

The Jerusalem Academy
2026/2027

A Year-Long Journey Through 3,000 Years of Jerusalem

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Course Description:

There are cities with long histories. There are cities of great beauty. There are cities that have shaped civilizations. And then there is Jerusalem.

For more than 3,000 years, Jerusalem has stood at the crossroads of history, faith, politics, archaeology, and culture. Kings and conquerors, prophets and pilgrims, emperors and ordinary people have all left their mark on its streets, its stones, and its story.

Over the course of this year long journey, we will explore Jerusalem from the time of King David to the present through the lenses of history, archaeology, geography, religion, politics, and everyday life. Rather than studying these subjects in isolation, we will discover how they intersect to shape one of the world's most fascinating and contested cities.

Each week we will combine historical sources, archaeology, maps, photographs, literature, and current events to better understand Jerusalem's past and why it continues to matter today. For participants in Israel, our monthly field seminars will take us beyond the classroom and into the city itself, where the streets, neighborhoods, and archaeological sites become our textbooks.

Whether you have visited Jerusalem dozens of times or have only dreamed of walking its streets, this course will deepen your understanding of the city, its people, and the extraordinary story that continues to unfold.

Calendar for the Year-Long Journey Through 3,000 Years of Jerusalem:

32 Live Online Classes

- On Sundays, 9:00–10:15 AM Central Time / 5:00–6:15 PM Israel Time

10 Jerusalem Field Tours *(for participants in Israel)*

- Once a month on Thursdays, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Optional 10 Day Summer Study Tour

- Full immersion experience in Israel (dates to be announced)

The Jerusalem Academy Pricing - Choose Your Program:

International Participants

Program	Price
Online Program – One Semester	\$299
Online Program – Full Year	\$549
Online + 10-Day Israel Study Tour (Optional)	Pricing announced separately

Israel Residents

Program	Price
Online Program only – One Semester	₪800
Online Program only – Full Year	₪1,400
Online + Jerusalem Field Tours – One Semester	₪1,200
Online + Jerusalem Field Tours – Full Year	₪2,100

Note: Field Tours are available for participants residing in Israel. The optional 10-day Israel Study Tour is designed primarily for international participants.

The Jerusalem Academy Library: (suggested readings):

- The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem — Dan Bahat
- Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths — Karen Armstrong
- Jerusalem Through the Ages — Jodi Magness
- Jerusalem: The Biography — Simon Sebag Montefiore

The Jerusalem Academy

Jerusalem: A Year-Long Journey Through 3,000 Years of History, Archaeology, Geography,
Religion & Culture

OCTOBER

Module I – The Birth of Jerusalem

Sun, October 11 – Lecture 1

Why Jerusalem? The City That Changed the World

Geography, spirituality, geology, water, fortifications and why Jerusalem became one of history's most important cities.

Sun, October 18 – Lecture 2

David's Conquers and Builds: How Jerusalem Became Israel's Capital

The Canaanite city, King David, and the City of David.

Thu, October 22 – Field Seminar I

King David's Jerusalem – City of David • Gihon Spring • Warren's Shaft • Hezekiah's Tunnel
• Broad Wall • Ophel

Sun, October 25 – Lecture 3

The First Temple City: Kings, Prophets, and a City's Destruction

Solomon, the First Temple, Hezekiah, and the destruction of Jerusalem.

NOVEMBER

Module II – The Second Temple City

Sun, November 1 – Lecture 4

From Exile to Return: Jerusalem Reborn

Return from Babylon through the Hasmonean period.

Sun, November 8 – Lecture 5

Herod the Great: The Man Who Rebuilt Jerusalem

The greatest building project in Jerusalem's history.

Thu, November 12 – Field Seminar II

Herod's Jerusalem- Second Temple Model (Israel Museum) • Pilgrimage Road • Southern Steps • Davidson Archaeological Park • Robinson's Arch • Western Wall

Sun, November 15 – Lecture 6

Walking with Jesus Through Jerusalem

Jerusalem during the late Second Temple period.

Sun, November 22 – Lecture 7

When Jerusalem Fell: The Great Revolt and the End of the Second Temple

Nov. 29

No Class

Thanksgiving Weekend

DECEMBER

Module III – Rome & Christianity

Sun, December 6 – Lecture 8

Aelia Capitolina: Rome Erases Jerusalem

Thu, December 10 – Field Seminar III

Roman & Byzantine Jerusalem – Hadrian's Arch • Roman Forum • Church of the Holy Sepulchre (outside) • Roman Aqueduct • Roman Cardo • Lower Cardo

Sun, December 13 – Lecture 9

From Pagan City to Christian Capital

Constantine and Byzantine Jerusalem.

Sun, December 20 – Lecture 10

Pilgrims, Monks, and Holy Places

How pilgrimage transformed Christian Jerusalem.

Dec. 27

No Class

Winter Break

JANUARY

Module IV – The Islamic City

Sun, January 3 – Lecture 11

The Muslim Conquest: A New Jerusalem

Sun, January 10 – Lecture 12

The Dome of the Rock and the Making of Islamic Jerusalem

Thu, January 14 – Field Seminar IV

Early Islamic Jerusalem- Temple Mount / Haram al-Sharif Overlook • Dome of the Rock (overview) • Al-Aqsa Mosque (overview) • Umayyad Palaces • Abbasid Market Area • Tower of David Museum

Sun, January 17 – Lecture 13

The Temple Mount: Faith, Archaeology, and Politics

Sun, January 24 – Lecture 14

Sacred Space: Why One Hill Matters to Billions

Sun, January 31 – Lecture 15

The Golden Age of Early Islamic Jerusalem

Umayyads, Abbasids, and Fatimids.

