Welcome!

“Bruchim Ha-ba’im”

ברוכים הבאים

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Advantage Tours

“Israel, Off the Bus, On the Ground”
an IAT Series of Orientations

Part 2 – Celebrating the Journey up to Jerusalem, the Golden City

The Psalms of Ascent capture the journey up to Jerusalem
where we will visit and experience spiritually-significant sites,
concluding with the Garden Tomb
where we worship and celebrate communion,
“He is not here! He has risen!”

10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime through the Holy Land
October 24 – November 2, 2022
with
Pastors Kevin and Joelene Taylor

Day 6 – Saturday, October 29

Masada

Kfar Hanokdim

Tel Be'er Sheva

Ela Valley

and then, up to Jerusalem, the Golden City

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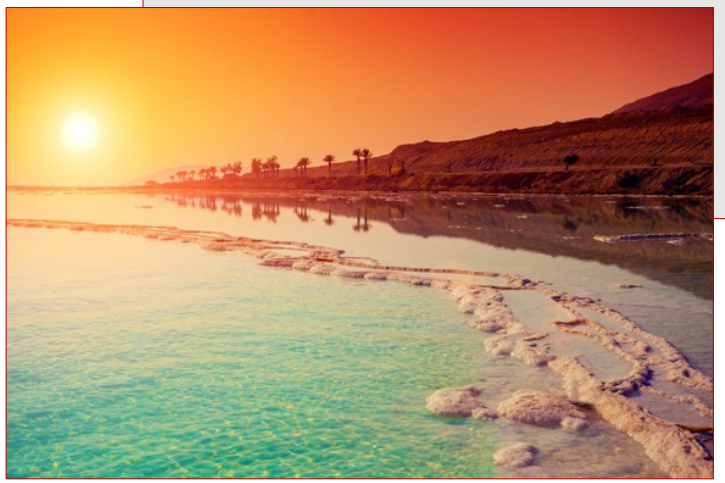

Day 6 – Saturday, October 29

From the depths of the Dead Sea, 1300 feet below sea level

and Masada, the mountaintop palace of Herod the Great

where the Jewish defenders in AD 70 – 73 took their last stand against Rome,

up to 2,474' above sea level

to….

A spiritual journey of a lifetime through the Holy Land places The Word from The Book and places it within the context of the Land of Israel, drawing the connection between the Bible and the Land…

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Jerusalem

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Masada

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Kfar Hanokdim

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Tel Be’er Sheva

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Ela Valley

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Jerusalem

Significance of Jerusalem

Holy and central to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Iconic sites: Western Wall, Temple Mount, Via Dolorosa, Garden of Gethsemane, Garden Tomb…

Jacob, Abraham's son, a/k/a Israel, Yisro'el, encounters the site on Mount Moriah where, centuries later, the Temple would stand, and he says, *"How awe-inspiring is this place! It is the House of God! It is the gate to heaven!"* (Genesis 28:17) He is told that Jerusalem is *"the site that the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes, as a place established in His name. It is there that you shall go to seek His presence."* (Deuteronomy 12:3)

"...and many peoples shall come, and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of he Lord from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3 – 4)

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Jerusalem

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

"The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet
and will call you the City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 60:14)

"Ten measures of beauty descended to the world, nine were taken by Jerusalem"
(Talmud: Kiddushin 49b).

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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth-- if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy." (Psalms 137:5-6).

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Known by many names
Mentioned 641 times in the Tanach

Zion – marked or distinction

The Golden City

The Holy City

"'Eternity'- *this refers to Jerusalem*" (Talmud: Berachot 58a)

The City of Peace

Possession of Peace

Abode of Peace

Foundation of Peace

City of Completeness - Wholeness

"Without Jerusalem, the land of Israel is as a body without a soul." — Elhanan Leib Lewinsky (1857-1910), Hebrew writer and Zionist leader.

