

It's Time *To* Travel **Palestine**

Join Us *On Our* **ADVENTURE**

PALESTINE A LIVING STORY SECOND EDITION



Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to our new edition of the Palestinian Tourism Magazine, We are excited to invite tourists and pilgrims to explore our beautiful homeland.

Palestine is ready to welcome you, with our private sectors prepared to ensure your visit is safe and enjoyable. Tourism is vital for our economy and helps support our communities.

We look forward for sharing our culture and stories with you. Come and experience the warmth of Palestine!

Thank you!

Eliana Abu Ayash,
Director General of Tourism Marketing and Media.



CONTENT

06 Travelers Guide

11 St. George Church – Al-Khader

14 The Shrine of Nabi Musa

15 Mar Elias Monastery

18 Hammam Al-Shifa

20 Palestinian Weddings

21 Tahriri Embroidery

26 10 Unforgettable Summer
Experiences in Palestine

31 Photogenic Palestine

Traveler's Guide

Climate and Weather

Palestine experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. Summer temperatures can reach over 35°C (95°F), especially in the Jordan Valley region. Winters are cooler, with average highs around 15°C (59°F) and lows that can dip below 5°C (41°F), particularly in the mountainous areas. Rainfall is concentrated in the winter months, with the spring and fall seasons serving as transition periods. The climate varies somewhat across the region, with coastal areas generally experiencing more moderate temperatures compared to inland regions.

Quick tip: If you want to enjoy everything—nature, history, markets, and hospitality—plan your visit in March, April, or October.



Public Transportation and Car Rental

Public Transportation: The public transportation system in Palestine consists primarily of buses and shared taxis that connect major cities and towns. Visitors have the option of renting a car to explore the region at their own pace, though driving can be challenging due to road conditions and traffic. For shorter distances, taxis are widely available and negotiable fares make them a convenient choice for getting around tourist sites and navigating urban areas. Most historical centers like the old cities of Palestine ideal for exploring on foot, walking lets you enjoy the details and locals markets.

Dress code When Visiting

- In summer, the weather is hot, but it's best to wear light, loose clothing that covers as much as possible to protect from the sun and out of respect for local customs.
- In winter, it's very cold especially in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron—you'll need a heavy jacket.
- Clothing in these cities is generally modern and flexible, especially in trendy areas and cafés.
- Always carry a shawl or light jacket, even in summer, for entering religious sites or cooler evenings.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes, as many historical areas have stone pavements or involve uphill walking.

Traveler Tips

- It's best to keep a good amount in shekels for daily use.
- ATMs are available in all cities, and you can easily exchange dollars or dinars.
- Most small shops (especially in markets) do not accept credit cards, so cash is essential.
- Make sure to carry small denominations as some shops might not have enough change.

Language

Arabic, English, Hebrew ,German, French, And Spanish.

Palestinians are very friendly; even if someone does not speak any of these languages fluently, they will try to help with gestures and a smile.



Tourist Information Center

There are many tourist information centers in most of the cities:

Bethlehem Tourist Information Center
(02) – 2776832

Ramallah Tourist Information Center
(02) - 2945555

Al- Bireh Tourist Information Center
(02) - 2955573

Jericho Tourist Information Center
(02) - 2312607

Jenin Tourist Information Center
(04) - 2434151

Tul Karim Tourist Information Center
(09) - 2696006

Hebron Tourist Information Center
(02) - 2216028





St. George Church – Al-Khader: A Sacred Pilgrimage in Bethlehem

Tucked in Al-Khader Village near Bethlehem, St. George Church—known locally as Al-Khader—is a revered pilgrimage site with deep spiritual and cultural meaning. Built in 1600 and rebuilt in 1912, the church reflects the town's long-standing religious heritage and devotion to Saint George.

According to tradition, Saint George, the legendary soldier-monk who famously slew the dragon, left his birthplace in Lydda and settled in this village, which now carries his name. His story resonates with both Muslims and Christians, who gather yearly on May 5–6 to celebrate his feast days in a unique show of interfaith unity.

