About Visit Palestine

Who We Are:
Owned and managed by Alternative Business Solutions; a Ramallah based Marketing & Communications Company, visitpalestine.ps is Palestine’s premier online destination travel guide. The site which was launched in 2008 provides visitor and potential visitors (foreign and locals) with a platform to learn about and plan their trips to Palestine. VisitPalestine is growing rapidly with thousands of users already connected with us via our RSS feed, social media channels, and the website. Designed and maintained by locals, the site brings you the most up-to-date information on travel to Palestine.

Our Mission:
To proactively promote Palestine as a viable and independent destination that is rich in religious, historical, cultural and natural treasures To provide visitors and potential visitors (foreign and locals) with a comprehensive online travel guide to help them plan and book their trips to and within Palestine To engage with potential visitors along every step of their experience (trip planning, actual experience, post departure) through an intricate range of interconnected products and services To support and promote the local tourism industry (directly and indirectly) through promoting Palestine as well as all the tourism service provider

Who We Target:
VisitPalestine attracts the interests of a wide and diverse range of valued audiences:
Thousands of people from all over the world who are interested in or planning a trip Palestine Locals and Expatriate living and working in Palestine Local Tourism stakeholders (hotels, tour operators, guides etc...) International travel agencies and tour operators selling the Holy Land as a tourism destination Travel journalist and media Palestine’s Diaspora community (especially in South America)
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Nablus
Also known as the uncrowned Queen of Palestine, Nablus is situated some 60 km north of Jerusalem between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. Famous for its sweets, traditional olive oil soap, busy markets, and Turkish Baths, Nablus is also home to many of Palestine’s industries and commerce. Among the main attractions in Nablus are Jacob’s Well, Tel balata and the Old City. Nablus’ rich history lies in its Old City with its distinct stone facades, beautiful architecture, narrow streets and old urban spaces. There are two churches, twelve mosques and a Samaritan synagogue in around the densely populated residential areas. The areas in and around Nablus are filled with sites to visit. The Palestinian village of Sebastya lies some 12 km north of Nablus. Other major Palestinian cities such as Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqilya are also near Nablus in the north of the country.

Jenin
Located in the northern part of Palestine, Jenin served as a transit station on the trade road. Jenin is the ancient En-gannim of the Bible and is the same village referred to as Ginea. The Romans were the first to name the city of Jenin in the 16th century. It was 4km from Jenin, at the village of Burqin, where Jesus cured 10 lepers residing in a cave at the edge of the village.

Tulkarem
Located on the border of the Samaritan mountains, Tulkarem was settled by the Canaanites in 3000 B.C. Tombs from early Canaanites were discovered in the vicinity of the city. It later became a Roman post called Birat Soriqa and from the Islamic period onward it was known as Tulkarem. The city took its importance when the Ottomans made it the capital for the region.

Qalqilya
The town’s area has been populated from prehistoric times, and prehistoric flint tools were found in the modern town’s area. Invading armies, many of which came from the Mediterranean coast just 12 km away, often came through Qalqilya. Its current name comes from the Arabic Qala‘alia, meaning high fortress. During the subsequent Muslim rules of the area, the town was populated with Arab inhabitants.
Jacob’s Well

The 35 meter deep well stands in the land that Jacob bought from Hamor for a “hundred pieces of silver” (Genesis 33:19). It is also here that Jesus asked a Samaritan woman to draw water for him to drink. The well has been an object of pilgrimages since then. The first church built on this site dates back to the end of the 4th century. The well inside the church, forms the centerpiece of the crypt beneath the high altar. Then back in the 12th century, the Crusaders constructed a new church on the Byzantine foundations. Today, the existing church which lies some six meters below the present ground level is owned by the Orthodox Church.

Tel Balata

The village of Balata, a suburb of Nablus lies on the Tell Balata hill. The houses of the village occupy nearly one third of the Hill. Excavations have uncovered an extensive collection of archeological remains indicating that it was first settled during the 5th century BC. The Tell itself includes an abundance of architectural elements such as the city walls and several entrance complexes.
Around 12 km northwest of Nablus up on the scenic slopes of the Nablus hills stands the village of Sabastya, the site of the ancient city of Samaria. On top of the hill the remains of an Iron Age City were found. Inside the village lies a 12th century Crusader’s Church, which was converted into a mosque with two tomb chambers. The head of John the Baptist is believed to be buried here. It was during the period of Jeroboam II (between 784-748 BCE) that Samaria reached the peak of its prosperity. It was also the administrative capital of the Samaria province during the Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian rule. In 332 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered the city and many Macedonians actually settled in the city. In 30 BCE, the city was then granted to Herod the Great who rebuilt it a called it Sebaste after his sponsor Augustus.

