

An Incomplete Dining Guide to Jerusalem

Note: most places in Jerusalem close on Fridays during late afternoon and do not open till Saturday night. This applies to the following places, unless stated otherwise.

3. Food Hubs

There are several areas in Jerusalem with a high concentration of restaurants:

City Center

As in any city, the city center in Jerusalem is lively and active. Even on Friday nights, one can find many open restaurants and bars, though Saturday night is the busiest. Ben-Yehuda and Zion square have a more "touristic" bent, Nachlat Shiva'a has many small pearls hidden in the alleyways and Feinglod court houses several excellent resaurants in a very small space.

Machne Yehuda Market

There is no better way to get to know a city and its inhabitants than visiting its markets and this is especially true in Jerusalem. In recent years, the market has undergone something of a transformation with boutiques, chic shops and restaurants opening alongside the produce and fish stalls. From a culinary aspect, there are many low-brow options (falafel, shawarma), ethinc cuisine (Iraqi, curdish, Indian, etc.), as well as more upscale options.

German Colony - Emek Refaim

This single street serves as the 'Main Street' of the German Colony and is full of restaurants, coffee-shops, fast-food, shops and stores plus an excellent art-house movies theatre (with its own cafe, where else can you see a movie with a cup of coffee or beer?).

3+-

699One of the liveliest streets in the city, especially on Friday mornings and Saturday night. About 10 minutes walk from the Mishkenot Guesthouse.

Rehavia - Gaza St.

Along the length of the Rehavia Neighbourhood "main street" - Gaza St. (so named since it lies on the old road to Gaza), one can find several excellent bars and restaurants that fit all tastes and pocket-sizes, whether its sushi or shakshooka, humus or shrimps, beer or coffee, you can find it all here.

Ein-Karem

This small outlying neighbourhood, built on the mountainside is very picturesque with its old houses narrow streets and monestaries, surrounded by forests (or at least what israelis think of as forests). Its location outside the city means that most places are open on weekends, and this makes it a favorite for families at that time.

1. By Type

Coffee and light meals

Caffit, Hillel, Aroma (The German Colony, Emek Refa'aim)

The three trendiest places in the German Colony, all located on Emek Refaim street. At least 3 more places for coffee and light dining are within walking distance.

Hakol La-Ofe Ve-Gam Kafe (everything for the baker, and coffee)

12 HaShazif Street (in the Mahne Yehuda market)

Known to be an experience. It's a baking supply store turned coffee shop, located in the middle of the Machne-Yehuda market.

Hummus

Jerusalem is one of the best places in the world for hummus. This list is far from exhausting, and most Jerusalemites will have their own personal favorite.

Pinati, Ta'ami

Ta'ami: 3 Shamai Street, Phone: (02) 625-3644

Pinati: 13 King George Street, Phone: (02) 6254540

Jerusalem's citizens are divided on many issues, one of them being which of these two hole-in-the-wall institutions serves better humus. Open only for lunch, you are seated with others at one of the small tables and the protocol is to leave as soon as you finish. The urban legend is that the original owner used to shout at the customers "chew, don't talk!", but this is not the case today. Humus is the first course (hummus with meat can be a main), shakshuka (fried eggs with tomato sauce), Musaka (eggplant with meat), a wonderful meatball in tomato sauce served with rice and beans.

Hummus Ben-Sira

3 Ben-Sira Street, Phone: 054-7542954

One of the most popular hummus restaurants in Jerusalem, especially with young people. Free fallafel with every hummus! Open until around 4 AM, it's a great place to eat after a night at the bars.

Humus places in the old city

Abu Shukri serves truly delicious Arabic humus. It is located down the Via Dolorosa Street. Same for Lina's up the Via Dolorosa Street. Again, open only for lunch.

Jerusalem Mixed Grill

Mifgash Chatsot (Midnight Meeting)

Agripas street (Near Mahne Yehuda market)

The place to go to try "Jerusalem Mixed Grill" – a mix of chicken liver, heart and other internal organs, which is light years better than it sounds! Less experimental options include chicken breast and shish-kebab. Have it in a pita or on a plate. Open until late.