Saint George is honored not only as a warrior but also as the patron saint of farmers, travelers, and those suffering from mental illness. In earlier times, people with mental health conditions were brought to the church's courtyard and temporarily chained to a special ring in hopes of healing through the saint's divine power.

Visiting St. George Church offers a glimpse into Palestine's layered faith traditions and the strong communal ties that transcend religious boundaries.



The Shrine of Nabi Musa

Located about 8 km south of Jericho and 28 km east of Jerusalem, the Shrine of Prophet Moses is a significant Islamic pilgrimage site set amid a dramatic desert landscape. Built by Sultan al-Zahir Baybars during the Mamluk period, it reflects the simplicity of Islamic Arab architecture.

The shrine Of Nabi Musa stands on sulfur and sedimentary hills in a remote area with little vegetation, covering around five dunums. The complex consists of a ground floor and three additional levels.

At its heart is a mosque and a mausoleum, The site also includes a spacious courtyard and nearly 100 rooms—some open to visitors, others closed off—making it suitable for hosting large numbers of pilgrims and visitors.

Mar Elias Monastery: A Sanctuary on the Pilgrim's Path

Mar Elias ("Holy Elijah") is a 12th-century Greek Orthodox monastery nestled beside the ancient road connecting Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Built over the ruins of a 6th-century Byzantine church, it long served pilgrims traveling to the birthplace of Christ.

The monastery stands on the site where, according to tradition, the prophet Elijah (Elias) rested while fleeing from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. After ordering the execution of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah fled south toward Bethlehem, seeking refuge. Elias fled toward Bethlehem. Known for his devout faith, Elias performed many miracles by God's will, including bringing rain, feeding a widow, and the miracle of the burnt offering.

The site's spiritual significance endures today. Every year on August 2nd, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of St. Elias, honoring the prophet's dramatic ascension to heaven and the enduring legacy of his faith.



Hammam Al-Shifa

Hammam Al-Shifa is a traditional bathhouse which is located in the old town of Nablus on the southern side of Al-Nasr Mosque, opposite Al-Bek Mosque. It is bordered on the north by a narrow staircase that connects to Al-Nasr Street, and is surrounded by traditional houses on its three sides.

The bathhouse was built in 1782 by Ibrahim Bek bin Salih Pasha Touqan. In 1997, Youssef Al-Jabi renovated and rehabilitated the bathhouse, and it still receives clients today. The bathing process follows an arrangement that accounts for the client's health and safety, as they move from the cold room to the thermal room and then the steam room, before returning in the same order. This sequence is designed to open and narrow the pores of the body as the temperature changes in each section.

The historical baths are known locally as Turkish baths and are an essential part of the architectural and urban style of the Old City. There are eight bathhouses in the neighborhood, including Al-Baidarah Bath, Al-Reesh Bath, Al-Qadi Bath, Al-Samra Bath, Al-Darajeh Bath, Al-Khalili Bath, Al-Tamimi Bath, and Al-Shifa bath.



Palestinian Weddings: A Journey Through Tradition and Authenticity

Palestinian weddings are vibrant celebrations that reflect the rich cultural heritage and strong community bonds of the Palestinian people. More than just a union, they're a joyful affirmation of family, tradition, and identity.

The journey begins with pre-wedding rituals, such as the Engagement (Khutbah) and Jaaha, a formal visit by the groom's family to request the bride's hand and discuss the dowry.

A highlight is the Henna Night (Lailat al-Henna)—a lively gathering of women where the bride's hands and feet are decorated with henna. It's a night of singing, dancing, and joy.

On the wedding day, a religious ceremony takes place in a church or mosque, with blessings and sacred texts. Afterward, a festive celebration unfolds with traditional dishes, music, and the spirited Dabke dance. The bride often wears an embroidered dress, and the groom dons traditional attire.

After the wedding, the Fardah tradition continues the celebration, as loved ones visit the newlyweds with warm wishes and blessings, reinforcing family and community ties.

While customs may vary by region, Palestinian weddings are always marked by heartfelt traditions, strong family values, and a shared cultural pride—making them truly unforgettable.



