



## 3. 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

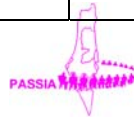
**Area:** **Land area:** 26,323 km<sup>2</sup> (= 10,162 miles<sup>2</sup>) **Water area:** 438 km<sup>2</sup> (approx.)

Palestinian Territories: 6,020 km<sup>2</sup>

- West Bank: 5,655 km<sup>2</sup>; 130 km long, 40-65 km in width

- Gaza Strip: 365 km<sup>2</sup>; 45 km long and 5-12 km in width

District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (pers./km <sup>2</sup> )	District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (pers./km <sup>2</sup> )
<u>WEST BANK</u>			<u>GAZA STRIP</u>		
Jenin	583	445	North Gaza	61	4,381
Tubas	402	118	Gaza	74	6,689
Tulkarem	246	697	Deir Al-Balah	85	3,512
Nablus	605	552	Khan Yunis	108	2,528
Qalqilya	166	577	Rafah	64	2,617
Salfit	204	310	<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>3,945.4</b>
Ramallah	855	333	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,020</b>	
Jericho	593	73			
Jerusalem	345	1,189			
Bethlehem	659	270			
Hebron	997	535			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,655</b>	<b>463.5</b>			



<b>Land boundaries:</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
	Total: 404 km	62 km + 40 km Coastline
	Borders: Israel 307 km (Green Line)	Israel 51 km (Green Line)
	Jordan 97 km	Egypt 11 km
	<b>Green Line:</b> approx. 320 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).

**Temperatures (C°) in 2005**

	<b>Gaza</b>	<b>Hebron</b>	<b>Jericho</b>	<b>Ramallah</b>	<b>Nablus</b>	<b>Jenin</b>
Mean Air Temp.	21	16.7	23.4	16.5	18.0	20.3
Absolute Min. Air Temp.	7.8 (Feb.)	-1.0 (Feb.)	2.0 (Feb.)	0.6 (Feb.)	0.8 (Feb.)	3 (Feb.)
Absolute Max. Air Temp.	33.8 (March)	35 (Sept.)	44.4 (Aug.)	33.8 (May)	35 (Sept.)	37.8 (Aug.)

Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, Oct. 2006

**Rainfall in 2005**

	<b>Gaza</b>	<b>Hebron</b>	<b>Jericho</b>	<b>Ramallah</b>	<b>Nablus</b>	<b>Jenin</b>
Total Quantity (mm)	260.5	475.9	117	711.6	790.5	431.1
No. of Rainfall Days	38	46	36	47	56	55

Source: PCBS, *Meteorological Statistics*, Oct. 2006

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

<b>District</b>	<b>highest elevation</b>	<b>lowest elevation</b>	<b>average annual rainfall (1967-1998)</b>
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)	100 m asl	588 mm
Ramallah	1,022 m asl (at Tal A'sur)	24 m bsl (southeast border)	694 mm
Nablus	918 m asl (Jabal 'Ibal)	349 m bsl (southeast border)	663 mm
Jenin	750 m asl (Jabal 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

**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.palestine-info.co.uk/am/publish/article\\_15.shtml](http://www.palestine-info.co.uk/am/publish/article_15.shtml)
- Maps:** [http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/pal\\_maps.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/pal_maps.htm)
- [http://www.passia.org/index\\_pfacts.htm](http://www.passia.org/index_pfacts.htm)
- <http://www.ochaopt.org/> (see Map Centre)
- [http://www.allaboutpalestine.com/palestine\\_geography.html](http://www.allaboutpalestine.com/palestine_geography.html)
- <http://www.pnic.gov.ps/english/geography/geography.html>
- [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html)
- <http://www.fmep.org> (focus on settlements)

**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.

*The Palestine Question in Maps, 1878-2002.*

Jerusalem: PASSIA, August 2002.

PCBS, *Meteorological Condition in the Palestinian Territory. Annual Reports.*

**UNCTAD.** *Environment and Development Prospects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

UNCTAD, 1995 (Chapter I).

