



Since Biblical times, Jerusalem has been one of the world's most popular destinations for travelers. Continuing the tradition, some go there seeking the roots of their religions, while others want to experience the ancient history and cultures of the venerable city.

Jerusalem hotels, as in any other tourist destination city, can be very expensive. For each night, the American Colony Hotel charges may be from \$400 and up, and King David rates may start at \$800. For young wanderers, as well as adventurous senior travelers on limited budgets, Jerusalem hostels can be a satisfactory alternative. Here are examples of three bargain hostels in Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate Hostel, Old City, Jaffa Gate, facing David's Tower. Located at one of the most popular tourist destinations, the Jaffa Gate Hostel is just a short walk away from many of the most popular historic sites in the classic city. The hostel's per-night prices range from shared dorm/bathroom at \$30 to \$85 for a private room with bathroom.

During our recent stay, we enjoyed sweeping city views from the hostel rooftop. We also appreciated the complimentary bus tour of the city, free Wi-Fi and opportunity to do some of our own cooking in the fully-equipped kitchen.

Abraham Hostel, 67 Hanevi'im St., Davidka Square. To experience the real Jerusalem, this air-conditioned hostel, in the city's Christian Quarter, is in the center of everything. It's next to Mahane Yehuda Marketplace and a short walk to the Old City.

Room rates range from \$40 per person for a mixed dorm of bunk beds with en-suite bathroom to \$150 for a family room for up to six guests. Prices include free buffet breakfast of coffee, tea, eggs, hummus, and various fresh fruits, and escorted walking tour of the area.

Jerusalem Hostel (44 Jaffa Road, Zion Square. This is a very busy area of the city, surrounded by many markets, shops, cafés, pubs and outdoor dining areas. The hostel's rates range from \$25 dorms to \$75 for a family room with double bed and two bunks. The kitchen has dining booths for relaxation and conversation. There's also has a large roof for sunbathing and city viewing.

Summary: Hostels aren't for every senior traveler. They have small, spare rooms, and are

frequently noisy with active young travelers. However, rates are much cheaper than the average hotels, especially in popular Jerusalem, where tourism is a major industry.