



Geography

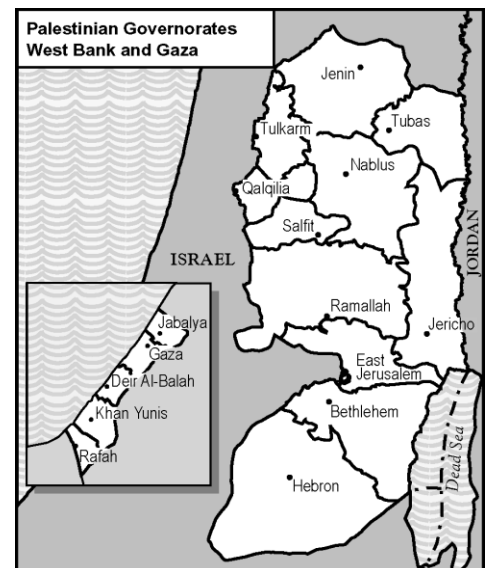
Location: Palestine lies on the western edge of the Asian continent and the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea. Historic Palestine is bound to the north by Lebanon and Syria, to the west by the Mediterranean Sea, to the south by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, and to the east by Jordan.

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



Area (Governorates):

District	Area (km ²)	Density (pers./km ²)	District	Area (km ²)	Density (pers./km ²)
WEST BANK			GAZA STRIP		
Jenin	583	445	North Gaza	61	4,381
Tubas	402	118	Gaza	74	6,689
Tulkarem	246	697	Deir Al-Balah	85	3,512
Nablus	605	552	Khan Yunis	108	2,528
Qalqilya	166	577	Rafah	64	2,617
Salfit	204	310	Total Gaza	365	4,904
Ramallah	855	333			
Jericho	593	73	GRAND TOTAL	6,020	767
Jerusalem	345	1,189			
Bethlehem	659	270			
Hebron	997	535			
Total WB	5,655	500			



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. Gera-zim (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**: Aquifer system extends over 130 km from Mount Carmel (north) to Beer Sheva (south), at a width of 35 km. It is divided into three groundwater basins: The Eastern Aquifer (100% in the West Bank), the North-Eastern (80%) and the Western Aquifer, 80% of whose recharge area lies 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.

Topographic Features:

District	highest elevation	lowest elevation ¹	average annual rainfall (in 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			415	-

¹ - = below sea level; ² PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, 2008.

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).

Air Temperatures (AT) in 2015 (C°)

	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jericho	Ramallah	Nablus	Jenin
Mean of AT	18.0	16.6	24.7	16.8	18.6	21.0
Mean of Minimum AT	14.3	12.7	18.9	13.9	14.3	16.6
Mean of Maximum AT	22.4	21.5	31.2	20.9	24.0	26.5
Mean Relative Humidity	66%	57%	44%	68%	75%	66%

Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Conditions Statistics*, 2015.

Annual Rainfall, 2015

	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jericho	Ramallah	Nablus	Jenin
Total quantity (mm)	512	544	201	612	595	529
No. of Rainfall Days	--	56	42	61	67	58

Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, 2015.

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

www.passia.org/maps.htm

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/vMaps?OpenView>

<http://www.ochaopt.org/>

www.palestineremembered.com/Jerusalem/SatelliteView-ALL.html

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