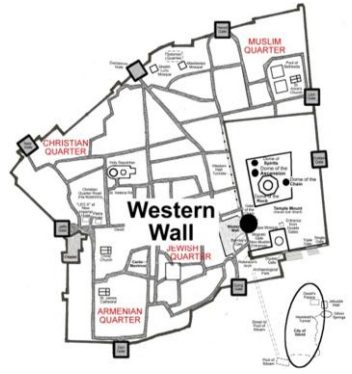


Western Wall

The entire west side of the Temple Mount retaining wall can be called the western wall (1,600 feet), but there is a section of this wall that is commonly called the Western Wall. It is a 187 foot section of the wall with a large plaza area where the seven courses (or layers) of stones of the retaining wall of Herod's Temple Mount can still be seen. This is also known as the Kotel or "Wall". Kotel ha- Ma'aravi means "Western Wall." The Herodian stones in the



Western Wall are limestone ashlars likely quarried from Solomon's Quarries. The average stone weighs between 2-8 tons and about 15 feet wide. Each stone has finely chiseled borders cut around the edges a little more than 1/2 an inch deep and between 2-8 inches wide.