Mount Gerizim and The Samaritans

Mount Gerizim rises over 500 meters above the ancient city of Flavia Neapolis (Nablus). The mountain has a special sanctity for the last Samaritan community, custodian of the most ancient religious tradition in Palestine and indeed the entire Middle East. The Samaritans consider it the first piece of land created by God. They also believe that Adam was created from the earth of this mountain and that this was also the sole site spared in the Flood.

The Old Market

In the center of Nablus lies the old city, composed of six major quarters: Yasmina, Gharb, Qaryun, Aqaba, Qaysariyya and Habala. The area of the Old City is densely populated. There are six Turkish Baths (hamams) in the area along with several tanneries, souqs, pottery and textile workshops. There are also numerous historic monuments such as the Khan al-Tujjar and the Manara Clock tower which was built in 1906.
**Burqin Church - Jenin**

The village of Burqin is located 3km west of Jenin. The church lies on the northern slope of the hill overlooking Wadi Burqin. The church is still used by the Christian Greek Orthodox community of the village. Tradition suggests that Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem, passed by the village and miraculously healed the lepers there.

**Khirbet Balameh - Jenin**

Located at the northwestern entrance to Jenin, is the site of Belameh which dates back to the Bronze Age. In 1996, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) began excavations on a tunnel shaft, the most elaborate feature in Belameh. Through support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), around 150 meters of tunnel is being transformed into an archeological park which will feature an educational sound and light show.

**Zababdeh - Jenin**

Dating back to Roman times the village has still remains of mosaics and vestiges from the Byzantine period. From these discoveries Zababdeh proves to have been a very famous Christian center influencing the whole area. Destroyed in the 7th century due to recurring religious wars, the village remained unpopulated and undiscovered for over 10 centuries. It wasn’t until the 17th century until the new Zababdeh was founded.
Khirbet Irtah - Tulkarem
Located south of Tulkarem, the site of Khirbet Irtah is mentioned and known to have been inhabited during the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras. Several Tombs, caves and a Roman pool are still visible. The area around the archeological site is being converted into a park for the local community.

Kur - Tulkarem
Another ancient Throne Village, Kur is located in the middle of a triangle consisting of the cities of Nablus, Tulkarem and Qalqilya. It dates back to the 12th century under the Mamluk rule. The excellent state of the building in the village is unique and gives glimpse of social organization during the Ottoman period. All of the residents of the village are descendants of the Jayyusi clan. Several mansions such as Abu Naman al Jayyusi’s home are being renovated and restored.

Deir Istiya - Qalqilya
The village was home to the Qasim al Ahmad family and was built during the reign of the Mamluks. It then became a Throne village during the Ottoman era. The village is a good case study of how town planning was conducted under the Mamluks with Ottoman additions. In order to revitalize the area and to restore cultural heritage of Deir Istiya, a women’s handicraft center, a community center and a visitor information center were built as part of a project by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the UNDP. Also an olive oil museum was set up adjacent to the ancient olive oil press.

Qalqilya Zoo - Qalqilya
Established in 1986, the Qalqilya Zoo is the only municipal zoo in Palestine and is one of the major attractions in Qalqilya. In addition to housing over 150 animals, the complex also includes a Natural History Museum, a children’s entertainment park and an onsite restaurant. The site is very popular among local visitors especially for school trips and family outings.
Al-Yasmina Cultural Centre -Nablus-