Sima

Located just down the street from Mifgash Chatsot on Agripas street, this is another great mixed-grill option.

Neighbourhood Food Stands

Zigmund

29 Gaza St. Phone: (02) 563-9212

Named after Sigmund Fried, whose stern visage overlooks the kitchen, this small mushroom-shaped food stand is Jerusalem at its essence. Excellent Shakshooka (fried eggs in spicy tomato sauce), basic sandwiches and salads, French crepes for dessert and fresh fruit juice. Homemade Couscous on Tuesdays. Always an interesting experience.

Ethiopian

Ethio

Elishar street 5, near the Hillel Cafe on Jaffa street, across from Zion square, (City Center)

Phone: (02) 6223992

Authentic inexpensive Ethiopian restaurant. Both meat and veggie dishes are available. Most dishes are based on "Injera" bread, a gluten-free flat bread of unusual taste which is a staple of Ethiopian food, and are served with a variety of meat and veggie dips and toppings. Try the "shiro".

Shegar Restaurant/Bar

10 Agrippas Street, across the street from Arcadia

This is the real deal, where Ethiopians eat, and they have Ethiopian beer. 25-35 NIS per plate

Asian

Sakura

Yaffo (Jaffa) 31 (in the Feingold Court, City Center). Phone: (02) 523-5464

Probably the best sushi in Jerusalem. A bit on the expensive side with respect to other Sushi places, but worth it. Reservations recommended. Open on Weekends!

Rehavia Sushi Bar

29 Gaza St. Phone: (02) 566-7477

Kosher Sushi! Despite this, the sushi is quite good and also includes Thai, Japanese and other far-eastern cuisine. Unpretentious neighbourhood place. There is another branch in The German Colony, on Emek Refaim Street.

South American

El Gaucho

Located in Kikar Ha'Hatulot (The Cat Square, so named because of the numerous cats that used to frequent it) smack in the center of town, this is a great Argentinian steak house.

Veggi

Al Dente

Arlozorov street

A dairy-only Italian restaurant.

Sergio's Brothers

Agripas street

Another dairy-only Italian restaurant.

Pizza

Big Apple Pizza

Good old fashioned, New-York style pizza. Very tasty. They have a few branches around the city, in the center and the German Colony, but the best one is probably on 33 Jaffa Street, phone: (02) 622-2243

Chilli's Pizza

28 Hillel Street (Near Kikar Ha'Hatulot) Phone: (02) 625-4040

Many argue that this is the best pizza in town. What is definitely true is that they have the widest and most interesting selection of toppings you'll find anywhere in Jerusalem, possibly all of Israel (needless to say, they are not kosher). Open until very late and on the weekends as well.

Pizza P-Squared

Keren Ha'Yessod 36

Not far from the cinematheque, this has excellent pizza.

Burgers

Iwo Meat Burger

28 Hillel Street, Phone: (02) 623-4676

Right Next Door to Chili's Pizza, this is probably the best burger in Jerusalem, and is also not kosher. Order at the bar and sit where there's room, this is frequented by many young people on their way to or from the bars.

Black Bar and Burger

18 Shlom'Zion Hamalka Street Phone: (02) 624-6767

A bit fancier than Iwo, and with more of a restaurant feel.

Burger's Bar

A kosher option. Also very good.

Fancier (more expensive) dining

Cavalier

Ben Sira 1. (City Center) Phone: (02) 624-2945

French cuisine with a Mediterranean twist. Some define this as their favorite restaurant in Jerusalem. Over the years the restaurant has maintained its lightly formal but easy going atmosphere, the service remains at a high level and the wine list has become quite good. Most of the dishes here are truly excellent. Chocolate lovers must try the "Volcano" hot chocolate cake for dessert. Not for vegetarians. Reservations essential.

Arcadia

10 Agrippas St. (City Center) Phone: (02) 624-9138

French cuisine. Regarded as the best restaurant in Jerusalem and one of the best in Israel. Housed in an old stone-arched building (with a garden courtyard for outdoor dining) in a narrow alley between Agripas Street and Yaffo (Jaffa) Road. The menu is imaginative and the service excellent. There are typically half a dozen fine beef, lamb, and fish combinations to choose from. Save space for the exceptional desserts. Reservations essential.

