

**Monitoring according to Paragraph 169
of the Operational Guidelines**

Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (148)

Nominated 1981



State of Conservation Report 2016

Presented to

The World Heritage Committee

Introduction

Monitoring the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site of the Old City of Jerusalem is an obligation that follows the directives appearing in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Local authorities and agencies carry out initiatives which are consistent with the principles and policies set out in the strategic plan for revitalization and conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem.

As part of an inclusive vision that sees the Old City as a home for its residents, an area of universal cultural heritage and a primary tourist destination, the municipal agencies cooperate closely and intensively to preserve and develop the Old City's cultural heritage, make the public space accessible to all and strengthen culture and tourism in the Old City. Guidelines of accessibility, conservation and streetscape design are consistently applied in all public projects. The cooperation with stakeholders, institutions, shop owners and residents is sought.

Two of the wider public projects in the Old City were completed this year: Public Infrastructures renewal and streetscape improvement along Hagai (El Wad) Street and the Installation of Interpretation and Orientation Signage through the Old City.

Extensive work to improve Old City's streetscape were carried out through 2016. work involved residential area as well as commercial streets, both in the Christian and the Muslim Quarters

Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) is involved in the preservation of the built heritage and the management of the Old City as a living historic site. The IAA accompanied and supervised the conservation works undertaken in the religious Holy places at Temple Mount and the church of the Holy Sepulcher

Conservation work was carried out to preserve and utilize ancient public facilities such as Sabeels and Hammams. Archaeological rescue excavations are carried out as part of the preparation of sites for tourism and tourist infrastructure.

The annual monitoring report surveys the ongoing actions and lists some new initiatives in the areas inside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem – *Intra Muros* sites – as per the UNESCO declaration.

Photo on cover:

Streetscape and Accessibility Improvement, the Maronite Convent st., Old city of Jerusalem

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
1.TOWN PLANNING	5
Detailed Plans in the Old City	5
2.PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - DESIGN AND EXECUTION	5
2.1.Upgrading of Infrastructure	5
a. Hagai (El Wad) Street	5
b. Bab Huta Neighborhood	6
c. Streetscape Improvement	6
d. The Armenian Patriarch Street	7
e. The New Gate	7
f. Dung Gate	7
g. Street lighting in the Old City	8
h. Upgrading Public Restrooms	8
i. Interpretation and Orientation Signage	8
3.SITE MANAGMENT AND MAINTENANCE	10
3.1.Solutions for Waste Management	10
3.2.Architectural Solutions to Conceal Infrastructur	11
3.3.Maintenance of the Public Realm	12
4.ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	12
5.ARCHEOLOGY	14
5.1.Archaeology on Temple Mount	14
5.2.Conservation Activity in the Old City	14
a. The Western Wall Compound	14
b. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher	15
c. Along the Old City Walls	15
d. Conservation Work inside the Old City	16

5.3.Archaeological Excavations within the Old City and along the walls	17
a. The Jerusalem Archaeological Park and the Ophel	17
b. The Western Wall Tunnels	18
c. Rescue Excavations in the Jewish Quarter	18
d. Rescue Excavations in the Moslem Quarter	18
e. Rescue Excavations in the Christian Quarter	18
f. Rescue Excavations in the Armenian Quarter	19
6.TOURISM AND CULTURAL EVENTS	19
6.1Cultural Events	19
6.2.VISITOR'S DIGITAL GUIDE	20

1. TOWN PLANNING

1.1. Detailed Plans in the Old City

Scheme 11053 - The Liba (core) House The Western Wall Heritage Foundation

A detailed plan for the construction of the Western Wall Heritage Center building have been approved which will include an information center, a library and offices, and will showcase on the lower level the archaeological artifacts discovered at the site. The plan which was deposited for public review in 2012, was approved and received statutory validation in February 2016.

2. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - DESIGN AND EXECUTION

2.1. Upgrading of Infrastructure

a. Hagai (El Wad) Street

The comprehensive development plan to renew the civil engineering systems and improve the appearance and accessibility of the public realm in Hagai Street was completed this year.

During 2016, the project focused on the treatment of the buildings and shop façades along the length of the street. The work included the replacement of entrance awnings with a unified architectural design, and the cleaning of building façades, removal of cables and exposed infrastructure, painting of windows and doors, etc.



