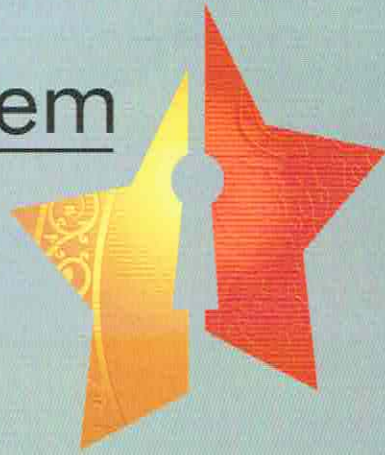


Open Bethlehem



Open Bethlehem is an international campaign that works to draw attention to the plight of the historical city of Bethlehem and to mobilize global engagement to keep Bethlehem open. We aim to build a positive legacy for Palestine and the wider region by preserving and reasserting Bethlehem's unique historical character as a living example of an open and multi-faith Middle East.



OPEN BETHLEHEM: THE DOCUMENTARY

Over the next two years, Open Bethlehem will focus on the distribution of a documentary that chronicles events from the last decade of life in the city, creating a portrait of Bethlehem as it has never been seen before. The film screenings will be accompanied by an audience outreach campaign that will promote visits to Bethlehem through established and specialised tour operators and work to develop a network of passionate ambassadors for the city through the Bethlehem Passport Programme.

"ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE AND MOVING DOCUMENTARIES I HAVE SEEN ABOUT THIS UNREPORTED STORY. THE TRAGEDY OF PALESTINIANS ENCAPSULATED IN THE LIFE OF ONE TOWN - BETHLEHEM. SEE THE FILM, THEN GO TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE FOR YOURSELF."
JON SNOW

Open Bethlehem follows Palestinian director Leila Sansour's journey to the legendary city of Bethlehem, the place where she grew up. Armed with a camera and a family car that keeps breaking down, she sets out to make an intimate portrait of a historical town in peril. Ten years on, with 700 hours of footage, the result is an extraordinary chronicle of a decade of drastic upheaval that changes her own life and the lives of everyone in the town. Open Bethlehem is an invitation to see inside Bethlehem and meet its people as it faces an uncertain future.

During the making of the film, a vast visual archive of Bethlehem has been assembled by the director from collections, private owners and libraries around the world. A great part of this archive will be uploaded on to the Open Bethlehem website in stages and shared across social media in the coming two years, to create an online gallery that houses lithographs, prints, newsreels and a large collection of old and new footage.

PLANS FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Open Bethlehem documentary will be released in the UK at Christmas 2014. An audience outreach programme will run alongside our cinema screenings, with special events and talks across the UK, inviting audiences to visit Bethlehem, join the network of our ambassadors and support the distribution of the film. The film will also be made available on DVD, VOD and through online viewing.



ORGANISING A SCREENING

It is very easy to support us. Please spend some time inviting your friends and those with influence in your community if you hear of a local screening. We are working to bring the film to as many cities and communities as we can in the UK. You can also organise your own. We very much welcome your input and initiative. Whether you can persuade your local cinema to screen the film, or you want to organise a viewing at a university or church or school, we are eager to hear from you.

We aim to take the film to the USA in 2015. If you have the right contacts to help us make a splash, or if you are able to support the distribution of the film by committing resources or connecting us with your networks, please do not hesitate to contact us.

VISIT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has been a tourist destination since before tourism was invented. For the past 2000 years, pilgrims from all over the world have travelled to Bethlehem in the footsteps of a star that promised Joy and Goodwill and Bethlehem welcomed them all as it does today.

Almost one million tourists a year visit Bethlehem. But the vast majority of these come on whistle-stop tours to the Nativity Church, organised by Israeli tour operators, which offer little insight into the history of the city or the life and nature of its communities.



To redress this, Open Bethlehem works to promote alternative travel programmes organised by a network of tour operators that offer a well-rounded experience of Bethlehem, through fact-finding tours, engagement with the city's life and culture and the work of its institutions.

