

MEDIA KIT

THE GARDEN TOMB

AN EXAMPLE OF A GREEN PILGRIMAGE SITE IN JERUSALEM

The Garden Tomb, arguably the most peaceful, most clean and most serene place in east Jerusalem is believed, by many, to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, and therefore a possible site of the resurrection of Jesus. The Garden Tomb, which is the foremost Protestant tourist site in Israel and visited by well over ¼ million people each year from 90+ countries, is owned and administered by The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association, a Christian non-denominational charitable trust based in the United Kingdom.

The message of the Garden Tomb is taken straight from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to teach visitors all about the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. The Jewishness of Jesus and Jesus's Teachings are what the site draws upon; no 'tradition' or archives, antiquities or archeology – just using the backdrop of the Garden and its four artifacts that were all there the weekend that Jesus died, and which all match the Bible's account.

The Garden Tomb is a quiet place preserved for worship and reflection. There are places to sit, drinking water and bathroom facilities, including provision for the disabled. Wheelchair access is good for a general tour of the Garden.

The Israeli Tour Guides' Association recently nominated the Garden Tomb as the best tour site in Israel, and the Lonely Planet guide quotes a Roman Catholic priest who said "If the Garden Tomb is not the right place, it should be".

The Garden Tomb and Sustainability

Richard Meryon, Director of The Garden Tomb, says "God being the Creator of the Universe, we have a responsibility to sustain it as best we can." To this end, Mr. Meryon quotes the following ways that The Garden Tomb proactively works with sustainability in mind.

WATER:

- *We collect as much of the rain water as is sensibly possible into our vast water cistern (1 million liters) which may be 2000 years old. This we use to irrigate the garden all the year round; indeed in 2013 we are repairing all the leaks in this cistern at our expense so*

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that it holds more rain water, thus reducing our reliance on city water for extra irrigation when the cistern runs dry.

- *All our apartments collect the cold water that comes initially from the hot water tanks, rather than allow it to run down the drain.*
- *All the urinals are newly fitted with movement detector flushers which avoids the waste from timed flushing.*
- *Hand dryers in all bathrooms hugely reduce paper towel consumption and hence rubbish disposal.*
- *We are actively working with Green Pilgrim Jerusalem to install one of the solar-powered water dispensers and to sell reusable bottles.*

GARDEN WASTE

- *We compost all the suitable garden rubbish and domestic food-waste, re-using them as compost on our borders a year later.*

RE-CYCLING

- *We collect all our glass and plastic bottles for re-cycling*

ELECTRICAL CONSUMPTION

- *All our hot water is solar heated*
- *We are exploring with Israeli suppliers of photo-voltaic cells for electrical power generation suggested by Naomi Tsur and the Green Pilgrim Jerusalem team*