



Fact Sheet - Geography

Location: Palestine lies on the western edge of the Asian continent and the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea. It 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.

Geographic coordinates: **West Bank:** 32' 00 N, 35' 15 E;
Gaza: 31' 25 N, 34' 20 E

Area: Land area: 26,323 km² (= 10,162 miles²)

- Palestinian Territories: 6,170 km²
- West Bank: 5,800 km²; 130 km long, 40-65 km in width
 - Gaza Strip: 365 km²; 45 km long and 5-12 km in width (self-rule area: 210 km²)

Water area: 438 km² (approx.)



Land boundaries:	West Bank	Gaza
Total:	404 km	62 km + 40 km Coastline
Borders:	Israel 307 km (Green Line) Jordan 97 km	Israel 51 km (Green Line) Egypt 11 km

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).

Topographic Features: (asl=above sea level; bsl=below sea level)

District	highest elevation	lowest elevation	Average annual rainfall (1967-1998)
Bethlehem	900 m asl (Beit Jala)	400 m bsl (Dead Sea area)	700 (west)-100 (east) mm
Jericho	350 m asl (northeast border)	370 m bsl (adjacent to Dead Sea)	160 mm
Hebron	1,011 m asl (Halhul area)	00 m asl	588 mm
Ramallah	1,022 m asl (at Tal A'sur)	24 m bsl (southeast border)	694 mm
Nablus	918 m asl (Jabel 'Ibal)	349 m bsl (southeast border)	663 mm
Jenin	750 m asl (Jabel Hureish)	90 m asl (Al-Mukhabba)	475 mm
Tulkarem	500 m asl (Ras Rashin)	40 m asl	651 mm
Jerusalem	880 m asl ('Radar Hill')	367m bsl (adjacent to Dead Sea)	584 mm
Gaza			415 mm



Topographic Areas:

- **Gaza:** coastal plain, sand dunes up to 40 m high 1,5-4,3 km wide.
 - **Jordan Valley:** fertile plains along the Jordan River; ca. 400 km²; 200-300 m bsl; rainfall 150 mm/yr.
 - **Eastern Slopes** (leading to the Dead Sea): 1,500 km²; 800 m asl-390 m bsl; rocky semi-desert; rainfall 250 mm/yr.
 - **Central Highlands:** 3,500 km²; up to 1,000 m asl; rainfall 400-700 mm/yr.; terraced hills.
 - **Semi-coastal Zone** (west-north west): 400 km²; 100-300 m asl; rainfall 550 mm/yr.
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Rivers: Jordan (253 km); Yarmuk (40 km); Naher Al-Muqatta (13 km); Naher Al-Auja (26 km).

Mountains: Jabel Jermac (1,210 m); Jabel Heidar (1,047 m); Jabel Asur (3,333 m); Jabel Adathir (1,016 m); Jabel Ebal (940 m); Jabel 'An (936 m); Mt. Gerazim (881 m); Jabel Tabor (588 m); Ras Ar-Rumman (1,035 m at the border to Egypt); Khalet Batrikh (1,020 m), Halhoul (1,013 m), Su'eer (1,018 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).

Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.palestine-net.com/geography/>
<http://www.pcbs.org/inside/selcts.htm> (see under area: environment)

Maps: http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/pal_maps.htm
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~gov46/>
<http://www.passia.org> (various, including Jerusalem and historical)
<http://www.mideastweb.org/maps.htm>
<http://www.fmep.org> (focus: settlements)
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html

ARIJ. *Environmental Profile of the West Bank Series.* Vol. 1-6, 1995/6 (or: <http://www.arij.org>).

ARIJ. *An Atlas of Palestine.* January 2000.

Kark, Ruth, ed. *The Land That Became Israel: Studies in Historical Geography.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

UNCTAD. *Environment and Development Prospects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.* UNCTAD, 1995 (Chapter I).