוח בירושלים](#)

באנה at the Jerusalem Open House

A social group for queer-identified women between the ages of 22 and 35. The group meets twice a month to talk about relevant issues (feminism, women's health, sexuality, art, religion, etc.) and social activities (movies, theater, lectures, game nights). The group is a platform for getting to know other women in the community, and is open to new members all year round.

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: bona.jerusalem@gmail.com

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Facebook: @bonajerusalem

+45 נשים at the Jerusalem Open House

A social group for queer-identified women of a certain age (45+).

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Qyear Jerusalem

A group of the Jerusalem Open House for English speakers, ages 25-35, who are living in Jerusalem for the year, e.g., seminary and yeshiva students, graduate students, etc. Activities include educational programs, movie nights, trivia nights, and field trips around Jerusalem.

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: brandencharlesjohnson@gmail.com

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Facebook: @QyearJerusalem

LGBT Olim

LGBT Olim is an umbrella group for LGBT English-Speakers Groups in four cities across Israel and Qulpan (LGBT-friendly Hebrew classes) in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

And LGBT Olim's sister page "LGBT English-Speakers in Israel":

<http://facebook.com/LGBTEnglishSpeakersInIsrael/>

Qulpan Jerusalem (free LGBT-friendly Hebrew classes). A place to practice and improve your Ivrit in an LGBT-

friendly environment and discuss topics that wouldn't be covered in a regular Ulpan.

Facebook group: <http://facebook.com/groups/QulpanJlem>

To join the email list, email qulpanjlem@lgbtolim.org

Jerusalem LGBT English-Speakers Group: Organises social events every month.

Facebook group: <http://facebook.com/groups/JerusalemLGBTEnglishSpeakers>

To join the email list, contact jlemesg@lgbtolim.org

LGBT Olim also provides information to LGBT people who are thinking about making aliyah or who have recently done so, by providing information that the aliyah agencies doesn't.

Locations: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Be'er Sheva

Email: info@lgbtolim.org

Website: <http://www.lgbtolim.org/>

Facebook: @LGBTOLim

Newsletter: <http://lgbtolim.org/signup>

Women's Gathering

"Women's Gathering" (WG) is a monthly gathering of Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Queer women and women-identified peoples and friends for mingling, meeting, and community building. It is hosted each time at a different venue in the city. Each venue that participates is added to our list of "Gay Friendly" businesses in Jerusalem. These events are totally free of charge and are open to the larger public as well.

Email: womensgatheringjlm@gmail.com

Facebook: @wgjlm

Dating Apps

There are several popular dating apps you might already be familiar with, including:

Atraf (Israeli) - for queer-identified men and women

OKCupid - multiple options for gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationship status

Her - multiple options for gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationship status

Grindr - for queer-identified men

Bumble - multiple options for gender identity and sexual orientation

Scruff - for queer-identified men

Tinder - multiple options for gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationship status

Fem - for queer-identified women

Trans-specific

Transmeeting at the Jerusalem Open House

A group meeting for transgender folks.

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Ma'avarim

An organization focused on personal support, community empowerment, and advocacy on behalf of the trans and gender-variant community. Operates a hotline that can provide information and referrals, skills training, leadership training, and more.

Location: Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

Email: info@maavarim.org

Phone: +972 (52) 477-6707

Website: <https://www.maavarim.org/english-home>

Facebook: @maavarim.org

Project Gila

Project Gila is the movement for transgender empowerment in Israel. It began in 2011 from within the transgender community and for its benefit. Gila is a group of activists working to better the living conditions of the non-gender-conforming community.

Location: Albi Cafe

Address: 8 HaGdud Halvri, Tel Aviv

Hours: Mondays, from 7-9:00 pm

Phone: +972 (58) 688-0797

Website: http://www.gila-project.com/?page_id=224

Student and Family Services

Proud Families at the Jerusalem Open House

A group for parents of LGBT folks in Jerusalem, providing social activities for children and parents.

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Achva - LGBT Student Association in Israel - האחוה הסטודנטיואלית הגאה

Achva is the LGBT Student's Association in Israel. It was established with the support of The Israeli National LGBT Task Force and the National Union of Israeli Students. Its purpose is to offer a home to all LGBT groups on campuses all over the country. Many campuses have their own Achva chapters. They wish to constitute and maintain a safe and supportive space for all LGBT students. Activities include seminars and workshops, meetings from trans-identified students, and participating in political activities and demonstrations such as the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance.

Email: hujigay@gmail.com

Facebook: @LgbtAchva

Tehila

Tehila is a registered non-profit organization that provides support by parents, for parents, who have children in the LGBT community.

