

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ. أَمَا بَع

All praise is due to Almighty ALLAH, the Sustainer, Nourisher and Cherisher of the Universe. Peace, Blessings and Salutations be upon our Beloved Master and Leader, Nabi Muhammad Mustapha ﷺ.



Almighty ALLAH جل وعلی speaks of Palestine in Surah 17, ayat 1:
سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ
مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

SubhanAllathi asraa bi'abdihi laylam-minal Masjidil Haram ilal Masjidil Aqsal-lathi barakna howlahu min ayatina Innahu Huwas-Samee'ul Baseer

Mustapha ﷺ's journey from Makkah to Jerusalem (Al Quds), Masjidul Aqsa, is known as *Israa*, and from there to the seven heavens and beyond is the *Mi'raaj*.

Nabi ﷺ received three gifts on that miraculous nocturnal journey: the five daily salaah, the last two ayaat of Surah Baqarah (Ch.2 verses 285-6) and the glad tidings that any person who dies with Imaan and Islam will attain Jannat.

AL HARAM AL-SHARIF

The Haram extends to 35 acres. When Sayyidina Umar رضي الله عنه arrived in 636 CE (Gregorian), he found the Haram strewn with rubble and dirt and proceeded to clean it himself.

MASJIDUL AQSA

Almighty ALLAH جل وعلی gave this masjid to the Muslims since time immemorial. Bukhari Shareef



mentions that the first masjid to be built was the Ka'ba Musharrafah. This was in Nabi Adam عليه سلم's time and, forty years after that, Masjidul Aqsa was built.

Narrated Abu Dhar رضي الله عنه:

I asked, "O Allah's Messenger ﷺ! Which mosque was first built on the surface of the earth?"

He replied, "Al- Masjid-ul-Haram (in Mecca)."

Then I asked, "Which was built next?"

He replied, "The mosque of Al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem) ."

I asked, "What was the period between the construction of the two?"

He replied, "Forty years," and added, "Wherever (you may be, and) the prayer time becomes due, perform the prayer there, for the best thing is to do so (i.e. to offer the prayers on time).

حَدَّثَنَا مُوسَى بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَاحِدِ، حَدَّثَنَا الْأَعْمَشُ، حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ التَّمِيمِيُّ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا ذَرٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَيُّ مَسْجِدٍ وُضِعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَوَّلَ قَالَ " الْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ ". قَالَ قُلْتُ ثُمَّ أَيٌّ قَالَ " الْمَسْجِدُ الْأَقْصَى ". قُلْتُ كَمْ كَانَ بَيْنَهُمَا قَالَ " أَرْبَعُونَ سَنَةً، ثُمَّ أَيُّنَا أَدْرَكْتَكُمُ الصَّلَاةَ بَعْدَ فَصْلَةٍ، فَإِنَّ الْفَضْلَ فِيهِ ".

Great virtue is mentioned regarding praying in Al Aqsa:

Abdullah ibn Amr reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "When Nabi Sulayman, son of Nabi Dawood, (peace and blessings be upon them) built the Sacred House, he asked Allah Almighty ... when he finished the foundations of the Mosque that none should come to it, intending only to pray, but that his sins would be expunged like the day he was born from his mother."

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّ سُلَيْمَانَ بْنَ دَاوُدَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَمَّا بَنَى بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ جَلَالًا ثَلَاثَةً سَأَلَ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ حُكْمًا يُصَادَفُ حُكْمَهُ فَأُوتِيَهُ وَسَأَلَ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مَلَكًا لَا يَنْبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ فَأُوتِيَهُ وَسَأَلَ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ حِينَ قَرَعَ مِنْ بِنَاءِ الْمَسْجِدِ أَنْ لَا يَأْتِيَهُ أَحَدٌ لَا يَنْهَرُهُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةَ فِيهِ أَنْ يُخْرِجَهُ مِنْ حَظِيئَتِهِ كَيَوْمٍ وَلَدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ

Sunan Nasa'i 693 سنن النسائي كتاب المساجد فضل المسجد الأقصى والصلاة فيه

It is situated in, what was known as the **Old City**, from the time of Salahuddeen Ayyubi رحمه الله عليه. The City has eight gates, the most famous of which are: the Gate of Rahmah (also known as Bab al Dhahabi or Golden Gate) and the Gate of Damascus.

Gate of Rahmah (Golden Gate)



Gate of Damascus (below)





Masjidul Aqsa had been constructed out of timber initially, during the Khilafat of Sayyidina Umar رضي الله عنه.

Abdul Malik bin Marwan rebuilt it and it was completed



by Waleed bin Abdul Malik in 705 CE. It was last renovated by Zaheer in 1033 CE.

The **Aqsa-i-Qadeem** (left) is the basement of Masjidul Aqsa.

