



## WORKCAMPS IN Palestine 2017

**International Work camps Table**

camp code	Dates	Place	Camp name	Type
IPYL074	1-10/7/2017	Hebron and Bethlehem	<b>This is Palestine</b>	Renovation, agriculture and environment
IPYL075	22/12/2017 01/01/2018	Bethlehem	"Christmas in Bethlehem; priceless experience"	Cultural and renovation

**Code:** IPYL076

**Date:** 1-10/7/2017

**Place:** Hebron and Bethlehem

**Hosting Organization:** IPYL-The International Palestinian Youth League and Battir landscape Eco-Museum Center (Bethlehem)

**Work type:** Rehabilitation, agriculture and environment

**Number of Volunteers:** 15 Internationals + 6 locals

**Participation Fee:** 300 Euros

---

### **Introduction:**

This work camp will expose volunteers to life in the Occupied West Bank. Volunteers will conduct renovation work in Bethlehem, as well as in nearby Battir, an ancient village that has recently been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Program. The work in Battir will be supervised by the Battir Landscape Eco-Museum (see below). The camp will also include one day in the Old City of Hebron, where volunteers will carry out renovation work and visit a local children's club.

The afternoons of the work camp will be dedicated to a program of educational activities. The aim is to expose volunteers to the reality of life in Palestine in the context of the ongoing Israeli occupation. The program will educate volunteers on Palestinian culture and history, and the history of conflict in the region. The program will also introduce volunteers to various civil society entities who are working towards a future Palestinian state. Civil society plays a crucial role in Palestine, helping people to stay resilient in the face of the many challenges brought about by the occupation.

### **International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)**

IPYL is an organization that empowers Palestinian youth through educational programs, intercultural learning, training, media literacy and youth leadership activities. Since its inception, IPYL has implemented hundreds of projects in a range of fields. These include 75 international voluntary work camps in Palestine and 65 in work camps in other Middle Eastern countries. The organization also carries out youth exchanges, geopolitical study trips, leadership seminars, youth and women think tank groups and community meetings. For more info about IPYL, please visit <https://www.ipyl.org>.

### **Battir Landscape Eco-Museum Center:**

The Battir Landscape Eco-Museum Center is a local organization that aims to preserve Battir's ancient sites following the village's 2014 incorporation into the UNESCO World Heritage Program. The organization is active in renovation, landscaping and archeology. The club was established 6 years ago and now seeks help to renovate its old monuments and water canals

that have survived for thousands of years. The landscape resembles the Babylon gardens. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/BattirLandscapeEcomuseum>

### **Project Description:**

The work will include the following activities:

- Planting trees.
- Rehabilitating land.
- Activities with Palestinian children.
- Visits to the old cities in Hebron and Bethlehem
- Renovation work within the village of Battir including its ancient water canals.
- Assisting the rebuilding of a wall in Battir that leads to an ancient water cistern at the edge of the village. This wall will help locals and internationals to reach the water cistern, establishing it as a touristic attraction.
- Renovation work in several locations beside the railway line that was established in the Ottoman Empire and that connected Turkey to Palestine. The railway line is intended to serve as a future border between Palestine and Israel.

*A detailed program will be sent to volunteers one month prior to the start of the work camp.*

### **Cultural Activities:**

The afternoon will be dedicated to educational activities that will expose volunteers to Palestinian culture and history, and that will help volunteers to understand the reality of life under occupation. The program will include lectures, documentaries, visits to refugee camps in the Bethlehem area and tours of other places of interest. The program will provide many opportunities for interaction with locals. Volunteers will have the opportunity to speak with Palestinian activists and to ask whatever questions they have about the situation in Palestine.

*A detailed cultural program will be developed and sent to the participants one month before their arrival.*

**Accommodation:** the volunteers will be hosted in a rented flat in Bethlehem.

**Food** will usually be prepared by the volunteers themselves in the flat's kitchen facilities.

*A final and detailed program as well as the arrival note will be sent one month before the camp starts.*

Please send your applications to (Camp leader at [workcamps@ipyl.org](mailto:workcamps@ipyl.org))

## ME066- IPYL077 “Christmas in Bethlehem; priceless experience”

**Code:** IPYL077

**Date:** 22/12/2017-1/01/2018

**Place:** Bethlehem city

**Hosting Organization:** IPYL-The International Palestinian Youth League

**Work type:** Renovation and information

**Number of Volunteers:** 20 Internationals and 8 locals

**Participation Fee:** 300 Euros

### Introduction:

The project seeks to bring young people from various cultures together to build bridges of understanding, reconciliation, and peace. The long-term goal of project is to prepare youth to make positive contributions to society through the values of understanding, helping, contributing tolerance, and respectful coexistence. These goals are achieved through education –awareness reaction, youth empowerment and work camps.

