



Looking for your next  
**ESCAPE?**

**DISCOVER PALESTINE**

**PALESTINE  
A LIVING STORY  
FOURTH EDITION**



# Discover Palestine

There are places you visit... and places that stay with you. Palestine is both.

From ancient cities and sacred paths to vibrant markets and timeless landscapes, Palestine invites you to experience a story that is still being lived every day. Here, history is not only preserved in stones it is carried in voices, traditions, and the warmth of its people.

Today, Palestine continues to welcome those who seek meaningful and authentic experiences. While challenges remain, its people, communities, and cultural spaces continue to open their doors with resilience, offering moments of connection, heritage, and genuine hospitality.

But to discover Palestine is to go beyond what you see. It is to share a meal, hear a story, walk through history, and connect with a people whose resilience and spirit leave a lasting impression. Every visit makes a difference—supporting local communities, empowering artisans and farmers, and helping sustain a culture that has endured for generations.

**This is more than a destination.**

**This is Palestine—ready to be discovered.**



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## The Holy Sepulcher: A Living Testament in Jerusalem's Old City

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher stands as one of Christianity's most sacred sites—a living chronicle of faith, architecture, and centuries of shared history.

The church traces its origins to 335 AD, when Queen Helena ordered the tomb's sanctification and the construction of three interconnected sanctuaries: the tomb, the Grotto of the Cross, and Golgotha. Its walls have weathered Persian destruction, Crusader rebuilding, and later restorations, always guided by reverence for the sacred grotto and the Cross. Caliph Omar's respectful entry and the 1869 dome restoration—united by international collaboration—echo the site's long history of interfaith acknowledgment.

Today, liturgies, guided tours, and heritage programs invite visitors to witness centuries of devotion, art, and architecture coexisting within a single, living complex.

For travelers, the Holy Sepulcher offers more than a landmark—it's a doorway to faith, resilience, and a shared human story that continues to inspire.





## Jericho's Tell es-Sultan: The World's Oldest Urban Heartbeat

Nestled in the Jordan Valley, Tell es-Sultan is one of the world's oldest inhabited sites, recording a history that stretches back to the Natufian and Neolithic eras.

Tell es-Sultan located about ten kilometers north of the Dead Sea, Jericho sits roughly 250 meters below sea level, with ruins spanning about an acre. Excavations reveal more than ten millennia of culture, from Natufian flint tools to early Neolithic round houses and the first fortifications. In later periods, the city's tale widens to include the late Hellenistic and Roman layers, with the grand Tulul Abu Al-Ala'iq, known as Herod's palace, and a Byzantine footprint marked by several churches that appear on historic maps like the Madaba mosaic. Modern rehabilitation work, conducted through partnerships with the Palestinian Department of Antiquities, Sapienza University of Rome, and UNESCO, preserves mosaics, architecture, and traces of daily life from the Roman, Byzantine-Umayyad, Medieval, and Ottoman periods. Tell es-Sultan remains a living classroom—an essential stop for understanding the origins of urban life and resilient civilizations.

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## Celebrate the Spirit of Ramadan like Never Before

Ramadan is more than a month—it is a season of light, warmth, and unforgettable moments. It is where spirituality meets celebration, and where every detail becomes part of a beautiful story shared with family and community.

As the crescent moon appears, streets glow with lanterns and shimmering lights, homes fill with the aroma of authentic flavors, and hearts unite in anticipation of cherished gatherings. Iftar becomes a daily celebration—tables rich with dates, traditional dishes, and delightful sweets, bringing loved ones together in moments of gratitude and joy.

As night falls, the atmosphere transforms. Mosques come alive with Taraweeh prayers, echoing with peace and devotion. Acts of generosity and charity flourish, reflecting the true essence of compassion and unity. Ramadan evenings sparkle with cultural events, elegant tents, family activities, and vibrant competitions that create a refined and festive ambiance for all ages.





Suhoor carries its own magic—serene, intimate, and filled with reflection under the quiet glow of the moon. The familiar call of the musaharati adds a nostalgic touch, preserving the authenticity and heritage that make Ramadan so special.

From beautifully illuminated decorations to the tradition of sharing dishes with neighbors and hosting community iftars, every element contributes to a complete Ramadan experience—one that blends faith, heritage, connection, and celebration.

Make this Ramadan extraordinary.

Create meaningful memories. Strengthen bonds. Embrace generosity.

Live every moment in an atmosphere filled with light, love, and lasting joy.



# A Tour in Bethlehem

Visiting Palestine today means more than sightseeing: it is an opportunity for meaningful engagement—sharing meals, listening to personal histories, and witnessing the resilience and hospitality of the Palestinian people. By choosing Palestine, travelers contribute directly to the recovery of the local economy and help sustain communities that have long preserved this land's traditions.

