



Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority

A BICOM guide to the Royal tour

HRH The Duke of Cambridge will visit Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) from Sunday 24 June until Thursday 28 June.

This will be the first official Royal visit to Israel and the West Bank and Prince William's first visit to the Middle East.

The BICOM research team has produced this briefing to provide the context and history to each of the visits on his schedule.

24 June

Amman, Jordan

Fablab

Prince William's first stop on his Middle East tour will be to TechWorks, a digital fabrication laboratory (FabLab) with a mission to bring together youth, ideas and resources to unleash the power of Jordan's innovation ecosystem. TechWorks is part of the Crown Prince Foundation Initiative's (CPFI) flagship innovation platform to encourage technical education for the youth through providing the right tools, talent, resources and institutions, as well as a level-playing field on which to compete.

The Prince will be given a tour by Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein. He will be introduced to some of Jordan's most talented young entrepreneurs and their projects. Some notable achievements of the FabLab include a machine learning driverless car, redesigning old parts of vehicles by using the TechWorks 3D

printer, and the Royal Jordanian Air Academy designing a personal gadget that supports access to working tools quickly, eliminating the need to carry a large number of tools or a big toolbox.

25 June

Jerash, north Jordan; Amman; Ben-Gurion Airport, Israel

Jerash, the Makani programme supported by UNICEF

Prince William will visit the ancient Roman city of Jerash, approximately 50km north of Amman. Jerash is more than 6,500 years old and considered one of the largest and best preserved sites of Roman architecture in the world. Conquered by General Pompey in 63 BC, the city came under Roman rule and was one of the ten great Roman cities of the Decapolis League. The city was hidden in sand for centuries before being discovered in 1806 by a German traveller, Ulrich Jasper Seezten, and has been excavated and restored over the past 90 years.

Jerash is an example of the grand, formal provincial Roman urbanism that is found throughout the Middle East, comprising of paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls with towers and gates.

The city is the second most popular tourist destination in Jordan; 211,000 people visited in 2017. The Duchess of Cambridge visited Jerash as a child when her family lived in Jordan. A photo of Kate Middleton and her family in Jerash was one of the photos released prior to the Duke and Duchess' marriage in 2011.

The Makani ("My Space") programme aims to expand learning opportunities for all children (5 to 18 years old) and young people (up to 24 years old) not accessing any form of education in Jordan. Makani centres have a holistic approach that provides vulnerable children and youth with learning opportunities, life skills training and psychosocial support services under one roof.





Jerash

IT equipment. Jordan received £32m in 2017 and £28m in 2017 from the UK Conflict Security and Stabilisation Fund to help its security. A [report](#) by the House of Commons Defence Committee on the UK's military operations in Syria and Iraq for 2016-7 described the training provided by UK Short-Term Training Teams (STTTs) for the QRF as a “credible investment” and “morale-boosting” for both the UK and Jordanian side.

The Princess Taghrid Institute (PTI)

The Princess Taghrid Institute (PTI) was founded by HRH Princess Taghrid Mohammad, the wife of HRH Prince Mohammad, the brother and personal representative of the late Jordanian King Hussein. She is also the daughter of former Jordanian Prime Minister Hazzaa Majali. She founded the institute to provide skills training to women, particularly orphans and abandoned youth, in order that they may be able to help these individuals

Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Base

The Royal Jordanian Armed Forces' QRF is a fully operational brigade-strength force that was established to support Jordan's existing Special Forces units. The QRF's task is to secure the area where the special forces need to operate and provide security for these units. This role requires the QRF to be the first force to arrive in the operational area and the last to leave. It has to be on continuous alert for any deployment inside or outside Jordan. The QRF operates primarily along the borders and is meant to help sustain

operations for several days. It is an important element in the containment of ISIS and other extremist forces along Jordan's border with Iraq and Syria.

The QRF has been on the frontline defending Jordan against ISIS and receives direct UK financial support. In 2015, the UK Government provided it with a £2.5m package of non-lethal equipment including transport vehicles, body armour, communications and





obtain employment. They bring together experts in arts and handcraft who will teach trainees with a specialised program. They also help provide and facilitate jobs, coordinate with local NGOs and work within various local communities in Jordan to reduce the stigma surrounding orphans and abandoned youth. One area that Prince William will be interested in is the organisation's goal to build a cultural and artistic bridge between various countries of the world through professional exchange programmes that expose young people to the diverse arts and cultures of the world.

