

# Fun Facts About...

## Jerusalem

ירושלים



Located in the center of the country, Jerusalem is the largest city in Israel.



Jerusalem is home of the Old City of Jerusalem including the Kotel (the Western Wall) – the last remaining tie to the Temple.



Jews all over the world face Jerusalem when they pray. If you're in Jerusalem, where do you face when you pray? You face the Temple Mount.



A special law in Jerusalem requires that all buildings be built out of Jerusalem stone, a special white or yellowish stone (also known as limestone).



The Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall is the place to see and be seen. On Saturday nights in the summer, the downtown area is packed with thousands of people; you're sure to see somebody you know.



King David made Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom and the religious center of the Jewish people in 1003 BCE.



Jerusalem is known by many names, including the Holy City and the City of Gold.



In 1948, when Israel declared independence, the announcement was made in Tel Aviv because Jerusalem was under siege and could not be reached.



After the War of Independence ended in 1949, Jerusalem was divided: Israel controlled the western part of the city, and Jordan controlled the eastern, including the walled Old City, where the Western Wall stands.

