

PALESTINE

Beyond Your Expectations

ANCIENT HERITAGE • LIVING CULTURE • AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES • TIMELESS STORIES

A LAND OF TIMELESS STORIES!

Where history, culture
And natural beauty
Come Together!

Issue NO.5



Welcome to Palestine!

Dear Traveler,

Every journey begins with curiosity, and every destination leaves a story behind.

In Palestine, history is not confined to museums—it lives in ancient streets, echoes through sacred sites, thrives in vibrant markets, and is carried forward by the warmth of its people. Here, every sunrise reveals breathtaking landscapes, every meal celebrates centuries of tradition, and every encounter offers a glimpse into a rich and enduring cultural heritage.

Whether you come to explore remarkable archaeological treasures, experience living traditions, or simply enjoy the beauty of our land, we invite you to discover a place where every moment becomes a memory.

May your travels inspire, your experiences enrich, and your time in Palestine leave you with stories to share for years to come.

Welcome to Palestine—where every journey tells a story.

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities – Palestine.





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A Spiritual Experience in the Heart of Jerusalem!

The Church of the Tomb of the Virgin Mary known also as the Church of the Assumption, is one of the charming and important religious monuments in Jerusalem. It is situated near the Garden of Gethsemane in the Kidron Valley at the foot of the Mount of Olives, approximately 200 meters east of Lion's Gate in the Old City walls. It stands at the crossroads leading to the Lions' Gate, Silwan, and Mount Tur.

It is revered as the site of the Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven, and houses her tomb. According to the sacred tradition of the Orthodox Church, Mary is said to have learned that the end of her earthly life was approaching. The Apostles miraculously gathered in Jerusalem, where she died peacefully, and Christ received her soul. Her body was then carried to a tomb near Gethsemane, and three days later, the tomb was found empty.

Additionally, it contains the graves of her parents, Joachim and Anna, as well as the tomb of Joseph the carpenter from Nazareth.





The first church on this site was constructed by Emperor Marcian of Byzantium in 456 AD. The Crusaders undertook restoration work in 1010 AD, and later, in 1130 AD, they erected a Benedictine monastery adjacent to the church.

Visitors approach the site through a narrow entrance that leads to a steep stone staircase, descending 15 meters below ground level into the Byzantine-era crypt.

The Feast of Mary's Dormition, is celebrated on the 28th of August preceded by the traditional procession of the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos, held annually on the 25th of August with the participation of monks, nuns, clergy, pilgrims and the local community. Join the thousands of pilgrims, experience a unique spiritual journey, walk through the Via Dolorosa and the Old City of Jerusalem with prayers and chants, until you reach the Dormition site. Make sure you light a candle on the stony stairs for your beloved ones.



The Soul of Palestinian Craftsmanship Where Tradition Comes to Life

In Palestine, craftsmanship is not simply something made by hand—it is a story, a memory, and a living connection to the land. From the delicate stitches of Tatreez to the intricate carving of olive wood, from handmade pottery to traditional weaving,

Palestinian crafts reflect generations of creativity, patience, and pride. Each pattern, texture, and shape carries a piece of the place where it was created.

Tatreez tells stories through color and motif. Olive wood transforms one of Palestine's oldest symbols—the olive tree—into lasting works of art. Pottery and weaving preserve techniques that have been passed from one generation to another, keeping traditions alive while allowing them to evolve.

For travelers, discovering these crafts offers a glimpse into a Palestine that cannot be found in a guidebook. It means stepping into a workshop, meeting the hands behind the craft, listening to stories, and seeing how heritage becomes part of everyday life.

Because the most meaningful souvenirs are not simply things we take home. They are the stories we remember, the people we meet, and the moments that stay with us.

Beyond the Souvenir

Meet the maker. Hear the story. Experience the tradition. Take a piece of Palestine with you.





Alternative Tourism in Palestine

A Journey of Culture, Heritage, and Human Connection.

Palestine offers visitors more than historical landmarks and religious sites. Through Alternative tourism, travelers have the opportunity to connect with local communities, support grassroots initiatives, and experience the daily life, culture, and resilience of the Palestinian people.