The organisation has three departments: arts & handcraft, culinary arts and embroidery & fashion design. The organisation is located in Ghour Fefa, Irbid and Jerash.

[Al-Quds College, Amman](#)

Founded in 1980, al-Quds College is a leading private technical college that offers two-year diplomas in multiple areas of study, including: medicine, engineering, finance, hotel management and IT. The institution is privately owned by the Luminos Group, which aims to provide education which takes into consideration global developments and labour market requirements in the Middle East. More than 25,000 students have

graduated from the college with various local and international certificates including the British Higher Diploma.

The college has a partnership with 42 UK universities and colleges including University College Birmingham, Bath Spa University, University of Greenwich and University of Kent, as well as higher education centres from the US, Australia, Canada, the UAE, France and Malaysia. Among the students Prince William will meet will be those who are enrolled in the media school, training in film and music production as part of the college's partnership with Middlesex University.



Jordan Air Ambulance Centre

The Jordan Air Ambulance Centre was founded by King Abdullah II in 2015. The centre seeks to provide specialised rescue services, patient transfer and air ambulance operations, especially for the transfer of patients from remote areas of the country. The centre is a paid-for service, although it has various schemes to make the service affordable and accessible to all patients. The fleet includes an AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter equipped with advanced medical systems. The Centre's board is chaired by Major General Yousef Ahmad Alhuniti, head of the Jordanian Air Force. The helicopters are operated by two pilots and two medical staff on any one journey. This visit is likely to be tied to Prince William's previous service in the air rescue ambulance services of the Royal Air Force and the East Anglia Air Ambulance Services. This will be an important visit for the Duke of Cambridge who only left the air ambulance service in 2017 and will likely highlight the historic ties between British and Jordanian Armed Forces as well as future cooperation and shared learning between both air ambulance services.



Jordan Air Ambulance

Travel to Israel

King David Hotel

During his time in Israel, Prince William will stay at the King David hotel, one of the most iconic hotels in the region. Opened in 1931, it was built in the centre of the city of Jerusalem on 4.5 acres of land by an Egyptian Jewish banker. It is located on King David Street, overlooking the Old City. From early on the King David Hotel hosted royalty, including the widowed empress of Persia, Queen Mother Nazli

of Egypt, and King Abdullah I of Jordan. There were three Heads of State, forced to flee their countries, who took up residence there: King Alfonso XIII of Spain, forced to abdicate in 1931, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, driven out by the Italians in 1936 and King George II of Greece, who set up his

King David Hotel



King David Hotel

government in exile at the hotel after the Nazi occupation of his country in 1942.

During the British Mandate, the southern wing of the hotel was turned into a British administrative and military headquarters. In 1946, the south-west corner was bombed by the Irgun. 91 people died and 45 people were injured.

The design for the hotel incorporates “eastern-style domes, arches, various kinds of different-coloured stone, and interior decorations with religious symbols and inscriptions,” in a building with a strict symmetry that evokes European planning. The public rooms are decorated in motifs taken from Assyrian, Hittite, Phoenician and Muslim buildings in an effort to evoke a “biblical” style.

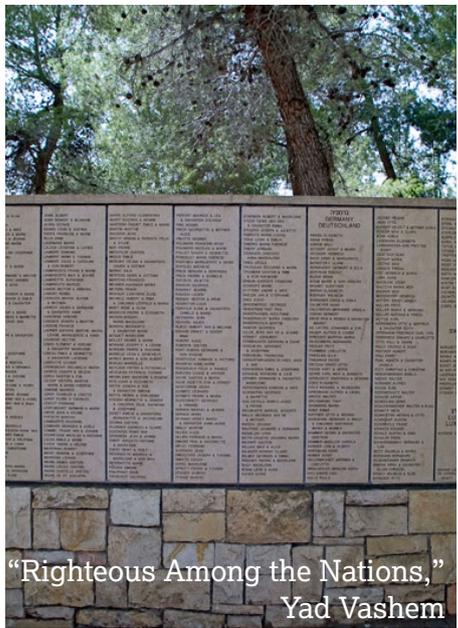
All of the last seven US Presidents, numerous British Prime Ministers, as well as Prince Charles and a host of celebrities have all stayed at the hotel. The top stars have their signatures decorating the floor running along the spine of the building.

