

Chris & Donna's 1995 Israel Adventure

46 Images and Descriptions of the People & Places of Israel

- Click on the bottom of any picture to see information about that picture. The cursor icon will change to show when you're "in the info zone."
- Click (outside of the info zone) or use the Down Arrow key to advance to the next picture.
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You need a fast machine and a monitor with at least 256 colors.

PC users should have at least a '486.'

Mac users will need an '040.' PowerMac users need the

PowerMac (2.1 or greater) version of the Viewer.











מרקש
מסעדה מרוקאית

KUSKUS

HOME MADE FOOD

COOKED FISH

SELECTION OF FISH

LAMB RIBS

LAMB SHISHLIK

CATTLE SHISHLIK

STEAK

GOOSE LIVER

FILLED SPLEEN

OX TESTICLES

MAROCAN MIXED

HALF GRILLD CHICKEN

SHAWARMA

SHENITZEL

KABPAB

HOT SAUSAGES

MARAKESH PLATER

FILLE STEAK

SHISHLIK

קוסקוס

ב שולים בחיים

דגי מבושלים

מבחר דגים

צלעות כבש

שישליק כבש

שישליק עגל

סטייק בקר

כבד אווז

פחול ממולא

ביצי שזר

מעורב מרוקאי

חצי עוף בגריל

שווארמה בצלחת

שניצל

קבב

נקניקות חריפות

פלחת מרקש

סטייק פילה

שישליק













מינו מעליות

בשבת

בהשמע הזמזום
אין לגעת בדלתות

**ON THE SABBATH
UPON HEARING THE BUZZER
DO NOT
TOUCH THE DOORS**











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تاكسيات ابو العسل
ص.ب. ١٦٢٠ الناصرة ١٥١١٥
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תודות
קורט
טוטו













KENT
HEROY



سمر
SAMER KHANESS

















Via Dolores































End of the Show

To quit out of Acrobat, use the 'Esc' key to return to the Acrobat menu and choose Quit from the File menu.

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Colophon

Kodachrome slides were scanned into a Mac Quadra 700 with a Leaf Scanner 35. Slides were edited on a PowerMac 7100 with Adobe Photoshop 3.0.3. (Any strange color tints are entirely my own clumsiness using Photoshop.) The Photoshop picture files were printed as PostScript files to disk, and converted to Adobe Acrobat PDF format in Acrobat Distiller 2.0 for Windows on an ALR Evolution V Pentium. The individual PDF files were then compiled in Acrobat Exchange 2.1b4 for Mac on a PowerMac 7100. Title and information slides were created in Adobe PageMaker 5.0a and printed to PostScript files and distilled. This PDF file was then merged with the photo file in Acrobat Exchange 2.1b6. Total construction time was approximately 26 hours (longer than I estimated!).

The images were compressed in Acrobat Distiller using JPEG-Medium compression at 96 dpi. This reduced the individual images from about 1 megabyte to 100K (10:1) each. I could have compressed more and reduced the file size further, but the image quality became unacceptable to me. The choppy mosaic effect in the pictures is due to the compression.

Fonts used were Helvetica Bold and Times Roman & Italic by Linotype.

All photographs were made by Chris Holm and Donna Holm.

May 2-11, 1995

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Caesarea by the Sea

Caesarea was built (22-10 BC) by Herod the Great in an attempt to rival the grandeur of Athens. It was here that the apostle Paul was tried before being sent to Rome for execution. Caesarea was captured, destroyed and rebuilt several times before the final razing in 1291. Today only a fraction of the ruins are uncovered. A wonderfully restored Roman theatre overlooks the Mediterranean Sea.

In this view of the streets of the artist colony, you get a glimpse of the area's charm. The tourists are right off of an overnight flight, and trying hard not to bump into the walls.

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View from Mt. Carmel

After a sleepless flight from New York, we started immediately in on our bus tour. We came to an overlook on Mt. Carmel for a magnificent view of the city of Haifa. The air was getting warm, but the cooling, humidifying breeze from the sea made it quite pleasant. Unfortunately our schedule did not allow us to explore Israel's third largest city on the shore of the Mediterranean.

Mt. Carmel is the site where the old testament prophet Elijah commanded fire to descend from heaven to consume the altar to the Lord and the water-drenched altar of Baal. A Roman Catholic church commemorates the spot.

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Waiting to Cross

These women were waiting for the light to change so they could cross the street. The headwear is typical of Arab women in Israel.

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Tiberius at Night

We arrived in Tiberius the day before Independence Day. That evening was just slightly more busy than usual. Party boats blaring music and decorated with festive lights were boarding dancers for an evening on Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). There was a carnival atmosphere.

