

Pilgrimage | The Holy Land of Three Faiths

'Palestine and Jerusalem have been the focus of religious pilgrimage for thousands of years.'

Palestine and Jerusalem in particular, has been the focus of religious pilgrimage for thousands of years. To adherents of Judaism, Jerusalem is God's city and the revered site of His Temple. All Jewish prayers face towards Jerusalem, and to this day the city lies at the heart of Jewish religious, spiritual and scholarly life. Christians, encouraged by their Church Fathers, have undertaken the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land since at least the 4th century AD to pay homage to the sites associated with the Life of Jesus Christ. According to the Christian tradition Jerusalem was where Jesus lived, preached and healed the sick. It was here that He held the Last Supper, was arrested, tried and crucified. To this day the Church of the Holy Sepulchre marks the area in the city where Jesus is believed to have been buried and from where He ascended to heaven.



Name:
Metal grille/enclosure

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Crusader

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

Justification:
This grille provided by the Crusaders stopped pilgrims from chipping mementos off the Holy Rock.



Name:
Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Dynasty:
The first construction AD 326-335. The present construction inaugurated in AH 543 / AD 1149 The church dates back to the Byzantine period but several renovations were implemented in subsequent periods

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
The Church marks the site of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection according to the Christian tradition.



Name:
Wall of al-Buraq

Dynasty:
The lower strata of the Western Wall dates to the Roman Governor Herod (r. 40–4 BC); the remaining layers date to the Umayyad period, during the rule of Caliph 'Abd al-Malik Ibn Marwan (AH 65–86 / AD 685–705), and other Islamic periods
Roman and Islamic

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
The Western Wall of the Dome of the Rock is the holiest site for Jewish pilgrims.



Name:
Church of the Nativity

Dynasty:
AD 529 Byzantine

Details:
Bethlehem, Palestine*

Justification:
This church, one of the oldest in the Holy Land, marks the spot where, according to the Christian tradition, Jesus was born.