26 June

Jerusalem; Jaffa; Tel Aviv

Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, is the internationally renowned resource for Holocaust education, documentation and research. In 1953 the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) established it to commemorate “all those members of the Jewish people who gave their lives, or rose and fought against the Nazi enemy and its collaborators”, to build “a memorial to them, and to their communities, organisations and institutions that were destroyed because they belonged to the Jewish people”. Yad Vashem means “a monument and a memorial” and is taken from the prophet Isaiah “even unto them will I give within my house and within my walls a monument and a memorial.... I will give them an everlasting memorial, which will never be cut off”.

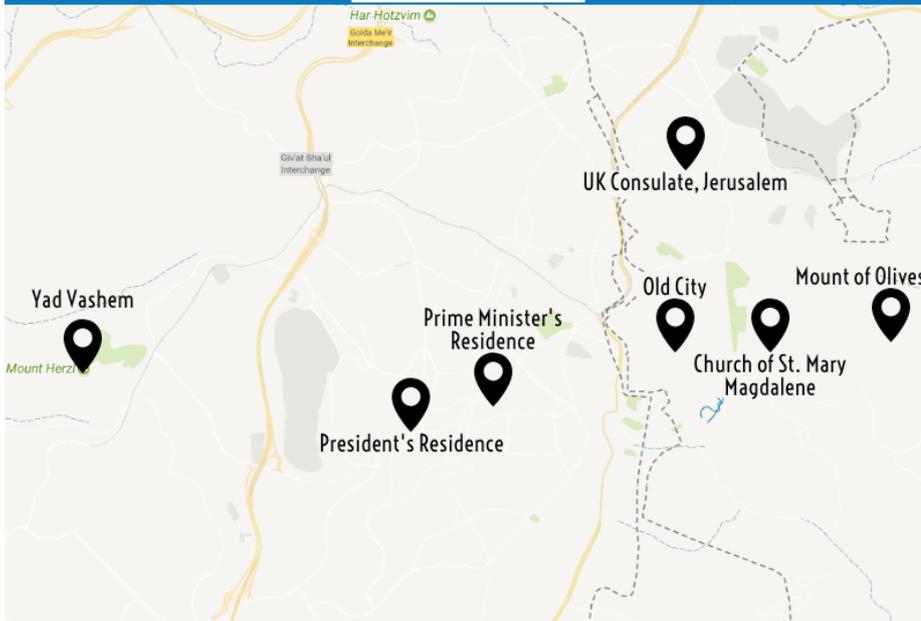


Yad Vashem has built a database to record the identities of Jewish holocaust victims of Nazism and has collected at least 110,000 audio, video and written testimonies on behalf of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews. Yad Vashem recognises these individuals as “Righteous Among the Nations” and a tree is planted in their honour in the “Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations” at the centre. One of those honoured is the Duke of Cambridge’s great-grandmother Princess Alice of Battenberg. She devoted much of her life to charity work in Greece, remaining in Athens during the Second World War where she sheltered Jewish refugees. After the war, she founded an Orthodox nursing order of nuns known as the Christian Sisterhood of Martha and Mary. In 1967, she was invited by her son and daughter-in-law to live at Buckingham Palace, where she died two years later. Her remains were transferred to the Mount of Olives in 1988.

During the visit to Yad Vashem, Prince William will be given a guided tour of the museum, which includes 4,200 square meters of original artefacts, survivor testimonies, 2,500 personal



Jerusalem



possessions on display, state-of-the-art exhibits and nine galleries. At the end of the museum's historical narrative is the Hall of Names - a memorial to the 6m Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The Hall of Names houses approximately 2.2m pages of testimony collected to date, with empty spaces for those yet to be submitted. Prince William will also participate in a short ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance accompanied by the British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. A children's choir will sing a song and a cantor will recite the Jewish memorial prayer. The Prince will lay a wreath and rekindle the "Eternal Flame". Afterwards, he will leave a personal message in the visitor's book.