At this time I was struck by how much the people here love their children. It was past 10 PM, but families had their kids with them – kids in strollers, kids on daddy's shoulders, kids by the hand, kids being hugged and kissed, and kids running free. It's just the way it is; your kids go with you.

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Menu Sandwichboard

This menu advertised the fare of a Moroccan restaurant/food stand in Tiberius. We had just eaten, so unfortunately didn't try the fare.

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Holiday by the Lake

These people are enjoying a day off during Independence Day to relax by Lake Kinneret.

Everybody was flying one or more flags from devices attached to the windows of their cars. It looked like a parade wherever one went that day.

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Byzantine Mosaic

Kursi is a small town on the eastern shore of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). It is the place where Christ drove the demons into the Gaderene swine.

This tile work is from a floor of a fifth century church ruin in Kursi, which has partially been restored. The mosaic is typical Byzantine.

Up until the time of the third century, Christianity was outlawed by the Romans, and no church building existed. When it was finally legalized, churches sprung up with artwork of this type. In the sixth century, the Persians invaded the area and destroyed every Christian church in the land except for one.

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Monk

This monk was taking some time off from his duties to read the paper outside of the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves in Tabgha along the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

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Golan View

Looking down from the Golan Heights in territory that was captured from Syria in 1967, you can see why Israel is reluctant to give back the land. From here you have an unobstructed view of farms, cities, and Lake Kinneret.

We wanted to stop and take a picture of a sign on a barbed wire fence along the road, but the bus wouldn't stop. It read, "Danger, Uncleared Mines."

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Porch & Rugs

It seemed that everywhere we went people were airing their rugs. Many were brownish toned, a color not seen too often in oriental rug markets in the US.

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Posters

I don't know what the crumbling posters were saying, but I think the election was over.

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Elevator Sign

We ran into this curious sign in our hotel, adjacent to the elevators on each floor. It's warning you that the elevator door will open soon after you hear a buzzer.

In Israel, if a political party captures even 1% of the vote, they are eligible for representation in the Parliament. There are many 1-2% groups in office. Since no group ever gets a clear majority, coalition governments have to be formed with these micro parties. In exchange for their vote in the coalition, these small religiously conservative parties ask for laws to be passed. This is an example of such legislation.

Conservative orthodox Jews don't work, or push an elevator button on Shabbot (the Sabbath). So on Shabbot, some elevators are set on "autopilot" to stop at every floor going up and down (it can take a very long time to get anywhere). The buzzer lets you know the elevator is almost there and the door will soon open.

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Jordan River Baptism Site

Just south of the Sea of Galilee, a spot has been created for Christians to be baptized in the Jordan River. This site is not near the place where Christ is believed to have been baptized by John.

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Baby & Mom at the Jordan

This baby and her mother were watching the Christian pilgrims getting baptized in the Jordan River.

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Single Family Residence

We didn't see very many private homes in Israel. It seems most people live in apartments. Housing is at quite a premium with new immigrants coming in weekly. We liked the architecture of this place.

Energy is also at a premium. Everywhere we went, people were solar drying their laundry.

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Nazareth Flea Market

We passed through this open air market in Nazareth on our way to the Basilica of the Annunciation. Nazareth is a hilly town populated mostly by Christian Arabs, and is located in the West Bank.

You won't find prices marked on anything in these open air markets. You are supposed to negotiate for everything. Residents probably do all right, but foreigners get slaughtered routinely, no matter how much you dicker them down!

I bought a wonderful bread shaped like a bicycle inner tube 9 inches in diameter from a cart here. They serve it with a palm full of salt and spices on a piece of paper. The idea is to scrunch the bread into the spices and eat. It was salty and exotic.

Donna is just noticing that her wristwatch is missing (it was later found on the bus). We kept our hands on our valuables while traveling through crowds, but unfortunately some others in the group were victimized by pickpockets at one time or another.

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Souvenir Shop

These nuns were shopping for postcards outside of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

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Nazareth Street Scene

We had to wait awhile to find our bus because parking is so difficult in Nazareth. While waiting, we photographed some of the people here.

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Bet-She'an

Bet She'an is one of the oldest cities in the world, with over 20 layers of settlement discovered, going as far back as 5000 BC.

The Philistine rulers of Bet She'an hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons on the city wall after Saul's defeat at the battle of Mt. Gilboa. Later, it was captured from the Philistines by the Israelites.

