

Wilson's Arch - The Wailing Wall - Jerusalem



ARCH STABILISATION



Located below the Old City of modern-day Jerusalem, Wilson's arch extended high above the street in the time of Jesus. It is buttressed up against the Wailing Wall of the Temple Mount and supported a bridge across the Tyropean Valley from the Upper City on the Western Hill.

Named after the explorer who discovered it in the nineteenth century, Wilson's Arch was one of the largest freestanding masonry arches in the world. It extended 75 feet above the valley floor below, and covered a span of 45 feet. In these photographs, the floor on which the people are praying is on the debris from the Roman destruction of the city in 70 AD and later construction. The arch is now only 20 feet above the pavement. Its majestic size and the enormous stones testify to the grandeur of King Herod's aspirations. Today the area beneath the arch functions as a prayer area for religious Jews. Following its excavation in the 1860's, the structure has suffered cracking from regular seismic activity, most recently in the early 1990's and also from more recent nearby excavations of King Solomons Stables. The strengthening was carried out by Cintec's representation for Israel - Oganim Anchoring Solutions Ltd with the use of diamond core drilling to within just 200mm of the Western Wall No.8 Cintec M12 stainless steel anchors of between 2.36m and 2.75m long were installed under the supervision of the Authority of Antiquity of Israel. The retaining sleeves of each Cintec anchor preventing the escape of grout into the surrounding voids. The arch pier is now stabilised against future seismic activity.

