

# Jerusalem syndrome

**Jerusalem syndrome** is a group of mental phenomena involving the presence of religiously themed [obsessive](#) ideas, [delusions](#), or other [psychosis](#)-like experiences that are triggered by a visit to the city of [Jerusalem](#). It is not endemic to one single religion or denomination but has affected [Jews](#), [Christians](#), and [Muslims](#) of many different backgrounds. It is not listed as a recognised condition in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* or the *International Classification of Diseases*.



Man who claims to be a Messiah in Tel-Aviv, 2010

The best known, although not the most prevalent, manifestation of Jerusalem syndrome is the phenomenon whereby a person who seems previously balanced and devoid of any signs of [psychopathology](#) becomes [psychotic](#) after arriving in Jerusalem. The psychosis is characterised by an intense religious theme and typically resolves to full recovery after a few weeks or after being removed from the area. The religious focus of Jerusalem syndrome distinguishes it from other phenomena, such as [Stendhal syndrome](#) in [Florence](#) or [Paris syndrome](#) in [Paris](#).

In a 2000 article in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Bar-El et al. claim to have identified and described a specific syndrome which emerges in tourists with no previous [psychiatric](#) history.<sup>[1]</sup> However, this claim has been disputed by M. Kalian and E. Witztum.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Kalian and Witztum stressed that nearly all of the tourists who demonstrated the described behaviours were mentally ill prior to their arrival in Jerusalem. They further noted that, of the small proportion of tourists alleged to have exhibited spontaneous [psychosis](#) after arrival in Jerusalem, Bar-El et al. had presented no evidence that the tourists had been well prior to their arrival in the city.

History

---

Types

---

Prevalence

---

In popular culture

---

See also

---

References

---

Further reading

---

External links

---