Illustration 1. Architectural detail - awning for a commercial façade

In a 650-meter-long section of the road, the awnings of over 90 shops have been replaced, a total length of 350 meters.

The work was carried out with the cooperation of the shop owners with the intention to improve the public space and strengthen economic activity and tourism in the area.

b. Bab Huta Neighborhood

Phase B of the public infrastructure renewal project in Bab Huta neighborhood, began in 2016. The project concentrates on Antonia and Al-Umari Streets which are characterized as "mixed use," including retail, bakeries and residential buildings. As part of the project, excavations will be carried out in order to replace water pipes and install urban infrastructure for lighting and communication. During the excavation work, the foundations of the buildings facing the street will be reinforced and sealed.

In the final stage, comprehensive upgrading of the urban public space will include the replacement of paving stones, as well as works to make the area more accessible and the installation of street furniture. The work will be carried out in coordination with the shopkeepers and residents of the neighborhood.

c. Streetscape Improvement

Public works carried out through 2016 , involved residential area as well as commercial streets.

The works included: pavement renewal with consideration of rain drainage, concealment of exposed utilities, installation of hand rails, awnings and street furniture, and where possible, improvement of street's accessibility.

In the Christian Quarter, the project encompassed the Maronite Convent street, El Jabsha, HaShlichim, The Churches and Ha-Saida Streets. In the Muslim Quarter, the project included work on A-Saraya, Al Hakari, Al-Karmi, and Haladiya Streets.



Picture 1 – Awning replacement in residential courtyard , the Maronite Convent Street

d. The Armenian Patriarch Street

The Armenian Patriarch Street which serves as the main access road for the Armenian and Jewish Quarters. A public project for improving public infrastructure, streetscape and traffic arrangements with an emphasis on the safety and comfort of pedestrians, is awaiting for execution.

Within the framework of the projects, work will be carried out to renovate the existing infrastructure, install new infrastructure, clean façades, remove exposed infrastructure, replace the existing pavement with stone paving, add street furniture, and install awnings and landscaping. In 2016, tender was completed and a construction company chosen. The works will begin in 2017.

e. The New Gate

The New Gate Street serves as the main access route for the Christian Quarter. Along 100 meter section, a wide scope public intervention is intended: a renewal of underground infrastructures including sewage, drainage, electricity, lighting and urban communication, streetscape improvement : lighting and street furniture, replace awnings and renovate the storefronts of 15 businesses. During the course of 2016, tender was completed and a construction company chosen. Works are due to begin during 2017.



Illustration 2. Image of New Gate Street after completion of the project

f. Dung Gate

The Dung Gate, the southern entrance to the Old City, provides access to the holy sites for visitors and pilgrims by public and private transportation. A new traffic Scheme was prepared for the purpose of easing traffic passing through the gate, which composes a major entrance into the Old City. The plan includes regulation of traffic and parking bays and widening of pedestrian sidewalks.

At this stage, Plan is in being coordinated with planning authorities and public infrastructures bodies.

g. Street lighting in the Old City

The Old City Lighting master plan is consistently executed. The Jaffa Gate illumination was carried out as a pilot. During 2016 a detailed design for the illumination of 4 sites was completed and a tender issued.

In 2017, Illumination systems will be installed along the Southern Wall and the four gates – Dung Gate, The New Gate, Damascus Gate and Zion Gate.

h. Upgrading Public Restrooms

During 2016, a general renovation of 12 public restrooms was carried out across the Old City. Many of the restrooms were made accessible for people with physical disabilities. Washing facilities were installed to allow Muslims to use the facilities before prayers.



Picture 2 – Public restroom in Al-Bashura after renovation

i. Interpretation and Orientation Signage

The tourist signage project makes the Old City accessible across a broad range of historical, religious and cultural interests for its visitors. The function of tourist signage is to direct and help orient visitors in the urban space and to provide relevant tourist information. The project was completed during 2016, and upon its completion 158 signs were installed in the Old City at a cost of 2 million NIS.

The Signage system design is focused on major attractions, meeting points and routes to sites. Residential neighborhoods, which allows to enlarge the capacity and to ease traffic congestion were also put into consideration. In particular the signs relate to the relationship between the urban area, the historical and universal heritage site, the intense urban character and its unordered

and visually complex nature. From the outset, the IAA has involved the local communities, representatives of religious institutions, shopkeepers and local residents in the project.