Al-Yasmina Cultural Centre was established in 1993 by a group of local artists with a view to bringing cultural life back into the city of Nablus. Operating from a ‘hole-in-the-wall’ office space next to the Municipal Gardens, it organises a variety of cultural programmes in other venues around the city in conjunction with the Municipality of Nablus, An-Najah National University and various overseas cultural missions. As the most important non-profit cultural organisation in Nablus, the Centre is responsible for the co-ordination of artists and arts groups representing the city in various national and international festivals held in Palestine. It presents lectures and seminars involving distinguished speakers from within and outside Palestine in conjunction with An-Najah National University and holds summer camps in conjunction with the municipal government. It also offers occasional courses, workshops and lectures for members of the public and for school students, organises cultural programmes for major religious festivals such as Ramadan and stages occasional art exhibitions in the Municipal Gardens shelter, outside its headquarters. Administered by an Executive Committee, Al-Yasmina Cultural Centre comprises a membership of over 150 and incorporates several amateur performing groups, including adult and children’s folkloric music ensembles and a dable troupe.

Tel: 972 (0) 2 2382952  
Fax: 972 (0) 2 2384791
BALATA CULTURAL FORUM -NABLUS-

Established in 1992 in Balata village, Balata Cultural Forum is an association of writers, poets, theatre playwrights and other artists which meets on a weekly basis to present and discuss the work of its members, to discuss Palestinian and foreign literature and to debate current cultural issues. The Forum meets around 40 times each year and has published several volumes of poetry and prose by its members. It is keen to establish links with like-minded institutions overseas, particularly amongst Arab Diaspora communities.

Tel: 972 (2) 9 2377909
Fax: 972 (2) 9 2384514

NABLUS THE CULTURE -NABLUS-

Nablus The Culture is a non profit organization that aims to revive cultural life in Nablus through the promotion of Music, Theater and Arts. The organization was established in May 2005, and since then Nablus The Culture has sponsored several musical events and concerts, mostly classical music, that featured local and international performers. The organization has also exhibited several award-winning movies, both from Palestinian directors and international directors.

ECOTOURISM & AGROTURISM -NABLUS & JENIN-

Palestine Fair Trade Association invites tourists to the Holy Land to visit with Palestinian farmers and learn about their organic farming practice and settings. Visitors are hosted by olive farming families in the Jenin and Nablus areas. The Eco Tourism program host groups of 8 to 20 people at a time and include a number of tours in olive orchards and other organic fields. Visitors will learn about the ecological settings of Palestinian organic farming, intercrops, and the nature of the landscape and mountainous farming practices. While the setting is ideal for organic management, it requires farmers working with their hands to reap the fruits of the majestic hillsidies. Throughout the tour, people will be introduced to variety of wild plants that make up a part of the local diet and learn about their uses.

Tel: 972 (2) 9 2377909
Fax: 972 (2) 9 2384514

SMALL HANDS ASSOCIATION -NABLUS-

Established in 1994, the Association functions to develop the cultural, educational and mental abilities of the child. It offers classes in music (ud, organ and drums), drawing, and painting and also runs a dabke group. The Association’s premises incorporate four classrooms and a small library.

Tel: 972 (2) 9 2381791
**The Jordan Valley Trail - Nablus**

The trail starts at Duma, a Palestinian village south east of Nablus viewing the Jordan Valley. First, you can walk in the village and meet the village lifestyle that has not changed in the past few hundred years. The journey continues on a hilly trail following a dramatic route across desert terrain inhabited only by shepherds. The steep and rocky trail descends below sea level to the Al Auja Spring, one of the largest water sources in the Jordan Valley. Desert terrain gives way to orange groves as the journey continues to Jericho, “the oldest city on Earth”. Along the way, a steep climb (or optional cable car ascent) leads to the Mount of Temptation, with its Orthodox Monastery clinging to the rocky cliffs.

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**The Freedom Theatre - Jenin**

Using the arts as a model for social change, The Freedom Theatre in developing the only professional venue for theatre and arts in the north of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The aim of this project is to empower and give voice to the children of Jenin Refugee Camp through a unique programme of workshops and activities in theatre, supporting artsand multi-media, ranging in their emphasis from the largely therapeutic and healing, to the presentation of high-quality artistic products.

Tel: +970 (0) 250 33 45

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**Tulkarem Cultural Forum - Tulkarem**

Established in 1994, the Tulkarem Cultural Forum comprises a group of local artists and arts practitioners dedicated to developing the cultural life of the area. The Forum organises occasional events including theatrical presentations, art exhibitions and poetry evenings.

