

2021

TRAVEL GUIDE

JERUSALEM.GFNY.COM



GFNY

MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA
CHAMPIONSHIP



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Thank you for joining us at 2021 GFNY Middle East – Africa Championship!

If you need more details than what is mentioned in this Travel Guide, please refer to jerusalem.gfny.com. For additional assistance contact our team at info@jerusalem.gfny.com.

We are excited to see you in Jerusalem in April!



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IMPORTANT DATES FOR PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO JERUSALEM

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 PASSOVER EVENING	3
4	5	6	7 RECOMMENDED ARRIVAL TO JERUSALEM	8 GFNY EXPO (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	9 RACE DAY	10
11 RECOMMENDED DEPARTURE FROM ISRAEL	12	13	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

If you are flying to Jerusalem, **we recommend that you book flights that land no later than 16:00pm on Thursday, April 8th.** This will give you enough time to get your luggage and travel from the airport directly to the expo before it closes.

IMPORTANT!

GFNY race packet pick up are only on Thursday between 13:00 – 20:30pm.

Each person must come in person to check-in, pick up their race packet, race number, race jersey, timing chip and more.

You must arrive to the expo before 19:00pm on Thursday, April 8th.

If you do not arrive to the expo to check-in during expo hours you forfeit your registration and the ability to participate in the race.



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Schedule of Events

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER
[JERUSALEM.GFNY.COM](https://www.jerusalem.gfny.com)

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

13:00 - 20:30 CYCLING EXPO, LOCATION TBA
JERUSALEM RACE PACKET PICK-UP

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

05:00 Opening of the start corrals
06:00 Closing of the start corrals area
06:15 Start of GFNY Jerusalem 123km & 77km distances.
10:00 Estimate arrival of the first group of the 77km distance
11:00 Estimate arrival of the first group of the 123km distance
12:00 Podium award ceremony for overall 123km winners
13:00 Podium award ceremony for all group & category winners 123km.
14:00 End of the finish line festivities and expo at the main finish area.

Hotels in Jerusalem

We have selected here 3-4-5-star hotel options that offer great location to the Start/Finish/Expo areas and are best value hotels based on TripAdvisor customer reviews. We encourage you to book directly with the hotels to get the best rate possible.

Overall vacancy in Jerusalem will be limited due to the Passover holidays that start on April 4th. Please mention you are coming to participate at the GFNY Jerusalem race to make sure there is a place to accommodate your bike either within your room or in a safe place in the hotel.





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MAMILLA HOTEL JERUSALEM



Booking ranking **8.7**

Starts at **\$474/night** for 1-2 guests

<https://www.mamillahotel.com/>

Mamilla hotel, listed among the leading hotels of the world. Mamilla hotel brings together the old city and the new city vibe in one place. It is located a short walking distance to Jaffa Gate, Tower of David, Jerusalem city center and the Mamilla shopping boulevard.



DAN PANORAMA JERUSALEM

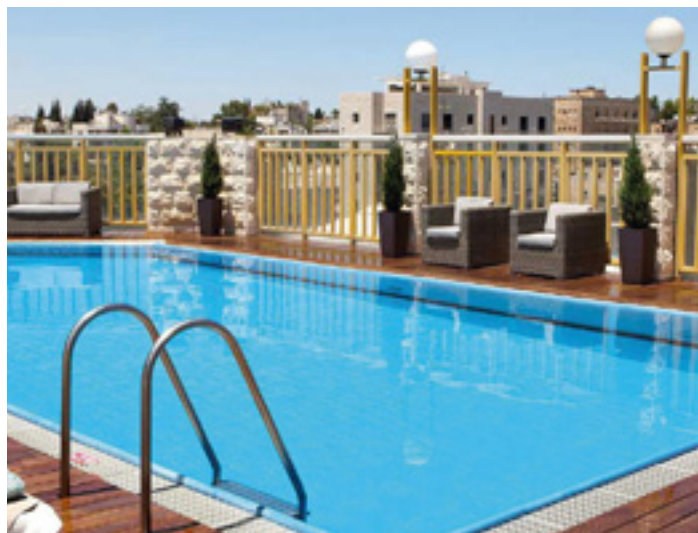


Booking ranking **8.1**

TBA

<https://www.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

The Dan Panorama Hotel located just steps away from GFNY Expo location, the First Station entertainment compound, 10min walk to Mamilla Boulevard, and 15min walk to the Old City. The hotel offers a delicious culinary experience and fresh hospitality vibe.



