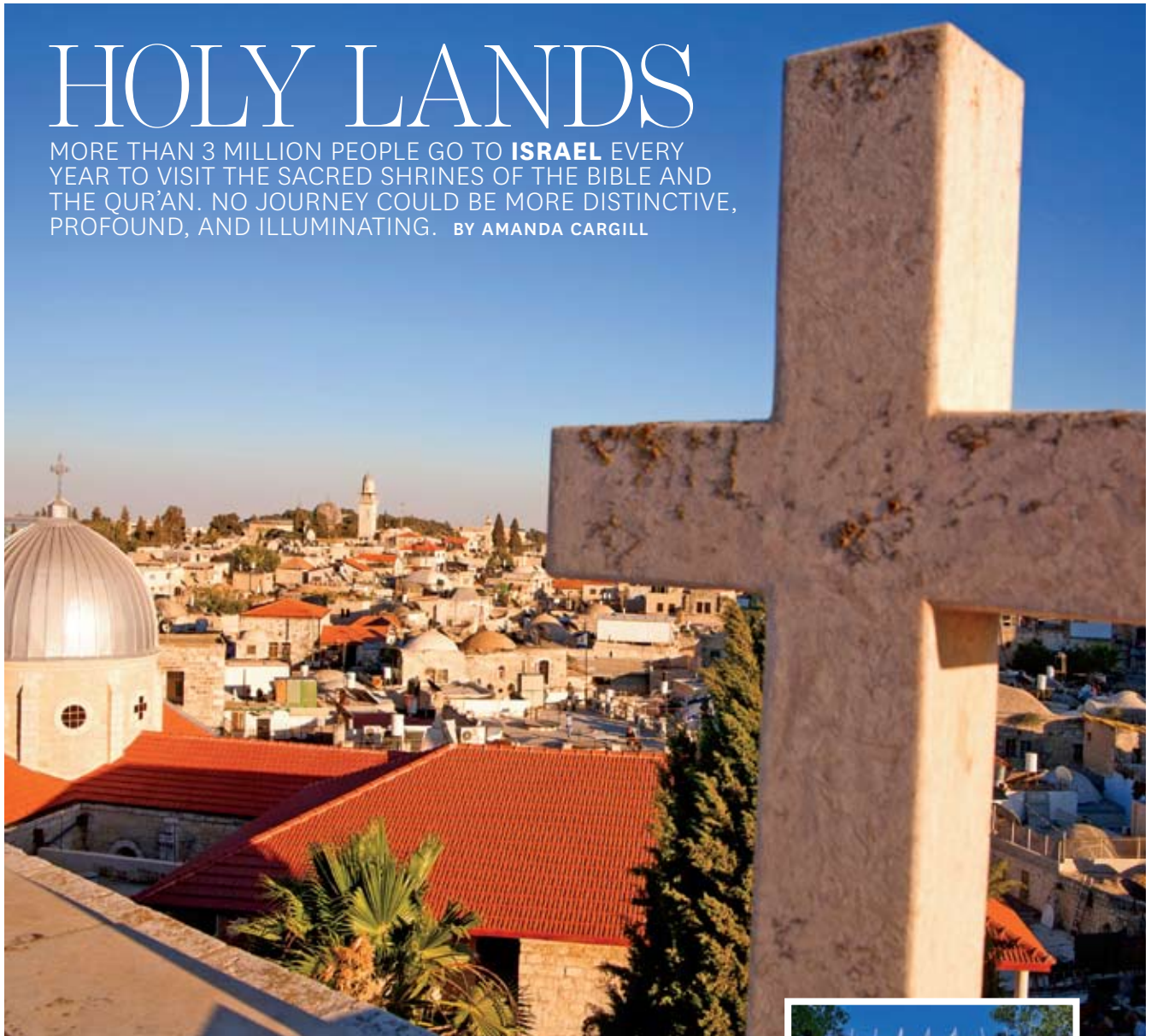


HOLY LANDS

MORE THAN 3 MILLION PEOPLE GO TO **ISRAEL** EVERY YEAR TO VISIT THE SACRED SHRINES OF THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN. NO JOURNEY COULD BE MORE DISTINCTIVE, PROFOUND, AND ILLUMINATING. BY AMANDA CARGILL



JERUSALEM

The epicenter of three world faiths—Judaism's **Western Wall**, Islam's **Al Aqsa Mosque**, and Christianity's **Via Dolorosa** are all located here—Jerusalem's religious and historical significance is not just visible, it's palpable. Nowhere can this be more deeply felt than at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, believed to be the site of Jesus' crucifixion, tomb, and resurrection. Traveler's tip: Do not take photos of people praying, especially at the Western Wall and in mosques.

Digs: The **King David Hotel**, the top choice for visiting dignitaries and celebrities since it opened in 1931.

Eats: **Machneyuda**, where Israel's Iron Chef Asaf Granit makes modern Israeli dishes in Jerusalem's liveliest restaurant.



PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP: NOAM CHEN/IMOT; ALAMY.

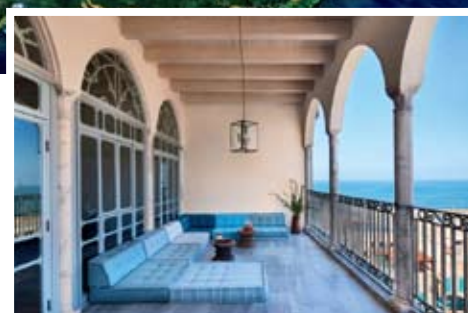


ACRE

An ancient port city with a diverse population of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Baha'is, Acre is an ideal destination for travelers seeking spiritual connection. A must-see is **Al Jazzar Mosque**, with its vivid-green dome and minaret, stunning mosaics, and skylights. The mosque broadcasts Adhan, the Muslim call to prayer, four to five times daily, and its song-like invitation can be heard throughout the Old City's stone-paved alleys. (Be sure to remove your shoes before entering; women must dress conservatively.) Also not to be missed is the 1,100-foot-long **Templars' Tunnel**, built in the name of the Pope to protect Christian pilgrims in the 12th century.

Digs: The **Efendi Boutique Hotel**, with stunning Mediterranean views.

Eats: **Uri Buri**, a deceptively simple seafood spot beloved by locals and foodies.



NAZARETH

Christians flock to this primarily Arab city for a glimpse at biblical relics like **Jesus' Table**, where Christ is said to have joined his disciples after the resurrection, and the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, which displays the remnants of Mary's childhood home. A short walk away is **St. Gabriel Church**, set atop the spring that supplied **Mary's Well**, where Greek Orthodox Christians believe the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would bear the Savior. Take it all in from **Mt. Precipice**, a peaceful hilltop with breathtaking views of Nazareth's tiled roofs and palm- and fir-tree-dotted skyline.

Digs: Rustic and friendly **Villa Nazareth Hotel**, with easy access to nearby sites.

Eats: **Falafel Abu Hani Gabaly**, known for serving the best Israeli street food north of Tel Aviv.

