

Pilgrimage | The Holy Land of Three Faiths

'The Qur'an respects Jews and Christians as "People of the Book" ("ahl al-kitab").'

In the 1st / 7th century Jerusalem and the Holy Land came under Muslim sovereignty. To Muslims also the two places were sacred, and in the centuries to come, despite often troubled times politically, adherents of all three faiths continued to undertake pilgrimages to the Holy Sites in the area many of which were revered by all three religions. Successive Muslim rulers, Caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab (r. AH 13–23 / AD 634–44) and Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (Saladin, r. 564–89 / 1169–93) most famous among them, devoted themselves to protecting the pilgrimage routes, providing generously for the upkeep of the holy sites and facilitating access for all – Muslims and non-Muslims alike – a sacred duty imparted by the Qur'an itself, which respects Jews and Christians as 'People of the Book' ('ahl al-kitab').



Name:
Pilgrim bottle

Dynasty:
Hegira third quarter 7th century / AD third quarter 13th century Mamluk

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
Wealthy Christians and Muslims used these pilgrim's flasks to hold drinking-water or to carry sacred water.



Name:
Qubbat al-Su'ud (Dome of Ascension)

Dynasty:
Hegira 595 / AD 1198 Ayyubid / Crusader

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
The site of Jesus' Ascension is visited by both Muslim and Christian pilgrims.



Name:
Zubdat al-Tawarikh ('Cream of Histories')

Dynasty:
Hegira 993 / AD 1583 Ottoman

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
Jesus' Ascension as depicted in a miniature from the Ottoman period.



Name:
Maqam of the Prophet Samuel

Dynasty:
Hegira 551 / AD 1157 The maqam dates back to the Crusader period, it was expanded during the Mamluk period, and renovated in the Ottoman period

Details:

Jerusalem

Justification:

The Maqam is revered by both Jewish and Muslim pilgrims.

**Name:**

Church of the Tomb of Mary

Dynasty:

Beginning of Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Crusader

Details:

Jerusalem

Justification:

This church marking the grave of Mary, Mother of Jesus, also contains a large Islamic mihrab (prayer niche).

**Name:**

Deir Mar Musa al-Habashi (Monastery of St Moses the Ethiopian)

Dynasty:

The oldest part of the monastery (currently serving as the kitchen area) was originally a pre-Islamic Byzantine tower dating back to the AD 5th or 6th century. The monastery's church dates to AH 450 / AD 1058 Byzantine, Seljuq, Ayyubid

Details:

Qalamun Mountains, East of Nebek, Syria

Justification:

Throughout the Holy Land and beyond, monasteries enjoyed respect and official protection.