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Most important city to the global Jewish community

"For three thousand years, Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish hope and longing. No other city has played such a dominant role in the history, culture, religion and consciousness of a people as has Jerusalem in the life of Jewry and Judaism. Throughout centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained alive in the hearts of Jews everywhere as the focal point of Jewish history, the symbol of ancient glory, spiritual fulfillment and modern renewal. This heart and soul of the Jewish people engenders the thought that if you want one simple word to symbolize all of Jewish history, that word would be 'Jerusalem.'" — Teddy Kollek, *Jerusalem*, (DC: Washington Institute For Near East Policy, 1990), pp. 19-20.

"No city in the world, not even Athens or Rome, ever played as great a role in the life of a nation for so long a time, as Jerusalem has done in the life of the Jewish people." David Ben Gurion, 1947

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Day 7 – Sunday, October 30, 2022

Mount of Olives

Palm Sunday Road

Garden of Gethsemane

Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah

House of Caiphas

Upper Room

Cardo

Western Wall

Western Wall Rabbi's Tunnel

Pools of Bethesda

St. Anne's Church

Lion's Gate

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Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives is frequently mentioned in the New Testament as part of the route from Jerusalem to Bethany and the place where Jesus stood when he wept over Jerusalem. At the foot of the Mount of Olives lies the Garden of Gethsemane.

Day 8 - Monday, October 31, 2022

Bethlehem

Shepherd's Fields

Church of Nativity

Yad Vashem

View the Knesset

Israel Museum Campus

Shrine of the Book and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Model of Jerusalem from the time of Jesus

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Bethlehem – Bet-Lechem: meaning, literally, House of Bread

- Hebrew Bible
  - Bethlehem, built up as a fortified city by Rehoboam
  - Identified as the city from which David came, where he was crowned as the King of Israel
- New Testament
  - Identifies Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus

West Bank, Palestinian city, located just outside of Jerusalem (approx. 6.2 mi). Population approx 25,000. It is the capital of the Bethlehem Governorate. Economy is primarily tourist-driven. Muslim majority, but is still home to a significant Palestinian Christian community.

Named after Canaanite fertility god, Lehem

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
~Luke 2:8-12

l to r: Bethlehem – Shepherd's Fields – Shepherd's Caves

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Church of Nativity

For Christians, the authoritative accounts on the birth of Jesus are those given in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke.

Close-up of the Bethlehem Star

"she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."(Luke 2:7) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14)

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Excavations at the Armenian Hall of St. Jerome

Excavation of the “Hall of Saint Jerome” that is part of the Armenian complex of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

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Weighs 4 tons; modeled after golden menorah – candelabrum - that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem

Return to Jerusalem – Yad VaShem – Knesset – Shrine of the Book – Scale model of Jerusalem

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Day 9 – Tuesday, November 1, 2022

City of David

Davidson Center

Southern Steps to the Temple Moun

Lithostratos

Piulate's Judgement Hall

Ecce Homo

Via Dolorosa

Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Garden Tomb and Communion

Farewell Dinner

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City of David

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City of David Archaeological Finds

2015: A mysterious, well-preserved 2,000-year-old pyramid-shaped staircase constructed of large ashlar stones was recently uncovered by the Antiquities Authority on an ancient street in the City of David, adjacent to the destroyed Second Temple,

The structure was revealed during an excavation of an ancient roadway ascending from the Siloam (Shiloah) Pool to the Temple Mount, carried out in coordination with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and the Ir David Foundation.

The seal, 3,000 years old, from the time of King David in the 10th century BCE, was discovered at the Temple Mount Sifting Project. Found on the Temple Mount, it is the first of its kind to be found in Jerusalem. Dating of the seal corresponds to the historical period of the Jebusites and the conquest of Jerusalem by King David, as well as the construction of the Temple and the royal official compound by his son, King Solomon.

This seal is characteristic of the end of the First Temple Period and were used for the administrative system that developed towards the end of the Judean dynasty. Classifying objects facilitated controlling, overseeing, collecting, marketing and storing crop yields. The rosette, in essence, replaced the 'For the King' seal used by the previous administrative system.