The design of the signs was adapted to respect the spirit of the place and its uniqueness. As a result, the text appears in three languages – Hebrew, Arabic and English – and is modified for people with physical disabilities. The signs were installed according to the instructions of the IAA.



Picture 3 – Tourist signage system in the Old City

The tourist signage system consists of different types of signs :

1. Local area signage – Signs that include a map of the area are placed in a central position, showing nearby places of interest and their location relative to the sign.
2. Direction signs – These are positioned along the route between the entrance gate and important sites in the Old City.
3. Informational signs – These are placed near tourist sites. The content was written in coordination with local institutions.
4. Maps of the Old City – These were installed in several central places to enable orientation to the site and access to nearby areas .
5. Municipal services – Signage for municipal services such as tourist information centers, police stations, and public restrooms offer useful information.

3. SITE MANAGMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Old City is maintained according to particular high work practices and high standard of service. The aim is to improve the quality of life and visitor experience in the Old City by upgrading the public and tourist urban space and ensuring that it is maintained at a consistently high level, keeping in mind the needs of the local residents.

3.1.Solutions for Waste Management

Aiming to improve Old city environment and quality of living and create a welcoming and accessible public realm, it was decided to address garbage storage and collection.

A number of architectural solutions were put forward which are in keeping with this historic area.

- a. Empty spaces and niches were located in the urban area which were planned and adapted to be used as garbage storage. These storage rooms were created in Bab al-Huta Street, HaShlichim Street, New Gate Street, Sheikh Reichan and Maalot HaPrachim Streets. The work was carried out in 2015-16.



Picture 4 - Construction of the garbage storage rooms in New Gate Street

- b. Architectural elements were designed to secure and conceal garbage bins. During 2016, 22 units were installed.



Picture 5 - Architectural detail to conceal garbage bins

- a. During 2016, 130 urban litter bins were placed in the Old City and its environs.

3.2.Architectural Solutions to Conceal Infrastructure

Over the years and due to a number of factors, various infrastructure elements were attached to the building's façade. This looks crowded and unattractive and causes visual overload. In the Jerusalem Streetscape Design Manual, various architectural solutions were suggested for the infrastructure of the Old City. In 2015-16, comprehensive projects were carried out to install infrastructure cabinetry to conceal pipes and water meters (192 cabinets) and open niches (160 units).



Picture 6 - installation of infrastructure cabinetry

3.3.Maintenance of the Public Realm

The historic and urban spaces are exposed and suffer from intensive wear and tear. On an ongoing basis, repairs and cleaning are carried out to repair damage in the urban space, install street signs, repair curb stones, stone bollards and remove safety hazards.

4. ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The principles of the master plan for accessibility in the Old City are applied in every urban project in the public urban space. The goal of these principles is to enable people with disabilities to live, visit and participate in events for the general public that are held in the Old City and to provide specific accessible and continuous routes connecting the Old City entrance gates to the special event locations and public institutions.

During 2016, the work to make streets accessible was completed in Shaar Barzel Street, the Muristan - Suq Aftimos, the Bab Huta neighborhood, the Copts, St. George and David Streets.

The work to make the area accessible includes the installation of ramps, lowering the angle of existing routes, installing handrails, and repaving with smooth-textured stone.



Picture 7 – Accessibility in the Suq Aftimos, Muristan

Along the Via Dolorosa, a paved path has been constructed which allows full accessibility for people with disabilities. Paving has been laid using smooth stone to improve the route for wheelchair use.



Picture 8 – Accessible route constructed along Via Dolorosa

5. ARCHEOLOGY

5.1. Archaeology on Temple Mount

This section includes a detailed explanation of the building works and conservation undertaken on the Temple Mount under the supervision of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA).

- a. **The Dome of the Rock** – Preservation work was completed mostly in 2016. On completion, the scaffolding was removed. . Simultaneously, the Waqf began renovating the wooden beams that support the domed roof. The works were carried out by employees of the Waqf.
- b. **Plumbing repairs** – During the course of the year, a number of repairs were carried out to fix leaking pipes in the plumbing system in different areas on the Temple Mount. To facilitate this, a shallow excavation of the ground was necessary, and some walls had to be demolished. The excavation was carried out under the archaeological supervision of the IAA whenever the Waqf permitted this, and after receiving the professional opinion of an expert engineer of the Antiquities Authority.
- c. **Solomon's Stables** – Preservation works continue in the Solomon's Stables complex. The work is carried out under the archaeological and engineering supervision of the IAA, and with its permission.
- d. **Repair to the paved areas on the Temple Mount platform** – Over the course of the year, sections of stone were repaired in different parts on the Temple Mount. To enable this, shallow excavation of the ground was necessary. This work was carried out by the Waqf with archaeological and engineering supervision of the IAA.
- e. **Comprehensive repair of the Cotton Merchants Gate** – The work was carried out with the knowledge of the IAA.

