

Want to travel to Palestine?

Want to see the realities of Palestinian life?

Want to do solidarity work in Palestine?

Below is a list of organisations that will give some idea as to the range of possibilities - depending on your purpose, length of stay and finances. Many of our members and supporters have visited Palestine, some with the organisations below (marked *) and we are happy to offer advice and support if you are considering doing so. Please contact contact@brightonpalestinecampaign.org

Please note this list by no means comprehensive – there are many more Palestinian and international groups and organisations offering the chance to do solidarity work. Sometimes the projects are small-scale, sometimes they are short-term, often one can find out more once one has arrived in a particular town or area.

Please also note that the information below was correct at time of compiling but may have since changed. Please check.

Alternative Tourism Group (ATG)

Established in 1995, the ATG is a Palestinian NGO specializing in tours and pilgrimages that examine the history, culture and politics of the Holy Land. ATG operates according to the tenets of “justice tourism”, encouraging operators to abandon exploitative mass tourism and to encourage the creation of economic opportunities for the local community, positive cultural exchange between host and guest through one-on-one interaction and the protection of the environment .

ATG offer organized home-stays with local Palestinian families, tours to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Jaffa, Haifa, Nazareth, Palestinian refugee camps, Bedouin communities and the Israeli West Bank colonies (settlements) and religious sites. Special tours are designed around specific issues such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Wall, pre-1948 Palestinian society, refugees, the status of women, conflicts of the religious state, development issues, as well as pilgrimages and culinary tours.

ATG and the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine (JAI) also organize regular annual olive tree planting and harvest picking programmes to help Palestinian farmers whose livelihoods are threatened by the Occupation. The 9 day programme includes accommodation (double room in hotel or with local family), meals, guides, local transportation etc. at approx. £470 per person. Proposed 2015 olive picking dates are 10-19th October

They also organize the Nativity Trail, 10 days walking from Nazareth to Bethlehem (cost approx. £900)

www.atg.ps info@atg.ps

Amos Trust

Amos Trust is a small creative human rights organisation, using arts, sports and community involvement to nurture local responses to situations of injustice, and to get those stories out to as wide an audience as possible. Part of the Christian Kairos Britain movement, they partner Palestinian and Israeli groups who call for an end to the Occupation and who promote community activism.

They arrange an annual Alternative Pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel, take volunteers to rebuild demolished Palestinian homes and send a team to run in the annual Bethlehem "Right to Movement" marathon.

www.amostrust.org office@amostrust.org Tel: 020 75882638

Breaking the Silence

Founded in 2004 by a group of soldiers who served in Hebron, Breaking the Silence is an organization of veteran combatants who have served in the Israeli military since the start of the Second Intifada and have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories.

Breaking the Silence offers 1 day guided tours (in English and Hebrew) to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills, allowing an unmediated encounter with the reality of military occupation. The tour guides, all former combatants who served in these areas, share from their experiences to help illustrate the Israeli government's policies enacted by the IDF.

Tours depart from Tel Aviv train station. A donation of 120 shekels (approx. £20) is suggested to cover costs.

www.breakingthesilence.org.il info@breakingthesilence.org.il

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (CADFA)

CADFA is a charity based in Camden, North London which works to promote awareness about the human rights situation in Abu Dis, one of three small towns in the suburb of East

Jerusalem, next to the Mount of Olives in the West Bank, recently cut away from Jerusalem by the Israeli Separation Wall.

They organise regular visits to Abu Dis run by local Palestinians (approx. 8 days long) and help find volunteers of any age (self-funded) for projects in Abu Dis such as teaching English, health and youth work and other community projects.

www.camdenabudis.net

contact@camdenabudis.net

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)

US based CPT has had a continuous presence in the West Bank since 1995 and supports faith based, Palestinian-led, nonviolent, grassroots resistance campaigns to the Israeli occupation. They maintain a permanent project in the West Bank city of Hebron (Al-Khalil), providing daily accompaniment for Palestinian schoolchildren and sheperds (to protect from attacks by Israeli settlers), monitoring checkpoints and intervening during human rights abuses and violations.

People can join short-term (7-14 day) self-funded delegations offering participants a first-hand experience of CPT's on-the-ground. Delegates will meet with Palestinian and Israeli human rights representatives and peace workers in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and will visit Palestinian families whose home and livelihoods are threatened by expanding Israeli settlements. They will travel to the city of Al Khalil (Hebron) and the village of At-Tuwani in the South Hebron Hills and challenge the structural violence of the Occupation through nonviolent public witness.

