

Geography [[edit source](#) | [edit beta](#)]

Bethlehem stands at an elevation of about 775 meters (2,543 ft)^{[[above sea level](#)]}, 30 meters (98 ft) higher than nearby [Jerusalem](#).^{[[45\]](#)} Bethlehem is situated on the southern portion in the [Judean Mountains](#). The city is located 73 kilometers (45 mi) northeast of [Gaza](#) and the [Mediterranean Sea](#), 75 kilometers (47 mi) west of [Amman](#),[Jordan](#), 59 kilometers (37 mi) southeast of [Tel Aviv](#), [Israel](#) and 10 kilometers (6.2 mi) south of Jerusalem.^{[[46\]](#)} Nearby cities and towns include [Beit Safafa](#) and Jerusalem to the north, [Beit Jala](#) to the northwest, [Husan](#) to the west, [al-Khadr](#) and [Artas](#) to the southwest, and [Beit Sahour](#) to the east. Beit Jala and the latter form an [agglomeration](#) with Bethlehem and the [Aida](#) and [Azzare](#) refugee camps are located within the city limits.^{[[47\]](#)}

In the center of Bethlehem is its old city. The old city consists of eight quarters, laid out in a mosaic style, forming the area around the Manger Square. The quarters include the Christian al-Najajreh, al-Farahiyeh, al-Anatreh, al-Tarajmeh, al-Qawawsa and Hreizat quarters and al-Fawaghreh — the only Muslim quarter.^{[[48\]](#)} Most of the Christian quarters are named after the Arab [Ghassanid](#) clans that settled there.^{[[49\]](#)} Al-Qawawsa Quarter was formed by Arab Christian emigrants from the nearby town of [Tuqu'](#) in the 18th century.^{[[50\]](#)} There is also a [Syriac](#) quarter outside of the old city,^{[[48\]](#)} whose inhabitants originate from [Midyat](#) and Ma'asarte in [Turkey](#).^{[[51\]](#)} The total population of the old city is about 5,000.^{[[48\]](#)}

Climate [[edit source](#) | [edit beta](#)]

Bethlehem has a [Mediterranean climate](#), with hot and dry summers and cold winters. Winter temperatures (mid-December to mid-March) can be cold and rainy. January is the coldest month, with temperatures ranging from 1 to 13 degree Celsius (33–55 °F). From May through September, the weather is warm and sunny. August is the hottest month, with a high of 30 degrees Celsius (81 °F). Bethlehem receives an average of 700 millimeters (28 in) of rainfall annually, 70% between November and January.^{[[52\]](#)}

Bethlehem's average annual relative [humidity](#) is 60% and reaches its highest rates between January and February. Humidity levels are at their lowest in May. Night dew may occur in up to 180 days per year. The city is influenced by the Mediterranean Sea breeze that occurs around mid-day. However, Bethlehem is affected also by annual waves of hot, dry, sandy and dust *Khamaseen* winds from the [Arabian Desert](#), during April, May and mid-June