Darna

3 Horkonos St. (City Center) Phone: (02) 624-5406

This Kosher Moroccan restaurant (Arabic Moroccan food, not Jewish Moroccan food) has one of the most beautiful interiors in Jerusalem. Guests can choose to sit on couches or covered chairs. Vegetarian alternatives available. Keep in mind that this is a place that you go to for the special atmosphere, not for the food. Reserve.

Eucalyptus

Hutzot Ha'Yotzer Phone: (02) 624-4331

Very good restaurant in a lovely area near the walls of the old city. The specialty is "biblical food", from natural ingredients found near Jerusalem. The Chef is very friendly and always happy to explain the origins of his creations.

2. By Location

In the City Center

Adom

Yaffo (Jaffa) 31 (in the Feingold Court, City Center)

Good French and Italian cuisine and excellent meat dishes at moderate prices. Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended.

Eldad Ve'zehu

In the same alley as Adom, this has good food for very cheap prices.

Barood

Yaffo (Jaffa) 31 (in the Feingold Court, City Center). Phone: (02) 625-9081

Traditional Sephardic food, full meals, light dining and a bar with a nice atmosphere. The fixed-price "sampler" menu is said to be an adventure, though all items can be ordered a la carte. Barood's other face is its well-stocked bar, with more familiar fare like spareribs and sausages. Friday afternoons sometimes have live Balkan music. Open on Weekends! Reservations essential Fri. afternoon and Sat.

Focaccia Bar

Rabbi Akiva St. 4, just off Hillel St. (City Center) Phone: 02-625-6428

As the name implies, the specialty here is oven-baked focaccias with an assortment of toppings. However really good salads, burgers, fish, pastas, etc. are also to be had, in large portions. Calamari and the avocado salad (served only in season) are recommended. Open weekends, and very popular at this time so reservations are required.

Zuni

15 Yoel Moshe Salomon St. (City Center) Phone: (02) 625-7776

A French-Italian resto-bar that straddles the thin line between bistro and brasserie. Reasonable prices for good food in an elegant setting. The restaurant is open 24-7, a rarity in Jerusalem, with breakfast starting at midnight and running until noon. If you're a late-riser, though, take advantage of brunch that runs until 4 pm on Fridays and Shabbat.

Spaghettim

35 Hillel St. (City Center) Phone: (02) 623-5547 or (02) 623-5548

A Spaghetti place with a family-friendly atmosphere. Choose from 68 sauces with lots of vegetarian choices. The pasta portions are generous. Friendly and efficient service adds a final welcoming touch. Also does deliveries.

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Dolphin Yam

Ben Shetach 8, Nachalat Shiva quarter (City Center). Phone:(02) 623-2272

Fish and Seafood, Reasonably priced. There may be nothing fancy here but one receives a genuinely warm welcome in a comfortable setting where fixed price fish and seafood meals await. Meals open with a mixed meze of nine salads. There are several meat and pasta dishes on the menu, but one will do well to keep in mind that the specialties here are fish and seafood. Make reservations. If smoking is a problem then you should really stress this when reserving.

Shonka

Rehov HaSoreg 1. (City Center) Phone: (02) 625-7033

Distinctly New York in style and featuring interpretations of French, Italian and Mediterranean cuisine without being overly pretentious. After 22:00 the bar becomes noisy and dominant. Reserve.

In the Mahane Yehuda Market Area

Mahneyuda

10 Beit Ya'akov Street Phone: (02) 533-342

If you don't eat anywhere else, eat here! This is a little expensive, but well worth it. Very popular and always extremely busy (phone ahead!), people come to Jerusalem all the way from Tel-Aviv just to eat here! The menu changes daily, depending on what looks good at the market in the morning, but the experience is always wonderful.

Topollino

62 Agripas Street Phone: (02) 622-3466

Excellent little vegetarian Italian bistro with a twist near the market. The staff is very friendly. Can be busy, so phone ahead.