Alternative tourism focuses on meaningful travel experiences that encourage cultural exchange, understanding, and support for local communities. Visitors explore historic cities, meet local residents, and learn about Palestinian heritage while contributing to sustainable tourism.

Exploring Jerusalem.

Discover the rich cultural and spiritual atmosphere of the Old City of Jerusalem. Walk through the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and Armenian quarters and experience centuries of history and tradition.

Highlights include:

- Visiting Al-Aqsa Mosque
- Exploring ancient markets and historical streets
- Meeting local Palestinian community leaders and families

Hebron and the South Hebron Hills

Explore one of the oldest cities in the world and learn about the cultural importance of Hebron and its surrounding villages.

The experience includes:

- A guided visit to the Old City of Hebron
- Visiting Ibrahimi Mosque
- Learning about traditional crafts and local life in the South Hebron Hills

Bethlehem: Faith and Community

Bethlehem combines religious heritage with powerful community stories.

Main visits include:

- Church of the Nativity
- Aida Refugee Camp
- Walled Off Hotel
- Solomon's Pools
- Shepherd fields



Visitors can engage with local residents and hear personal stories that reflect resilience and hope.

Ramallah and Nablus

Experience the vibrant cultural life of Ramallah and the historical beauty of Nablus.

Highlights include:

- Visiting the Yasser Arafat Mausoleum
- Visiting Mahmoud Darwish Museum
- Exploring the Old city of Ramallah
- Exploring the Old City of Nablus
- Visiting Jacob's Well
- Meeting residents of Balata Refugee Camp

More Than a Trip

Alternative tourism in Palestine creates meaningful connections between visitors and local communities. It allows travelers to discover the beauty of Palestinian culture, support local businesses, and experience the spirit of unity, hospitality, and resilience that defines Palestine.

Wadi Al-Quff Nature Reserve: A Hidden Gem in Hebron's Wilderness

Nestled among the limestone hills north of Hebron, Wadi Al-Quff Nature Reserve is a remarkable sanctuary where natural beauty, biodiversity, and heritage come together. Covering approximately 2,500 dunums, the reserve is one of southern Palestine's most important ecological landscapes, featuring rich forests of oak, cypress, and pine trees.

The reserve is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including red foxes, striped hyenas, rock hyraxes, and fruit bats, as well as numerous bird species such as the snake eagle, Syrian woodpecker, and goldfinch. During the blooming season, native flowers including the Palestinian iris and Persian cyclamen add vibrant colors to the landscape.

Visitors can explore the reserve through a 6-kilometer trail that begins at Ein Hiska. The route offers opportunities for hiking, bird watching, and discovering natural and archaeological treasures, including ancient caves such as Tor Al-Safa, freshwater springs including Al-Sakar, Al-Zarqa, and Ein Al-Majnuna, as well as historical sites such as Bir Al-Qaf and the ruins of Khirbet Jadur and Khirbet Kufin.

Nearby, the village of Beit Kahil, located at an elevation of approximately 830 meters above sea level, welcomes visitors with its traditional hospitality and panoramic views stretching toward the Palestinian coast. With marked trails, rest areas, and family-friendly facilities, Wadi Al-Quff offers an unforgettable experience for nature lovers, hikers, and those seeking to discover Palestine's natural heritage.

Explore the beauty of Wadi Al-Quff, walk through its ancient landscapes, and experience a place where nature, history, and local traditions continue to thrive.



The Church of St. George: A Living Testament of Faith and Heritage

Perched on a hill overlooking the historic town of Al-Taybeh, east of Ramallah, the Church of St. George stands as one of Palestine's most significant Byzantine-era religious landmarks. The church reflects centuries of faith, history, and cultural heritage preserved through generations.

Dating back to the Byzantine period, the church complex is a remarkable architectural site consisting of three interconnected halls. Significant parts of the structure, particularly the eastern sections of the middle and southern halls, remain remarkably well preserved. The complex was later rebuilt during the Crusader period, reflecting the continued religious importance of this sacred site. A later medieval structure further attests to its enduring significance across different historical periods.

The church is closely associated with Al-Khader, or Saint George, a revered figure in both Christian and Muslim traditions in Palestine. Following the rediscovery of the site, a joint Palestinian-French archaeological mission carried out restoration and preservation work to reveal its historical layers.