### Project Description:

The volunteers will work in different areas in Bethlehem city. They will be in different locations in and around Bethlehem city; painting, renovation, restoration, gardening, tree planting etc.

*A more detailed program will be sent to the volunteers ahead of the work camp.*

### Food and Accommodation:

The volunteers will be hosted in flats in Bethlehem (20 minutes walking distance from the Nativity Church) where men and women stay in separate rooms. The accommodation includes hot water and a kitchen with basic cooking equipment. The volunteers will cook by themselves. Tea and coffee will be available all the time.

There might be curfew for the work camp, which would be around midnight, unless we have some activities around the church or in the city that night.

### Cultural Activities:

The afternoon will be dedicated to educational activities that will expose volunteers to Palestinian culture and history, and will enable volunteers to understand the realities of life under occupation. The program will include lectures, documentaries, visits to refugee camps in the Bethlehem area and tours of other places of interest. The program will provide many opportunities for interaction with locals. Volunteers will have the opportunity to speak with Palestinian activists who will answer whatever questions they have about the situation in Palestine.

*A detailed program will be sent to the participants before their arrival.*

### **Why in Bethlehem?**

Bethlehem is considered a central hub of Palestinian cultural and tourism industries. The city has significant values for Christians as according to the Gospels it contains the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth. Bethlehem is also home to one of the largest Palestinian Christian communities in the Middle East. In addition, Bethlehem has three Palestinian Refugee Camps (Dhisha, Al-Azza and Aida). The construction of the Israeli apartheid wall has had a severe impact on the city, politically, socially, and economically. The wall runs along the northern side of the town's built-up area, within meters of houses in 'A'ida refugee camp on the one side, and the suburbs of Jerusalem on the other.

The work camp will run throughout the Christmas period. Bethlehem is the best place to celebrate Christmas and to witness this unique cultural experience. The volunteers will have the opportunity to celebrate the Christmas with the Palestinians and express their solidarity with them.

**Detailed information sheet and arrival note will be sent later.**

### **Practical information:**

#### **Don't forget to bring: (Necessary)**

- ✓ Pullover or light jacket in case of rain (December workcamp)
- ✓ Working shoes
- ✓ Working clothes and gloves
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ For the summer camps, please bring mosquito lotion and sun glasses
- ✓ Information about your country; food, drinks and music etc...
- ✓ Warm clothes as it could get very cold in December, especially at night

You are encouraged to bring musical instruments and/or anything which can create international theme parties, based on food, drinks, music, dance and games that are typical from your home country.

### **Additional notes:**

- ✓ The participants have to pay **300 Euro** to IPYL, as participation fees for the camp upon arrival. The amount can be paid in Euro, US Dollars and New Israeli Shekels according to the official exchange rate of the day.
- ✓ The local currency is the New Israeli Shekel (the most common one). One Euro is around 3.9 Shekels.
- ✓ The volunteers will cook themselves in teams, in a rotating way (daily kitchen group- mainly the breakfasts and dinners). But in most cases we will have the food provided ready.
- ✓ There will be optional trips to other cities during the camp (the cost is to be covered by the volunteers- NOT IPYL).

- ✓ IPYL camps are alcohol and drugs free. We expect volunteers to respect this rule. We will provide opportunities for volunteers to visit bars within the city of Bethlehem, where they can drink.
- ✓ The transportation to and from the hostel/borders of the work camp is NOT covered by the organization.

**For more information and facts about Palestine:**

Information about the wall and its negative impacts: [www.stophthewall.org](http://www.stophthewall.org)

Information about IPYL: [www.ipyl.org](http://www.ipyl.org)

Information about the city of Bethlehem: [www.bethlehem-city.org](http://www.bethlehem-city.org)

Why Palestine is not on the map?: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9r9ACkpFVk>

Documentary on Palestine: **occupation101** on youtube.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18TRLG8Gwqs&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18TRLG8Gwqs&feature=player_embedded#!)

<http://www.passia.org/> or

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine\\_Liberation\\_Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization)

<http://www.nad-plo.org/>

**For additional information and in case of emergency:**

Mr. Omar JUBA

International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)

Jaffa Street, Al-Isra'a Building, 5th floor

Hebron P.O. Box 618,

West Bank, Palestine

Tel/Fax: +972-2-2229131 (international call) - 02 2229131(from inside the borders)

E-mail: [workcamps@ipyl.org](mailto:workcamps@ipyl.org)/ [info@ipyl.org](mailto:info@ipyl.org)

Website: [www.ipyl.org](http://www.ipyl.org)

See you soon in Palestine!