Photo By: Maha Saca

Tahriri Embroidery: A Timeless Palestinian Craft

Looking for a unique and precious gift for your beloved ones? Well, in Palestine there is a wide variety of exquisite souvenirs. Embroidery is one of the beautiful handmade crafts that have become a symbol of Palestinian culture and identity. Once you visit any embroidery shop, you will be impressed with the charming colors, designs and the creativity in combining authenticity with modernity.

As embroidery stitches types and patterns are varied, the Tahriri stitching primarily popular in the cities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Hebron, is one of the significant traditional techniques of the Palestinian Embroidery. Inherited from one generation to another with ancient roots dating back to the Canaanites being the first to invent embroidery and colors; it is one of the most luxurious and prestigious forms of historical embroidery in Palestine. Are you wondering why? Here is the reason:

In the past centuries, Palestinian women used expensive materials such as gold, silver threads and silk cords for their embroidery, and this had lasted until the 1940s. Nowadays, artisans use low-cost materials like cotton threads, but still keep on the same traditional techniques creating at the same time modern items such as table runners, pouches, bookmarks ...etc. Here are also more facts to know about Tahriri especially if you have that popular question on your mind: "What is the difference between Tatrez and Tahriri?"

It's a couching stitch method different from Tatreez embroidery which uses cross-stitching. It is characterized by laying a main thick thread on fabric, and securing it with smaller stitches of a different thread. It was used to make the front panels of wedding dresses, and the side panels of the skirts and the cuffs of the long traditional dresses. It is also used to preserve golden threads used in the decoration of church raiments.

At the same time both Tahriri and Tatreez have many aspects in common:

- Similar to Tatreez, the designs featured in Tahriri reflect the Palestinians' strong connection to their land which is highly expressed in embroidery through the adoption of the designs of plants, flowers, trees and birds. But unlike Tatreez where the Canaanite star which is considered a significant symbol in Palestinian heritage is widely used; in Tahriri the symbols of the spike (sunbula), branches "Uruq" called Irq Al-Subyan, Irq An-Nujoum and others are highly adopted.

- Another aspect is that Tahriri embroidery is also used in creating charming pieces for decoration. If you visit any house especially in the villages, you will definitely find some rare or even very old pieces of Tahriri embroidery framed and hung on the walls as a sign of pride. For a Palestinian woman, it is always a sign of national pride and richness to include pieces of embroidery, especially the Tahriri within her bridal trousseau.

One thing to add here is that the art of embroidery including of course the Tahriri, was inscribed by UNESCO in 2021 on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This includes its practices, skills, knowledge, and rituals.



Photo By: Darzah.org

10 Unforgettable Summer Experiences in Palestine

1. Visit Historic Churches & Mosques

Discover iconic sites like the Nativity Church, Holy Sepulchre Church, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Ibrahimi Mosque, Shepherds' Field Church, and the Milk Grotto Church.

2. Explore Vibrant Cities

Feel Ramallah's energy, explore Bethlehem and Hebron's history, and enjoy kanafeh in Nablus.

3. Uncover Ancient Jericho

Walk through the ancient ruins of Tell es-Sultan, marvel at the intricate mosaics of Hisham's Palace, and visit the legendary sycamore tree. Then cool off in nearby Wadi Qelt, a hidden desert oasis surrounded by dramatic cliffs and serene landscapes.





4. Swim in the Dead Sea

Float in the mineral-rich waters of the lowest point on Earth—nature's ultimate spa.

