**Eshkolot Cave**

**To the Cave**

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**Welcome to Eshkolot Park.**

There is a burial cave hidden in the park.

Who carved it?

When?

Follow the arrow and find out.

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**Welcome to Eshkolot Park.**

There is a burial cave hidden in the park.

Who carved it?

When?

Follow the arrow and find out.

Go straight to the path with stairs.

Go through the park to the ramp path.

**Eshkolot Cave**

This is a magnificent burial cave from the end of the Second Temple period (1st c. BCE – 1st c. CE), which is part of Jerusalem’s “tomb city.” This area of the burial grounds is known for especially magnificent burial caves. Eshkolot Cave is carved and chiseled out of stone with visible quality and care. Its front is decorated with a relief featuring gabled frames, including Rosetta reliefs and grapevine branches with clusters of grapes. These gave the cave its name, “Eshkolot,” meaning “clusters” in Hebrew.

The entrance to the cave leads through a vestibule decorated with plant patterns, to a central room which has four burial chambers. Burial niches were carved out of the side walls of three of these rooms, and three vaults were carved in the fourth room, under which were shelves upon which the bodies were placed. Many shards of ossuaries (stone containers for the secondary burial of bones) were found in the burial rooms, in addition to tomb-covers and earthenware, which enable the dating of the cave to the end of the Second Temple period. Crosses were carved into the walls of some of the rooms in the cave, a finding which testifies to its use during the Byzantine period as well.