While in Bethlehem, we highly recommend visiting these top destinations:

- Begin your journey in the spiritual heart of Bethlehem with a visit to the Church of the Nativity, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest continuously operating churches in the world—marking the sacred birthplace of Jesus.
- Just a short walk away, step into the serene beauty of the Milk Grotto Church, a place of deep devotion where tradition holds that the Virgin Mary once rested—offering a peaceful and reflective experience.





- Wander through the charm of the Old City, where narrow streets and traditional markets reveal the rhythm of daily life. Here, heritage is alive in every detail, from local crafts to warm exchanges with shopkeepers.

- Continue your cultural journey with a visit to the Riwaya Museum, where stories of Palestinian life and identity are brought to life—offering a deeper understanding of the soul of Bethlehem.

- Then head to Beit Sahour – The Shepherds’ Field Church, where the story of the Nativity extends into open landscapes, marking the place where angels brought the message of hope.

- Pause for a refined yet authentic culinary experience with a traditional Musakhan lunch, where rich olive oil, sumac, and freshly baked bread come together in a dish that tells the story of the land.

- In the afternoon, step into a different narrative at The Walled Off Hotel, where contemporary art and history intersect—offering a powerful reflection on resilience and everyday life.

- Take a moment to slow down with a local coffee or knafeh experience, embracing the warmth of Palestinian hospitality in one of Bethlehem’s welcoming cafés.

- As the day unfolds, explore local workshops showcasing olive wood carvings and traditional embroidery—timeless crafts that carry generations of artistry and identity.

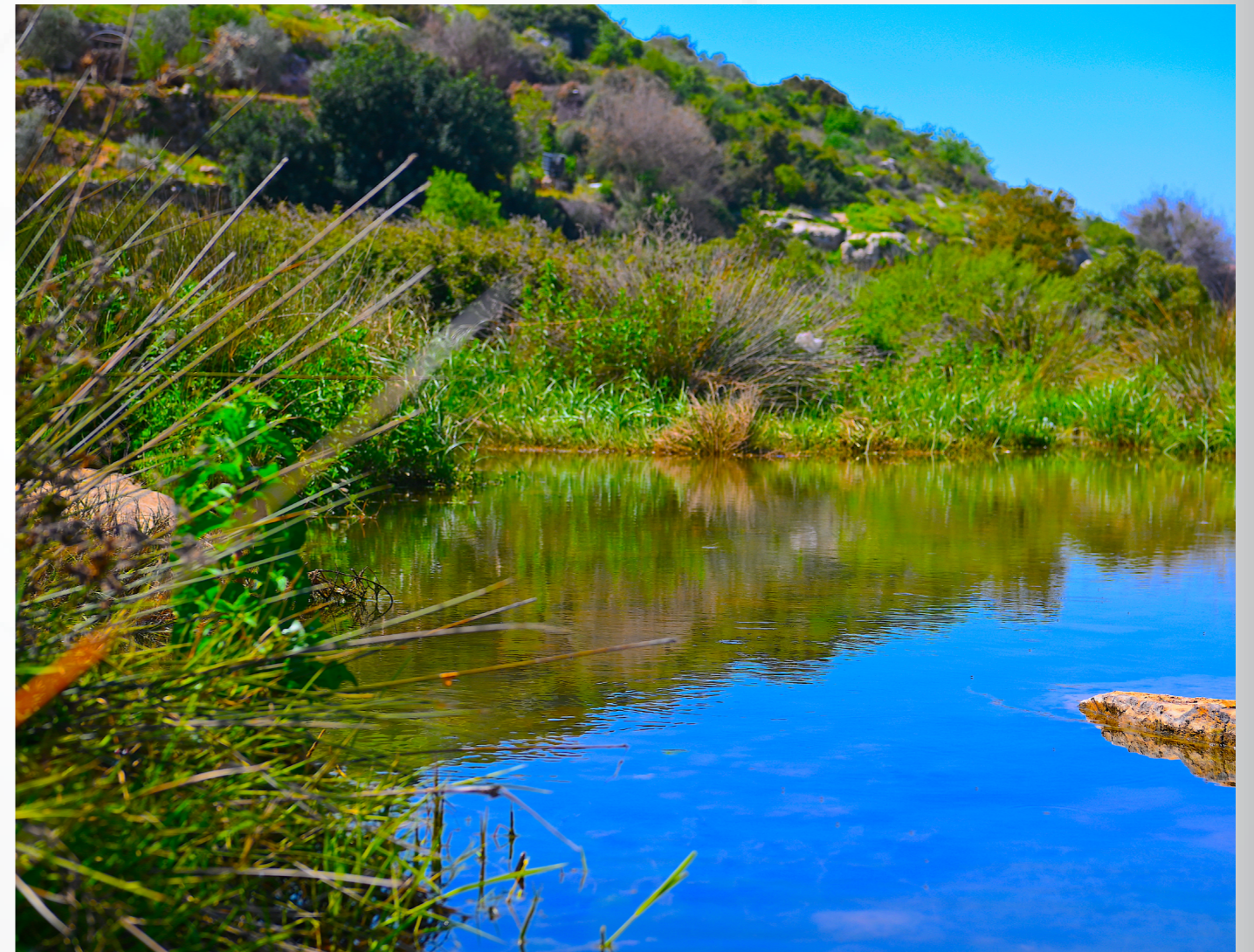
## Hiking in Wadi Qana, a place that never disappoints

### Are you a nature lover? Looking for a unique experience?

The Qana Valley trail is considered one of the most beautiful nature trails in Palestine, allowing visitors to get acquainted with the beauty of nature in Palestine, and its environmental diversity. The trail is 7 km long starting from the east of the village of Kafr Thulth, about 2.5 km from the center of the village, and ends at the west. The trail can also be started from or ended at the road of Deir Estia.

You can walk through the heart of the valley located between the two governorates of Salfit and Qalqilya, until you arrive to Khirbet (Qana) where you can stop at several points during the trail, to explore the traces of ancient life in the area such as Kafr Qare' at the foot of the mountain; and to contemplate the beauty of nature and wildlife.

Within the reserve extending from the East of Kafr Thulth near the main street of the village of Deir Estia, a group of springs of abandoned Bedouin ruins (around 11 springs), and a group of lands of orange and lemon near the water springs.



When visiting the valley, you will be impressed by its biodiversity starting with the variety of plants such as the sage, wild thyme, rosemary, cyclamen persicum, oak, officinal storax, hornbeam...etc; the various bird species around the valley, including the hoopoe, nightingale, greenfinch, Palestinian sunbird, partridge, eagle, and others. In the pond areas, one can find waterhen, moorhen, grey heron, golden heron, common kingfisher, common sandpiper, white-breasted wagtail, and osprey; in addition to different mammals such as the wild boar, honey badger, porcupine, Egyptian mongoose, fruit bat, red fox, rock hyrax, and others.

**Don't miss it, a real paradise is waiting for you!**



Wadi Qana

## Dura City Museum: A Window into Palestinian Heritage

Located in the heart of the city southwest of Hebron, the Dura Museum stands as a vibrant cultural landmark dedicated to documenting Palestinian heritage and strengthening national identity. It was officially opened in 2013 under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with the Municipality of Dura, the museum forms part of the preparations for the Hebron Capital of Islamic Culture 2026 celebrations.

The museum works to preserve the historical and folkloric legacy of the region by collecting and exhibiting heritage artifacts that reflect Palestinian life across generations. Visitors can explore a diverse collection that includes:

- Traditional agricultural tools
- Folk costumes and textiles
- Handicrafts
- Historical photographs and documents that archive the collective memory of the area



Beyond preservation, the museum aims to offer a modern educational experience through the development of interactive display methods that present the city's history in an engaging and innovative manner. It also serves as a community hub, hosting heritage events, exhibitions, and workshops—particularly for youth—to strengthen their connection to their cultural identity.

More than a museum, Dura Museum represents a valuable addition to the regional tourism scene, highlighting the city's role as a cultural center that reflects the authenticity and richness of Palestinian heritage.





## Welcome to Palestine: A Land of Stories Waiting to Be Discovered

1. Did You Know? Jericho is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with evidence of settlement dating back to 9000 BCE.
2. Did You Know? Palestinian tatreez embroidery uses village-specific motifs and colors, often taught in cooperatives to preserve heritage and support local artisans.
3. Did You Know? Olives and olive oil lie at the heart of Palestinian life, connecting farmers, families, and kitchen tables across generations.
4. Did You Know? Bethlehem is known as the birthplace of Jesus Christ and stands as a major spiritual destination, attracting visitors from around the world to its historic and religious landmarks.
5. Did You Know? Jericho's springs and desert landscapes create unique wellness and eco-tourism experiences, from oasis visits to nature walks.

# Hisham Palace - Jericho

6. Did You Know? Palestinian cuisine tells stories of families and trade, with shared plates of Maqluba, Musakhan, and fresh produce from local markets

7. Did You Know? Community-based tourism initiatives connect travelers with host families, supporting sustainable livelihoods and authentic cultural exchange.

8. Did You Know? Palestine is home to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites that reflect centuries of faith, trade, and culture: the Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, Palestine: Land of olives and vines - Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, Saint Hilarion Monastery /Tell Umm Amer, and the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls — each telling a unique story of human civilization. and rural villages.

9. Did You Know? Palestine features diverse natural landscapes, offering eco-tourism opportunities such as hiking, nature walks, and birdwatching.

10. Did You Know? Palestine offers visitors a unique blend of historical, religious, and cultural experiences within a compact geographical area, making it possible to explore diverse destinations in a short time.



# St. Saba Monastery



# Battir

UNESCO World Heritage Sites



# The Via Dolorosa

The Via Dolorosa, known as the “Way of Suffering” in Christian tradition, is believed to be the path that Jesus Christ walked from the time of his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his crucifixion and burial. This route is followed by many Christian denominations, particularly Catholics and Orthodox. The tradition is thought to have originated in the fourth century AD, when pilgrims began following a similar route.

Over its history, the path of the Via Dolorosa has undergone several changes. It spans 500 meters and includes 14 stations, starting from the Omariya School near the Lions’ Gate and ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Nine stations are located along the path leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, while the final five stations are inside the church itself.

**THE FIRST STATION:** Located in Antonia Fortress, constructed by Herod in 35 BC and named after Mark Antony, Antonia Fortress served as the Roman governor’s residence, also known as the “Praetorium.” Here, Jesus Christ was brought and tried by Pontius Pilate. The Omariya School now stands on the ruins of this fortress, which remains to this day.

## **THE SECOND STATION:**

Adjacent to the Omariya School, there is a site maintained by the Franciscan Fathers, housing the Church of the Flagellation. This church was built on the remains of a Crusader era church from the 12th century. It commemorates where Jesus Christ was scourged, crowned with thorns, and handed over with the cross. This site also includes another church known as the Church of Condemnation, where Pilate sentenced Jesus to crucifixion.

## **ECCE HOMO:**

This monastery is known as the “Ecce Homo” or “Litostrotos” monastery. It is located at the beginning of the Via Dolorosa, where there are important ruins dating back to the Roman period that were discovered in 1857. The most important of these archaeological remains at the site are: The “Struthion Pool” is a Greek word meaning ostrich, Litostrotus tiles where the king’s game is located from the Roman period and the triple arch dates back to the time of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, which dates back to the second century AD.

## **THE THIRD STATION:**

At this station, Jesus Christ stumbles and falls under the heavy weight of the cross. The site is marked by an Armenian Catholic church.

בֵּית דוֹלוֹרוֹזָה  
طريق الآلام  
VIA DOLOROSA



**THE FOURTH STATION:** The fourth station marks the moment when Jesus meets his grieving mother, Mary. This emotional encounter is depicted in a carved panel above the entrance to the Armenian Church on the Valley Road.

**THE FIFTH STATION:** At this stage, the centurion requests Simon of Cyrene's assistance in carrying Christ's cross. A beautifully carved plaque illustrating this scene is located above the Franciscan Church.

**THE SIXTH STATION:** At this stage, a woman later known as Veronica, meaning "the true icon," wipes the face of Jesus Christ with a handkerchief. Tradition holds that this woman lived in the area, and after she wiped Christ's face, his image was miraculously imprinted on the cloth. This event is commemorated by an inscription at the entrance of the Roman Catholic Church.

**THE SEVENTH STATION:** Here, Jesus falls for the second time, commemorated by a Franciscan church located at this site.

**THE EIGHTH STATION:** Jesus continues his journey towards Golgotha, bearing his cross, and tradition holds that here he meets the daughters of Jerusalem. This location is marked by a cross engraved on the outer wall of the Roman Monastery.

**THE NINTH STATION:** Jesus Christ falls for the third time under the weight of the cross, where a church belonging to the Coptic Monastery now stands on the site.

**THE TENTH STATION:**

It is located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and marks the stage where Jesus was stripped of his clothes in preparation for his crucifixion.

**THE ELEVENTH STATION:**

In this place, the nails were driven into the hands and feet of Christ on the cross.

**THE TWELFTH STATION:**

The site of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on the cross, where today there is a Greek Orthodox altar to commemorate this important religious event.