5. Hike the Palestinian Heritage Trail's

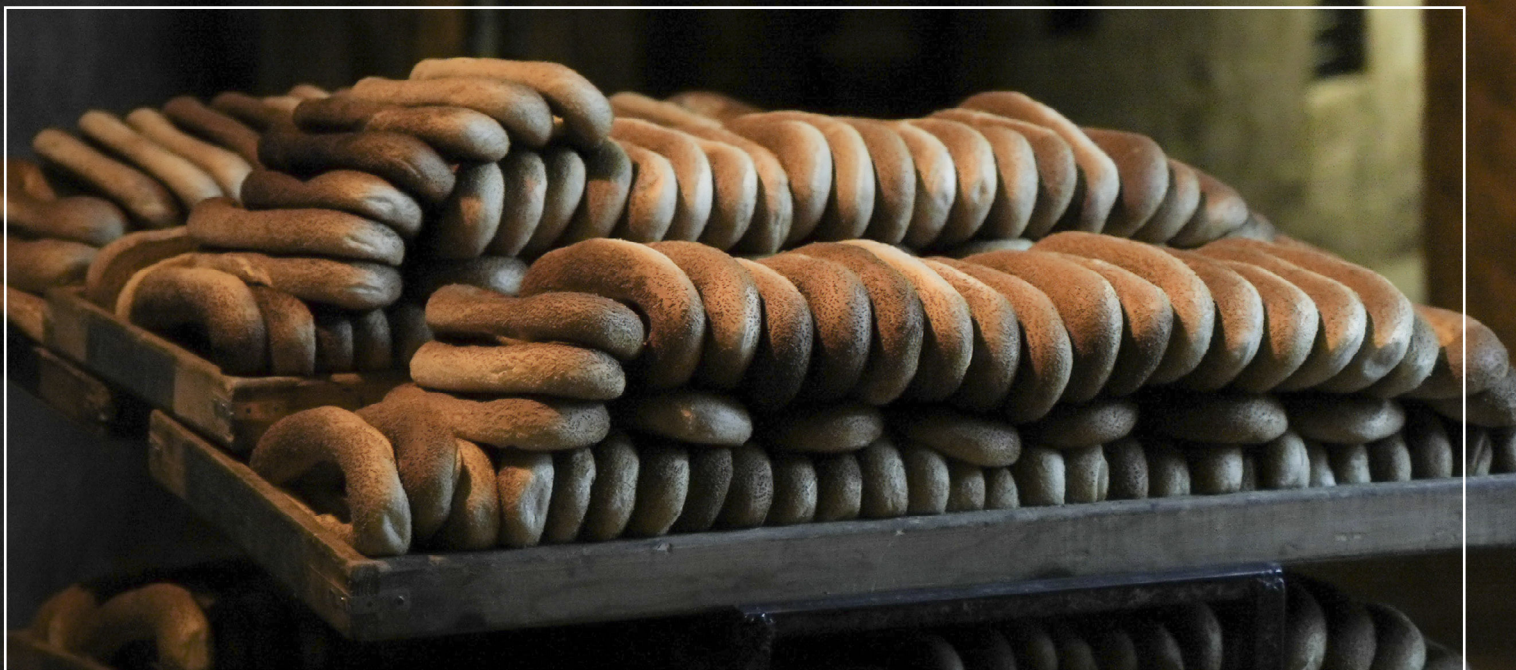
Explore olive groves, valleys, and historic villages. (Tip: Go early or choose shaded paths.)

6. Join Local Summer Festivals

Celebrate with music, dance, and street food in vibrant cities

7. Shop Traditional Handicrafts

Wander through old markets filled with embroidered dresses, olive wood carvings, Hebron's hand-blown glass, and other unique local crafts such as mother-of-pearl inlays, ceramics from Jerusalem, traditional keffiyehs, handwoven rugs, and handmade soaps from Nablus.



8. Traditional Breakfast with a View

Start your morning with a Palestinian countryside breakfast — fresh labneh, za'atar, olives, and warm bread — served with scenic views in villages like Battir , Artas or sama Nablus.

9. Experience a Palestinian Folklore Evening

Enjoy a lively night of dabke dancing, traditional music, and warm summer vibes — and while you watch, enjoy local dishes like maqluba, musakhan, and fresh salads.

10. Watch the Sunset at Arab al-Rashaydeh

End your day with sweeping desert views in this peaceful Bedouin village east of Bethlehem.



Photogenic Palestine

An aerial photograph of the Dead Sea coastline. The land is characterized by numerous horizontal terraces or steps, creating a stepped appearance. The terrain is arid, with shades of brown and tan. The Dead Sea is visible on the right side of the image, with its dark, calm water meeting the shore. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

Dead Sea View



Wadi Al Qelt



Jefna



Tel Sufar – Nablus



**The Roman Theater
Gerizim Mountain
Nablus**



The Church Of All Nations