PRIMA KINGS



Booking ranking **8.3**

TBA

<https://www.prima-hotels-israel.com/prima-kings-jerusalem-hotel>

Located in Jerusalem city center the Prima Kings hotel is a 15min walk to Jerusalem's Old City, GFNY Expo location and 5min to Ben Yehuda Street at Jerusalem city center. The Prima kings is a nice choice for those who are looking for a traditional and inexpensive accommodation option in Jerusalem.





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SAINT ANDREW'S - THE SCOTS GUESTHOUSE

Booking ranking **8.8**

Starts at \$172/night for 1-2 guests

<http://scotsquesthouse.com/>

With great views overlooking the entire Old City walls and Mount Zion, Saint Andrew's is the perfect choice for those who are looking for an intimate Jerusalem accommodation option. The hotel is located 15min walk to the Old City, 3-mins walk to the GFNY Expo location which is also the start of a 6km bike trail that descends all the way to the Race start location at the Jerusalem Arena.



VILLA BAMOSHAVA by BROWN HOTELS

Booking ranking **8.6**

Starts at \$241/night for 1-2 guests

<https://brownhotels.com/villa>

With 24 guests rooms this boutique hotel is in the heart of the German Colony, 5mins walk to GFNY Expo and a bike trail leads to the Start area of the race. This hotel is bicycle friendly.

Reservations +972-72-3281858



ABRAHAM'S HOSTEL

Booking ranking **8.4**

Starts at \$118/night for 1-2 guests

<https://abrahamhostels.com/jerusalem/>

Probably the best hostel experience you can enjoy in Israel, with a warm atmosphere, friendly staff, people ages 18-70:) from all around the world, daily events and tours that depart from the hostel to Jerusalem, Petra, West Bank and more. The hostel offers private rooms, 6-10 person dormitories and has convenient bus service from Jerusalem to Nazareth and Tel Aviv.

Reservations +972-72-3932793





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YEHUDA HOTEL



Booking ranking **8.4**

TBA

<https://www.en.byh.co.il/> <https://www.en.byh.co.il/>

Yehuda hotel is in Messua hills, in Jerusalem, 20min drive to downtown Jerusalem and the Old City (depending on traffic). It is a great option for families as it is located next to the Biblical Zoo, and garden rooms that feel like a mini resort within Jerusalem. You can bike your way to the Start area of the race, located approx. 3km away at the Jerusalem Arena (barely any climbing) and return cycling 1.5km from the Finish area back to the hotel.



HOTELS MAP





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Getting to Jerusalem

Israel's Ben Gurion international airport is located approx. 40-mins away from any of the hotels in Jerusalem. As you reach the airport's arrivals hall you will have to exit it to get to all transfer options whether to Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv or walk down one level to catch the direct train to either destination.

Direct train to Jerusalem

\$5.00 1-way | 25-mins long | Departs every 30-mins

<https://www.rail.co.il/>

Customer service +972-77-2324000

Arrives to Yitzhak Navon Station.

Opening hours:

06:00am – 08:00pm Sunday-Thursday

Closed on Friday

19:30pm - 21:15 Saturday

Rav-Kav (train) ticket office is open 7:00am – 6:30pm

If you haven't established all your travel plans in Israel we recommend you purchase an ordinary type train ticket (make sure to insert it to the digital scanner as you embark the train to avoid unnecessary fines).

Shared transportation

\$21.00 1-way + additional \$7.50 for Bike luggage

Direct service to your hotel with stops

Departs every 20-mins / the soonest it gets filled

As you exit the airports Arrivals hall, you will encounter on your right the shared transportation vans Jerusalem. The service is directly to your hotel. You will have to wait until 10 people arrive for the van to depart.

Special notes:

The Vans have space for only 2 bicycles.

You can pay a minimum of 5 passengers +2 bike luggage to get a private van service and depart without waiting.

<http://www.neshertours.co.il/en>

Reservations +972-72-2646059

Available 24/7, no reservations are needed from the airport to Jerusalem.



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Afikim direct bus to Jerusalem #485

\$4.70 1-way | 30-mins long | Departs every round hour

(Friday until 02:00pm, Saturday from 19:00pm).

Customer service +972-3-5252555

The bus station at the airport is located at the ground level (G) next to gate #1. Drop-off is only at Jerusalem's central bus station.

Private Taxi

\$72.00 weekdays, \$85.00 Friday-Saturday

1-4 Passengers including luggage

We recommend requesting the taxi with the taxi representative at the airport and not directly with the driver. Get a fixed rate with the representative including your luggage.

Bike transport from the airport to Jerusalem

Private, pre-booked transfers from the airport

GFNY's representative will meet you at the Arrivals hall as you collect your luggage and will escort you directly through customs and to your private car service.

