



# JEWISH QUARTER – CARDO

The Jewish Quarter is one of the four traditional quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. The current Jewish Quarter, which today looks almost brand new and usually sparkling clean, dates to roughly 1400. The quarter is inhabited by around 2,000 residents and is home to numerous synagogues and yeshivas (educational institutions that focus on the study of traditional religious texts, primarily the Talmud and Torah study).

The oldest synagogues the Elijah the Prophet and Yohanan Ben Zakkai are roughly 400 years old. In the main plaza, an arch stretches skyward where one of the walls of the notable Hurva Synagogue once stood. Originally the Great Synagogue, the Hurva was built in the 16th century, but was destroyed by the Ottomans. The synagogue was rebuilt in the 1850s but was damaged in the War of 1948. Later, it was destroyed again after the Jordanians took control of the Old City. The arch still remains as a memorial and prominent landmark in the Jewish Quarter. In 2010, the synagogue was rebuilt and dedicated on March 15th. Today, it remains an active synagogue and center of study, a testament to the Jews long history in the area.

Just off the plaza is the Cardo, which was a Byzantine road; roughly the equivalent of an eight-lane highway running through the heart of the city.