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Proven evidence of Biblical accounts: Conquest of First Temple – The Babylonian Capture 2,600 year old rooms and their contents

New finds in the City of David confirm the veracity of the biblical account of the Babylonian capture and conquest of First Temple period Jerusalem. The event is commemorated next Tuesday on the Hebrew date Tisha B'av (August 1) in a day of fasting and mourning, Israeli experts said.

According to Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Dr. Joe Uziel, co-director of the current excavations at the City of David, findings discovered in the site's eastern slope, including a row of 2,600-year-old rooms and their contents — all covered with visible layers of charcoal ash — aid in understanding the days leading up to and the act of the destruction.

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High Priest's Holy Garments and Hem adorned with golden bells

The Torah describes the pomegranate as one of the seven blessed fruits of the land "*a land of wheat and barley, vines and figs and pomegranates, a land of oil producing olives and honey." (Deuteronomy 8:8)*

"And they made on the bottom hem of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson wool, twisted. And they made bells of pure gold, and they placed the bells in the midst of the pomegranates all around on the bottom hem of the robe, in the midst of the pomegranates. A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around on the bottom hem of the robe, to serve as Hashem had commanded Moses." (Exodus 39:24-26) (Originally described in Exodus 28:33-34)

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Day 10 – Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Return to USA

…with a lifetime of

MEMORIES

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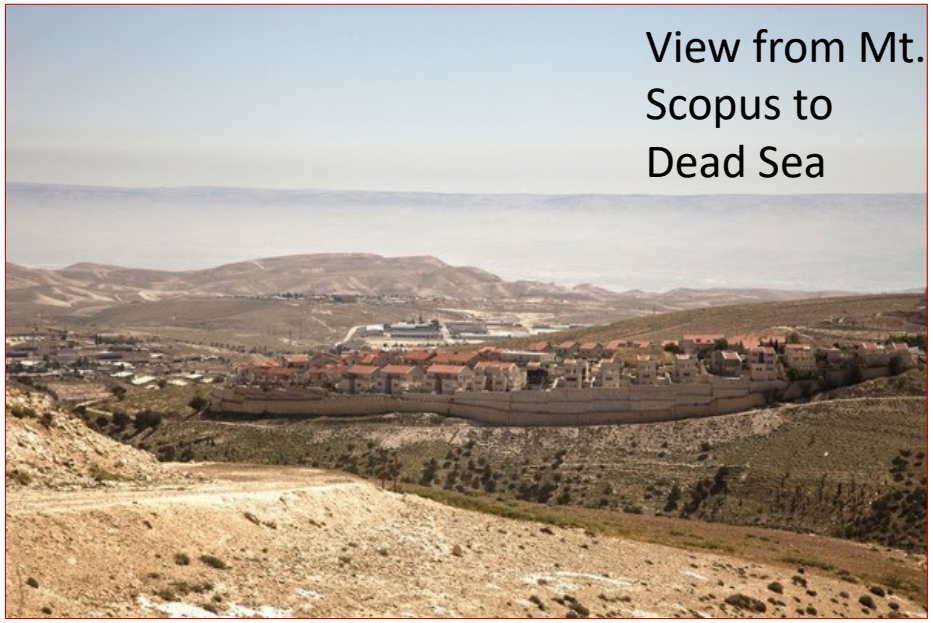
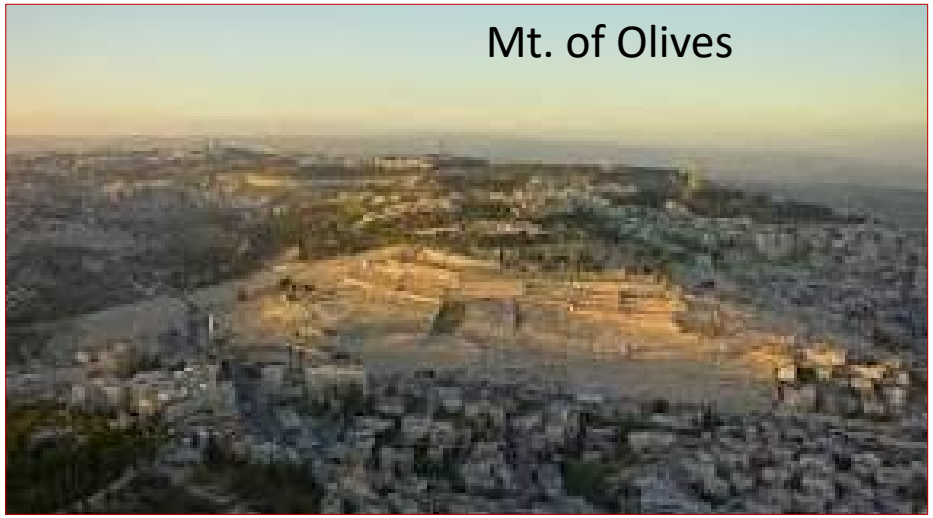