Tel: 972 (0) 9 372485, 972 (0) 9 672485
WHERE TO STAY

FEATURED HOTELS - JENIN

HADDAD TOURIST VILLAGE
Tel: +972 (or 970) (04)2417010/1/2
Fax: +972 (or 970) (04) 2417013
Email: haddadbooking@ymail.com

OTHER HOTELS

AL - QASR HOTEL
Tel: +972(0r 970) (09) 2341 444

AL YASMEEN HOTEL
Tel: +972(0r 970) (09) 2333555

ASIA HOTEL
Tel: +972(0r 970) (02) 238 6220

CHRYSAL MOTEL
Tel: +972(0r 972) (02) 233 3281

THE DAMASCUS HOUSE
Tel: (00972) 597 874 555

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS' GUEST HOUSE
Tel: +970 9 2381064

CINEMA JININ GUEST HOUSE
Tel: +972 (or 970) (04) 2502455

BAIT AL KARAMA GUESTHOUSE
BAITALKARAMA@GMAIL.COM
WHERE TO DINE

RESTAURANTS

Abu Asfoura Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2341323

Abu Asfoura Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2347715

Al-Mankal
Tel: +972 (9) 2675362

Al-Shaghour Swimming Pool
Tel: +972 (9)2348261

Faroozeyyat Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2343189

Fulla
Tel: +972 (9)2343188

Layali Zaman Rodfi & Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2386040

Prost Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2332077

Rozana
Tel: +972 (9) 2385676

Saleem Afandi Restaurants
Tel: +972 (9)2371332

Saleem Afandi Restaurants
Tel: +972 (9)2335444

Saleem Afandi
Tel: +972 (9)2371332

Saheel Al-Badan Park
Tel: +972 (9)2334644

Tali Al-Marah Swimming Pool & Restaurant
Tel: +972 (9)2340870

The Families Park
Tel: +972 (9)2373296

Zeit Ou Zamar - Al Yasmine Hotel
Tel: +972 (9) 2383164

Haddad Tourist Village
Tel: +972 (4) 2417010
### Useful Words

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<thead>
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<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
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<td>I</td>
<td>Ana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (m)</td>
<td>Inta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (f)</td>
<td>Inti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE</td>
<td>Ihna</td>
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<td>Houmeh</td>
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<td>Laa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Min fadlik (to a woman)</td>
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<td>shukran</td>
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<td>Afwan</td>
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<td>Marhaba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>ma’asalameh</td>
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<td>Shoo ismek</td>
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<td>Lao Samah</td>
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Qalqilya
Fire 09-2940440
Ambulance 101/09-2940440
Police 100
Tourism & Antiquities Police
Nablus 09-385244

Dial access code, international country code (972) or (970), area code (without the zero), desired number
Why Choose VisitPalestine.ps:

Are you planning a trip to Palestine and the Holy Land? Are you already in Palestine? Are you visiting on a Pilgrimage, a business trip, as part of a wider regional tour? Are you looking for leisure activities, day tours, cultural events, listing and opening hours?

Planning a trip can be a time consuming task. We are here to make it simple.... Rather than surfing through endless websites, we offer the optimal solution by providing a centralized and comprehensive travel guide to Palestine. We incorporate quality and quantity into our multifunctional and dynamic online presence with fresh and up to date content and imagery. You can surf our site, plan and book directly with our listed service providers or choose what interests you and have us do the planning and the booking for you.

Our strategy is simple... we go where our customers go... To this end, we are continuously developing and upgrading our online presence. We have just launched our new mobil website which provides visitors with a travel guide when they most need it; WHILE ON THE GO. Our new mobile site is compatible with over 5,000 mobile devices and aims to service the thousands of visitors who come to Palestine and the region every year.

Finally, we will also be unveiling Palestine's first Travel Guide iPhone and iPad application. Developing a travel application comes in an effort to capitalize on and better serve the ever growing number of smart-phone users. With our travel application, users can download the app and not require any internet connectivity once they arrive (except for basic features requiring internet connection ie. Emails, sharing on social media etc....).

Advertise with VisitPalestine.ps:

While we try to ensure that all tourism service providers are listed on the site for free, we also offer various advertising opportunities for companies to better capitalize on the exposure and traffic generated through our site. For more information please check the link below:

http://www.visitpalestine.ps/advertise