Prices are per vehicle:

Cost p/car	Car capacity	Max ppl w/bikes
\$121.00	4-Seater	1
\$143.00	7-Seater	2
\$195.00	7-Seater	3
\$195.00	10-Seater	5

Contact us at info@jerusalem.gfny.com to reserve this service.



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Bike Rental, Transfers / Partner Bike Shops

Bikerentalsinclude:

- Pre-fitting of your bike
- Delivery of your bike at the EXPO
- Storage of your bike at the EXPO site
- Bike insurance
- Pick-up of the bike at the end of the race

Prices per rental day by type:

Top Carbon Bike Models - [Click here to see bikes](#)

\$246.00 / €210.00 / 850.00 ILS

Quality Carbon Bike Models - [Click here to see bikes](#)

\$217.00 / €185.00 / 750.00 ILS

Quality Aluminum Bike Models - [Click here to see bikes](#)

\$188.00 / €160.00 / 650.00 ILS

[Click here for rental options](#) for bike accessories such as helmets, bike racks and more.

Partner Bike Shops

In case you need any assistance or products during race week, stop by GFNY Jerusalem's official partner bike shops. If you would like a bike shop to receive your shipped bike and assemble it for you, contact the bike shop in advance to notify them of the shipment and check their pricing and availability.

Bike Way

- Shatner St. 5, Jerusalem
- Call +972-(0)-2-652-5256
- bikewayshop@gmail.com
- Offers: mechanic, gear, apparel, accessories

Pedalim

- Yad Harutsim St 16, Jerusalem
- Call + 972-(0)-2-672-9904
- info.pedalim@gmail.com
- Offers: mechanic, gear, apparel, accessories



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Recommended Activities

The City of Jerusalem is truly one-of-a-kind. Jerusalem's centrality to the three major monotheistic religions; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – makes it a draw for as much as half the world's population. And yet, perhaps surprisingly, Jerusalem's spirit and history provide a great ambiance to many things to do in Jerusalem, all while experiencing the unique essence of the city. Here are the top must-see's based on location.

Old City

Jerusalem's ancient Old City, around 3,000 years old, is the original Jerusalem, built under King David's initiative. The Holy City was home to the two Jewish Temples, Jesus and his disciples' meeting places, and Mohammed's ascension to heaven.

The Old City's four quarters (Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian) are cornerstones of any Jerusalem tour: Walk the quarters' narrow alleyways, and you'll be stepping on and seeping in centuries-old streets, synagogues, churches and mosques, and enlightening yourself with a variety of museums such as the [Tower of David](#). Key visitation spots are the [Western Wall \(Kotel\)](#), the [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#), and the Temple Mount with the Dome of the Rock.

New City , West Jerusalem

Jerusalem boasts over 200 venue attractions, including over 60 [museums](#) and numerous holy sites and cultural venues.

Jump into world and Judaica exhibits at the [Israel Museum](#) and [Bible Lands Museum](#); get up close to all kinds of flora and fauna – including many mentioned in the Bible – at the [Biblical Zoo](#); delight in the tastes and sights of the [Mahane Yehuda Market](#); get inspired by the moving stories and exhibits at Yad Vashem holocaust museum. These are just a few examples of unique things to do in Jerusalem.

In terms of holy sites, there are hundreds even outside the Old City, from places of worship for a myriad of sects, including [Jewish](#), [Christian](#) and [Muslim](#), to archeological dig centers, such as the [City of David](#).





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Must see's in Israel

Israel is a small country with but yet it's very vibrant (like its people:) and diverse; from snowy mountains up north, to 200km of Mediterranean coast-line, the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea, to breathtaking desert landscapes that will put you at awe as you stand at the edge of Mizpe Ramon crater, or travel all the way south for an amazing diving experience the Red Sea at Eilat. Spice that with delicious cuisine and warm people and you got a travel experience of a lifetime.

1. Dead Sea

Explore the dead sea located at -423 meters below sea level it is the lowest place on earth. Indulge yourself in its salty nourishing water as you float covered with healing mud. Next to the Dead Sea you can visit the fortress of Masada, refresh at the waterfalls of Ein-Gedi Oasis, or learn the history of the Dead Sea scrolls that were discovered at Qumran caves along the Dead Sea coast.

Easy drive 25min drive from Jerusalem (download waze to see all major sites along the way). Take a guided day tour, check for savings and more info @ jerusalem.gfny.com

2. Tel Aviv - Jaffa

Tel Aviv is the cosmopolitan capital of Israel, maybe even of the middle east. With a great food scene, nightclubs, beaches, and parties it is the none-stop city.