Email: info@tehila.org.il

Phone: +972 (9) 885-5822

Website: <http://www.tehila.org.il/english/>

Soldiers

Youth Group for Ages 18-22 at the Jerusalem Open House

A group for those between the ages of 18 and 22, including those serving in the Army or National Service.

Address: 2 HaSoreg Street

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

גאווה כחול לבן - **Geava Kahol Lavan - Blue and White Pride**

A movement made up of LGBT folks and straight allies that works for full inclusion of members during their regular military service.

Email: omer.nahmany@gmail.com

Facebook: @GeavaKaholLavan

Religious

חברותא - Havruta

Founded in 2007, Havruta is a community of gay men who belong to the religious society and work together to achieve tolerance and acceptance of LGBT individuals in the religious society. Through outreach and education, Havruta aims to break down stereotypes, and encourage a religious culture that is tolerant and understanding for all who are different whether by gender, race, or religion.

Email: info@havruta.org.il

Phone: +972 (54) 630-5101

Website: <http://havruta.org.il/english>

Facebook: @Havruta.IL

בת-קול - Bat Kol

The Bat-Kol – Religious Lesbian Organization was founded in 2005 by a group of women who were not willing to relinquish their religious identity or their right to live their lives as lesbians. Bat-Kol works toward enabling religious lesbians to live authentic and loving lives, lives marked by sharing and equality as well as by wholeness and acceptance within religious society.

Email: info@bat-kol.org

Phone: +972 (54) 313-3239

Website: <http://www.bat-kol.org/english/>

Facebook: @batkolorg

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Murstein Synagogue

The most English-friendly services in Jerusalem. There are few Friday evening services. There is a list of Saturday morning service dates online.

Address: 13 King David

Contact: Dganit Jenshil

Email: djenshil@huc.edu

Phone: +972 (2) 620-3392

Facebook: @HebrewUnionCollegeJewishInstituteofReligion

Kehilat Kol HaNeshama

A welcoming congregation affiliated with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.

Address: 1 Asher
Email: kolhaneshama@kkh.org.il
Phone: +972 (2) 672-4878
Facebook: @kehilatkolhaneshama

Kehilat Zion

A welcoming, egalitarian congregation affiliated with the Masorti movement.

Address: 3 Issachar (in the Baka Jewish Community Center)
Contact: Sara Miriam
Email: rakezet.zion@gmail.com
Phone: +972 (58) 589-3005
Website: <http://zion-jerusalem.org.il/>
Facebook: @KehilatZionJerusalem

Kehilat Shira Hadasha

A pioneering congregation in the partnership minyan-style Modern Orthodox movement. There is a mechitza, so men and women daven separately. However, women lead parts of service and are called to the Torah.

Address: 12 Emek Refaim (located in the ICCC)
Contact: Cheftzy Nachmani
Email: office@shirahadasha.org.il
Phone: +972 (54) 817-3101
Website: <http://www.shirahadasha.org.il/english/index.php>
Facebook: @shirahadasha

Beit Knesset Moreshet Yisrael

An egalitarian Masorti (Conservative) synagogue. Beit Knesset Moreshet Yisrael is made up of English speaking olim and Israeli natives.

Address: 4 Agron
Email: office@moreshetyisrael.org
Phone: +972 (2) 625-3539
Website: <http://www.moreshetyisrael.org/>
Facebook: @jerusalem.shul

The Conservative Yeshiva

The Conservative Yeshiva is a diverse, egalitarian, and engaged learning community in the heart of Jerusalem

where you can ask questions, explore, and grow, and gain skills for a lifetime.

Address: 8 Agron (Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center)

Contact: Elyse Kruger

Email: cyoffice@uscj.org

Phone: +972 (2) 625-6386

Website: <https://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/>

Facebook: @conservativeyeshiva

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies

Pardes is an open, co-ed and non-denominational Jewish learning community, based in Jerusalem and with programs worldwide. Diversity is at the core of Pardes and students represent a broad spectrum of the Jewish world. The result is a vibrant community constantly engaged in honest, dynamic and constructive debate leading to serious personal reflection and growth.

Address: 29 Pierre Koenig

Email: info@pardes.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 673-5210

Website: www.pardes.org.il

Facebook: @pardesinstitute

Tantur Ecumenical Institute (non-Jewish)

Affiliated with the University of Notre Dame, Tantur offers a variety of continuing education programs and sabbatical programs. It is a welcoming place for all visitors to Jerusalem, including: Scholars from numerous disciplines; teachers, students and conference attendees; spiritual sojourners of all faiths; clergy and members of all religious communities on sabbatical in the Holy Land; university groups; church groups; organizations and individuals seeking enrichment in Israel.

Address: 1 HaRosmarin

Contact: Father Russ McDougall

Email: tantur@tantur.org

Phone: +972 (2) 542-2900

Website: <http://tantur.org/>

Facebook: @Tantur.Jerusalem

ירושדיים - Yerushadayim

An organization for queer-identified women that offers programs primarily in Hebrew.

