

Palestine

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Arabic

Population: 5,227,193

Currency: Israeli new shekel (ILS), Jordanian dinar (JOD), Egyptian pound (EGP)

Area: 6,020

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Al-Aqsa Mosque', 'writeup': 'A significant Islamic holy site located in the Old City of Jerusalem, revered in Islam as the third holiest site.'}
- {'name': 'Church of the Nativity', 'writeup': 'Located in Bethlehem, it is traditionally considered the birthplace of Jesus Christ and a major Christian pilgrimage destination.'}
- {'name': 'Hisham's Palace', 'writeup': 'An archaeological site near Jericho featuring Umayyad-era ruins and mosaics.'}

Head of State / Government:

Mahmoud Abbas (President of the State of Palestine and Palestinian National Authority)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Palestinian Heritage Day', 'writeup': 'An annual event celebrating Palestinian culture, traditional crafts, music, and dance.'}
- {'name': 'Olive Harvest Festival', 'writeup': 'A seasonal event marking the olive harvest, significant for its cultural and economic importance.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Palestinian cuisine features dishes like musakhan (roasted chicken with onions and sumac on flatbread), maqluba (upside-down rice and vegetable dish), and knafeh (sweet cheese pastry), reflecting Levantine culinary traditions.

Brief History:

Palestine has a long history as a crossroads of civilizations in the Middle East. It was part of various empires including the Ottoman Empire until the early 20th century. The 20th century saw the establishment of the British Mandate, followed by conflict and displacement related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinian Authority was established in the 1990s as part of peace efforts.

Important People:

- Yasser Arafat - Former leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)
- Mahmoud Abbas - Current President of the Palestinian Authority
- Edward Said - Influential Palestinian-American literary critic and advocate

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict involving disputes over territory, governance, and mutual recognition, with periodic escalations of violence and international diplomatic efforts.

Youtube Links:

- Palestine: History and Conflict Explained
- A Day in Palestine: Culture and Life
- The Holy Sites of Palestine
- Palestinian Cuisine: Traditional Foods and Recipes
- Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict