

DESTINATION: JERUSALEM

THE WESTERN WALL: Located in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Western Wall has been a sacred pilgrimage site and place of prayer for Jewish people for over two millennia. Today's wall is what remains of the Second Temple of Jerusalem after its sacking by Rome in 70BC, standing 60ft tall and 160ft long. Its importance comes from its proximity to the Holy of Holies, central focus of the Temple Mount.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: Built over Calvary where Jesus was nailed to the cross, this is one of Christianity's most sacred sites. For over 1600 years, pilgrims have come to worship in the church and at the last steps of Christ's Via Dolorosa, the five final Stations of the Cross, from the chapel where he was

disrobed to his tomb; Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre. Faithful can pour oil on the Stone of Unction (where Christ's body was prepared for burial) and wipe it off with a cloth to take home as a relic. Impressive arches and Crusader crosses help make this church's appeal also architectural.

MARKETS: The markets of Jerusalem are popular with tourists and residents alike. All manner of local produce is available from sweet halva and pastries to olives and vegetables. Some of the best markets include Mahane Yehuda Market — or 'The Shuk' is a paradise for foodies, commended by Anthony Bourdain, it has over 250 stalls and by night transforms into a plethora of restaurants and bars. The open air Mamilla

Mall provides upscale shopping and art installations, barter for souvenirs from hookahs to religious items in the Old City Market, while Bezalel Arts Fair Market peddles unique handmade jewelry and pottery.

MUSEUMS: Examine 5000 years of cultural treasures in the Israel Museum; highlights include the Rhythm of Life Room, and the Archaeological Wing. The pieces de resistance are the venerated 21-century-old biblical manuscripts — the Dead Sea Scrolls. The heart-breaking Vad Yashem Memorial has been the center for research, documentation and education of the Holocaust since 1953, serving as a memorial to its victims through displays and the unforgettable Hall of Names. The Tower of David Museum presents

Jerusalem's history from its Canaanite origins, boasting 2,700 year-old ruins and stunning city views. The Bible Lands Museum showcases biblical artifacts.

FOOD: There are numerous restaurants of all statures; market stalls by day or night, and local casual diners to nibble from. Local delights include; hummus with pitta and garlic-chilli paste, shakshuka, kebabs, tahini and falafel. Modern and international cuisine is also popular with a variety of dishes such as; Israeli tapas, moussaka, Italian ravioli, Spanish calamari, and modern twists on traditional dishes like chicken kadaif, are offered in restaurants throughout the city. Save space for heavenly halva from Halva Kingdom in Mahane Yehuda Market.

German Colony, Jerusalem