In 2009, the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities uncovered a significant archaeological discovery in the western courtyard of the church: a tomb containing hundreds of artifacts dating from the Byzantine period and the Middle Ages.

This discovery provided further evidence of the site's continuous religious and cultural importance over the centuries.

Today, the Church of St. George in Al-Taybeh offers visitors a unique journey through Palestine's rich heritage, where ancient architecture, archaeology, and living traditions come together in a place of profound historical and spiritual significance.





Star Street: The Path of Prophets and the Heart of Bethlehem

Stretching 712 meters through the heart of Bethlehem, Star Street is far more than a historic thoroughfare—it is the city's living soul. Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it holds profound spiritual significance as the traditional route believed to have been taken by the Holy Family on their journey to the birthplace of Jesus.

A Living Timeline:

Star Street is a remarkable testament to centuries of history. While its origins date back to the Byzantine period, the street showcases beautiful Mamluk and Ottoman architecture, reflecting centuries of cultural and historical heritage. Together, these architectural layers create an open-air museum where every stone, archway, and façade tells the story of the civilizations that have shaped Bethlehem.

Timeless Significance:

Today, Star Street remains at the heart of Bethlehem's cultural and spiritual identity. Each Christmas, it becomes the ceremonial route for the Patriarchal processions, welcoming thousands of pilgrims and visitors from around the world and bringing centuries-old traditions to life.

The Experience:

Walking along Star Street is an unforgettable journey through history. From the Arch of Zarara to Manger Square, visitors experience more than a scenic walk—they follow a path that has connected faith, culture, and community for centuries. Lined with historic homes, local workshops, cafés, and cultural spaces, the street offers an authentic glimpse into Bethlehem's living heritage, where the past continues to inspire the present.

Come and experience one of Palestine's most treasured heritage sites, where history, faith, and culture come together in the heart of Bethlehem.

Palestine: Where You Don't Just Visit a Place, You Embrace a Soul

By: A Traveler in Search of Authenticity

"When I decided to visit Palestine, I expected to discover remarkable historical sites. What I found instead was something far more meaningful—a place with a soul unlike any other.

The moment I stepped onto Star Street in Bethlehem, I felt as though the ancient stones were quietly telling their stories. Stretching 712 meters through the heart of the city, this historic route is traditionally believed to be the path taken by the Holy Family on their journey to the birthplace of Jesus.

As I wandered through the street, I found myself immersed in centuries of history. Beautiful Mamluk and Ottoman architecture, historic archways, and centuries-old stone buildings created a timeless atmosphere where every corner revealed another chapter of Bethlehem's rich heritage.

Yet, what touched me most was not only the history—it was the people. I will never forget the elderly shopkeeper who welcomed me with a cup of aromatic Arabic coffee. With genuine pride, he spoke of his family's connection to the city and shared stories of the Christmas processions that continue to fill Star Street with music, faith, and celebration. In Palestine, I quickly realized, visitors are not treated as strangers—they are welcomed as honored guests.

As the sun set over Manger Square, I enjoyed a traditional Palestinian Musakhan, surrounded by the warmth of local hospitality. It was then that I understood Palestine's greatest treasure is not only its extraordinary history, but also its living culture and the generosity of its people.

If you are searching for a destination that inspires, connects, and stays with you long after your journey ends, let Star Street be your first step into the heart of Palestine."







Solomons Pools: Where History Flows

Amid the green hills of Artas, southwest of Bethlehem, lie Solomon's Pools—a remarkable testament to ancient ingenuity and a centuries-old water legacy reflecting human innovation and resilience. The site consists of three interconnected reservoirs that once formed part of an advanced water system supplying Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Herodium, and surrounding communities.

Despite their name, the pools are not believed to date back to the time of King Solomon. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Upper and Middle Pools were constructed during the Hasmonean period (2nd–1st centuries BC), while the Lower Pool was added during the Mamluk period in the 15th century. Over the centuries, this remarkable water system was maintained, expanded, and restored by successive civilizations, including the Romans, Mamluks, and Ottomans.

Opposite the pools stands Murad Castle, built by Sultan Murad IV in 1622 to safeguard the aqueducts that carried water to Jerusalem and protect this vital resource.