Peres Center for Peace / The Equaliser

Based in the historic city of Jaffa, it is now the southern part of Tel Aviv- Jaffa municipality. The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation was founded in 1996 by the ninth President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,

Shimon Peres, is devoted to co-existence and peacebuilding.

Designed by renowned Italian architect Massimiliano Fuksas, the cement and glass layered seafront structure of the Peres Peace House is the first of its kind in the world. It creates a sense of transparency and infuses the building with the powerful energies of the nearby Mediterranean Sea. It was deliberately built in Jaffa because of the city's unique

atmosphere as a mixed Arab-Jewish community and its relevance to the Peres Centre's peacebuilding activities. Since it opened in January 2010, the Peace House has become a hub of peacebuilding activities, filled with Israeli and Palestinian children, young leaders, professionals and decision makers from across the Middle East on a weekly basis, participating in various projects.

The Center has brought together over 30,000 children with its programmes that help cultivate youth leadership and peace education. Some of the most notable programmes are: "Sport in the Service of Peace – Twinned Peace Sports Schools," which provides bi-weekly training and peace education sessions, joint soccer training and inter-language learning to thousands of participants; "Playing



מרכז פרס לשלום
مرکز بيرس للسلام

The Peres Center For Peace



Fair, Leading Peace,” which combine leadership training for outstanding university students with peace education activities for children; “Hangout Bridges – Bridges for Peace,” which brings Jewish and Arab high school students together through video-conference and face-to-face meetings; and “YaLa Young Leaders,” a programme that aims to connect 1m young people from around the region through Facebook and other virtual platforms.

The Peace House is home to the official Shimon Peres Archives and will in future house a unique library of peace and conflict resolution literature. It is likely that Prince William will be hosted in the private office of the

late President Peres. The office has been left as it was when he passed away and one can see the many gifts from foreign heads of state including the Presidential Medal of Freedom he received from former US President Barack Obama, as well as his Nobel Peace Prize. The Duke of Cambridge may meet Shimon’s son, Chemi, who is now the Chairman of the centre and is one of Israel’s leading innovation and venture capital pioneers.

The main goal of the Equaliser programme is to provide a social-sportive-educational framework for children and youth from Israel’s marginalised populations. Throughout the school year, the participants meet twice a week where they focus on educational issues and twice a week for football practice with a qualified coach. The encounter between children from different backgrounds and with diverse religious beliefs is challenging and difficult. Football functions as a “bridge” between strangers and helps to develop communication among the players. The children use football



Prime Minister’s Residence

as a common denominator regardless of their colour, race or religion.

Both the Peres Centre and the Equaliser are supported by the British Embassy.

Meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister’s Residence

The residence is situated in the Rehavia neighbourhood which was designed by German-Jewish architect Richard Kaufmann in the 1920s and modelled on the British garden suburb, to ensure green areas were preserved amongst the buildings. The same architect also designed the residence itself, which was built in 1938. In 1941, Peter II, King of Yugoslavia resided in the house whilst in exile. The house is on Balfour Street, named after British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour who issued his famous declaration in 1917 supporting the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people”. In 1952, the Israeli Government bought the property and in 1974 it became the official residence of the Prime Minister. During the 1990s, a wall was erected around the house for



security reasons, access was limited and part of the street closed to traffic.

Prince William will meet Netanyahu, his wife Sara and possibly their eldest son Yair who is closer in age to the prince. Netanyahu is currently the second longest serving Israeli Prime Minister, (after the first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion). He was Prime Minister between 1996-99 and has been in office since 2009. This is his fourth term in office.

He visited the UK earlier this month and ahead of his meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May he highlighted the strength of British-Israel bilateral cooperation “in intelligence, in security, in technology and in trade”. He described the relationship as going “from strength to strength”. The main policy items currently on his agenda focus on regional security issues; how to ensure that Iran does not have nuclear weapons and how to roll back Iran’s aggression in the region, particularly in Syria.



