

St. Lazarus Church and Tomb

Just outside of Jerusalem on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, is the West Bank town of al-Eizariya and the site of the Tomb of Lazarus. It is believed that modern day al-Eizariya lies on what was the biblical village of Bethany. According to Christian tradition, the tomb was the spot where Jesus performed his miracle raising Lazarus from the dead. Today, the tomb is revered by both Christians and Muslims and is a popular pilgrimage site. The site of the Tomb of Lazarus has been recognized since at least the 4th century, when the first churches were built there. The first Byzantine church built in the area was constructed in the 4th century just east of the tomb and was known as the Lazarium. The church was constructed in the style of basilicas during the time of Constantine, with three aisles and a rectangular apse, with mosaic tiles adorning the floors. The church was destroyed in the 6th century during an earthquake, but was rebuilt and survived into the Crusader period. During the Crusader period, renovations were made on the church under the instruction of King Fulk of Anjou and Queen Melisende, which included the addition of a monastery. After the conquest of Salah Ad-Din in 1187, the site fell into disrepair until a small mosque was built there in 1384. Under Ottoman rule in the 16th century, a larger mosque, the al-Uzair Mosque, dedicated to Lazarus, was built over some of the ruins of the old churches. For a long period of time, Christians were invited to worship in the mosque, but in the mid-16th century, the Franciscans were permitted to create a new entrance to the tomb on its north side and the entrance from the mosque was closed. The current Catholic Church of Saint Lazarus was constructed in the 1950s, and still retains some of the original Byzantine mosaic flooring. The entrance to the Tomb of Lazarus is located about 25 meters uphill from the Catholic Church of Saint Lazarus. Just outside the al-Uzair Mosque is a 24-step stone stairway, down which visitors will enter the antechamber of the tomb. Much of the original Byzantine stonework in the tomb has been covered with masonry during the Crusader period, which is what is visible today. The closed archway of the original entrance from the mosque can also be seen along the eastern wall. A further three steps down connect the antechamber to the small, square lower chamber, believed to be the Tomb of Lazarus. The Biblical figure of Lazarus has become the patron of modern-day al-Eizariya, biblical Bethany, with both churches and mosques in his honor. Aside from the Catholic Church of Saint Lazarus and al-Uzair Mosque, other sites in the area include the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint Lazarus.

Site Religion & Type

- [Christian Site](#)
- [Church](#)
- [Monastery](#)
- [Tomb](#)

Target Group

- [Organized Groups](#)
- [Christian Groups](#)

Denomination with high relevance

Benedictine
Brothers
, Catholic -
Armenian
, Catholic - Greek
, Catholic - Roman , Coptic
, Mennonite , Mormon
, Orthodox -
Armenian
, Orthodox - Assyrian
, Orthodox - Ethiopian
, Orthodox - Greek
, Orthodox - Russian
, Protestant - Anglican
, Protestant - Baptist
, Protestant - Methodist
, Protestant - Pentecost
, Protestant -Lutheran
, Salesian
Brothers , Zion sisters

Address

Al Hirja st. AL IZAREYA
Jerusalem
PS-JEM
Palestinian Territories

31.768319,35.21371

[View in Google Maps](#)

Best time of day to visit

No difference

Best Time of Year to Visit

Year round

Estimated time of visit

1-2 hours

Weather Consideration

Avoid on rainy , bad weather days

Dress Code

Modest Clothes , Trousers Allowed For Female Visitors

Entry Limitation

No limitations

Booking On Site

No

Booking Online

No

Booking via Phone

No

Advance booking required

No

Free For

Free (locals only) , Free for everyone

Bathrooms

Free

Handicap bathroom

No

Parking

No parking available

Stairs

No

Wheelchair Friendly

No

Stroller Friendly

No