5.2. Conservation Activity in the Old City

This section describes the conservation works carried out in the Old City. The work was carried out and supervised by the IAA, unless stated otherwise. This list does not include projects being planned at the present time.

a. The Western Wall Compound

- a. Archaeological site beneath the "Ohel Yitzhak" Synagogue – Conservation efforts are being undertaken in the ancient, lower parts of the building. The purpose of the conservation work is to develop the building under the synagogue as an archaeological site, and to display the broad range of periods revealed in the archaeological excavation, including the Second Temple period,

late Roman period, Byzantine period, early Muslim period, Middle Ages, until the Mameluke period.

- b. Beit Strauss – With the completion of this stage of the archaeological rescue excavation under the present level of Beit Strauss, conservation work was undertaken to strengthen and stabilize ancient elements, including conservation of the mosaic floor from the Abbasid period. The building will be built considering the archaeological excavation. The excavations have revealed remnants of buildings from the Abbasid period, with earth fill from the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, as well as a historic building from the Roman period which was in use until the Umayyad period.
- c. Historic Beit Strauss – Conservation work is being carried out in a number of areas, including the building's patio and the façade of the study hall.
- d. The Western Wall Plaza/ HaLiba House– This year, conservation works have begun to preserve the impressive finds uncovered over the last decade, which include discoveries from the shops that made up the Roman Cardo, conserving the remains of the building from the Byzantine and early Muslim periods. In the future, remnants of the building from the First Temple Period, which were uncovered beneath the Roman paving stones, will be conserved.
- e. The Western Wall Tunnels/monumental stones/"the Donkey's Stable" building – Stabilization and consolidation of the monuments was carried out, along with sealing and bonding of the stones as a safety measure.
- f. Conservation to accompany excavation – Conservation work was carried out together with the excavations in Wilson's Arch.

b. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

This year, intense work was carried out to conserve and reconstruct the Edicule, or structure above the tomb itself. The building was worked on by a team of experts from Greece, led by Tonia Moropoulou, and a team of international engineers and experts. The work was supervised by the IAA. At the same time, at the beginning of the year, major building works were administered by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in the St. Abraham's Monastery in the eastern wing of the Holy Sepulcher Church and on the roof of the building, which are currently on hold .

c. Along the Old City Walls

- a. Graffiti was removed from the walls by a team of conservators from the IAA.
- b. The Old City Walls Promenade – This year, works were initiated to develop and provide accessibility to the southern section of the Ramparts Walk, including the replacement of stone bonding materials, reinforcement of the security railings, and lighting improvements. The work is supervised by Antiquity Authorities conservators .

