

# Pilgrimage | The Quest for Baraka – Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Palestine

'Palestine, and Jerusalem in particular, has always been a key destination for Muslim pilgrims.'

Although the main focus of Islamic pilgrimage is centred on the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, Palestine and Jerusalem in particular, has always been a key destination for Muslim pilgrims. Indeed, Jerusalem (al-Quds) is considered the third Holiest City in Islam. Allah himself blessed the city in the Qur'an and appointed her as the first qibla of Islam, meaning that it was Jerusalem, and not Mecca, that served as the spiritual as well as geographical focus for Muslims' prayers during the early years of Islam.



**Name:**

Aqsa Mosque

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 65–96 / AD 685–715 Built in the Umayyad period; renovated in the Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods

**Details:**

Jerusalem

**Justification:**

The Aqsa Mosque situated within the Haram al-Sharif is one of the most revered sanctuaries in Islam.

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**Name:**

Seal of the Dome of the Rock

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Ottoman

**Details:**

Islamic Museum, al-Aqsa Mosque / al-Haram al-Sharif  
Jerusalem

**Justification:**

This seal may have been used to stamp authorisation papers for pilgrims entering the Haram al-Sharif, or it may simply have been a religious souvenir.

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**Name:**

Ribat of al-Mansur Qalawun

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 681 / AD 1282–3 Mamluk

**Details:**

Jerusalem

**Justification:**

Close to the Haram al-Sharif, this complex provided for pilgrims and the poor.

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**Name:**

'Imara al-'Amira (Flourishing Edifice)

**Dynasty:**

Built in around hegira 964 / AD 1557 Ottoman

**Details:**

Jerusalem

**Justification:**

This complex is the largest charitable foundation in Jerusalem and catered for whole caravans of pilgrims.

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