Today, Solomon's Pools offer visitors a unique blend of history, engineering, and natural beauty. Surrounded by the scenic landscapes of Artas, the site invites history enthusiasts, hikers, and nature lovers to discover one of Palestine's most enduring heritage landmarks.



Did you know?

Sebastia is a remarkable ancient Roman city that still preserves many of its original architectural elements, including streets, columns, and monumental remains. Its archaeological landscape also reflects layers of history from the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods, making it one of Palestine's most significant heritage sites.

Did you know?

Tulkarm is renowned for its fertile lands and lush citrus groves, making it one of Palestine's richest agricultural regions

Did you know?

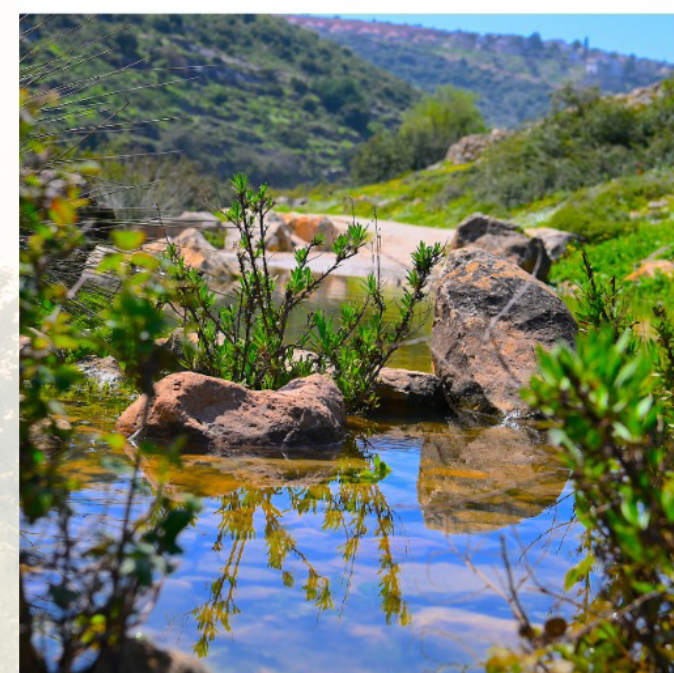
Jenin is famous for the fertile Marj Ibn Amer Plain, one of the most productive agricultural areas in historic Palestine..

Did you know?

Nablus is renowned for its centuries-old soap factories, where traditional olive oil soap is still produced using traditional methods.

Did you know?

Wadi Qana is a breathtaking nature reserve near Salfit, where visitors can enjoy scenic hiking trails, natural springs, and centuries-old olive groves.





Did you know?

Jacob's Well has welcomed pilgrims for centuries and is traditionally recognized as the biblical site where Jesus met the Samaritan woman.

Did you know?

Qalqilya is home to Palestine's only zoo, making it a unique destination for families and wildlife enthusiasts..

Did you know?

Zababdeh, near Jenin, is one of the few Palestinian towns with a Christian-majority population and is known for its historic churches and vibrant cultural traditions.

Did you know?

Jenin is known as the "Bread Basket of Palestine" because of its fertile plains, making it one of the country's most productive agricultural regions.

Did you know?

The village of Burqin, near Jenin, is home to the Church of St. George (Al-Khader), one of the world's oldest continuously used churches

Did you know?

Wadi Al-Badhan is one of the most popular natural destinations in northern Palestine, known for its springs and scenic landscapes.

A UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Jerusalem Walls



A UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Old City - Hebron



An aerial photograph of the Battir region in Jordan. The landscape is characterized by terraced hillsides covered in dense olive trees. A winding dirt road cuts through the middle of the scene. In the upper right, a cluster of stone buildings, some with multiple stories and flat roofs, is built into the hillside. The overall scene depicts a traditional agricultural landscape.

A UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Battir



A UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Saint Hilarion Monastery
Tell Umm Amer

ΕΥΧΕΣΚΑΙΠΡΕΣΒΥ
ΕΣΤΟΥΑΓΙΟΥΠΑ
ΤΡΟΣΗΜΩΝ
ΙΛΑΡΙΩΝΠΟΛΕΛΗ
ΘΩΜΕΝΑΜΗΝ