Pasta Basta

Inside the market, this popular new stall serves up fresh made pasta in a variety of sauces. Vegetarian and very cheap.

In Rehavia

Restobar

Ben-Maimon 1. (Just off Gaza St.) Phone: (02) 566-5126

Part Bar part restaurant, this freindly neighbourhood place is excellent for drinks, meals, or both. Very good shrimp dishes. Outside seating is very pleasant in the afternoons. Open on Saturdays (but not Friday night!).

Yehoshua Café

17 Gaza Street, Phone: (02) 563-2898

Very trendy, part restaurant part bar, this place has very good food and is reasonably priced. Across the street from the Restobar.

Kube Bar

Located on Gaza Street, near the Rehavia Sushi Bar, this new place serves great traditional Iraqi Kube soup. They also have vegetarian kube!

In the German Colony and Mishkenot Sha'ananim

Lavan (at the Cinematheque)

One of the most pleasant cafe-restaurants in the city is located in the Cinematheque Complex (just across the street from Mishkenot Sha'ananim Guesthouse). The outside patio has a view of the Old City walls.

The Italian vegetarian cuisine is very good. A great supplement to a good film. Open on Weekends!

Phone: (02) 6737393

Paradiso

Keren HaYesod 36. Phone: (02) 563-4805

An attractive, comfortable and uncluttered cafe-restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere and a friendly crowd that comes either for coffee and pastries, a sandwich or for full meals. A surprisingly good wine list and very pleasant service. Nothing complex or innovative here but a good choice for a casual meal at

reasonable prices. Open on Weekends! No reservation necessary, except on Friday night.

Joy Grill and Beer

Emek Refaim 24. Phone: (02) 563-0033

An upscale meat menu, a large selection of premium beers and one of Jerusalem's most lively neighborhoods combine to make this an excellent place for a full rounded meal. Can get a bit crowded at nights.

Colony

7 Beit Lechem Road. Old Train station Complex Phone: (02) 672-9955

Stylish Decor, a large bar but mainly the excellent meat and fish menu make for a great place to eat. Interesting specials. Open on Weekends! Reservations are recommended. Another good restaurant is just next door - Pini's Backyard.

3. Bars

Just go downtown to find any number of great places for a beer (or three). Some favorites are:

Boorla – 37 King George Street. Very popular with students, this place gets busy in the evenings.

Glasgow – 11 Shlomzion Street. A little off the main drag, so quieter than average. Good selection of beers and great bar menu, with Scottish and Irish favorites (great Shepherd's pie).

Dublin – 4 Shamai Street. Classical Irish pub.

Jabotinzki – 1 Shimon Ben Shatach Street. Very popular with lots of outdoor seatings and 3 other great bars within spitting distance

Tel Aviv – Right near the Jabotinzki. Great burgers.

Ben Sira - Right near the Jabotinzki. A true Jerusalem phenomenon. Often the whole alley gets packed with people from this bar standing around outside and socializing, with a frosty beer in hand. Some indie dance music plays here as well.

Mirror Bar – A bit fancier (and pricier), in the Mamilla Hotel. Good cocktails.

4. Food Deliveries to the Campus

[Spaghettim](#)

A full menu in Hebrew can be found online <http://www.spagetim.co.il/>.

[Sakura - deliveries till 23:00, \(02\)-623-5464](#)

Chilly's Pizza - Best Pizza in Jerusalem, Hillel St. (02) 625-4040, Open (almost) 24/7.

Iwo Burgers - Excellent Hamburgers - two places on Hillel st. and Emek Refaim. (02) 623-4676

Joy Express - Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, salads, meals etc. 1-800-200-477

5. Some Activities

The Jerusalem Cinematheque

11 Hebron Road. Phone: (02) 672-4131

Perched on the slopes of Mount Zion and facing the walls of the old city, Jerusalem's two-screen art house cinema is an institution. Its regular program includes foreign and specialty films along with general releases, typically screening four different films daily. A film schedule in English is available online at <http://www.jer-cin.org.il/>.

The Israel Museum

Near Givat Ram. Phone: (02)

<http://www.imj.org.il/>.

etc.