Overlooking the ancient walls of the Old City



The Mount of Olives is frequently mentioned in the New Testament as part of the route from Jerusalem to Bethany and the place where Jesus stood when he wept over Jerusalem. At the foot of the Mount of Olives lies the Garden of Gethsemane.

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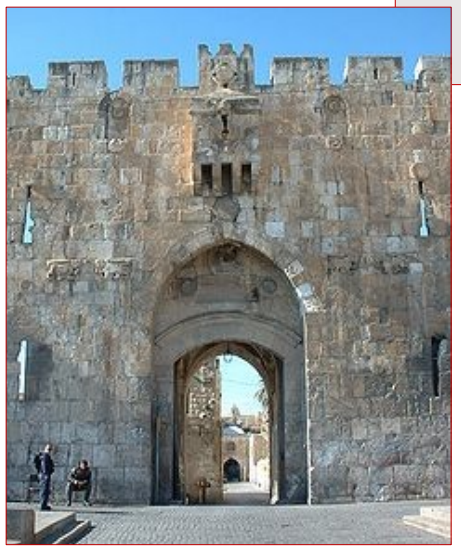
1) Tunnels reveal the layers of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, under what is today the Old City's Muslim Quarter
2) Nearest the Holy of Holies
3) Pool of Bethesda – Jesus' miracle of healing the paralytic
4) St. Anne's Church
5) Lion's Gate – Stephen's Gate



"Jesus saith unto him, 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.'" (John 5:8 - KJV)

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l/r:
1) Eastern/Golden Gate – Sha'ar Harachamim
2) Palm Sunday Road – Jesus' triumphant ride
3) Garden of Gethsemane – Agony in the Garden
4) Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah
5) House of Caiaphas – Photo taken from the bottom of the cell that possibly held Jesus

The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem is also called the Golden Gate or the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:2). When Jesus entered Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives in Matthew 21, He used a gate in the same location as the current Eastern or Golden Gate.

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l/r:

1) Mt. Zion
2) The Upper Room – Site of the Last Supper
3) The Cardo – main street in ancient Rome
4) The Cardo's pillars
5) Jerusalem of Gold

The Holy City for Christian visitors: The New Testament tells of Jesus' frequent visits

Jesus and the disciples celebrated the Passover Seder meal atop Mount Zion (the Last Supper).

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It occurs only once in the Bible, in John 19:13. The Gospel of John states that Pontius Pilate: "brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat, in the place that is called Lithostrotos, and in Hebrew Gabbatha."

Davidson Museum – Southern Steps – Temple Mount – Lithostratos

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Psalms of Ascent

- Psalms 120 – 134 – Pilgrim Songs – to the Temple in Jerusalem
- 126 – our exile will be finally completed and we will return to our Land
- 122, 124, 131, 133 – Attributed to King David
- 127 – Attributed to Solomon
- Remaining are anonymous
- Three Pilgrimage Festivals (Shalosh Regalim) – Up to Jerusalem –
  - Pesach (Passover)
  - Shavuot (Weeks or Pentecost)
  - Sukkot (Tabernacles, Tents, Booths)

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Psalms of Ascent – 120 - 134