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin

Meeting Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at the President’s Residence

The President’s residence was purpose built in 1971 during the term of President Zalman Shazar, the third President of the State of Israel. Shazar asked that the President’s home (and office) be built in the centre of the city of Jerusalem, saying “Amongst my people I dwell.” The President’s Residence was built on about 2.5 acres of land on a hill in the Kommemiut (Talbiyeh) neighbourhood. The hill, high, but not too high, was chosen

on purpose and symbolises the status of the President - chosen, but not above the people.

The residence and the garden were designed as a museum displaying art works representing the history of the Jewish people. As you enter you walk through the gardens, representing the flora of the Land of Israel and features olive, cypress, pine as well as other trees. Throughout the garden are busts of former Presidents and at the heart of the garden is a building block from the Western Wall, on which visitors can make a wish. In 2009 the garden was restored by the Jewish National Fund (JNF).

Inside his office, the President has a collection of peace doves and Hanukkah candelabras. Other prominent items include silver pomegranates he received from Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, a dagger inlaid with precious stones which he received from the Emir of Oman, a dagger he received from the Emir of Qatar and a Buddha statue he received from the Empress of Thailand.

The Israeli President is the head of state, elected every seven years by the 120 members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). The most important constitutional responsibility is to choose



Netanyahu and May, June 2018

The President's Residence



the leading Prime Ministerial candidate tasked with forming a government. After a General Election, he consults with every party leader and asks for their recommendation, then selects the one with the best chance of building a majority. Otherwise it is largely ceremonial. Rivlin has taken the mantle of this generation's grandfather of the nation. He speaks with passion about inclusiveness and works to heal the divisions in Israeli society. He comes from the traditional wing of the Likud party. He is hawkish on security but liberal on domestic politics.

Residence of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Israel

The Prince will deliver a speech at a garden party at the UK Ambassador's residence, located in Ramat Gan, a satellite community of Tel Aviv. It is set in around half an acre which includes a 6,500 square feet home surrounded by a spacious garden with a swimming pool. It has served as the British Ambassador's residence for the past 67 years. It was the first home the UK bought for its envoy in Israel, and has not been replaced since. The house

accommodates every British foreign minister visiting Israel, and Prince Philip even stayed there during his 1994 visit. Every year, the Ambassador hosts a party celebrating Queen Elizabeth's birthday in the house's garden, though in recent years it has moved to larger venues due to the popularity of the event.

In 2011, and again in 2014, the luxurious residence was advertised for sale on the market for NIS 36m (about £7.5m) but was not sold.

UK Ambassador to Israel David Quarry



Tel Aviv

27 June

Tel Aviv; Ramallah,
West Bank

Beit Ha'ir Museum

Beit Ha'ir, formerly the Town Hall of Tel Aviv, forms part of the Bialik Complex, a centre of Hebrew and Israeli culture. Located between Tel Aviv's City Centre (Dizengoff Square) and the Carmel Market, the Beit Ha'ir is part of the White City UNESCO world cultural heritage site and an example of Bauhaus architecture. A series of exhibits currently occupy the Beit Ha'ir including art, theatre and technological installations that highlight the city's history and culture. This includes a reconstruction of the working space of Tel Aviv's first Mayor, Meir Dizengoff.



While visiting the site, Prince William will be shown a demonstration of Israeli start-up technology and will likely promote British technology firms and investors trying to tap into the US\$3.7bn Israeli tech sector. BICOM's recent [paper on cyber cooperation between the UK and Israel](#) found that government-to-



government cooperation in cyber security is strong and has been described by a senior UK official as a "first-order partnership".

Ramallah

Ramallah is the current administrative capital of the Palestinian Authority (PA). It has a population of only 34,173 (2013), significantly smaller than the 208,750 found in Hebron, the West Bank's largest city. The Mukataa, a compound which houses many of the central government offices of the PA and the grave of former PA President Yasser Arafat, is in Ramallah. Prince William is likely to meet with current PA President Mahmoud Abbas at the Mukataa or other Presidential offices near the city. The Prince is also set to participate in Palestinian cultural events whilst in the West Bank.