d. Conservation Work inside the Old City

- a. **The “Stepped Pool,” Jewish Quarter Square** – This site was excavated during the 1970s by Nahman Avigad, and remnants were found of a mikveh (ritual bath) from the Second Temple period. Today, the structure is part of the basement of a modern building. This year, the site’s development works were completed in preparation to receive visitors, with a museum-style display of the antiques.
- b. **Bab Huta neighborhood** –Public work to replace and renew the infrastructure system in the entire Bab Huta neighborhood, located in the north-eastern corner of the Old City. The project, which began in 2012, has been carried out with close archaeological supervision of the IAA. As part of this project, the paving stones have been replaced with uniform stone throughout.
- c. **Hagai Street** – The Antiquities Authority continues to accompany the supervision the façade renovation project, including installing uniform awnings and doors.
- d. **The Kishle citadel** – These works aimed to regulate access to the Kishle after the excavation of the site where remains were found from the Bronze Age to the Ottoman period. The work included engineering surveys for the further development of the site to enable it to receive large numbers of visitors.
- e. **The Machkame** – This is a compound that is used as a police station. Last year, the Mameluke fountain that was originally in the center of the space of the madrasa was carefully removed and restored. This year, a team from the Antiquities Authority worked to preserve and reinforce the unique marble carvings of the historic building.
- f. **Renewal of the Sabeels Project** – The Antiquities Authority, in coordination with municipal agencies, have conserved and brought back into use a number of Sabeels (public water fountains) from the early Ottoman period across the Old City and its environs, including the Lion’s Gate Sabeel, the Overseers Sabeel (HaMajlis), the El-Khalidi Library Sabeel and the Chain Gate Sabeel .
- g. **The Moslem Quarter, The Franciscan Museum** – Works were carried out to modernize the museum that borders the Church of the Condemnation and Imposition of the Cross. The works, which were carried out under the supervision of the Antiquities Authority, allowed archaeologists to document significant artifacts from the early Second Temple period, including a stepped pool which had been used as a public ritual bath.
- h. **Hammam al-’Ayn and Hammam al-Shifa** – This project, initiated by the UNDP and funded by the European Community, renewed the use of the Mameluke hammams (bath-houses) which are located to the east and southern corner of Hagai Street and the Cotton Merchants’ Market. Infrastructure works were carried out under the archaeological supervision of, and overseen by, Antiquities Authority conservators .
- i. **Khan Tankiz** – This project, initiated by the UNDP, added an extra floor above this historical Mameluke building without permission. Following the involvement of inspectors from the IAA, the addition was removed on the same day, and renovation work on the compound was carried out, accompanied by conservators of the Authority.
- j. **Jewish Quarter, Birkas HaTorah Yeshiva** – As part of the renovation works in the Yeshiva compound, preservation work was also carried out. In the near future, additional excavations will be initiated in the compound.
- k. **Turbah al Quilania** – Preservation and development works were carried out in the compound, administered by UNDP, and under the supervision of conservators of the IAA. Within the

framework of the project, the building contractor and some of the neighboring apartment owners damaged a vaulted ceiling in the eastern section of the monument and two areas of its façade. This was dealt with by the IAA .

- l. **Madrassa al Hanbaliyya**— Preservation and development work were carried out in the western section of this Mameluke historic building. The works were begun without a permit and halted, then restarted after a permit was obtained. At present, they are supervised by the IAA, allowing documentation and discovery of spaces within the building which were previously unknown.
- m. **Vaulted roofs along Mawlawiyya Street** – Preservation and restoration works were carried out on two vaulted ceilings along the length of Mawlawiyya Street as a safety measure. The work has been carried out in accordance with the regulations the IAA and conservators of the Authority.
- n. **Madrassa Mazhuriya** – Works to renovate the façade of this Mameluke historical building were carried out as an initiative of the Islamic Waqf and administered by a conservator of the Venetian University Department of Architecture, Construction and Conservation, in cooperation with workers from the Waqf. The works were carried out under the supervision of the IAA and conservators of the Authority.
- o. **A-Tachiya** – Development works were carried out in the Dar al-Aytham School, which is located within a historic building from the Mameluk and Ottoman periods. During the course of this project, a number of elements associated with a number of historic buildings were documented .
- p. **“Routes in the Old City” Project** – This project by is intended to regulate the public urban space in a number of streets in the Old City. Works have begun in the Christian Quarter, following the preparation of a conservation survey and the preparation of guidelines for implementation. The project is intended to benefit the residents of the Old City.
- q. **Hezekiah’s Pool** – Located in the Christian Quarter, a conservation protocol for the Pool has been prepared by the Architectural Conservation Director the IAA as part of the preparation of development plans for the site.

5.3. Archaeological Excavations within the Old City and along the walls

Over the years, a number of rescue excavations have been carried out as a condition for infrastructure works permits granted by the Antiquities Authority in the Old City. In addition, large-scale rescue excavations were undertaken in the Old City and its environs as part of the preparation of sites for tourist infrastructure and tourists. Every excavation is carried out by archaeologists from the IAA unless stated otherwise.

a. The Jerusalem Archaeological Park and the Ophel

Davidson Center – Archaeological excavations are being carried out in the third Umayyad building. Excavations carried out by the IAA have uncovered the building’s foundations.

b. The Western Wall Tunnels

Wilson's Arch – Large-scale excavations began earlier this year under Wilson's Arch in an attempt to date the different building stages of the Arch and other elements that will be uncovered, and as part of the process to create a tourist route in the Western Wall tunnels. The excavations have revealed a medieval storage cistern and a deep earth fill layer from the late Roman period.