Psalm 120: God's presence during distress
Psalm 121: Joyful praise to the Lord
Psalm 122: Prayer for Jerusalem
Psalm 123: Patience for God's mercy
Psalm 124: Help comes from the Lord
Psalm 125: Prayer for God's blessing upon His people
Psalm 126: The Lord has done great things
Psalm 127: God's blessing on man's efforts
Psalm 128: Joy for those who follow God's ways
Psalm 129: A cry for help to the Lord
Psalm 130: A prayer of repentance
Psalm 131: Surrender as a child to the Lord
Psalm 132: God's sovereign plan for His people
Psalm 133: Praise of brotherly fellowship and unity
Psalm 134: Praise to God in His temple

The theme of each Song of Ascent offers encouragement for those who seek to worship God today, finding a place among the many hymns and songs of worship of Jewish and Christian community members.

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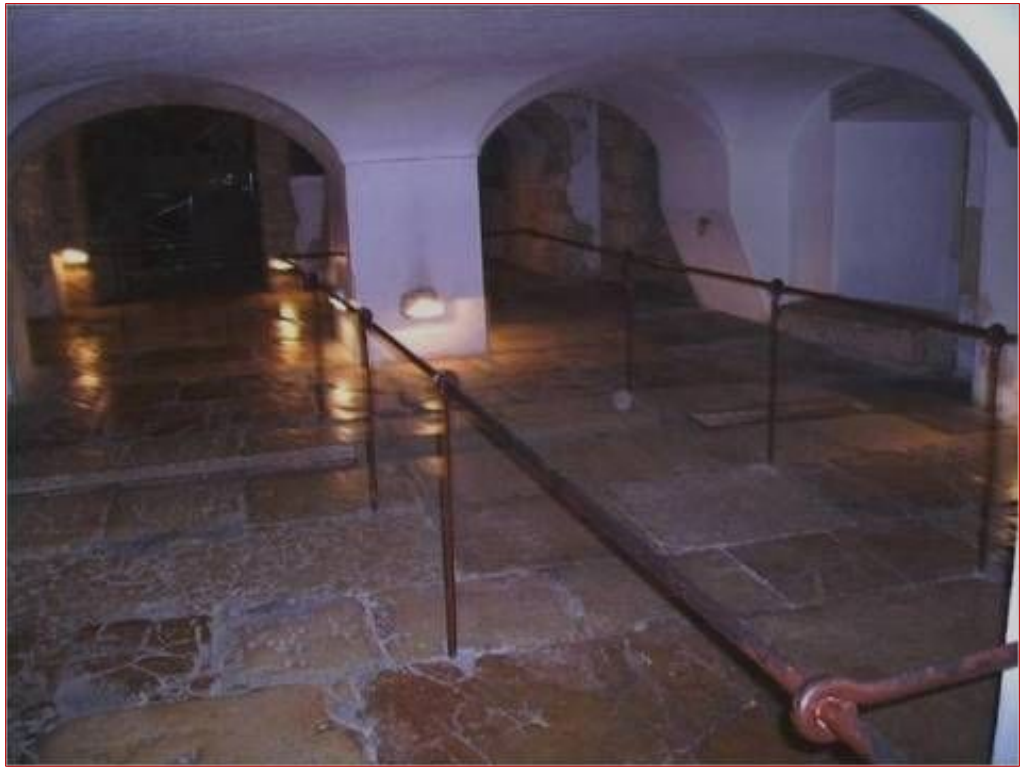

“Behold the man!”: the words with which Pilate presented Christ, crowned with thorns, to his accusers. (John 19:5)

