

THE WESTERN WALL

By Aish.com & Yvette Miller

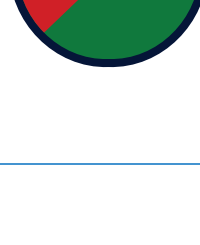
The Western Wall is located in the Old City of Jerusalem on the western side of the Temple Mount where the Jewish Temples stood for nearly 1000 years



The Western Wall is open

24 hours a day,

365 days a year



19 years

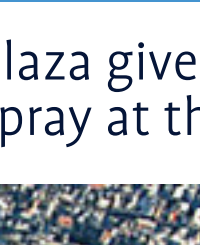
Jordan forbade Jewish access to the Wall from 1948-1967



45 Layers of limestone making up the Western Wall

28 Above ground level

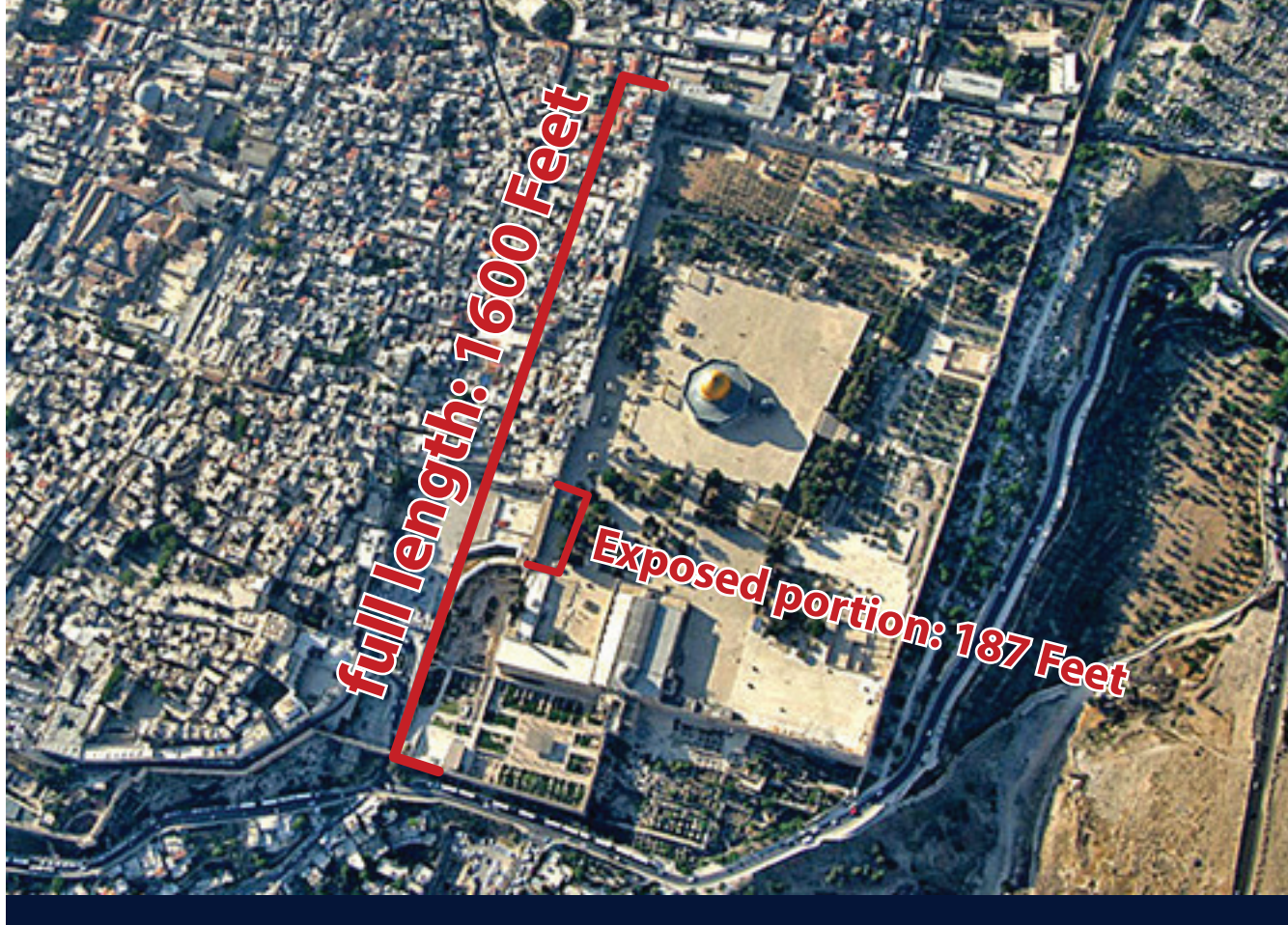
17 Below ground level



12 feet

area in front of Western Wall where Jews could pray prior to 1948

Today, a spacious plaza gives people of all faiths full access to pray at the Western Wall



HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WALL

3,000 years ago

King David bought the land to build holy temple

422 BCE

First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians

later upgraded by King Herod into a magnificent structure

825 BCE

King Solomon built the first Temple

352 BCE

Second Temple was built 70 years later

70 CE

Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans Only the Western Wall survived

Biblical events that took place on the Temple Mount

Isaac

was bound for sacrifice

Jacob

dreamed of the ladder ascending to heaven

King David

purchased the Mount and made Jerusalem his capital

Largest Stone In Western Wall



visible from underground tunnels only

44.6 feet

long

10.8 feet

deep

570 tons

approx weight

It is the largest building stone ever found in Israel.



