

St. Simeon Monasteryالقدیس سمعان فی القطمونἉγία Μονή Συμεών

Outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, in the heart of the Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem, is the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint Simeon the God-receiver. The Monastery is believed to be built on the site of the house and tomb of Saint Simeon. Saint Simeon was a scholar who lived at the time before the birth of Jesus Christ. He was one of seventy scholars that was invited to Alexandria to translate the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament of today, in to Greek. While he was translating the book of the Prophet Isaiah, he came upon a passage that read, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive...”. He was in such disbelief at such a thing being possible that he dropped his ring in to a river. He told himself that if he ever found the ring again, then he would believe what was written by the prophet. Later, he was staying in a small town and bought a fish to eat. He found the ring inside the belly of the fish, and now believing the verse, he returned to Jerusalem and prayed that he would live long enough to meet the Messiah. When the Virgin Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple, Saint Simeon was there and blessed the child. After the presentation, Saint Simeon died at the age of 270. It is for this reason that he is known in the church as the God-receiver. The Monastery of Saint Simeon was built on the spot that Saint Simeon lived in Jerusalem as he waited for the birth of Jesus, according to tradition. The first monastery built on the spot was by the Georgians in the 12th century. It was later destroyed and laid in ruins, until the land was bought by the monk Abramios. He then spent the next twenty years reconstructing the monastery and the church. In 1879, while clearing the grounds in search of the Saint’s tomb, Abramios revealed tombs carved in to the rock. The tomb believed to have belonged to Saint Simeon can be seen today in a small chapel near the church. It is surrounded by icons dedicated to Saint Simeon and the events of his life. Other artefacts within the church include an old cistern and mosaic floors. Today, the monastery is the home of one monk who cares for the site. The monastery is only open to pilgrims and not to the general public. Pilgrims withing to visit the site must make arrangements with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

Site Religion & Type

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

Target Group

- [Organized Groups](#)
- [Christian Groups](#)

Denomination with high relevance

Orthodox -
Armenian
, Orthodox - Assyrian
, Orthodox - Ethiopian
, Orthodox - Greek
, Orthodox - Russian

Address

Ma'ale Ze'ev St.
Jerusalem
PS-JEM
Palestinian Territories

31.760114,35.206192
[View in Google Maps](#)

Best time of day to visit

AM

Best Time of Year to Visit

Year round

Estimated time of visit

Less than an hour

Weather Consideration

Avoid on
rainy
, bad weather days

Dress Code

Modest Clothes
, 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

Bathrooms

Free

Handicap bathroom

No

Stairs

No

Wheelchair Friendly

No

Stroller Friendly

Yes