During the Hellenistic period it was named Scythopolis (city of the Scythians). It was also named Nysa, after the nurse of Baccus, god of wine; according to tradition, she was buried here. The population reached its maximum of 30-40,000 in the 6th century AD. The city was captured by the Muslims in the early 600's, and was destroyed by a severe earthquake in 749 AD.

Today the population is about 15,000 in the city adjacent to the ancient ruins. These were the most impressive ruins we saw while in Israel, probably because of the numerous Roman columns which have been restored.

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Jezreel Valley

From atop the hill where the impressive ruins of Megiddo lie, you can see a view of the Jezreel Valley which today is used for farming. In John's apocalyptic vision of Revelation, this valley is filled with blood as high as a horse's bridle from the final battle that takes place here.

In Old Testament times, Megiddo was called "Har-Megiddo" (Har means "mountain"). Excavations have gone down as far as 71 feet uncovering the history of this town. Megiddo was destroyed so many times it became synonymous with utter destruction. In the book of Revelation we get Armageddon from the name Har-Megiddo.

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Stone Manger

This stone manger (feeding trough) found in Megiddo is typical of the type that existed in the first century, and is probably similar to the one the baby Jesus was placed in.

I don't know what the cut circle is in the stone in front of the manger, or if it's relevant to it.

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Qumran

In 1947 a young Bedouin shepherd was searching for lost goats in the caves near the Dead Sea at Qumran. To save himself the trouble of climbing, he threw a stone into one and heard breaking pottery. Upon investigating, he discovered 50 cylindrical jars containing a mass of scrolls dating from the first century BC.

These scrolls had been written and stored by the Essenes, a sectarian Jewish group who had separated from the Pharisees and Saducees. They were wiped out by the Romans in the First Jewish War in 68 AD.

The Dead Sea Scrolls contained fragments of every book of the Old Testament, (except Esther). The amazing thing about them is that they are virtually identical to versions of the Old Testament that we have today.

The narrow caves and niches around Qumran are largely moisture free, and the leather and parchment scrolls were preserved for 2000 years. There are over 20 caves in which scrolls have been found.

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Hey, Soldier

We ran into a group of Israeli soldiers at Qumran, who had stopped at the gift shop for refreshments. My wife's cousin Laura asked one of them if she could try on his helmet and pose for a picture.

“Sure,” he said. “Would you like to sit in the jeep too? Good. Here, hold my gun.”

I don't think his commanding officer was anywhere nearby. When she gave it all back, she handed him the M-16 barrel first. I noticed that he had left the clip in; I presume the safety was on.

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Mural

This mural of Arafat was painted on a wall at a cigarette stand outside of the ruins of old Jericho. Jericho had just been given to the Palestinians to administrate. Not only is Arafat wrapped in the Palestinian flag, but notice the olive branches in the gun.

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Orange Press

Outside the ruins of Jericho is a large Palestinian market where the tour busses stop. For a dollar, the boy at the fruit stand would press 3 fresh oranges to make a cup of fresh squeezed orange juice. The juice was delicious! He must have been doing great business, because there was quite a pile of orange rinds at his feet.

When he was done serving the tourists, his friends would line up and get their drinks too. I don't know what he was charging them.

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Palestinian Police

Just outside the back of the market this group of policemen were relaxing and having a smoke. I gestured to them if I could take their photo. Since nobody made a menacing move, I composed the shot quickly and made the picture. The fellow with the gun smiled big and looked friendly, but I wasn't so sure about the guy with the radio.

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Masada

Masada is a plateau fortress/palace overlooking the Dead Sea built by Herod the Great. Herod wasn't much liked by the local Jews, and wanted to have a safe retreat if it were ever necessary. Masada boasted great cisterns and storerooms to withstand long sieges.

960 Jewish Zealots captured Masada from a small Roman guard in 66 AD, and used its stored arms to make raids on Jerusalem. Finally in 70 AD, the Romans laid siege. From this view you can see the great siege ramp the Roman army made to breach Masada's walls. Finally, when the siege engines, flaming torches, rock bombardment, and battering rams took their toll, the Zealots sacrificed themselves and their children, rather than being taken alive.

Today, army recruits are sworn in on top of Masada. You can walk to the top in about 45 minutes, or take the aerial tram for a 3 minute ride.

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View from the Top

Masada is roughly 1500 feet above ground level, with a spectacular view of the desolate Dead Sea region. The Dead Sea can be seen in the distant background. At this height, you're about 200 feet above sea level. The Dead Sea is the lowest land point on earth, 1300 feet below sea level.

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ibex

This heard of ibex were grazing in the Dead Sea region about 300 feet from the road. The traffic didn't seem to bother them much.