UK Consul General's Residence, Jerusalem

The Prince will be speaking at a reception held at the residence of the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem, who represents the UK government in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. Philip Hall OBE is currently serving as Her Majesty's Consul-General to Jerusalem taking his posting in August 2017. The Consulate is located on 15 Nashashibi Street in the Sheikh Jarrah Quarter in East Jerusalem.



The Western Wall

the Noble Sanctuary in Arabic) is identified in both Jewish and Islamic tradition as the area of Mount Moriah where Abraham offered up his son in sacrifice. King Solomon built the First Jewish Temple there almost 3,000 years ago. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, but 70 years later Jews returning from exile built the Second Temple on the same site. The Prince will likely be taken to the Western Wall - the only remaining support wall build by King Herod in 20 BCE during an expansion of the Second Temple. When the Romans destroyed the temple in 70 CE, this wall survived, but the area was left in ruins (first by the Romans, then by the Byzantines). Since then it has been the focal point for Jewish prayer due to its proximity to the area that once housed the Jewish temple.

For Muslims, the site is also identified as the place from which Prophet Mohammed, accompanied by the Angel

28 June

Old City, Jerusalem

Church of St Mary Magdalene

This is a Russian Orthodox Church located on the Mount of Olives, close to the Garden of Gethsemane and directly opposite the Temple Mount. The church was built in 1886 by Tsar Alexander III to honour his mother Princess Marie of Hesse. It was built in the style popular in 16th and 17th-century Russia, and includes seven distinctive, gilded onion domes. The relics of two martyred saints, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna of Russia and her fellow nun Varvara Yakovleva are displayed in the church. Both were killed by the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution.

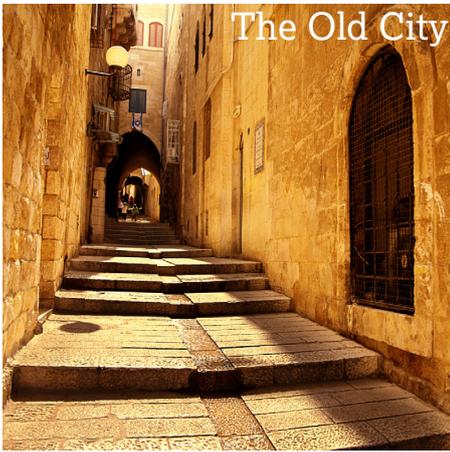
In the 1930s, Princess Alice of Battenberg, mother of the current Duke of Edinburgh and Prince William’s great grandmother, visited the church and asked to be buried near her aunt, the

Grand-Duchess Elizabeth. She died at Buckingham Palace in 1969 and in 1988 her remains were transferred to a crypt below the church.

In addition to the church, it is likely the Prince will be taken on a private tour of the Old City itself. The Temple Mount is the walled-in area in the southeastern corner of the Old City. The Temple Mount (known as the Haram al-Sharif,



Church of St Mary Magdalene



The Old City

Gabriel, made the Night Journey to the Throne of God. It is regarded as the third holiest site in Islamic tradition. When the Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab captured Jerusalem in 638 CE, he ordered the clearing of the site and the building of a house of prayer. Half a century later, the Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik built the Dome of the Rock on the bedrock, believed to be the place of the sacrifice on Mount Moriah. In 1033, the Fatimid Caliph Ali al-Zahir built another mosque at the southern end of the Temple Mount, which came to be called al-Aqsa after the Koranic name attributed to the entire area, and whose outline is preserved in the current structure today.



The Temple Mount

During centuries of Muslim rule, Jewish access and prayer at the Western Wall was restricted. During the British Mandate from 1921-1948, access was allowed but many restrictions remained in place such as prohibitions on bringing benches and chairs to the site. In the 1948 Arab-Israeli War Jordan captured the Old City and no Jews or Israelis were allowed to access the Old City or pray at the Western Wall.

After the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured the Old City and took control over the

Temple Mount and the Western Wall. Israel agreed for the Muslim authorities (the Waqf) to retain administrative control over the Muslim holy places on the Temple Mount and Jews were to have free access to visit (but not pray), while a large plaza was created in front of the Western Wall for prayer that exists today.