Facebook: @yerushadayim

Entertainment

Videopub

Jerusalem's only gay bar. They offer happy hour specials; drag shows; and special events for the LGBT community in Jerusalem, including themed parties.

Address: 1 Yohanan Horkanos

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/videopubjerusalem/>

Facebook: @video80s

אללה נש - Alla Nesh

Jerusalem's only troupe of drag performers. They perform every month at Videopub, as well as at other events and parties throughout the city.

Address: 1 Yohanan Horkanos

Facebook: @Allanesh

ושתי Vashti -

A bi-weekly dance party at a venue in the heart of Jerusalem.

Facebook: @ושתי Vashti

שני גיז - Gay Monday

A weekly event hosted by Roasters Machane Yehuda, featuring coffee, beer, music, and the excitement of the Shuk.

Address: 20 HaAfarsek (in Shuk Machane Yehuda)

Phone: +972 (54) 671-0296

Facebook: @CoffeeRoasteryJerusalem

The American Center

The American Center is a section of the Office of Public Affairs and is an information resource as well as an educational and cultural center with a range of activities aimed at the Israeli public. The Center strives to initiate and strengthen bonds between Israelis and the United States, and to promote understanding of U.S. policies, society, values, and culture. It also provides a platform for English language teaching.

Address: 19 Keren HaYesod
Email: TelAvivPDIRC@state.gov
Phone: +972 (2) 595-2676
Website: <https://il.usembassy.gov/education-culture/acj/acj-overview/>
Facebook: @AmericanCenterJerusalem

Starcatcher Productions

Starcatcher is a new, independent Jerusalem-based theater group committed to providing Israeli audiences with high-quality productions of English-language musicals.

Email: starcatchertheater@gmail.com
Website: www.starcatcher.co.il
Facebook: @starcatcherJLM

Encore! Theatre Company

Established in Jerusalem in 2006, Encore presents the classics of the musical stage as well as lesser-known and original works, in order to expose audiences to this repertoire and, in particular, encourage young people to be the theatre-going public of the future.

Address: 14 Yad Harutzim
Email: robert@encore-etc.com
Phone: +972 (54) 578-9006
Website: www.encore-etc.com
Facebook: @encoreetc

J-Town Playhouse

A part of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel organization, J-Town Playhouse is dedicated to bringing quality educational theatrical programming and performances (in English) to Jerusalem. To help encourage and facilitate a deeper understanding and enjoyment of theater and increase the level of involvement and talent within the community.

Address: 37 Pierre Koenig, 4th floor
Email: israeltheatersource@gmail.com
Phone: +972 (2) 566-1181 ext. 311
Website: www.aaci.org.il
Facebook: @JTownPlayhouse

Social: Where to Eat and Drink

Tmol Shilshom

A well-known and popular, LGBT-owned establishment. The kosher-dairy restaurant is famous for its shakshuka. It has a large library for your reading pleasure, and hosts a wide variety of cultural events.

Address: 5 Salomon Yo'el Moshe

Email: tmolshilshomcafe@gmail.com

Phone: +972 (2) 623-2758

Website: www.tmol-shilshom.co.il

Facebook: @TmolShilshomcafe

Bastet

An LGBT-owned, vegetarian restaurant that is open on Shabbat.

Address: 5 Heleni HaMalka

Phone: +972 (2) 970-1710

Facebook: @Bastet.Cafe

Rina & Alice

An LGBT-owned restaurant that offers a variety of cuisines in a casual environment.

Address: 38 Keren HaYesod

Email: rinaandalice@gmail.com

Phone: +972 (2) 561-7638

Website: <http://www.rol.co.il/rina-alice/>

Facebook: Rina&Alice רינה ואליס

R&R DineR

A new LGBT-owned restaurant and event space in central Jerusalem.

Address: 33 Yaffo

Phone: +972 (2) 625-3435

Facebook: @R&RDineR

Cafe Nocturno

Known for being LGBT-friendly. Features a large menu (in English and in Hebrew), with an event space that turns into a nightclub for concerts and special events.

Address: 7 Betzalel

Email: amitnocturno@gmail.com

Phone: +972 (77) 700-8510

Website: <http://nocturno.co.il/>

Facebook: נוקטורנו בית וקפה: Cafe Nocturno

Shopping

Pride Shop at The Jerusalem Open House

The Jerusalem Open House sells a variety of LGBT-themed items in its gift shop, including rainbow kippot and bracelets; CDs by queer musicians; books; posters; patches and buttons; bumper stickers, and more!

Address: 2 HaSoreg

Email: office@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

Y.Sh.Ghatan & Sons

A shop near HUC-JIR that can provide LGBT-themed Judaica.

