



# Geography

**Location:** Palestine lies on the western edge of the Asian continent and the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea. Historic Palestine is bound to the north by Lebanon and Syria, to the west by the Mediterranean Sea, to the south by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, and to the east by Jordan. The territory of present-day Palestine covers is composed of two physically separated land masses: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

	West Bank	Gaza	WBGS
<b>Geographic coordinates</b>	32' 00 N, 35'15 E	31' 25 N, 34' 20 E	
<b>Land boundaries – total</b>	404 km	62 km	
– coastline	n.a.	40 km	
<b>Borders – with Israel</b>	307 km	51 km	
– with Jordan/Egypt	97 km	11 km	
<b>Area</b>	5,655 km <sup>2</sup>	365 km <sup>2</sup>	6,020 km <sup>2</sup>
– Length	130 km	45 km	
– Width	40-65 km	5-12 km	
<b>Land area</b>			26,323 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Water area</b>			~ 438 km <sup>2</sup>



**Area (Governorates):**

	District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>West Bank</b>	Jenin	583	North Gaza	61
	Tubas	402	Gaza	74
	Tulkarem	246	Deir Al-Balah	85
	Nablus	605	Khan Yunis	108
	Qalqilya	166	Rafah	64
	Salfit	204	<b>Total Gaza</b>	<b>365</b>
	Ramallah	855	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,020</b>
	Jericho	593		
	Jerusalem	345		
	Bethlehem	659		
	Hebron	997		
<b>Total WB</b>	<b>5,655</b>			

Source: PCBS.



**Mountains** (*italics indicate locations in historical Palestine*): *Jabal Jermac (1,210 m); Jabal Heidar (1,047 m); Jabal Tal Asur (1,016 m); Jabal Adathir (963 m);* Jabal Ebal (940 m); Jabal 'Ein Al-Hayek (546 m); Mt. Gerazim (881 m); *Jabal Tabor (588 m); Ras Ar-Rumman (1,035 m, border to Egypt); Khalet Batrikh (1,020 m), Halhoul (1,013 m), Su'eer (1,018 m), Bani Na'eem (951 m) and Dura (838 m).*

**Jerusalem:** Tal Al-Asur (1,016 m), Mt. Nabi Samuel (Mt. Joie - 875 m); Mt. Masharif (Mt. Scopus - 825 m); Mt. of Olives (Jabel Az-Zaytun - 820 m).

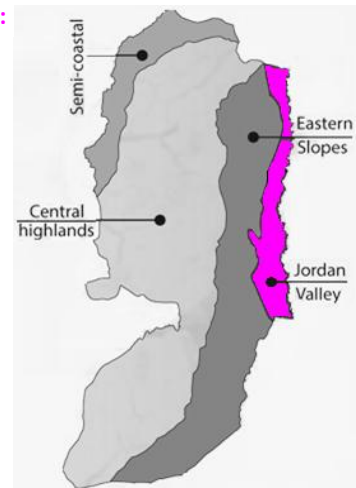
**Rivers:** Jordan (253 km); Yarmuk (40 km); Naher Al-Muqatta (13 km); Naher Al-Auja (26 km).

**Aquifers:**

**West Bank:** The aquifer system extends over 130 km from Mount Carmel (north) to Beer Sheba (south), at a width of 35 km, and divided into three groundwater basins: the **Eastern Aquifer** (100% in West Bank), the **Northeastern** (80%) and the **Western Aquifer**, 80% of whose recharge area is in the West Bank, and 80% of the storage area in Israel.

**Gaza:** The **coastal aquifer** is located under the coastal plain of Israel and the Gaza Strip, extending 120 km from Gaza (south), to Mount Carmel (north) with a width of 3-20 km.

**Regions:**



**Climate:**

Mediterranean: hot, dry summers and short, wet, cool winters; temperature and rainfall vary with altitude and location of the four **climatic regions** (Coastal Plain, the Hills, Jordan Valley, and Naqab Desert).

**Temperature and Rainfall in 2016**

Air Temperatures (C°)	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jericho	Ramallah	Nablus	Jenin
Mean	18.5	17.2	25.2	17.3	19.0	21.5
Mean of Minimum	15.9	12.9	19.4	14.4	14.6	16.9
Mean of Maximum	23.2	22.2	31.7	22.1	24.7	27
Mean Relative Humidity	56%	64%	42%	67%	71%	64%
<b>Annual Rainfall</b>						
Total quantity (mm)	553	606	107	568	681	439
No. of Rainfall Days	--	50	41	55	56	51

Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, 2016.

**Topographic Features:**

District	highest elevation	lowest elevation <sup>1</sup>	average annual rainfall (mm) (1967-1998) (1997-2008) <sup>2</sup>	
Bethlehem	900 m (Beit Jala)	- 400 m (Dead Sea area)	700 (west)-100 (east) -	
Jericho	350 m (northeast border)	- 370 m (near Dead Sea)	160	215.2
Hebron	1,011 m (Halhul area)	100 m	588	477
Ramallah	1,022 m (at Tal A'sur)	- 24 m (southeast border)	694	-
Nablus	918 m (Jabel 'Ibal)	- 349 m (southeast border)	663	647.4
Jenin	750 m (Jabel Hureish)	90 m (Al-Mukhabba)	475	405.5
Tulkarem	500 m (Ras Rashin)	40 m	651	587.4
Jerusalem	880 m ('Radar Hill')	367m (near Dead Sea)	584	358.6
Gaza	105 m (Abu 'Awdah)	0 m (Mediterranean shore)	415	-

<sup>1</sup> - = below sea level; <sup>2</sup> PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, 2008.

**Recommended Research Sources:**

- <http://www.arij.org>
- <http://blog.bibleplaces.com/2009/04/survey-of-western-palestine.html>
- <http://gazelle.8m.net/photo3.html>
- [http://www.jalili.co/covi/04\\_Hist&geog.htm](http://www.jalili.co/covi/04_Hist&geog.htm)
- <http://flora-fauna-palestine.webs.com>
- <https://chronicle.fanack.com/palestine/geography/>

- Maps:**
- [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html)
  - [www.passia.org/maps.htm](http://www.passia.org/maps.htm)
  - <https://www.un.org/unispal/map-collection/>
  - <http://www.ochaopt.org/>
  - <http://www.palestineremembered.com/Maps/index.html>
  - <http://www.palmap.org>

**ARIJ.** *An Atlas of Palestine*. January 2000.  
**ARIJ,** *Locality Profiles and Needs Assessment*, various Governorates, 2014.  
**Kark, Ruth, ed.** *The Land That Became Israel: Studies in Historical Geography*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.  
*The Palestine Question in Maps, 1878-2014*. Jerusalem: PASSIA, 2014.  
**PCBS,** *Meteorological Conditions in the Palestinian Territory, Annual Reports*.