

10 Things You Never Knew about the City of David



When did archaeological excavations begin?
Where were dogs found buried?
How can I tour the inside of a drainage tunnel?
Everything you should know about a visit to the City of David.

1

Archaeological excavations began in the City of David in 1867. That is to say, excavations have been carried out in the area for the last 148 years.



6

People settled in Jerusalem beginning in the Chalcolithic period (5000 BCE), but only 4,000 years ago, in the Middle Bronze Age II (the period of the forefathers), an actual city was built.



2

More archaeological delegations have dug in the City David than in all of Israel.

7

Two burial sites of dogs were found in the City of David. This is characteristic of the Persian period in the Land of Israel. These finds helped date the tower in the city walls to the Second Temple period.



3

Despite the two aforementioned facts, only 20% of the City of David has been uncovered to date. For the sake of comparison, in Masada, 90% of the area has been uncovered.



8

Part of the tour of the City of David takes one through underground tunnels that were dug in order to allow secure access to the water that was located outside of the city walls.



4

The City of David is located on the Ophel hill, and its peak rises 743 meters (2438 feet) above sea level. Although the choice to settle this hilltop is strange as the surrounding hills are higher, the City of David possesses all the necessary conditions for the establishment of a settlement in ancient times in terms of defense, water sources, access and agriculture.



5

Apropos the mountains surrounding the City of David, the Ophel hill is surrounded by Mount Moriah, Mount Zion, the Armon Hanatziv Promenade and the Mount of Olives.

9

The City of David is the first place in Jerusalem where names of people mentioned in the Bible were found on inscriptions. Three of these people are mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah: Gemaryahu ben Shafan, whose nephew Gedalyahu ben Ahikam was a ruler of Judea following the destruction of the First Temple, Yehochal ben Shlemiyahu, and Gedalyahu ben Pashur. And another fun fact: Yehochal and Gedalyahu were two of King Zedekiah's ministers who threw the Prophet Jeremiah into the pit. We all remember how that ended.



10

The City of David is the only place where one can walk inside a 2,000 year old water drainage system. The exposed drainage tunnel measures 800 meters (2625 feet) long and a meter (3 feet) wide. The tunnel runs beneath the main thoroughfare from the end of the Second Temple period, and was opened to the public approximately three years ago. Numerous finds were made inside the tunnel, including thousands of coins, home goods and jewelry, showing us that even then, one could find lost treasure in the "drainage tunnel".



City of David Where it all began
www.cityofdavid.org.il | *6033