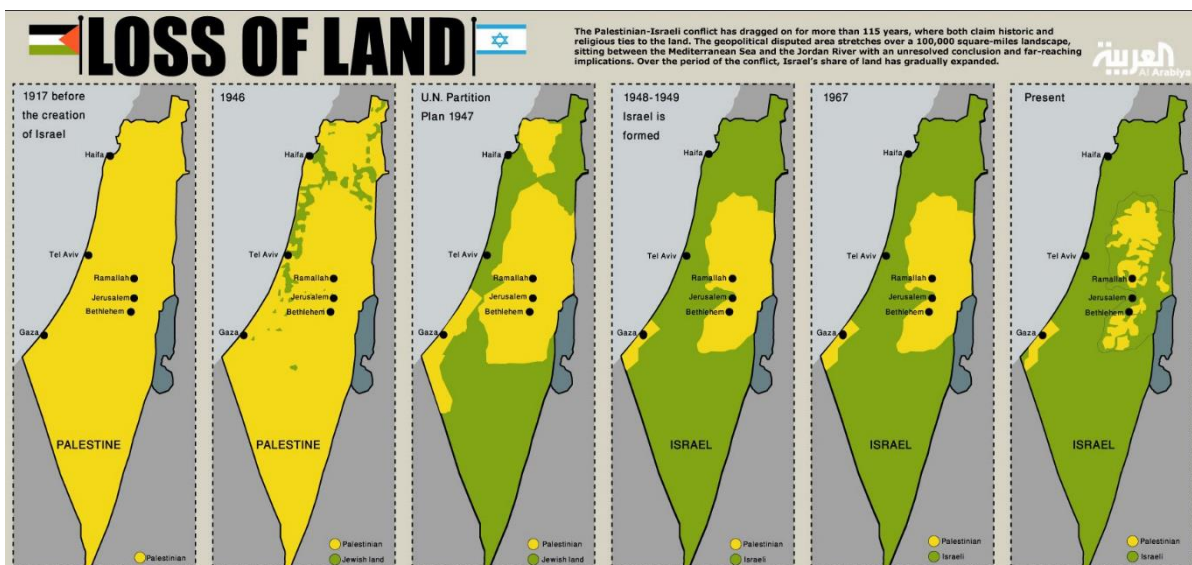
Great teachers taught there, including Imam Ghazzali رحمه الله عليه.

FROM 636 CE TO THE PRESENT

The Masjid and surroundings were occupied by the enemies, the Crusaders, from 1099 to 1187 CE. Then ALLAH جل وعلی sent Salahuddeen al Ayyubi رحمه الله عليه, Saladin the Just, as he is known in the West, to liberate it on the night of Mi'raaj, the 27th Rajab. Thus, from 636 to 1099, it was under Muslim rule; From 1099 to 1187, it was under the Christians, the Crusaders; Then, from 1187 right up to about 1924, again under Muslim rule.

Subsequently, the Khilafat fell and the British became involved in the Arab world. Eventually, in 1948, the Apartheid Regime of Israel came into existence.

From 1967, the Occupation started and still continues now, more than fifty years later, ALLAH forbid, with atrocities being committed against the Palestinians almost daily. However, with the advent of social media in 1995, Israel has been losing the propaganda war as its acts of ethnic cleansing and genocide have been broadcasted across the world. Resistance to its policies has also increased internationally.



SOME STRUCTURES OF ISLAMIC AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN AND AROUND THE HARAM

The Dome of the Rock – Qubbatus-Sakhra: It is located on the North Western side of the Haram Sharif. This is the structure that the Zionists want to demolish and replace with Haikal-e-Sulemani – the Temple of Solomon, ALLAH forbid.

Surah Yaseen was inscribed on the beautiful golden dome in 72 AH, which was built by the Umayyad ruler, Abdul Malik bin Marwan, in the year 687 Gregorian.

It has remained unchanged and is considered as one of the most beautiful and valuable architectural treasures today.

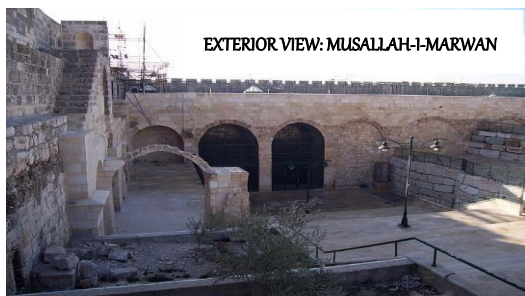


There is also a **Dome of the Chain – Qubbatus-Silsilah:** It has a small dome and is situated a few metres away from the Dome of the Rock. It was built by Abdul Malik bin Marwan as a prototype i.e. A miniature model, of the Dome of the Rock.