c. Rescue Excavations in the Jewish Quarter

Plugat HaKotel Street – A small-scale rescue excavation initiated following the discovery of regulated artifacts during renovations, revealed pits and structures from the Mameluke and Ottoman periods

Chabad Street – A rescue excavation was carried out in a residential building in the Jewish quarter after the discovery of regulated ancient artifacts. The artifacts were dated from the Second Temple to the Medieval period.

d. Rescue Excavations in the Moslem Quarter

- a. **HaKkari Street** – A small-scale rescue excavation was carried out following the discovery of regulated artifacts during the installation of an electric transformer room. The excavation revealed a plastered structure which was built on the ruins of a vaulted structure. The ruins dated from the Medieval period.
- b. **Hosh ek Muwaqqat** – Rescue excavations were carried out on a residential building due to damage to antiquities. The remains of walls dated from the early Islamic and Medieval periods.
- c. **Sultan Khan** – Rescue excavations were carried out in the north-eastern room of the Khan following the discovery of regulated artifacts. Remains of buildings were discovered from periods predating the Mameluke Khan.
- d. **Sha'ar HaShalshelet Street, 1** – A rescue excavation was carried out in a privately owned shop. A number of rooms were discovered with vaulted ceilings which dated from the 12th century and are typical of the Crusader period. This building lies adjacent to the Crusader Cardo, and its level is above the Roman Decumanas .

e. Rescue Excavations in the Christian Quarter

St. Nicholas – Following an excavation carried out without a permit by the property owner, a rescue excavation was undertaken in the basement of the Crusader church which was rebuilt during the Ottoman period. The excavation revealed a mosaic floor covered with debris from the Byzantine period.

Dar Consul – This is a wide underground compound adjacent to Madrasa Heights Street. The compound is the property of the Custodia di Terra Sancta and is to be used as a cultural center and for other purposes. During the archaeological excavations, the remains of building from the

medieval period was documented in its entirety, spread over an area of 900 square meters. As part of the project, conservation took place under the instruction of the IAA .

f. Rescue Excavations in the Armenian Quarter

St. Mark Street – Rescue excavations were carried out due to damage to antiquities. The excavation revealed the remains of a broad wall which were identified by comparing them to similar finds discovered near the Jerusalem city walls from the Second Temple period. Later structures had been imposed on the wall, among which was a plastered structure from the medieval period and a septic tank from the Ottoman period.

6. TOURISM AND CULTURAL EVENTS

6.1. Cultural Events

a. Jerusalem Light Festival

The project, which like others is carried out with great caution regarding the authenticity and integrity of the Old City, is especially sensitive to the needs of the inhabitants and the merchants in the markets as extra effort is made in order to avoid excess disturbance to daily routine.

The Festival of Light is held throughout the Old City of Jerusalem every year in June.

The Festival provides an artistic and dramatic dimension to the Old City by illuminating the architectural assets through the medium of light shows and a range of lighting effects, in tandem with outdoor and stage performances .

The 2016 festival was dedicated to contemporary multimedia works of local and foreign artists, who displayed 40 works and installations with the theme of light in central locations and hidden corners of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Visitors and guests of the festival are invited to wander through and visit the sites and alleyways of the Old City, guided along four different routes illuminated by different colored lights which lead the visitor from one site to the next.

b. Sounds of the Old City Festival

The International Music Festival was held for the fifth year in the Old City of Jerusalem, during which dozens of performances were held in the Old City. Music concerts are performed in various sites and spaces across the Old City, offering new ways to experience the place.

c. Citywide Cultural Events

Jerusalem's cultural events as Hamshushalayim weekends, Open Houses, and Mekudeshet-Religious Music Festival take place throughout the city and in the Old City's venues and open spaces. The Old City hosts various events, exhibitions and unique activities such as night tours, mosaic tours and photography workshops.

6.2. Visitor's Digital Guide

This visitor's guide to the Old City is designed for the independent tourist and can be accessed as a mobile telephone application. Every tour is offered with a map using GPS navigation. Navigation is available off-line when internet service is not available.

At present, the application offers 21 audio tours across the Old City in four languages (Hebrew, English, French and Russian). All tours are offered in audio transcription for the deaf. Five tour routes are adapted and accessible for people with physical disabilities.

The app is available for downloading at:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mytoursapp.android.app312>