Pilate’s Judgement Hall – Ecce Homo Arch

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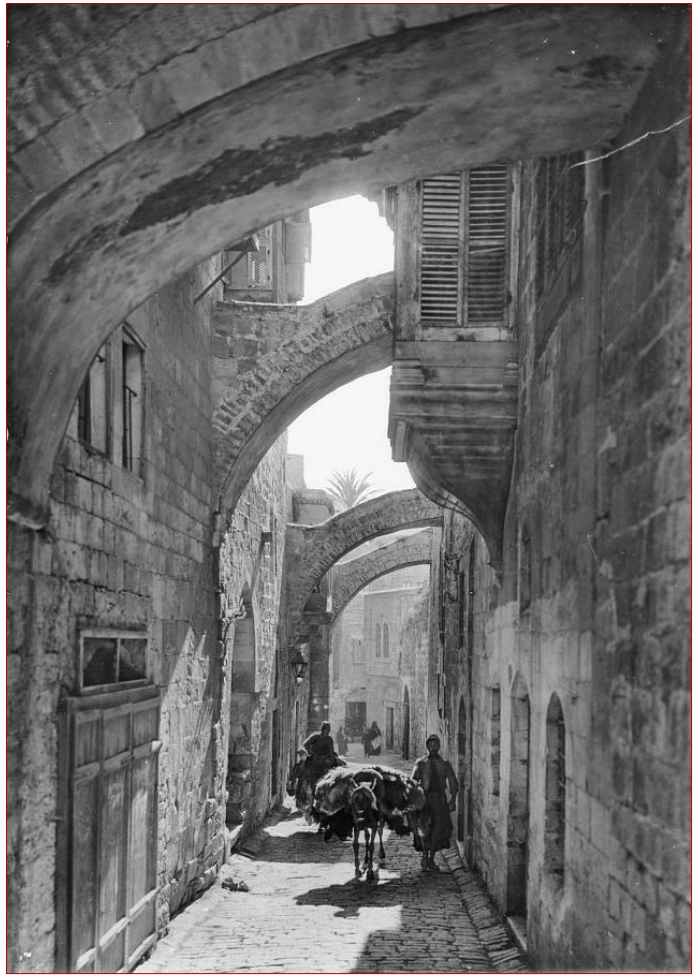
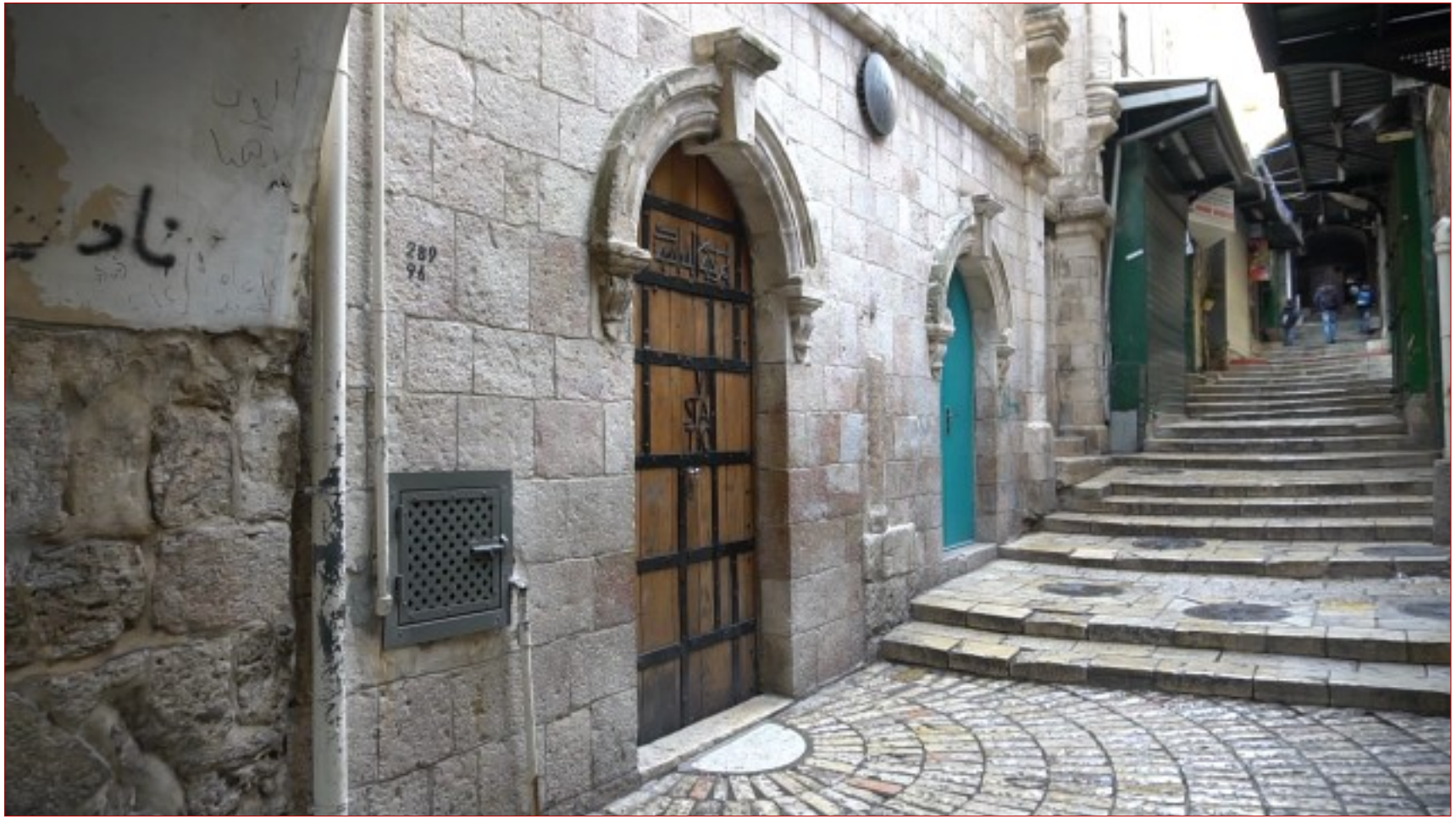
Via Dolorosa