This is the place which the Jews refer to as 'The Wailing Wall' – *Ha-itul Mabki*.



We know it as **Jidarul Buraaq** because it was the



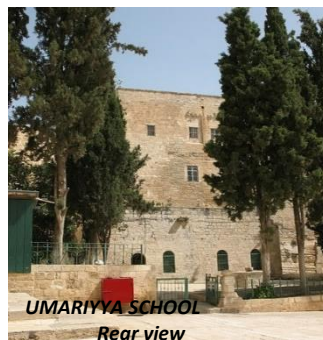
place where the Buraaq was tethered on the occasion of Isra and Mi'raaj.

The **Musallah-i-Marwan** (right, with red carpet) is situated on the eastern side of Masjidul Aqsa and thousands of people offer salaah there. It can be reached via steps leading down from Masjidul Aqsa.



The entrance (right) to **Sayyida Mariam** عليها السلام's Chamber can be reached from the Musallah. As Almighty ALLAH mentions:

كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ
عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا
Kullama dakhala 'alayha
Zakariyyal-mihraba wajada
'indaha rizqa (Ch.3, Surah Aal
'Imraan, ayat 37)





KHANQAH SALAHIYYA: ENTRANCE AND INTERIOR

Various schools are found there, such as the **Umariyya (Al Omariyya) School**, named after Sayyidina Umar رضي الله عنه.



MASJID--UMAR

Then, there is the **Khanqah Salahiyya** for the Sufis, established by Salahuddeen Ayyubi رحمه الله عليه and named after him. It is situated in the Christian Quarter,



near to **Masjid-i-Umar**.

As one emerges from Al Aqsa, one will find the **Bab al Rahmah** cemetery (*top and right*).



The graves of **Ubadah bin Samit** رضي الله عنه (*right*), who passed away in 654 CE, and **Shaddad bin Aus** رضي الله عنه (*below right*) are situated there.



Shaddad was the first judge in Palestine appointed by Sayyidina Umar رضي الله عنه and he was also the scribe of Nabi ﷺ. He passed away in 677 CE.

WALLAHU A'lam, but it is said that Nabi Dawood سلم عليه's grave is on Mount Zion, **Jabal-i-Sahyoun**. Likewise, people claim that Sayyida Mariam عليها السلام's grave is on **Jabal-i-Zaytoun**, Mount Olive. Allahu Ta'ala alone knows if it is so.

Al-Zawiya-Al-Asa'adiyya is the shrine of **Sheikh Umar Al Alami** who passed away in 1628 CE (1038 AH). The Sheikh was known for his poetic writing, charitable works and *karamaat*.

The shrine is found in a *khanqah* on top of Mount Olive and was built by the Uthmaani (Usmani) Mufti and Judge, Sheikh As'ad Afandi ibn Hassan Jaan al-Tabrizi. It contains a Masjid as well, and became a Sufi seat in Jerusalem.

Some people allege that Hazrat Rabia Basriyah is also buried here but this does not seem to be authentic.

This is a country steeped in Islamic history, containing many significant sites. However, one should consult authentic sources regarding the various religious attractions offered by tour operators.



PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE



HISHAM BIN MARWAN'S PALACE



Jericho (Areha): It is one of the oldest towns in the world that has been inhabited continuously. Under Umayyad rule, Hisham bin Marwan built a palace there. The ruins of this palace have been excavated.

About 8 kms from Jericho, one will find the **Maqam-i-Moosa** (right). People say Nabi Moosa عليه سلم was buried here, but that is incorrect.

Bethlehem: Beit-ul-Lahmin means the place, or house, of meat.

According to Christian Biblical sources, Jesus, Nabi Isa عليه سلم, was born there. ALLAH alone knows whether that is the truth or not.

The grave of Rahil (Rachel), Nabi Ya'qub عليه الصلاة والسلام's wife, the mother of Nabi Yusuf عليه سلم, is on the outskirts of Bethlehem. (Bottom right and left)



In **Masjid Khaleel-ur-Rahmaan, Hebron** (right), one will find the graves of Nabi Ibrahim عليه سلم, Nabi Ishaq عليه سلم, Nabi Ya'qub عليه سلم and their spouses.



In 1994, on the 15th of Ramadhan, Baruch Goldstein murdered Muslims while they were in the Masjid during Fajr salaah. 29 became Shaheed when they were killed instantly in the Masjid. A further 70 succumbed to their injuries later. Therefore, we regard Goldstein as one of the greatest terrorists in the world, an enemy of Islam and humanity. May ALLAHU TA'ALA grant him Jahannum, Aameen.

Nabi Lut عليه سلم's grave (right) is located on the bank of the Gulf of Lut, 10 km away from Hebron.



