

## Dome of the Chain



## Ashrafiyya School



## The Colonnade



## The Islamic Museum



# Trail 4 The Prophet Muhammad Night Journey (Al-Isra and Al-Miraj)



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## Old Al-Aqsa (Bab an-Nabi)

The Old al-Aqsa refers to a double gate runs under the Friday Mosque, 18 steps from the level of the Mosque are leading to this beautiful structure. At the southern end of the long double passage there are two unique shallow domes marking the gate's hall.

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## Friday Mosque (end of the 7th Century and beginning of the 8th Century)

The Friday Mosque is a huge rectangular building with a ceiling and seven aisles located almost in the center of the southern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. This is the major praying hall of the Mosque. The Mosque went through so many changes, destroyed several times by earthquakes and was rebuilt afterwards. It contains the major praying niche and the pulpit.

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## The Islamic Museum

The Islamic Museum lies in the southwest corner of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Museum was established in 1922 and was one of the first museums to be established in Jerusalem. It holds a rare Islamic art collection covering a period of nearly 10 centuries; the artifacts were brought throughout the Islamic world, but mainly reflecting the history of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

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## Ashrafiyya School (Madrasa) (1414 - 1415 AD)

The Ashrafiyya is located on the western boundary of Al-Aqsa Mosque between Bab As-Silsilah (Chain Gate) and Bab Al-Mathara (Ablution Gate), and is the only school that has part of its campus on the grounds of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The fantastic portal of the school is the best representation of The Mamluk art in Jerusalem.

## Al-Buraq Wall

Al-Buraq Wall, the Wailing Wall or the Western Wall, all are names of the same wall that limits Al-Aqsa Mosque from the west, and it was till 1967 only about 28m length – while today it extends to 57m- and 19m height. According to the Jewish belief, this wall is the only remaining retrain wall of the second Temple.

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According to the Islamic belief this wall is considered an important part of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and is cherished due to its connection to the Isra' and Mi'raj night, when prophet Muhammad has tied his Buraq to the this wall ( During the miraculous Night Journey of the Prophet from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascends to heaven-Quran, Chapter 17, verse 1).

In 1929, after the Palestinian Al-Buraq revolt, the international committee ramified from the League of Nations, issued a decision that the Wall and the pavement along it are sole Muslim property and the Jews have free access to it only for prayer without placing any furniture.

**Dome of the Rock**  
(Qubaat As-Sakhra) (691 AD)

The Dome of the Rock is the icon of Jerusalem and Palestine and is the oldest Islamic building still standing without any major changes to this day. Religiously, it is the site where the miracle of the Prophet Muhammad Ascension to Heaven happened (Isra' wa Mi'raj), it is a landmark of the beginning of Islamic art and architecture, encompassing mosaic formations of nearly 1,000 square meters in excellent condition, besides many other decoration elements. Architecturally, it is a unique artifact.



**Dome of the Chain** (Qubbat As-Silsila) ( before 691 AD)

The Dome of the Chain is located directly to the east of the Dome of the Rock. According to several historical sources, the Dome of the Chain was founded by Caliph Abed al-Malik ibn Marwan and its construction was most likely completed before 691 AD. Its symbolic meaning is disputed; it is located in the center of the Aqsa Mosque esplanade that could explain its function.



**The Colonnade**  
(7th-14th Century)

There are eight colonnades (Mawazin) around the Dome of the Rock platform: one in the eastern side, two in the southern side, three in the western side, and two in the northern side. These colonnades with the stairs serve as transient structures between the high level of the Dome of the Rock and the lower level of the Friday Prayer Mosque. These colonnades have additional value to demonstrate the majesty of the Dome of the Rock.



**Al-Marwani Mosque**  
(Solomon Stables)

Al-Marwani Mosque is the hugest architectural structure in the Old City. It was built as a basement to elevate the south eastern corner of Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to prop the construction of the early mosque which was more than double size of the current mosque. It consists of huge one open hall with great number of stone pillars carrying barrel vault.



**The Prophet Muhammad  
Night Journey from Mecca  
to Jerusalem and His  
Ascension to Heaven**



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