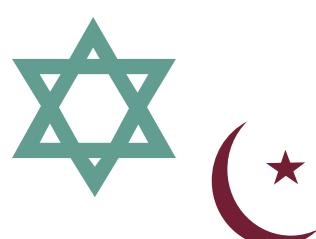


An overview of THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Temple Mount ('Har Habayit') – Jewish
Haram esh-Sharif ('Noble Sanctuary') – Muslim



THE FACTS



- Hill located in Old City of Jerusalem
- One of the most contested holy sites in the world
- Venerated by all 3 monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam)
- Most holy site in Judaism;
3rd most holy site in Islam

Jews and Christians believe the Temple Mount is Mount Moriah where Abraham offered his son in sacrifice (Genesis 22:1-18)

Muslims believe Muhammad was transported from the Sacred Mosque in Mecca to the Temple Mount site during the 'Night Journey'

Modern Temple Mount covers
36 acres (145,686 m²)



10 of the 11

access gates are for Muslims only

Present site is home to

the al-Aqsa Mosque



the most important mosque in Jerusalem, hosts daily prayers and large crowds for Friday sermons

the Dome of the Rock



an Islamic shrine, considered to be Jerusalem's most recognised landmark

the Dome of the Chain



a free-standing dome used as a Muslim prayer house

FIRST TEMPLE



Completed in 957 BC by King Solomon

"Then Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah. It was on the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David, his father." (2 Chronicles 3:1)

Destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC

SECOND TEMPLE



Rebuilt under Zerubbabel in 516 BC

Desecrated on numerous occasions by various conquerors
King Herod the Great of Judea began rebuilding in 20 BC – doubled the Temple Mount size with retaining walls and gates – completed it in 26 AD, after the birth of Jesus
Destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD - all that remained was a portion of the Western Wall (the focus of Jewish pilgrimage in Jerusalem today)

DOME OF THE ROCK

Completed by Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik in AD 692
Dome covered in gold in 1920
One of the oldest surviving works of Islamic architecture



AL-AQSA MOSQUE

Rebuilt and expanded by the Umayyad caliph Abd al-Malik and finished by his son al-Walid in AD 705
Destroyed twice by earthquakes
Rebuilt in AD 1035



TIMELINE

DISTANT HISTORY

- 1099** Crusades: Dome of the Rock converted into a church called Templum Domini, al-Aqsa became a church called Templum Solomonis
- 1187** Claimed back for Islam by Saladin, Jerusalem Waqf founded for upkeep of Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites (remains in charge of the Temple Mount to this day)
- 1516 to 1800s** Ottoman period: Non-Muslims prohibited from setting foot on the Temple Mount
- 1948** Israeli War of Independence: Jordan retained control of the Old City and the Temple Mount, refused entry to any Jewish person
- 1967** Six-Day War: Israeli Defence Forces liberated the Temple Mount but the Islamic holy places were placed under a Muslim Council to minimise bloodshed and prevent a holy war

TIMELINE

OF RECENT EVENTS

July 2017

- 14th** 3 Palestinians shoot 2 police officers
Old City and Temple Mount closed to civilians
- 15th** Metal detectors installed - Daily protests ensued
- 21st** 3 Palestinian protesters killed in clashes; Palestinian kills 3 Jewish settlers
- 22nd** PA President Mahmoud Abbas ceases all contact with Israel until it removes metal detectors
- 23rd** Israel installs security cameras near the Temple Mount
- 25th** Metal detectors and cameras removed by Israel in a bid to defuse rampant tensions