Ramallah (left): In 716, Sulaymaan, the Umayyad ruler, built this city. A palace was also situated here but no longer exists. The great Sahabi, Abdurrahmaan bin Auf رضي الله عنه, is buried here, on the outskirts, according to some unauthentic sources.



Nablus (left): One of the largest towns in Palestine after Jerusalem. It is said (by Christians), that Nabi Yahya عليه سلم used to baptise people here.



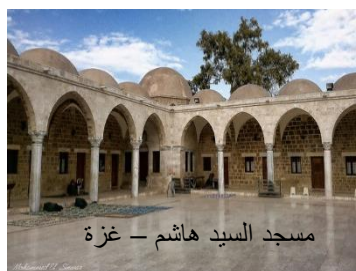
Ain Jalut: It is located near Nazareth. The Mongol barbarians, who had destroyed the Baghdad Abbasid Empire completely, were defeated in the Battle of Ain Jalut. This was a great victory for the Muslims.

Lud (Lod) (right)

This city is situated 15 km southeast of Tel Aviv. It is where Nabi Isa عليه سلم will kill Dajjaal, dispatching him to Jahannum.



Gaza: Imam Shafi'i رحمه الله عليه was born here. Mustafa Habeebuna's great grandfather, Hashim's grave is also situated here. His mausoleum is in Masjid Sayyid Hashim.



Lake Tiberias (Tabariyyah): It is also known as the Sea of Galilee and is the place which Ya'juj Ma'juj (Gog and Magog) will drain of all its water. The lake measures just more than 21 kilometres north to south, and it is only 43 metres deep. (Aerial view, below left)



CONCLUSION

Narrated Umm Salamah, Ummul Mu'minin: She heard Nabi Muhammad ﷺ say: If anyone puts on Ihram for Hajj or Umrah from the Aqsa Mosque to the Sacred Mosque, his former and latter sins will be forgiven, or he will be guaranteed Paradise. The narrator Abdullah doubted which of these words he said. Abu Dawood said: May Allah have mercy on Waki'. He put on Ihram from Jerusalem (Aqsa Masjid), that is, to Makkah.

حَدَّثَنَا أَحْمَدُ بْنُ صَالِحٍ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِي فُدَيْكٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ يُحْسَنَ، عَنْ يَحْيَى بْنِ أَبِي سُفْيَانَ الْأَخْنَسِيِّ، عَنْ جَدِّتِهِ، حَكِيمَةَ عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ، رُوحِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " مَنْ أَهَلَ بِحَجَّةٍ أَوْ عُمْرَةٍ مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ " . أَوْ " وَجَبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ " . شَكََّ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ أَيَّتَهُمَا قَالَ . قَالَ أَبُو دَاوُدَ يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ وَكَيْعًا أَحْرَمَ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ يَعْنِي إِلَى مَكَّةَ .

Sunan Abi Dawood – The Rites of Hajj (Kitab Al-Manasik Wa'l-Hajj)

Regarding Palestine in general, there are so many discussions but, briefly, these are some of the more important points to bear in mind.

But the question we need to ask is: What must we do, as Muslims?

1. Daily, read two rakats salaah and make du'a:
O Allah, protect the Haramain Sharifain from the enemies. Ya Allah, protect Masjidul Aqsa from the enemies, Aameen.
2. Read Surah Yaseen for the protection of all three Harams.
3. Those who have the means should go to Al Aqsa, irrespective of which country you come from. You can go to Al Aqsa without difficulty so, go there and show your solidarity and unity with the Palestinians.
4. Visit the many *aytaam*, orphans. They are the ones the Ummah has forgotten. Similarly, there are several widows whose husbands have been murdered, martyred, and who have lost sons, as well. Go and distribute your money amongst them personally.
5. Remember that du'a is the weapon of a believer so, go into sajdah and make du'a. Raise your hands and make du'a at accepted times. Du'as are accepted on Wednesday afternoons, between Thuhr and Asr and on Fridays, between Asr and Maghrib.

These are things that every Muslim can do. Ultimately, victory is for us, the Muslims, and Insha-Allah, Almighty ALLAH will record for us also a share in that victory due to the small contribution we made with sincerity.

May Almighty ALLAH protect Masjidul Aqsa from the Zionist regime and protect Haramain Sharifain from the enemies, Aameen. May Almighty ALLAHU TA'ALA liberate Palestine from the enemies and destroy them, whoever they are and wherever they are, Aameen.

BarakAllah feek. Assalamu alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatu.

WE DEDICATE THIS TO OUR PARENTS, TEACHERS, ULAMA-I-HAQQ, MARTYRS,

AND THE UMMAH OF NABI MUHAMMAD ﷺ

MAY ALLAHU TA'ALA GRANT THEM THE GREATEST REWARD

AAMEEN, YA RABBAL 'ALAMEEN

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