

St. Georgios Monastery

As its name suggests, the Holy Monastery of Saint George in the Jewish Quarter is a Greek Orthodox Monastery within the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. It lies just east of the Armenian Orthodox Church of Saint James and only 500m from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Although the Monastery was only named the Holy Monastery of Saint George in the Jewish Quarter during the 18th century, it was built many centuries before and is one of the oldest monasteries in the Holy Land. It is believed that the Monastery was first built by the Byzantine Empress Eudocia in the 5th century, but the first mentions of it were in 491CE during the rule of Emperor Justinian. Throughout its history, it has been used as a nursing home, a guesthouse for pilgrims, and both a male and female monastery. Throughout the centuries it been destroyed by conquerors, but always subsequently rebuilt and restored. Today, it is a female monastery run by Greek Orthodox nuns. This Greek Orthodox monastery is dedicated to Saint George, the most important and well-known soldier Saint in Christianity. It is believed that he was born in the city of Lydda or Lod, not far from Jerusalem, and his remains are kept in a crypt in the Greek Orthodox Church there. Born in the 3rd century CE, Saint George was a Roman army soldier who upon revealing his Christian identity was condemned to death. According to tradition he was beheaded, but some stories claim he was placed head down in a barrel and drowned in the spit of 6000 Roman soldiers. Saint George was venerated (honored as a saint) at the end of the 5th century and has been revered as a Great Martyr and warrior saint, guiding armies from the Byzantines to the Crusaders. He is often depicted on horseback, slaying a dragon. This probably dates back to a Crusader era legend in which, after his martyrdom, a princess was being threatened by a dragon in the forest. The spirit of Saint George appeared, slaying the dragon and saving the princess. The Holy Monastery of Saint George in the Jewish Quarter has undergone extensive renovation in recent years and is a magnificent site to see. Entrance to the orthogonal-shaped stone church is via a small courtyard, surrounded by homes. The interior features beautiful white marble floors incorporating geometric and solar motifs. The iconostasis, or barrier between the alter and the church, is adorned with beautifully painted icons and gold detailing. Renovation carried out 2016 also saw the addition of colorful murals covering the ceilings of the Church, including depictions of Our Lady of the Sign, the Birth, Crucifixion and Resurrection, Christ Pantocrator, and scenes from the Martyrdom of Saint George. The renovations are ongoing and visitors can see as these murals and others are added to the beautifully maintained site.

Site Religion & Type

- [Christian Site](#)
- [Church](#)
- [Monastery](#)

Target Group

- [Free Independent Travelers \(FITs\)](#)
- [Families](#)
- [Local Families](#)

Denomination with high relevance

Orthodox - Assyrian
, Orthodox - Greek
, Orthodox - Russian

Address

St. Francis street #3
Jerusalem
PS-JEM
Palestinian Territories

31.778891,35.228235

[View in Google Maps](#)

Best time of day to visit

AM

Best Time of Year to Visit

Year round

Weather Consideration

bad weather days
, Suitable for
rainy

Dress Code

Modest Clothes

Estimated time of visit

Less than an hour

, Trousers Allowed For Female Visitors

Entry Limitation

No limitations

Booking On Site

No

Booking Online

No

Booking via Phone

No

Advance booking required

No

Free For

Free (locals only) , Free for everyone

Handicap bathroom

No

Stairs

No

Wheelchair Friendly

No

Stroller Friendly

No