Enjoy beach leisure time, or walk along its beach promenade during the day, enjoy traditional hummus or fresh fish at the port of Old Jaffa (world's oldest sea port, named after Noah son Jaffet), relax at your boutique hotel before dinner... with approx. 2,800 restaurants we are sure you will find a place that suits your taste.

3. Nazareth, The Sea of Galilee

Follow the steps of Jesus as you visit the Church of Annunciation at Nazareth, or visit Christian landmarks that lay just off the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee; Capernaum - "the town of Jesus", the Church of Multiplication of Loaves and Fish at Tabgha, Mount of Beatitudes, Magdala and more.

We recommend visiting those sites with a tour guide via a day tour by bus departing daily from Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv or taking a private tour guide whom you can hire by type of vehicle from 4 - 19 passenger vehicles. Info and pricing at gfnyjerusalem.com

4. Haifa – Caesarea – Acre

Israel's Mediterranean coast highlights where you can explore the Roman ruins of ancient Caesarea all the way to the grottos of Rosh Hanikra, Israel's most northern coastal point. Make way to Haifa to see the breathtaking Baha'i Shrine and gardens. The terraced gardens cascade down the mountain towards the city below, each of the 19 terraces bursts with colorful flowers and meticulous landscape designs.



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Acre (Acco), the largest Crusader city in Israel. The city is extremely well preserved, and you cannot help being impressed by the incredible architecture and how it has survived and is still lively with markets and people who live in its ancient buildings.

5. The Negev Desert and Ramon Crater

The desert reveals magical landscapes, incredible serenity, and off the beaten path trails you can explore via jeeps tours, or hiking. Our favorite spot is the Ramon crater where you stand in awe looking at the desert views. If you are new to the desert spend a night at Beresheet Hotel overlooking the crater, take a night tour to view with “Starman” and a jeep tour to discover the crater. The desert is a large part of Israel stretching at the way to Red Sea so check online for experiences or contact us for more info at info@jerusalem.gfny.com

Good to know

SWITCHING ROUTES FROM THE 123KM TO 77KM OR VICE VERSA

You can switch routes. Please do so directly on your GFNY profile or contact us at info@jerusalem.gfny.com. Changes are available until March 25th, 2021

LEVEL OF RIDING EXPERIENCE

A Gran Fondo is all about achieving your best possible time which means you can compete against yourself or other participants. There are people who just want to ride a Gran Fondo for fun with family and friends while others want to compete for a podium position, the decision is up to you.

THERE ARE NO SHUTTLE BUSES

There are no shuttle buses to the Start or from the Finish areas. Keep in mind that the police will close the roads around the start area by 05:30am so make sure to either make your way on the bike or come early enough to arrive by Taxi, or your rented car to the parking spots that are near the Start area (Jerusalem Arena).

BAG DROP OFF

Unfortunately, we do not offer this service due to insurance and legal limitations. Please carry with you what is necessary.

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?

Rain or sunshine the race is on. Unless there is a severe storm in which case, we follow the decision of the local authorities.



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PARKING

Most hosting hotels have available parking space and are conveniently located within a short biking distance to the Start line.

Those of you who are arriving with a vehicle can conveniently park at the following parking lots:

- At the Jerusalem Arena \ Teddy stadium - next to the start area. Please note that you must park at regular car parking even if marshals indicate differently. Be aware that there are police on site therefore make sure to park only at permitted parking spaces. There is enough parking space, so arrive early to get a better spot.
- At the Technological gardens, next to Malha Mall - 1.9km from the finish area. [Click here to view the map.](#)
- At the lower parking area of the Biblical Zoo. Put "Park Jerusalem" on your waze App and enter right to the parking lot next to the Playground. From there you can ride the bike trail all the way to the Start area, a 2.7Km ride. [Click here to view the map.](#)



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SEE YOU FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THE FINISH

The finish area will be located at the Jerusalem Aquarium parking area where all your family and friends are invited to celebrate your victories and achievements. There is plenty of parking space between the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo and Aquarium area and it is easy for all family and friends to locate. We will be providing directions and parking information for everyone closer to the race.

RETURN TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE RACE

Currently GFNY Jerusalem does not offer return transportation. It will be easy to either take a taxi, bus (from the entrance to the Biblical Zoo which is 1km away), or have family or friends give you a ride back home. The finish area is also a short 2.7km ride away from the start line where you can ride back to where you parked your car.

For travel recommendations and inquiries contact us at info@jerusalem.gfny.com





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