Station VI

The path ascends at this point and among the stalls, on the left, is the sixth station, which is a little more controversial. According to tradition, this is the point where Veronica wiped the face of Jesus, creating the Veil of Veronica. The Veil supposedly was imprinted with the image of Christ after she wiped his visage.

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Old City Markets and Bazaars

Be prepared to negotiate….and don’t give up!!!

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Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Located in the Christian Quarter of the Old City, control is shared by several Christian denominations:
Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem
Armenian Orthodox
Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox
Roman Catholic
Syriac Orthodox

Roman Catholic, traditional site of the final 4 or 5 Stations of the Cross, including Calvary, the traditional site (Catholic belief) of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection

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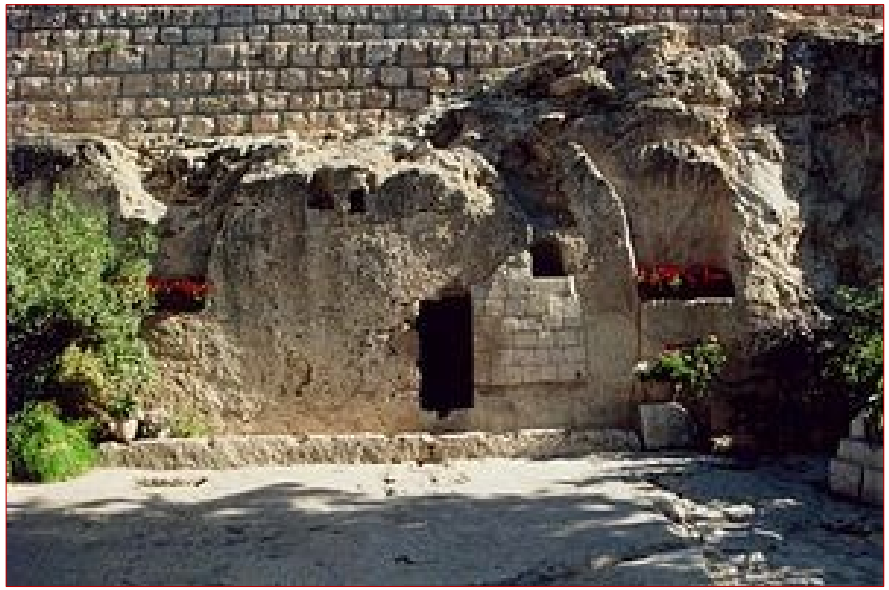
THE
GARDEN TOMB

The Garden Tomb, Calvary, Golgotha



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"HE IS NOT HERE-
FOR HE IS RISEN"