E-bike Bethlehem

**About us**

Ahlan wa sahlan!

Since 2005, Siraj has been achieving its vision of becoming one of the most prominent and innovative organizations driving the development of responsible tourism, and re-branding Palestine as a destination for experiential travel and human connection. We are pioneers in Palestine. Our diverse responsible tourism programs include local community tours, home stays, interfaith programs, pilgrimages, and cultural and fact-finding missions, as well as other special interest programs. We are committing to making our tourism packages environmentally friendly, and offer an extensive array of outdoor programs, including walking/hiking (www.walkpalestine.com) and cycling tours (www.bikepalestine.com) along the Nativity Trail, Sufi Trail, Jerusalem Wilderness and Palestinian Heritage Trail, the first long distance walking route through the West Bank, (https://phtrail.org).

**Climate**

Bethlehem is located within a Mediterranean climate zone. Daytime weather is predictably hot, dry, and sunny from May to mid-October, with more moderate temperatures from mid-October to late November and again from mid-March to late April. The winter season is characterized as cool to cold weather with moderate to high chances of precipitation from December to mid-March, with predictable cool evenings.

**Average temperatures in Bethlehem**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Daily mean °C / °F** |
| January | 13 / 57 |
| February | 15 / 60 |
| March | 18 / 66 |
| April | 22 / 72 |
| May | 27 / 80 |
| June | 28 / 84 |
| July | 30 / 86 |
| August | 30 / 87 |
| September | 29 / 84 |
| October | 26 / 78 |
| November | 21 / 70 |
| December | 23 / 74 |

**Phrases in Arabic**

* Welcome : Ahlan wa sahlan
* Hello: Marhaba
* Good morning: Sabah al-kheir
* Goodbye: Ma a’salama
* How are you (m/f): Keef halak/halek
* I’m fine: Emnih
* Everything is good: Kullo tamaam
* Thank you: Shukran
* You’re welcome: Afwan
* Excuse me: Low samaht
* What: Shu
* Yes / No: Na’am / La

**Travel-neutral footprint**

To respect the environment and ensure the future enjoyment of Bethlehem tourists and residents, we encourage all tourists to follow these basic guidelines:

* Dispose of waste properly.
* Leave natural beauty as pristine as you can.
* Be considerate of other visitors and locals.
* Travel on roads, streets and marked paths.

**Clothing**

Spring summer and early autumn temperatures in Bethlehem can be quite high with intense sunlight, but with little humidity. It is advisable to bring clothes made of light and comfortable fabrics that are also suitable for cycling. Sunglasses, headgear with wide brims, and sunscreen lotion/spray is highly recommended.

In addition, please dress modestly in accordance with Palestinian culture, which means covering shoulders and knees. Head coverings for women are not required.

**What to expect**

The E-Bike tour through the Bethlehem area used battery-powered bikes that do not require peddling on level ground. As Bethlehem is largely level, the tour does not require a great amount of exertion.

There are two parts in the tour that are quite steep and require some additional physical effort- fear not! These two climbs are short and can be done in a few minutes while on foot and pushing the bike alongside if necessary.

As traffic can be quite chaotic in Bethlehem, the tour is usually organized on days with less traffic congestion. In addition, the tour will often bring you on side roads with less vehicle traffic.

**E-Bike Bethlehem**

Explore Bethlehem by bike!

A beautiful tour through Bethlehem with beautiful scenery, including UNESCO heritage sites, religious sites, and important cultural sites.

All bikes are battery powered for a comfortable and relaxing ride.

The bikes allow people from 1.5 meters (4’9) or more in height.

The tour includes

* Certified guide.
* Maintained battery powered bikes.
* Bike safety equipment.

For booking and prices visit:

[www.ebike-bethlehem.com](http://www.ebike-bethlehem.com)

For more information contact us at:

E-bike Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Palestine

Tel: +(972) 02-274-8590

[info@ebike-bethlehem.com](mailto:info@ebike-bethlehem.com)

**World Heritage sites in Bethlehem**

* Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (2012).
* Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (2014).

**Tourist information centres**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Address** | **Telephone** | **Opening hours** |
| Bethlehem Tourist Info Center | The Peace Center Building, Manger Square | 02-277-6832 | Mon- Thur & Sat  08:00-15:00 |
| Visitor Information Center | Manger Square | 02-275-4235 | Mon- Sat  08:00-15:00 |

**Museums in Bethlehem**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Address** | **Telephone** | **Opening Hours** |
| Al-Bad Museum of Olive Oil Production | Old City | 02-274 1583 | Mon.– Thur. & Sat.  8:30-14:30 |
| Baituna al Talhami Museum (Folklore Museum) | Arab Women's Union | 02-274 2589  0 2 2742453 | Mon.– Sat. 10:00-12:00 & 14:30 – 17:00 |
| The Nativity Cribs Museum | Peace Center Building, Manger Square | 02-276-6677  02-276-4670 | Mon.– Sat. 10:00-18:00  Sun 10:00-16:00 |
| Palestinian Heritage Center | Manger Street | 02-274-2642  02-274-2381 | Mon. – Sat. 10:00-20:00 |
| International Nativity Museum | Salesian Convent  Paul VI St | 02-274 2421  02-274 7161 | Daily upon re quest/ a previous appointment is recommended |
| Al-Kahf Gallery/Museum | Dar Annadwa Addawliyya Paul VI St. | 02-2770047 | Mon.– Sat. 10:00-18:00 |
| The Murad Castle Museum | Solmon Pools | 02-277-0376  02-274-3530 | Mon.– Sun. 8:00-16:00 |
| The Natural History Museum | Talitha Kumi School Campus | 02-276 5574 | Mon.– Sat. 8:00-15:00 |
| Bethlehem Museum | Jerusalem - Hebron St | 02-2751408 | Mon.– Fri. 8:00-17:00 |
| Riwaya Museum | Peace Center Building, Manger Square | 02-2766677 | Mon.– Sat. 10:00-18:00 |
| Artas Folklore Museum | Center Artas Village | 02-2760533 | Sat.– Thur. 9:00-17:00 |
| Beit Sahour Municipality Folklore Museum | Dar Dakarat | 02-2773666/7 | Mon.– Sat. 8:00-14:00 |
| Beit Jala Heritage Home/ Museum | Al-Moghtarebeen Street | 02-2766370 | Daily upon request  9:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00 |

