



THE WESTERN WALL TUNNELS

The Western Wall of the Temple Mount is one of the most significant remnants in Jerusalem from the Second Temple. The Western Wall is nearly half a kilometer but the part visible at the Western Wall plaza known as The Wailing Wall, or Kotel is only 187 feet.

Following the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, the Western Wall Tunnels Project commenced as an effort to expose the entire length of the Western Wall. This allowed us to learn more about the wall itself and the various structures in its vicinity. Near the Western Wall are tunnels created by numerous arches stacked side-by-side that support staircases going from the city to the Temple Mount. In ancient times, there was a shallow valley (called the Tyropaeon) running along the western side of the Temple Mount. This is now filled in due to constant demolition and rebuilding, but it once separated the rich Herodian quarter from the Temple. It was the need to bridge this gap that originally caused the arches to be built. These pathways still hold up the streets today, and the tunnel goes directly underneath the Muslim quarter. As you walk through the tunnel along the ancient wall, you can pause opposite the Holy of Holies and see pavement built by Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:21) and foundations from the Praetorium (Matthew 27:27).