Delegates do not require specific nonviolence training and do not need to identify as Christian. The dates for 2015 delegations are 3-17 May and 17-31 October.

www.cpt.org

peacemakers@cpt.org

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme In Palestine & Israel (EAPPI)*

A World Council of Churches initiative started in 2002 and co-ordinated in the UK by the Quakers, EAPPI's mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their nonviolent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation.

They recruit approx 20 volunteers a year who spend 3 months in the West Bank/East Jerusalem living alongside Palestinians. Accompaniers attempt to reduce violence by providing an international protective presence at checkpoints etc., support acts of

nonviolent resistance and monitor and report violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. They also stress the role of advocacy on the EA's return.

www.quaker.org.uk/eappi

Experience Travel Tours*

ETT was established in 1999 by ICAHD UK Director Linda Ramsden. They offer issue-based study tours for people wishing to visit not just well-known 'Holy Land' destinations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories but other places that may be difficult for individuals to access due to the present conflict. Aspects of history, religion, culture, education, politics, healthcare, and the environment are covered with knowledgeable and in-depth analysis that help participants understand the historical and political dynamics involved in the present conflict. There are also unique opportunities to meet with key leaders from organisations and institutions working for Palestinian dignity and freedom.

Tours are 7-11 days long in spring, summer and autumn, in groups of 15–18. Cost of tours are approx. £1000 per person (half-board 3* sharing twin-bed room, travel by private coach, flights not included). A reference is required.

www.experiencetraveltours.com info@experiencetraveltours.com

Freedom Bus with the Freedom Theatre of Jenin*

Co-ordinated by the internationally renowned Freedom Theatre based in the refugee camp in Jenin in the northern West Bank, the Freedom Bus takes Palestinian and international students, artists and activists on a 2 week trip through the occupied West Bank.

Joining communities in marginalized areas who are at risk of forced expulsion from their ancestral homelands (eg. The Jordan Valley/ South Hebron Hills), the ride includes building work, protective presence activity, guided walks, interactive workshops and cultural events. Through Playback Theatre, community members share personal accounts about the realities of life and struggle under settler colonialism, military occupation and structural apartheid.

There is normally one Ride in the spring, sometimes one in the autumn. International participants pay a fee of \$45 per day to contribute towards the costs of the Freedom Ride, such as accommodation and local transport. Dates for the 2015 Freedom Ride are March 19-30.

www.freedombus.ps

Green Olive Tours

Green Olive Tours was established in 2007 by Israeli peace activist Fred Schlomka to expose people visiting Israel, and Israelis, to the realities of the country, from a human rights, cultural and environmental stewardship perspective. It is now run by US registered Green Olive Collective Inc., a Social Enterprise and a Workers Collective, to generate social, cultural and political activity that cultivates humane and just societies..

It provides upto 6 daily tours as well as longer tours (3-10 days) covering the history, culture and political geography of Palestine and Israel. The tours in the Occupied Territories visit the Separation Barrier, travel the roads and tunnels that connect to Jewish settlements and visit areas that embody the history and current status of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem. There is also a Summer Camp (20-29th July) at the Balata refugee camp in Nablus (\$1690).

Tours inside Israel (West of the Green Line) include the Negev desert and Galilee and provide information about destroyed Palestinian villages, the plight of the Bedouin, and examines on the ground the relationship between Israel's Jewish and non-Jewish citizens.

Green Olive also arrange volunteer work (2 weeks - 3 months) with children in refugee camps, providing dental/eyecare, working at Arab/Jewish Fairtrade or a Bedouin Womens Co-op, as well as at a Palestinian/Israeli youth project in Tel Aviv.

www.toursinenglish.com

Holy Land Trust

Founded in 1998 by Palestinian Christian Sami Awad and based on strong principles of nonviolence and community engagement, The Holy Land Trust acts as a catalyst to end all forms of conflict and establish an enduring and comprehensive peace in the Holy Land.