**Disclaimer**

As with all outdoor physical activities, cycling involves a measure of health and safety risks. Participants on this cycling trip must understand and accept these risks and take the necessary personal precautions and preparations in case of an accident.

E-Bike Bethlehem only employs certified guides experienced with the route they are responsible for, and it is our expectation that our program participants will follow their instructions.

It is also the responsibility of program participants to notify their guide or e-Bike Bethlehem staff if they choose to travel independently for any length of time.

When taking part in the cycle tour you agree that you have experience in cycling. We are not held responsible for irresponsible behavior on the bikes that results in damage to either the person or the bike. It is required to have the proper travel insurance to take part in the tour as the responsibility lies with you.

**Map:**

1. The Walled Off Hotel

The Walled Off Hotel is a place of art at the edge of Bethlehem opposite of the Separation Wall that cuts off Rachel’s Tomb from the rest of the city. A project of the elusive street artist Banksy.

1. The Aida Key

Located at the entrance to Aida Refugee Camp, this community is comprised of Palestinians from parts of Jerusalem and Hebron districts who fled their homes and resettled in Bethlehem. The large key at the entrance of the camp is symbolic of the homes that the families left behind and the hope of return.

1. Bir Onah

Local tradition holds that this well was the first stop of the Holy Family as they left Bethlehem en route to Egypt.

1. Saint Nicholas Church

This Orthodox church is located in the city center of Beit Jala and is built on top of the cave that was once the home of Saint Nicholas of Myra Lycia, the inspiration behind the legends of Santa Claus, while he was a pilgrimage in the Holy Land in the 4th century AD and is known for being a place of many miraculous events associated to Mar Nicola as the saint is called by Palestinian Christians.

1. Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

This orthodox church was built in the 1860s with support from the Russian Mission in the Holy Land, and features a unique combination of Arab, Greek, and Russian influences in its design, church furnishings, and iconography.

1. Saint George Monastery

This small monastery in the village of Al Khader is built over the foundations of a byzantine monastery which itself was built over the home of Saint George, the patron saint of Palestine, who died a martyr in the early 4th century AD. Palestinian Christians and Muslims alike venerate Saint George as a protector of the village and Bethlehem district.

1. Al Khader Gate

This stone archway is located at the historic entrance of the village of Al Khader. An engraved icon of Saint George placed at the center of the arch serves as a reminder that the village takes its name from the Palestinian saint.

1. Solomon's Pools Convention Center

This multi-purpose convention center is built adjacent to an ottoman khan that now houses a historical museum.

1. Solomon's Pools

These three pools functioned as water reservoirs for the city of Jerusalem. Despite the legend that King Solomon built these pools, they actually date back to the time of King Herod.

1. Artas Monastery

Officially known as Hortus Conclusus Convent, this monastery was founded by Catholic nuns from Uruguay. The church is considered one of the best examples of Ottoman-era stone masonry in Bethlehem.

1. Artas Spring The valley of Artas is considered one of the most fertile in the West Bank and is noted for having a year-round spring.
2. Carmelite Convent

This convent was founded in 1875 by Saint Mariam Baouardy, a Palestinian nun from the Galilee, who was canonized by Pope Francis in 2015. The foundations of the convent are built over the cave and palace of King David. The current church was built approximately a century ago, over the ruins of a Byzantine monastery.

1. Entrance to Old City of Bethlehem
2. Christmas Lutheran Church

This church was built in 1893 by German Lutheran missionaries and is easily identified by its conical steeple.

1. Nativity Museum

This museum is a fascinating collection of nativity creches and varying artistic renderings of the birth of Jesus.

1. The Church of Saint Catherine

Saint Catherine's Church functions as the primary Roman Catholic parish of Bethlehem and is built over the cave of Saint Jerome, who translated the Bible from Greek to Latin.

1. Bethlehem Arch

This arch is the traditional entrance to the city of Bethlehem and part of the processional path to the church of the nativity for Christmas celebrations.

1. Church of Nativity

The most notable place in Bethlehem city is the Nativity Church, built over the grotto where Jesus Christ was born. The church is also one of the oldest functioning churches in the world and has recently undergone preservation efforts. The plaza outside the church is known as Manger Square and is the center of all major civic functions.

1. Milk Grotto

This chapel is built into the cave where tradition holds that the Virgin Mary first nursed the baby Jesus.

1. Virgin Mary’s Well

Tradition holds that this well, located in the Old City of Beit Sahour, was used by the Virgin Mary.

1. Shepherd’s Field (Catholic & Orthodox)

While the precise location of the shepherd’s Fields – where the angels visited the Shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus Christ – is unknown, two churches were built over the ruins of earlier Byzantine churches found in the fields immediately east of the city of Beit Sahour.