



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

Area (Governorates):

	District	Area (km ²)	District	Area (km ²)
West Bank	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	Total Gaza	365
	Ramallah	855	Grand Total	6,020
	Jericho	593		
	Jerusalem	345		
	Bethlehem	659		
Hebron	997			
Total WB	5,655			

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).

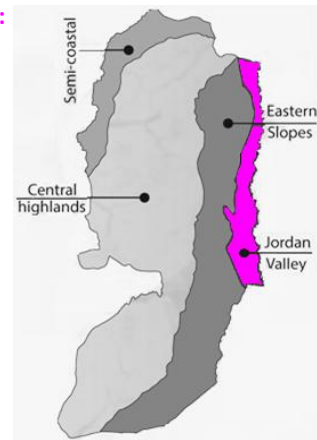


Aquifers:

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 (2016, 2017)

Air Temperatures (C°)	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jericho	Ramallah	Nablus	Jenin
Mean ¹	18.5	17.2	25.2	17.3	19.0	21.5
Mean of Minimum ¹	15.9	12.9	19.4	14.4	14.6	16.9
Mean of Maximum ¹	23.2	22.2	31.7	22.1	24.7	27
Mean Relative Humidity ²	55%	64%	42%	68%	73%	65%
Annual Rainfall²						
Total quantity (mm)	243	356	46	252	291	175
Below mean average	47%	60%	28%	41%	44%	36%
No. of Rainfall Days ¹	--	50	41	55	56	51

¹ 2016; ² 2017; Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*.

Topographic Features:

District	highest elevation	lowest elevation¹	average annual rainfall (mm)	
			(1967-1998)	(1997-2008)²
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	-

¹ - = below sea level; ² 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://flora-fauna-palestine.webs.com>
- <https://chronicle.fanack.com/palestine/geography/>

- Maps:** http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html <http://passia.org/maps/37>
<https://www.un.org/unispal/map-collection/> <https://www.ochaopt.org/maps>
<http://www.palestineremembered.com/Maps/index.html> <http://www.palmap.org>

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