A chiseled outer edge signifies the era of King Herod



Famous visitors to the Western Wall this past year:

- Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper
- Designer Tommy Hilfiger
- Pope Francis
- Barbra Streisand



Busiest days of the year at the Western Wall



Yom Yerushalayim

Jerusalem Reunification Day

Tisha B'Av

commemorating the Holy Temples

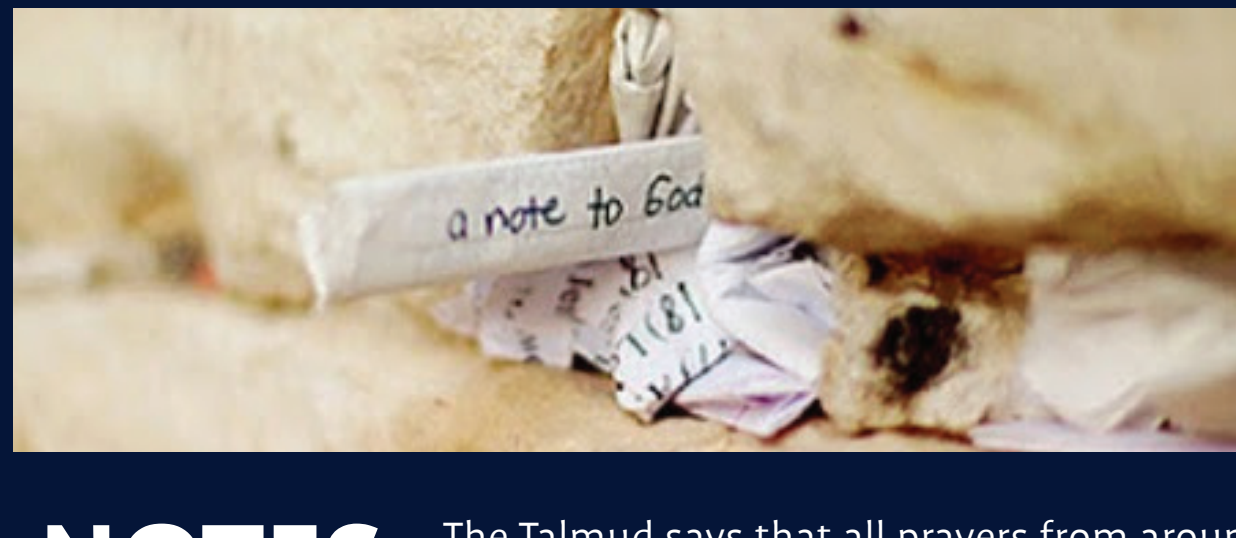
Birkat Kohanim

blessing of priests during Passover and Sukkot



Hundreds of birds -

primarily swifts, swallows, and jackdaws - call the Western Wall home.

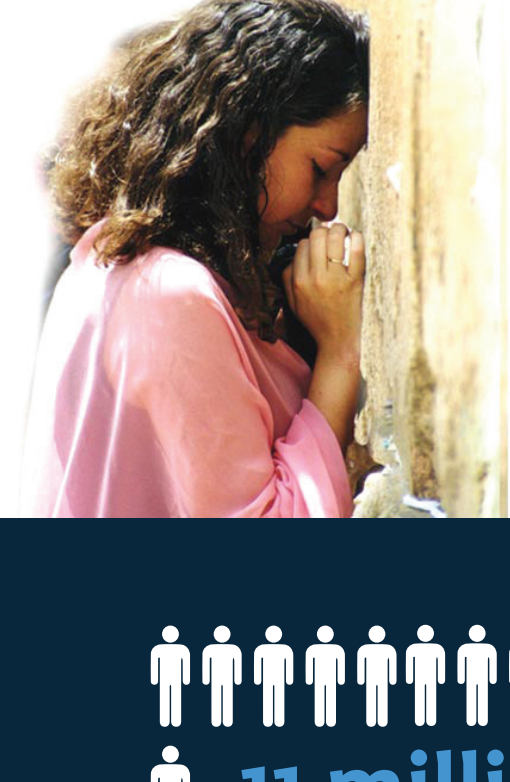


NOTES IN THE WALL

The Talmud says that all prayers from around the world ascend to Heaven from this spot

100 SHOPPING BAGS

are filled with notes during twice-yearly cleanings



Jewish tradition says that

praying 40 consecutive days

at the Western Wall ensures the prayer will be answered

11 million visitors annually making it Israel's most popular tourist attraction



34 million visitors to Aish.com's Western Wall webcam

aish.com

With thanks to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation