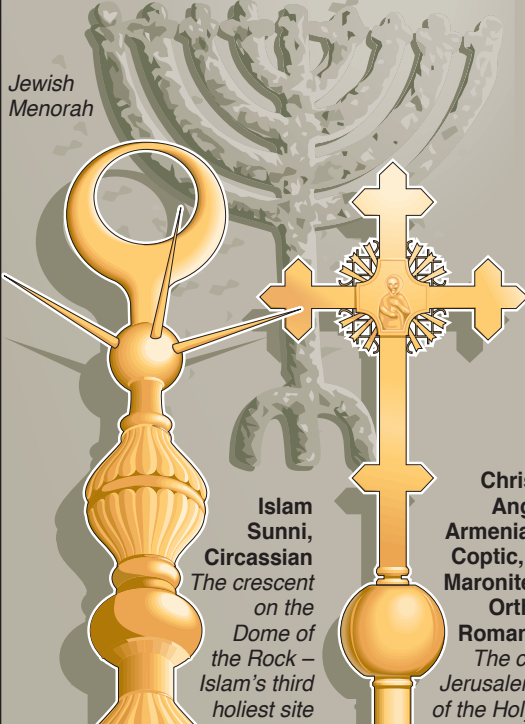


The holy land – a religious mosaic

Although by its nature a Jewish state, Israel is home to the holiest sites of the three main monotheistic religions, plus several minor faiths, and allows complete freedom of religious expression. However, conflict over ownership of the holy sites continues unabated as it has done for generations

The tribes of Israel

Each religion is also represented by a number of denominations



Judaism
Orthodox,
Reform, Karaites

Sacred sites of Israel

Nebi Shu'eib (Druze)
Haifa (Bahai)
Mt Gerazim (Samaritans)
Jerusalem
Bethlehem
Hebron



Jews regard the entire land of Israel as sacred. Many Old Testament biblical sites are also revered by Christians and Muslims

Jerusalem's Temple Mount

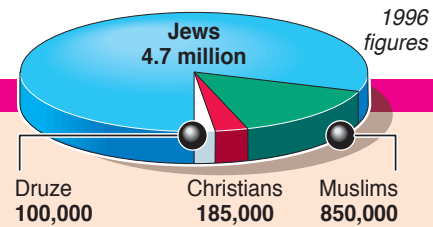
Site on which Judaism's First and Second Temples were built; now houses **Dome of the Rock** and **Al Aqsa** mosque

Western Wall
Remains of the Second Temple

Dome of the Rock
From which Mohammed ascended to heaven

Religious worship

How the numbers break down



and the others...

Druze: Claiming descent from Moses' father, the Druze religion is an offshoot of Islam, closed to outsiders. Druze live in northern Israel, Syria and Lebanon and serve in the Israeli army

Bahai: Offshoot of Islam founded in the last century

Samaritans: Ancient religion related to Judaism – only 600 remain