We invite you all to visit Bethlehem. To make it easy for you to plan your journey, we have included a list of tour operators that cater to visitors of all backgrounds and interests. You can choose the star you want to follow:

AMOS TRUST www.amostrust.org

Amos Trust is a small creative human rights organisation; we have been running trips to Palestine for 20 years. These include: * Alternative Pilgrimages - meet the peacemakers; visit the Biblical sites * Rebuild a demolished home * Bet Lahem Live Arts Festival* Run the Bethlehem Marathon with Team Amos * Bespoke trips for church and youth groups. Tel: 0207 588 2638. Email: travel@amostrust.org

CAMDEN ABU DIS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (CADFA) www.camdenabudis.net

CADFA's well-reviewed human rights visits are run by Palestinians. Visitors are based in Abu Dis, in the Jerusalem suburbs, and visit towns, villages and refugee camps all over the West Bank. CADFA works to subsidise the cost of the visits. Tel: 0 7691 536 620. Email: contact@camdenabudis.net

CENTER FOR JEWISH NONVIOLENCE www.facebook.com/centerforjewishnonviolence

Developing a new movement of nonviolence in North America, the EU, Israel and Palestine to end the Israeli occupation. The Center will train and mobilize members of international Jewish communities to work on the ground for human and civil rights. Upcoming delegation to Bethlehem: 15th-20th February, 2015. Email: centerforjewishnonviolence@gmail.com

COUNCIL FOR ARAB-BRITISH UNDERSTANDING (CAABU) www.caabu.org

Caabu has taken over 50 Parliamentary delegations to the Middle East since 1997, providing MPs with first-class chance to see the challenges Palestinians face. Participants frequently become long-term advocates as a result. Tel: 0207 832 1321. Email: info@caabu.org

EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST www.embraceme.org/trips

A non-governmental, inter-denominational charity tackling poverty and injustice. Dig deeper than the average tourist and see for yourself the life-changing work being done by our partners. Visit local Christians who are living out Christ's love and compassion in their communities. Tel: 01494 897 950. Email: richard.jones@embraceme.org

THE ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (EAPPI)

www.quaker.org.uk/eappi

EAPPI recruits volunteers who spend 3 months as human rights monitors in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Ecumenical Accompaniers live alongside Palestinians and reduce violence by providing an international protective presence. On their return EAs advocate for an end to the occupation and a just peace. TEL: 0207 663 1144

ENCOUNTER www.encounterprograms.org

Encounter is a non-partisan educational organization cultivating informed and constructive Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Over 2000 American Jewish leaders representing the full breadth of our community's views on the conflict have traveled with Encounter to the West Bank. Upcoming trips: November 13-14th Bethlehem, December 25-26th Bethlehem. Email: info@encounterprograms.org

EXPERIENCE TRAVEL TOURS www.experiencetraveltours.org

ETT works in conjunction with ICAHD and your leader is ETT founder and ICAHD UK Director, Linda Ramsden. Meet Palestinians and Israelis; visit both sides of the divide; learn about the requirements for a just and sustainable peace for all. For information on the November 2014 study tour Email: info@experiencetraveltours.org

FRIENDS OF SABEL UK www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk

Sabeel organises Witness Trips to Palestine and Israel. We focus on meeting people at the grassroots and those in leadership of the non-violent resistance movement. We visit villages, farmers, professors, business people, Rabbis, Christian and Muslim leaders all working to show "beautiful resistance" in working for justice.

ISRAELI COMMITTEE AGAINST HOUSE DEMOLITIONS www.icahd.org

ICAHD invites internationals to join its annual two-week rebuilding camp to work with Palestinians and Israelis demonstrating powerful non-violent political resistance by rebuilding a Palestinian home demolished by Israeli authorities in violation of international law. For information on 2015 camp Email summercamp@icahd.org

McCabe PILGRIMAGES www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/

McCabe Pilgrimages run Christian-based pilgrimage-tours to the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East. The trips in Israel-Palestine are usually based in Jerusalem and the Galilee. Some groups stay in Bethlehem, Jericho or Nablus. The trips are accompanied by Palestinian Christian guides, and are normally fully inclusive.

MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS www.map-uk.org

MAP works for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees. An important way we do this is by leading cross-party delegations to the West Bank and Gaza to visit hospitals and clinics and meet Palestinian families and civil society leaders. Tel: 0207 226 4114 Email: info@map-uk.org

TRAVEL2PALESTINE www.travel2palestine.org

A not-for-profit company focusing on cost-price political fact-finding visits to Jerusalem and the West Bank. We take you to Palestine to see for yourself. Experience the occupation, the wall, checkpoints, settlements, refugee camps. Talk to politicians, mayors, activists. Visitors are accompanied by British organisers and Palestinian or Israeli guides. Tel: 0207998 4732. Email: info@palestinebriefing.org

ZAYTOUN www.zaytoun.org

Every year Zaytoun organises two trips to Palestine coinciding with the olive harvest. The "harvest tour" offers customers the chance to visit Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and communities who supply our products. The "olive picking trip" is coordinated with the International Women's Peace Service and offers volunteers the chance to work for a fortnight alongside olive farmers in the groves. Tel: 0207832 1351 Email: harvest@zaytoun.org

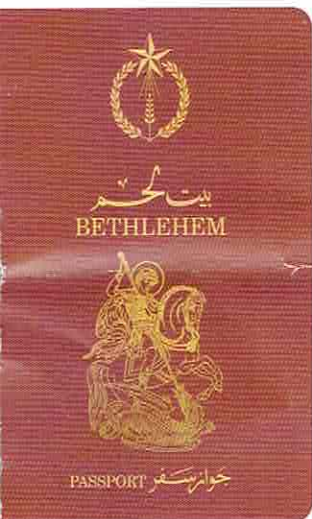
For travel dates and more information please visit our website or call tour operators directly.

THE BETHLEHEM PASSPORT PROGRAMME



People who share the Open Bethlehem vision are invited to become ambassadors of the city. We will be running ambassador seminars to help people gain a deeper understanding of the issue, facilitate exchange and provide participants with materials and communication tools to help them spread the word and advocate to help keep Bethlehem open.

All ambassadors will be awarded a Bethlehem passport- a symbolic citizenship developed by Open Bethlehem in coordination with Bethlehem's Governorate.



So far, the passport has been granted to more than 300 people around the world, including church leaders and heads of states, such as Archbishop Rowan Williams, Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President Jimmy Carter.

The Bethlehem Passport programme aims to create a continuously expanding network of Bethlehem ambassadors, by creating communication channels and forums to foster exchange between Bethlehem ambassadors.

"OPEN BETHLEHEM IS A NONVIOLENT ATTEMPT TO SAVE A CITY THAT BELONGS TO MANY IN THE WORLD. IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE THAT BETHLEHEM SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DIE SLOWLY FROM STRANGULATION"
DESMOND TUTU



amos trust

justice and hope for the forgotten

The Open Bethlehem campaign is housed by Amos Trust, a creative UK-registered human rights charity (registered charity 292592), that seeks to raise awareness of situations of injustice, build hope and create change by working with vibrant local partners. Amos Trust has three areas of work, one of which is Amos Palestine.

Open Bethlehem-the documentary owes a huge debt of thanks to a great number of philanthropists, as well as the organisations listed below, most importantly to Tipping Point Film Fund that has supported the film and the vision of Open Bethlehem for the past five years:



We would also like to thank XL Video, Zaytoun CIC and Ehrmann's Pico a Pico Wine for their generous contributions towards the Open Bethlehem screening at the Royal Geographical Society.



DONATE

We aim to bring the story of Bethlehem to millions of people over the next two years and gain thousands of new ambassadors for Bethlehem. Your donations will help us spend less time fundraising and more time doing what we know best: bringing the story of Bethlehem to those who might be able to influence its future.

Please consider becoming a regular sponsor by joining the circle of our supporters or simply visit our website to leave a donation. A small donation from a large number of people will make all the difference. Donations to Open Bethlehem are eligible for Gift Aid. Please donate via the Amos Trust website: www.amostrust.org

CONTACT US

To organize a screening and for all other enquiries:
Email: admin@openbethlehem.org or Call: 0203 725 3496
www.openbethlehem.org