

Al-Franj: the Crusaders in the Levant | Journey of an Islamic Minbar

‘They smuggled the minbar successfully into Hebron and placed it in the Ibrahimi Mosque.’

The minbar under discussion is more significant than most because it is associated with the Shi'ite martyr Imam al-Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. When the Crusaders marched to Ashqelon (which lies roughly 50 km south of Jaffa) in 548 / 1143, devout Muslims took their chance to rescue both the severed head of al-Husayn and the minbar itself, which they smuggled successfully into Hebron and placed in the Ibrahimi Mosque. Tradition has it that the severed head of al-Husayn was taken to Cairo.



Name:

Haram al-Ibrahimi

Dynasty:

First century BC; AH 492 / AD 1099 From the Roman period to the end of the Ottoman period

Details:

Hebron (al-Khalil), Palestine*

Justification:

Exterior view of the Haram where the minbar was relocated.



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Aerial view of the Haram al-Ibrahimi.
