

Khan Tankaz

Khan Tankiz is a part of the Cotton Merchants Market or Suq al-Qattanin, which was historically one of the busiest markets in the Old City of Jerusalem. This beautiful covered market runs through the Muslim Quarter connecting the main al-Wad Street to the Haram al-Sharif compound through the intricately designed Cotton Merchants Gate. The Cotton Merchants Market was originally built during the 14th century, under the supervision of Mamluk Emir Tankiz. At that time, the market was filled with shops selling cotton and cotton products, hence its name. People would come from all over the region to do business in the market and it earned the reputation of being the most beautiful market in all of Palestine. Aside from the over 50 shops that lined the streets, the market also boasted a khan - guesthouse, two hammams -Turkish baths, and many private residences on the upper floors. The roof of the market is vaulted, with square openings along the length allowing light to enter and providing ventilation. At the end of the market street is the impressive Cotton Merchants Gate, through which worshippers could access the Haram al-Sharif. The gate was built around the same time as the market, also under the instruction of the Mamluk Emir Tankiz. The gate is an exquisite example of Mamluk design from the time period. It features the ablaq, meaning striped, stonework with alternating stripes of red and yellow as well as black and white stones. The arch of the gate is adorned with muqamas, which are stalactite- like ornamental design elements. The market continued to be a center for commerce through the 18th and 19th centuries, but the buildings that housed the former khan and hammams fell into disrepair by the middle of the 20th century. However, with the help of funding provided by the European Union and UNDP, Al Quds University recently undertook the task of restoring these historic buildings. Khan Tankiz, now fully restored, is the Al- Quds University Jerusalem Studies Center, Hammam el-Shifa now functions as a community center, and Hammam el-Ain has been restored as a public bathhouse once again, the oldest in Jerusalem. Visitors to the Old City can stroll through this historic market and admire the beautiful architecture and browse the wares of the many market stalls that line both sides of the street. Today, these products extend far beyond cotton. Shoppers can find everything from toys and clothing to jewelry and souvenirs. A visit to this bustling street is well worth it to take a glimpse into the commercial life of Jerusalem's Old City that has existed in this space, largely unchanged, for centuries.

Site Religion & Type

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- [Muslim Site](#)

Target Group

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- [general interest](#)
- [Organized Groups](#)
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Address

16 Suq Alqataneen street
Jerusalem
PS-JEM
Palestinian Territories

31.782727,35.246956
[View in Google Maps](#)

Best time of day to visit

Weather Consideration

Winter Times

Sunday: Closed

No difference

Best Time of Year to Visit

Year round

Estimated time of visit

Less than an hour

Recommend on sunny days

Entry Limitation

No limitations

Monday: By appointment
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Friday: Closed
Saturday: Closed

Booking On Site

No

Booking Online

No

Booking via Phone

No

Advance booking required

Yes

Agent Voucher Accepted

No

Free For

Free (locals only) , Free for everyone

Fee: Special Group Rate

No

Bathrooms

Free

Handicap bathroom

Yes

Parking

No parking available

Stairs

No

Wheelchair Friendly

Yes

Wheelchair Access Level

Fully accessible

Stroller Friendly

Yes