**THE THIRTEENTH STATION:**

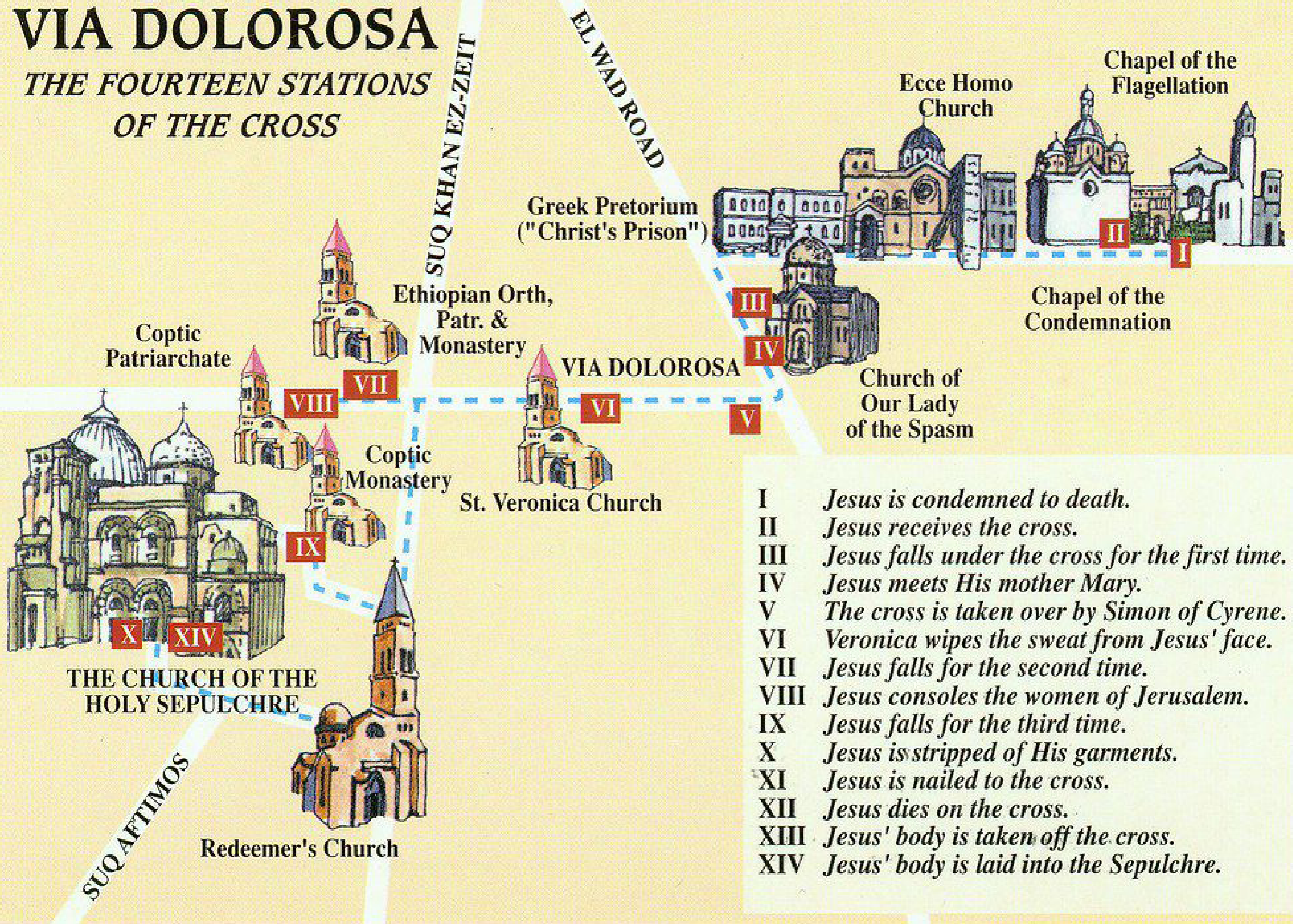
The body of Jesus Christ is taken down from the cross, placed on the anointing stone, anointed with perfume, and wrapped in shrouds to be buried in the tomb.

**THE FOURTEENTH STATION:**

After wrapping his body in shrouds, Nicodemus took it and placed it in the Holy Tomb, which was a new tomb where no one had been buried before.

# VIA DOLOROSA

## THE FOURTEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS



- I *Jesus is condemned to death.*
- II *Jesus receives the cross.*
- III *Jesus falls under the cross for the first time.*
- IV *Jesus meets His mother Mary.*
- V *The cross is taken over by Simon of Cyrene.*
- VI *Veronica wipes the sweat from Jesus' face.*
- VII *Jesus falls for the second time.*
- VIII *Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem.*
- IX *Jesus falls for the third time.*
- X *Jesus is stripped of His garments.*
- XI *Jesus is nailed to the cross.*
- XII *Jesus dies on the cross.*
- XIII *Jesus' body is taken off the cross.*
- XIV *Jesus' body is laid into the Sepulchre.*