Based in Bethlehem, they will help customize trips to Palestine/Israel tailored to meet all demands and aspirations ranging from religious pilgrimages, fact finding missions, and annual programs such as the Palestine Summer Encounter and Home Rebuilding. Their trips place great store on building personal relationships with Palestinian people and supporting a just, sustainable local economy that provides an income for Palestinian families. They can also arrange volunteer opportunities for those interested in serving the local community and building lasting relationships.

www.holylandtrust.org

info@holylandtrust.org

International Solidarity Movement (ISM)*

Founded in 2001, ISM trains and co-ordinates international activists to support and strengthen the Palestinian popular resistance by using non-violent, direct-action methods, working alongside Palestinians in olive groves, on school runs, at demonstrations, within villages being attacked, by houses being demolished or where Palestinians are subject to consistent harassment or attacks from soldiers and settlers. ISM volunteers support weekly Palestinian-led, non-violent demonstrations against land confiscation in several villages, including Nabi Saleh, Kufr Qaddum, Ni'lin and Bil'in. Where possible they try to document and film evidence of violence and abuse against Palestinians.

All ISM volunteers have to give a commitment of at least 2 weeks (longer stays are preferred), agree to work within their principles (Palestinian led, non-violent, consensus based and anti-oppression) and to undergo training before being accepted. Training courses in the UK last 2 days and includes all aspects of direct action, media, legal, culture and ISM principles. Cost (including 3 nights accommodation) is approx £20.

www.palsolidarity.org

International Women's Peace Service (IWPS)

IWPS is the only all-women international peace team working in the Occupied West Bank, based in the village of Deir Istiya in Salfit district, a rural area close to Nablus affected by more than 20 illegal Israeli settler colonies of the Ariel settlement bloc.

IWPS human rights volunteers support Palestinian and Israeli anti-occupation groups, providing international accompaniment to Palestinian civilians and farmers (especially during the olive harvest) and non-violently intervene in human right abuses and support acts of non-violent resistance to end the illegal Israeli occupation, the building of the apartheid wall and the confiscation and destruction of land and property of Palestinian civilians. They provide written and photographic documentation of human rights abuse, forwarding these to human rights lawyers and organizations.

Short term volunteers (STVs) can apply to work for a minimum period of 4 weeks. Long term volunteers (LTVs) make a 3-year commitment to IWPS, serving a minimum of one 3-month term in the West Bank, followed by further terms of 1-3 months in their 2nd and 3rd year. LTVs are also responsible for organisational work in their home countries to maintain and develop IWPS (e.g. fundraising, personnel, recruitment, training, IT, among others).

www.iwps.info

Ir Amim

Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) is an Israeli not-for-profit organization that focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It seeks to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it, safeguarding their holy places, as well as their historical and cultural heritages. It monitors, exposes and brings legal cases in order to halt harmful government actions that impede equitability and undermine Jerusalem’s stability. It also works with Palestinian non-profit organizations to help to strengthen civil society and infrastructure in East Jerusalem.

Ir Amim conduct monthly group study tours of East and North Jerusalem to introduce participants to the social, economic and political issues impacting life for the city’s inhabitants, as well as Jerusalem’s role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The tour visits Israeli and Palestinian neighbourhoods, showing the formation of the city’s borders, socio-economic disparities between East and West Jerusalem; security, political and humanitarian consequences of the Wall; and the geo-political ramifications of settlement building, road construction, national parks etc.

Tours are by bus and approx. 4 hours long, with stops at key observation points. They are free of charge but restricted to over 18 years and must be booked in advance.

www.ir-amim.org.il

studytours@ir-amim.org.il

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)*

ICAHD is a Jerusalem based human rights and peace organization co-founded in 1997 by Dr. Jeff Halper to end Israel’s Occupation. ICAHD takes as its main focus, as its vehicle for resistance, Israel’s policy of demolishing Palestinian homes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and within Israel proper. ICAHD members physically block bulldozers sent to demolish homes and also mobilize hundreds of Israelis, Palestinians and internationals to rebuild them as acts of resistance. So far 187 homes have been rebuilt.

The 2015 Summer Rebuilding Camp will take place near Jerusalem 19 July -3rd August. Fee is approx £1100 (inc. accommodation, 3 daily meals and trips)

ICAHD also conduct tours of the Occupied Territory (including Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley) for international student or activists groups (in English, Arabic, Hebrew, German,

Portugese, Spanish, and French) that allow visitors to see the realities while meeting with Israeli and Palestinian experts and activists. Tours are for at least 5 participants or as individual private tours with itineraries matching respective interests.

www.icahd.org

For Rebuild Camp: summercamp@icahduk.org

For tours:

ruth.icahd@gmail.com

Jordan Valley Solidarity (JVS)*

Since 1967 Israel has virtually annexed 95% of the Jordan Valley in the north-east West Bank - militarising vast swathes, constructing illegal settlements, allowing Israeli state owned agricultural companies to exploit Palestinian lands, resources and the local population. It restricts freedom of movement of the Palestinian population, isolating the Valley from the remainder of the occupied West Bank.

