



The author's grandmother, Ester Yanovsky-Lederberg



Outside Jaffa Gate,

In Esther's Footsteps

Visit Jerusalem and the historical places where Esther lived and struggled with her faith

Much has changed in the 100 years since Esther, a 12-year old girl lived here.



Outside Damascus Gate, 1900

Yet, many of the old alleys both inside the Old City walls and outside it in the neighborhoods that began to sprout in the late 19th century are still the same.



Me'ah She'arim, originally built as a rough diamond shape with the open center serving providing public spaces for the water well, laundry shed, out-houses, mikveh and yeshiva, has long been filled with blocks of houses flanking narrow alleys. (You are asked to enter dressed modestly.)



Near the south-east corner of Me'ah She'arim is Evelina de Rothschild school, now housing the Ministry of Education. (Click for map.)



North east of town, are the 13th century Sanhedrin Caves, and past it, Wadi El Joz, now

an Arab village.

The Russian Compound today is a mixture of colleges, government offices and art galleries occupying the restored buildings, surrounding the magnificent church of the Holy Trinity.



Hospice Saint Vincent de Paul is located right at The Russian Compound's edge, facing the road to Jaffa Gate.



At Jaffa Gate, climb up the steps inside the gate to the rampart and stroll the perimeter of the Old City up to the Dung Gate. You can also tour the fascinating thousand-years old David Citadel.



Right inside the Jaffa Gate, turn left on the first street to the little-known and rarely visited Church of the Latin Patriarchate.



Back at the main street, enter the Arab market, wind your way through the ancient covered Byzantine souk.

The souk ends in the Cardo.



Climb the steps up to your right



and locate Or Hachaim street. At #6 you will find The Old Yishuv Court Museum. In this old, refurbished home you will find the kitchen, kitchen yard, the bedroom and front room so similar to Esther's old home.

And then there is the Western Wall of the Temple destroyed 2,000 years ago.



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Western Wall 1912



Kidron Valley and its tombs and



churches lead to Hezekiah water duct (also called Shiloam Tunnel.)



Sloping downward toward it, is Mount of the Olives, the Jewish cemetery. It is well viewed from the Panorama (click for map.)