Address: 8 King David

Email: sami@jerusalem-mall.co.il

Phone: +972 (2) 624-7356

Facebook: @Y.Sh.Ghatan & Sons

Online: <http://gayday.co.il/>

Travel: Where to Stay and What to Do

Gayrusalem - LGBT Tours in Jerusalem

A travel agency that provides tours focused on the LGBT history of Jerusalem.

Address: Ben Yehuda Street

Phone: +972 (54) 251-9925

Facebook: @Gayrusalem

OUTStanding Travel

Offers tours of the Old City of Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, the Israel Museum, and more.

Address: 11 HaGilboa, Tel Aviv

Contact: Nadav Peretz

Email: booking@outstandingtravel.com

Phone: +972 (50) 570-0009

Website: <http://www.outstandingtravel.com/>

Facebook: @outstandingtravel

Da'at Educational Expeditions

Israel tours from Israel's foremost travel company. The best custom crafted Israel tours for over 25 years.

Address: New York and Israel

Phone: +1 (888) 811-2812 (USA), +972 (2) 621-3333 (Israel)

Website: <http://www.daattravel.com>

Facebook: @daattravel

Diana's House

First gay B&B in Israel (est. 1989). Close to the Old City, tourist attractions, city center and all gay venues.

Address: 10 Hulda HaNeviah

Email: dr-ativ@smile.net.il

Phone: +972 (2) 628-3131

Website: www.booking.com

Villa Brown Jerusalem

A brand-new, LGBT-owned luxury boutique hotel located in an historical villa in central Jerusalem.

Address: 54 HaNeviim

Email: villa@brownhotels.com

Phone: +972 (2) 501-1555

Website: <http://brownhotels.com/villa>

Facebook: @BrownJerusalemHotel

Health and Wellness

Insurance:

Clalit insurance has been recommended for LGBT travelers/olim concerned about receiving care in Israel. They employ general practitioners who specialize in LGBT healthcare. More information is available on their website:

http://www.clalit-global.co.il/en/health_insurance_for_tourists_and_foreign_workers.html

General:

Condoms and lube can be purchased at any pharmacy.

Emergency contraception is sold under the name POSTINOR in any pharmacy without a prescription. Super Pharm is a chain with many locations. There are also smaller pharmacies throughout the city. Many medications are heavily discounted or free with health insurance.

Testing:

Anonymous HIV and syphilis testing is available by appointment at the Jerusalem Open House on Sundays, from 17:00 - 21:00.

Address: 2 HaSoreg Street

Email: hiv-clinic@joh.org.il

Phone: +972 (2) 625-0502

Website: <http://www.joh.org.il/>

HIV and STI testing is also available in the Laboratory for Diagnosis of Blood-Transmitted Infections at Hadassah Medical Center Ein Kerem.

Address: Kiryat Hadassah, Clinics Building, Ground Floor

Phone: +972 (2) 677-6051

Hours: 8:00-15:00, Monday-Thursday, 8:00-12:00 on Friday and holiday eves

Website: <http://www.hadassah-med.com/medical-care/clinics/blood-bank.aspx>

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is available at a heavily discounted price with insurance and a prescription from a doctor.

Special Information for Trans Visitors and Olim:

The recommended option for starting HRT is the endocrine institute in Ichilov Hospital. You have to make an appointment in advance. The phone number is +972 (3) 697-3417.

You will need to get a referral from your family doctor for the appointment and for blood tests, and Form 17 from the medical center (your doctor should be able to guide you as to how to).

You will also need a letter from a therapist, psychiatrist or social worker recommending HRT. This is a list (in Hebrew) of the blood tests you'll need so you can print it for your doctor:

גברים טרנסג'נדרים:
ספירת דם וכימיה מלאה (גלוקוזה, תפקודי כבד, תפקודי כליה, ליפידים), טסטוסטרון, אסטרדיול, פרולקטין,
TSH, LH, FSH
מתבקשים גם לבצע בדיקת US (אולטרה-סאונד) של אברי האגן (רחם ושחלות),

נשים טרנסג'נדריות:
ספירת דם וכימיה מלאה (גלוקוזה, תפקודי כבד, תפקודי כליה, ליפידים), טסטוסטרון, אסטרדיול, פרולקטין,
TSH, LH, FSH
מתבקשות להביא בדיקות של תפקודי קרישה (PT, PTT).

Ma'avarim maintains a list of trans-friendly therapists who speak English. You can contact them for more information at +972 (52) 477-6707 or info@maavarim.org.

In the event of a medical emergency, such as replacing lost/stolen/damaged hormones or personal injury requiring medical attention, Ma'avarim recommends that you review your insurance policy and consult your primary care provider in advance so you have an appropriate plan of action.