FEBRUARY

Module V – Crusaders, Saladin & the Mamluks

Sun, February 7 – Lecture 16

The Crusaders Capture the Holy City

Thu, February 11 – Field Seminar V

The Crusader's and Saladin's Jerusalem- Tancred's Tower • Church of St. Anne (outside) • Via Dolorosa • Crusader Market Streets • Muristan • Mosque of Omar

Sun, February 14 – Lecture 17

Saladin and Jerusalem's Second Liberation

Sun, February 21 – Lecture 18

The Mamluks: Architects of Today's Old City

Sun, February 28 – Lecture 19

Inside Mamluk Jerusalem: Daily Life in a Medieval City

MARCH

Module VI – Ottoman Jerusalem

Sun, March 7 – Lecture 20

Suleiman the Magnificent and the Jerusalem We Know

Thu, March 11 – Field Seminar VI

Mamluk and Ottoman Jerusalem - Cotton Merchants' Market • Khan al-Sultan • Tankiziyya • Bab al-Qattanin • Mamluk Minarets • Chain Street • Ottoman Walls & Gates • Suleiman's Renovations

Sun, March 14 – Lecture 21

Walls, Gates, and the Story They Tell

Sun, March 21 – Lecture 22

Jerusalem's Lifeline: Water Through the Ages

Sun, March 28 – Lecture 23

The Four Quarters: History, Myth, and Reality

APRIL

Module VII – Beyond the Walls

Sun, April 4 – Lecture 24

Leaving the Walls: The Birth of Modern Jerusalem

Thu, April 8 – Field Seminar VII

Beyond the Walls - Mishkenot Sha'ananim • Yemin Moshe • Nahalat Shiva • Even Israel • Mea Shearim (overview)

Sun, April 11 – Lecture 25

The British Remake Jerusalem

Sun, April 18 – Lecture 26

1948: A City Divided

Passover Week

No Class

MAY

Module VIII – Divided & Reunified Jerusalem

Thu, May 6 – Field Seminar VIII

The Seam Line: Jerusalem Between 1948 and 1967 – Asa'el Street • Musrara • HaNevi'im Street • Mandelbaum Gate • No Man's Land • Former Jordanian Border

Sun, May 9 – Lecture 27

Life Along the Border: Jerusalem Between 1948 and 1967

Sun, May 16 – Lecture 28

Six Days That Changed Jerusalem Forever

Sun, May 23 – Lecture 29

Rebuilding the Jewish Quarter: Restoring a Lost World

May 30

No Class

Memorial Day Weekend

JUNE

Module IX – Jerusalem Today

Thu, June 3 – Field Seminar IX

The Jewish Quarter Reborn - Hurva Synagogue • Meet locals • Herodian Mansions • Broad Wall • Cardo • Avigad Excavations

Sun, June 6 – Lecture 30

1967 and Beyond: Expanding Jerusalem

Sun, June 13 – Lecture 31

Mount Zion: One Hill, Four Faith Traditions

Sun, June 20 – Lecture 32

The Many Jerusalems: One City, Many Communities

Thu, June 24 – Field Seminar X

A Capstone Seminar – Mount Zion • Tower of David Museum • Stefan Illish Relief • King David Hotel Overlook • Closing Discussion

JULY

Optional

July

Optional Jerusalem Academy Summer Study Tour

10-day immersive seminar in Israel followed by a graduation dinner.

Jerusalem Academy - Field Study Tours

These field seminars complement the lecture series and allow participants to experience Jerusalem's history in the places where it unfolded.

Field Seminar I – King David's Jerusalem

City of David • Gihon Spring • Warren's Shaft • Hezekiah's Tunnel • Broad Wall • Ophel

Field Seminar II – Herod's Jerusalem

Second Temple Model (Israel Museum) • Pilgrimage Road • Southern Steps • Davidson Archaeological Park • Robinson's Arch • Western Wall

Field Seminar III – Roman & Byzantine Jerusalem

Hadrian's Arch • Roman Forum • Church of the Holy Sepulchre (outside) • Roman Aqueduct • Roman Cardo • Lower Cardo

Field Seminar IV – Early Islamic Jerusalem

Temple Mount / Haram al-Sharif Overlook • Dome of the Rock (overview) • Al-Aqsa Mosque (overview) • Umayyad Palaces • Abbasid Market Area • Tower of David Museum

Field Seminar V – The Crusaders' and Saladin's Jerusalem

Tancred's Tower • Church of St. Anne (outside) • Via Dolorosa • Crusader Market Streets • Muristan • Mosque of Omar

Field Seminar VI – Mamluk and Ottoman Jerusalem

Cotton Merchants' Market • Khan al-Sultan • Tankiziyya • Bab al-Qattanin • Mamluk Minarets • Chain Street • Ottoman Walls & Gates • Suleiman's Renovations

Field Seminar VII – Beyond the Walls

Mishkenot Sha'ananim • Yemin Moshe • Nahalat Shiva • Even Israel • Mea Shearim (overview)

Field Seminar VIII – The Seam Line: Jerusalem Between 1948 and 1967

Musrara • HaNevi'im Street • Mandelbaum Gate • No Man's Land • Ammunition Hill • Former Jordanian Border

Field Seminar IX – The Jewish Quarter Reborn

Hurva Synagogue • Burnt House • Herodian Mansions • Broad Wall • Cardo • Avigad Excavations

Field Seminar X – A Capstone Seminar: Jerusalem Through Time

Mount Zion • Tower of David Museum • Kishle Excavations • Jaffa Gate • King David Hotel Overlook • Closing Discussion & Graduation