Jordan Valley Solidarity is a network of Palestinian grassroots community groups that works to protect Palestinian existence and the unique environment of the Jordan Valley by building international support and supporting Palestinian communities on the ground. Through non-violent direct action it helps communities resist threats of eviction and home demolitions by the Israeli army; monitors, records, and aims to prevent abuse of Palestinian human rights by the military and settlers; and attempts to build and develop local infrastructure such as school buildings and water supplies.

JVS welcomes all international supporters who can commit to the principle of non-violence. Visitors stay at the Friends Meeting House in Fasayil al Fouqa where all activities are coordinated. Accommodation and facilities are basic and visitors are expected to contribute to the communal ethos. There is no minimum or maximum length of stay, no charge is made for accommodation but a small donation is appreciated. All other costs are met by the individual. Help with travel to the Jordan Valley can be arranged in advance.

Experience is not essential but for those intending to stay for any length of time, training and advice prior to travel can be useful. For details please contact brightonjvs@gmail.com

www.jordanvalleysolidarity.org

info@jordanvalleysolidarity.org

Machsom Watch

Machsom Watch is a group of Israeli women peace activists, opposed to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Since 2001 their members run daily monitoring of IDF checkpoints in the West Bank, and the Separation Wall. They also monitor, record and report legal proceedings in the Civil Administration Office and military courts, seeking to influence public opinion and thereby bring an end to the occupation.

Machsom Watch are a women only group, although men are welcome to join their observation teams at checkpoints as guests.

www.machsomwatch.org machsomwatch@gmail.com

Music Harvest

Music Harvest is an Irish organisation that recruits international volunteers to teach music to children in under-resourced Palestinian communities and to build music programmes for the future. They are currently working alongside Project Hope in their premises in Nablus.

Volunteers (in pairs) teach for approx 20 hours per week, to children aged 6-14 years. They are encouraged to organize classes and activities based on their own experience and preferences. Volunteers are also involved in outreach concerts – planning and staging musicals, showcases and storytelling events in Nablus and surrounding villages.

Experience of music education is not essential but applicants must have advanced musical ability, maturity and good teamwork skills. Arabic is valued but not essential (all classes have local translators). Before departing for Palestine, volunteers are informed of instruments played by fellow volunteers, order to prepare suitable music and develop ideas for classes and performances.

During the stay volunteers can take Arabic and oud (oriental lute) lessons. They are also offered classes, reading materials, field trips, lectures and meetings with a wide cross-section of people from both public and private sectors, local and international NGOs.

The programme runs all year round one can apply any time but places fill quickly. Upcoming 2015 placement dates are: July 27th-Sept 2nd and Sept 1st-Dec 1st. Volunteers are asked to pay €200 per month to cover accommodation. Food, travel etc. is not included.

Music Harvest also offer 2 week stays each summer for non- musicians. Schedules are split between delivering classes in areas of expertise eg. languages, art,sport etc, and the Project Hope education programme. Experience of music education and Arabic is valued but not essential. Application are invited from October for the following year's placements. Summer 2015 dates are: August 8th-August 22nd

www.music harvest.org info@music harvest.org

Palestine Summer Encounter

PSE is a programme coordinated by Middle East Fellowship, a U.S. nonprofit organisation and Holy Land Trust, a Palestinian NGO. It offers one, two, or three month stays of learning and cultural immersion in Bethlehem. Participants study intensive Arabic study for beginners, live with a Palestinian host family, meet with both Israeli and Palestinian NGOs and peace activists and do volunteer work (arts, media, sports, teaching english etc.) at a local childrens' summer camp. There are also weekend trips to Jerusaelm, Haifa, Nazareth, Ramallah, Hebron etc

As well as Arabic study, PSE offer a number of other academic courses, including: Nonviolence in Palestine, Regional Politics, Theology and the Land, Comparative Religions and the history of Zionism. Those joining for 3 months are encouraged to utilize more of their time during the final session focusing more intensely on other aspects of their experience (time with their host families, personal projects, volunteer opportunities, etc.)