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Hills of Jerusalem

Jerusalem sits on top of a hill. I knew that, but until I saw it, I didn't realize how hilly Israel is. This view is from the 'Hill of Evil Counsel,' a place where the Pharisees reputedly conspired to kill Jesus.

In the lower left of the picture is a planted forest. The bald hills are testimony that ecological destruction is not automatically repaired, even after 2000 years.

The gold dome in the center is the Dome of the Rock mosque on the Temple Mount inside the walls of old Jerusalem.

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We Were There

Donna & Chris at the Mount of Olives, with the Kidron Valley and Old City of Jerusalem in the background.

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Running Children

We were at a tourist lookout admiring the view of Jerusalem and the Potter's Field, when below us four girls came from around one of the corners. They were having an animated conversation among themselves as they were walking down the road.

I motioned with my camera and asked them in English if I could take their picture. They giggled as a group and said yes, then no, then yes. As I raised my camera, they broke into a run back up the street from where they had come.

I guess the final answer was yes & no.

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Bus Stop

No, these people aren't pilgrims taking the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross). They were just let off outside of the Lion's Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Lion's Gate, or St. Stephen's Gate as it's sometimes called (because it is the location where Stephen was martyred), is on the Eastern wall of the Old City, and one of eight gates leading into the Old City.

On our way out, I was able to slip away from the group for a few minutes and buy us some *falafels* for lunch. Falafels are sandwiches containing spiced patties of deep fried ground up garbanzo beans, shredded lettuce, and sauce inside a pita bread. For \$2 we were finally able to beat the group tour lunch scam.

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Tea Vendor

This tea vendor was selling his wares just inside the Lion's Gate in the Arab Quarter of the Old City. For one Shekel you got a cup of a cool, sticky-sweet brew with a mildly bitter and earthy aftertaste. I was able to get through half of the cup.

His red & white *keffiah*, or headwear indicates he's from Jordan. Palestinian people wear the black & white print, and people from Be'er Sheva in southern Israel wear plain white.

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Damascus Gate

The Damascus Gate, named because it faces the road to Damascus, is by far the most interesting and busy gate leading into the Old City. (The other main gate is Jaffa Gate with its citadel tower.) This gate is one of three which leads into the Arab Quarter of the Old City. We often saw a policeman with an automatic rifle sitting in the archway above the gate. All gates into the Old City have armed security.

This city wall was mostly built about 400 years ago by Suleiman the Magnificent (1495-1566), but some parts date back 2000 years. When Suleiman (an Ottoman Sultan) conquered Jerusalem from the Crusaders, he did not conduct the expected mass executions.

Since the reunification of Jerusalem by the Israeli's in 1967, the city has grown tremendously in size.

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Into the Damascus Gate

We started out with a group of 10 people going into the Old City, and quickly got separated by the crush. It took us about ten minutes to go 100 feet as we fought the human glacier pushing us back. At the time, I wondered what happened if they ever had a fire.

Very few roads going into the Old City afford automobiles entry more than a few yards, so everything going into and out of the walls needs to be on a cart. It was two carts coming out which had created this traffic jam and ultimately got us lost in the Jewish Quarter. After many adventures, including finding the leather salesman who moonlights at the tourist hotel where we were staying, we eventually found our way to the Dung Gate.

From there, a twenty minute cab ride from a friendly Muslim driver got us back to the hotel. He told us he's able to get along speaking Arabic, Hebrew, English, and bits of Italian and Spanish.

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Spice Bags

In the *shug*, or Arab market with the city walls were many shops, including this spice market. We were able to purchase a cup container of raw saffron here for \$3.

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Meat Market

Just on the border of the Arab Quarter and Jewish Quarter in the Old City was the Arab meat market. We were pinned here for a few moments by a cart of offal which was trying to get out. The smell was memorable!

We asked our cab driver about not having refrigerated meat. He said that some people “Like to have their meat fresh. Meat on ice is no good for them.”

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Archway

Within the Old City are many arched passageway leading to streets, alleys, and stairs.

Donna photographed these people in this picturesque setting.

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The Western Wall

Often called the “Wailing Wall” by Gentiles because Jews come here to bewail the loss of the Temple, the Western Wall lies downhill from the Jewish Quarter. It is the holiest of Jewish sites, and a remnant of the 2nd century wall that supported the Temple Mount (and not the wall from the Temple itself). The wall isn’t sacred in itself, but the closest it is permissible to get to the ancient Temple. (Nobody knows where the Holy of Holies was located, so the Temple Mount is out of bounds for Jews.) “Next year in Jerusalem,” a phrase spoken at the end of Passover, means “next year at the Wall.”