Prince William may also visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. According to Orthodox Christianity, this is the site of the crucifixion. Established as a church in the year 326, by Emperor Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, who made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where, according to legend, she discovered the relic of the cross of Jesus (the "True Cross"). The church was re-consecrated in 1149, 50 years after the capture of Jerusalem by the First Crusade. Almost all of the crusader kings of Jerusalem up to 1187 were buried there in the Calvary Chapel. The church of the crusaders is essentially the church that can be seen today.



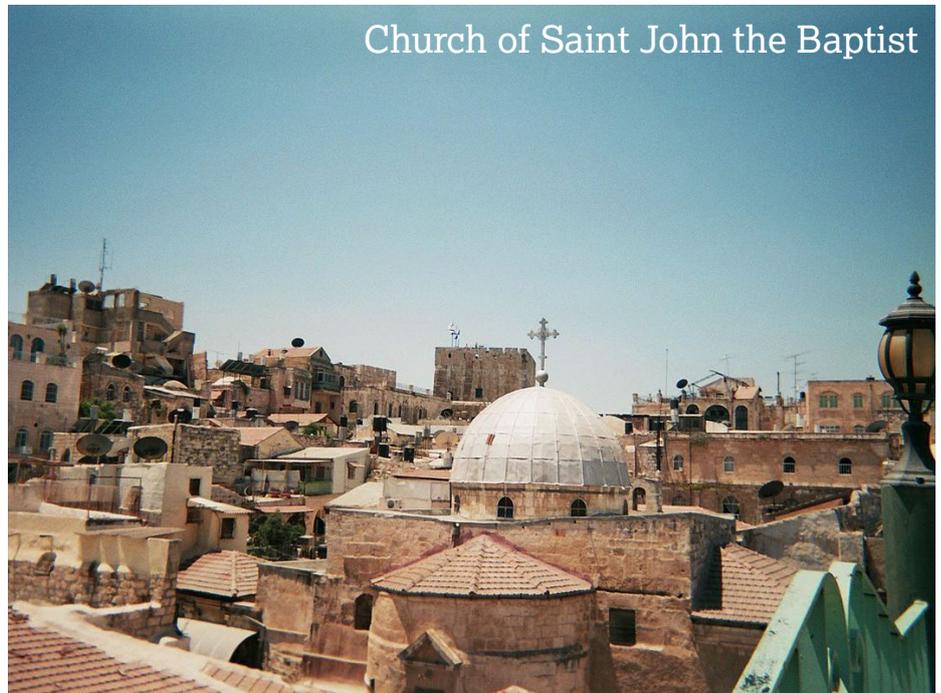
Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Church of Saint John the Baptist

According to media reports, Prince William will also visit the Church of Saint John the Baptist, located in the small pastoral village of Ein Kerem on the western slopes of Jerusalem. The location is believed to be the place where John the Baptist was born in his family home.

The church was first built during the Byzantine era, but was destroyed during an uprising between 529-556AD. The church was rebuilt after the Crusaders regained Jerusalem in 1104, but was again destroyed after the Crusaders left the Holy Land in the 12th century. It remained abandoned and in ruins until the end of the Ottoman era.

Towards the end of the Ottoman era Franciscan monks began settling in Ein Kerem purchasing land, houses and the site of the former chapel. The church was restored in 1674 and the present day church was completed in 1920, funded by the Spanish Royal Family. The Spanish coat-of-arms is above the entrance to the chapel and several original



Church of Saint John the Baptist

paintings by Spanish artists, also donated by the Spanish royals, can be found in the church.

Inside the church, beneath an altar, is a small cave or crypt which is believed to have been where John the Baptist was born in his family home. Within the cave is a marble star engraved with the words "*Here was born the Precursor Lord*" - St John is considered the precursor or forerunner to Jesus as he baptised Jesus and called him Messiah.

It is just possible while in the Old City, Prince William will also visit the Razzouk tattoo parlour and follow the tradition of three of his Victorian relatives; Edward VII, George V and Prince Albert. They all visited Jerusalem, and all had tattoos on their arms of the crusader cross. The same tattoo parlour is still open for business, now run by the 27th generation of Egyptian Coptic Christians that opened 700 years ago.



Razzouk tattoo parlour



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