The 2015 programme is divided into three blocks: 4th June – 1st July, 2nd -29th July, 30th July – 26th Aug. Costs (inc. accomodation, meals, arabic lessons, excursions etc) 1 Month: \$2,030; 2 Months: \$3,390; 3 Months: \$4,160. Registration & deposit by May 1st.

www.palestinesummer.org

Project Hope

Project Hope in Nablus was founded in 2003 during the Second Intifada when Palestinian children were being denied their basic rights to education, health, and safety. Today Project Hope's local and international volunteers work together to empower the children and youth of Nablus and its four refugee camps through learning. It serves 1,000 students per month in a two-story Education Centre with five classrooms, language library, IT lab and community

internet café. It provides classes ranging from languages, arts, technology, sports, business to graphic novel design and yoga.

Project Hope hosts more than 100 international volunteers annually. They are expected to teach one of the core languages (English or French) but are also encouraged to share their personal skills and initiate new projects. A translator is provided for all classes, which average 10-15 students. Volunteers must be able to commit to at least one, preferably three months and be over 18 (mature volunteers are encouraged). Some experience teaching or working with children is preferred. Volunteers have group training prior to starting.

Accommodation is in a historic Nablus home, near the Project Hope office. Depending on numbers, volunteers may share with up to two others. Volunteers are asked to contribute 500 shekels per month (approx. £80) to cover accommodation and \$100 contribution to help buy classroom materials. There are free Arabic lessons throughout the stay.

www.projecthope.ps recruiter@projecthope.ps

Travel2Palestine

Travel2Palestine is a not-for-profit company that provides cost price but high value fact-finding visits to occupied Palestine and Israel for politicians and those interested in political visits. It was established by Martin Linton, former Labour MP and Guardian journalist. He is also co-Director of Labour2Palestine.

Its mission is to give people involved in politics the opportunity to see the situation in Palestine first-hand, and to hear from Palestinians, Israelis and those involved in building peace. It is open to people from all political parties – previous participants have included MPs, MEPs, councillors, trade unionists and political researchers.

Travel2Palestine offer scheduled or bespoke trips for individuals or groups. Accompanied by British organisers and Palestinian or Israeli guides they visit checkpoints, settlements, refugee camps; talking to politicians, mayors, activists in Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem etc.

www.travel2palestine.org info@palestinebriefing.org 0207 998 4732

Yesh Din

Yesh Din (from the Hebrew “there is law”) is an Israeli non-profit volunteer organization working to defend the human rights of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation. It monitors the criminal accountability of members of the Israeli security forces

and civilians in the West Bank suspected of crimes against Palestinians; human rights violations related to use of Palestinian lands; and respect for human rights within the Israeli military courts. It receives no funding from Israeli or Palestinian government bodies and cooperates with Israeli and international organizations to protect human rights.

Yesh Din accepts volunteers from all backgrounds and with varied language and other skills. Teams travel daily to Palestinian communities, to record testimonies and relevant documentation from victims and eyewitnesses of human rights abuses. Volunteer field researchers are trained by Yesh Din's professional staff, and devote at least one day every two weeks to recording testimonies in the field.

Knowledge of Arabic is not essential, although useful. However, because the work involves legal and official information and documents submitted to Israeli authorities, volunteers are required to have a high level of written and spoken Hebrew among their skills.

www.yesh-din.org

Zaytoun

Zaytoun is a British company founded in 2004 to support Palestinian farmers by buying and selling their olive oil. A Fairtrade company they now also import and sell Palestinian couscous, dates, za'atar, almonds and soap.

Zaytoun organise two trips per year to Palestine for the annual olive harvest (normally end October and early November). The Harvest Tour is for one week and participants visit communities who supply Zaytoun's products, meeting grassroots organisations working against Israeli Occupation and ends with a harvest celebration in Jenin. Accommodation is in local hotels or with farmers' families

The Olive Picking trip is co-ordinated with the International Womens Peace Service and takes place in the Nablus and Salfit districts. Volunteers work for two weeks with farmers, accompanying them to the fields, observing and supporting them from settler and military harassment and helping harvest the olives crop. All volunteers have to complete an assessment and training weekend before acceptance.

www.zaytoun.org harvest@zaytoun.org **0207 8321351**