To approach the wall, you must be conservatively dressed, and men must have their heads covered. Services are held here daily, and on Shabbot you are not permitted to smoke or photograph.

The large plaza didn’t always exist. In 1967, an Arab shug which blocked the Wall was demolished, and the national monument of Wall and plaza was created.

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Women's Section

Women are only allowed at the southern section of the Western Wall. It's about one quarter of the total length, and follows the rule of the separation of the sexes within synagogues.

I don't know what was so fascinating to these women that they had to stand on chairs to look over the wall separating the women's and men's sections.

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Arch and Minaret

On the Temple Mount in Jerusalem lie the Dome of the Rock and the El-Aksa Mosque. (The area is called *Haram ash-sharif*, or Noble Enclosure in Arabic.) This view looks through the arch promenade at the Dome of the Rock toward the Minaret of the El-Aksa Mosque. Entrance to the area is controlled by the *Waqf*, the Muslim Supreme Religious Council. You may exit through any gate, but non-Muslims may only enter through two: the Mograbi Gate and the Bab el Hadid.

On the right of the picture is a rack for holding shoes which have been removed before entering the mosque.

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El-Aksa Mosque

El-Aksa is the main Jerusalem mosque – in religious terms, the Dome of the Rock is insignificant. You must remove your shoes and be modestly attired before you will be admitted.

The mosque gate keeper couldn't see my eyes under my hat, and stopped me by grabbing my arm until he could check me out. Inside, the mosque is a cavernous building hung with chandeliers and decorated with mosaics. The floor is covered with beautiful Oriental rugs that have seen millions of sweaty feet. Inside, young men were running back & forth with carts, rotating the rugs.

Picture taking is strictly forbidden inside the mosque, and cameras must be left outside with your shoes. Our guide stood on guard duty while we were inside.

This slide was purchased from an elderly Arab on the temple mount who nearly had apoplexy when he heard what I offered for the set. We finally settled on 25 shekels. Later I saw them in a store for 18.

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Dome of the Rock

The rock, which the dome covers, is believed by Muslims to be the rock where Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Ishmael (Isaac for the Jews & Christians). The Jews believe it to be the flat rock purchased by King David on Mt. Moriah from Orhan the Jebusite, who had used it for a threshing floor. It was here that Solomon built the first Temple. In 135 AD, Emperor Hadrian flattened the rubble from the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem and built a Temple to Jupiter on the site.

The Dome of the Rock was built in 688-91 by the Omayyad Caliph Abd el-Malik. He had several motives. He wanted to acknowledge this as “the farthest mosque” mentioned in the Koran. He also wanted to shift attention away from Mecca, where his political opponent Abdallah Ibn es-Sobair was regarded. Finally, he wanted to best the Christians who had fine shrines in the city.

Inside is a wooden rail surrounding the rock. You can touch it by sticking your arm through the slats.

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Boys selling Chicks

Outside the Garden Tomb at a spot where the tour buses park, these boys had just gotten out of school and were waiting for their schoolmates to come by so they could try their sales skills. When they saw the tourists approach, they thought that for sure they could make a sale. Better luck next time guys.

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Skull Hill

Behind the Arab bus station and outside the wall of the old city is the Garden Tomb, a spot some Protestants believe may be the burial place of Jesus. This rock formation in one of Solomon's old temple quarries looks vaguely like a skull, and could be the place mentioned in the Bible as Golgotha. It is just to the southeast of the Garden Tomb proper. Above the rock is an ancient Muslim cemetery.

Although relatively new, the place has the necessary credentials. Golgotha means "The Place of the Skull," and this is the site outside of the city traditionally used for stonings. The name 'skull' wouldn't necessarily mean the rock formation, but the fact executions took place here. Despite the songs, movies and paintings which depict Christ crucified on a green hill, the Romans particularly liked to use busy roadsides for public executions to warn as many as possible. This spot is on the intersection of two busy roads – the ways to Jericho and Damascus.

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The Garden Tomb

The place now called the Garden Tomb was rediscovered in 1867 by a Greek man hoping to find an ancient cistern. After private purchase years later, the area was excavated to what is seen today.

In this picture you can see the tomb of a rich man which was hand carved out of solid rock. First century carvings in the rock and tomb indicate that the place was known to early Christians. In front of the entry way is a track for a large stone covering rock (long since lost). Also discovered in the immediate vicinity behind the camera are an ancient cistern and wine press, indicating that the area was originally a garden.

We spent a couple of hours here in this beautiful and peaceful setting. We finished with a communion service for our group of 80 people from Oklahoma City. It was a perfect end for a trip to the Holy Land.

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