

# The Muslim West | Mosques: A Place for Prayer

Great mosques and local mosques

The mosque is the main religious building in Islam. Built on a square or rectangular plan, it consists essentially of three parts: prayer room, courtyard and minaret. The prayer room is divided into naves that are sometimes parallel or, more commonly, perpendicular to the qibla wall which faces Mecca, identified in turn by the mihrab niche that is often framed by a horseshoe arch and occasionally ornately decorated. These features initially appeared in the Great Mosque of Córdoba and became fully established in Almohad mosques.

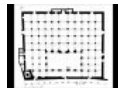


**Name:**  
Djama'a al-Kebir (Great Mosque)

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 490 / AD 1097 Almoravid

**Details:**  
Algiers, Algeria

**Justification:**  
The typical features of these religious spaces can be found both in the great mosques financed by sovereigns and in the smaller local mosques built using donations pledged by the devout.



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**Name:**  
Mértola Mosque

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira last quarter of 6th / AD 12th century Almohad

**Details:**  
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

**Justification:**  
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**Name:**  
Capital

**Dynasty:**  
From the final years of Arab domination, or very probably after the Christian conquest in Hegira 541 / AD 1147

**Details:**

Santarém Municipal Museum  
Santarém, Portugal

**Justification:**

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Mosque of Cristo de la Luz

**Dynasty:**

Hegira (month of) Muharram 390 / AD December 999–January 1000 Umayyad of al-Andalus, Caliphate period

**Details:**

Toledo, Spain

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