At Burqin, tourists may like to take a short hike down the Valley of Burqin. The valley and the area around it is rich in Mediterranean Plant species such as the native oak (Quercus calliprinos) and Palestinian pistachio (Pistacia palestina); several species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertibrates can also be observed in that area. Al-Jalameh Garden is the last station of this trail where tourists can take the opportunity to relax, and have traditional food and drinks within such a rural atmosphere.

Why Al-Jalameh
The trail of Al-Jalameh was designed in order to give a glimpse of the various natural and cultural features of the northern West Bank and to shed light on how such factors can be conserved and protected through ecotourism development to that area. An important aim of this trail is to raise awareness on issues related to trans-boundary water management, and the need to build waste water management plants that will allow its use in agriculture and prevent health and environmental hazards posed by the polluted Al-Moqata’ River. This trail will, moreover, underline the natural resources to this area and the cultural factors manifested to it. Eco-tourists of any age will enjoy the Al-Jalameh trail. Groups will travel from one site to the other by bus or car, but tourists may choose to take a short hike at each station. Call the FoEME office to arrange for local guides along the Al-Jalameh trail Ask your FoEME representative about seasonal service opportunities in this area!

Good water Neighbor Path
This trail is one of the 25 paths that deal with the issue of shared water, environmental resources and peace building between Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli communities. The general goal of these trails are to:

- Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns to the communities.
- Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
- Develop potential for local ecotourism

For more information please visit our website: www.foeme.org
Tel: +972-2-2747948
Design & Copy by: Sami Backleh
Review by: Iyad AbuRdeineh

Background
The Al-Jalameh trail offers an overview of the natural and cultural diversity of the northern West Bank. Along this trail, tourists will find historical examples of the relationship between humans and nature. These attractions include a sampling of the historic village, a cultural phenomenon from the Ottoman Era found only in Palestine and highly connected to the natural environment. The area played an important role in history as a crossroads between the Mediterranean Sea and the northern region. The historical Via Maris passed through this area as well as other internal routes that connected the mountainous areas to the coast. The natural history of this area is quite rich due to its location in the Marj Ben-Amer/ Jezreel Plain watershed. The Mountain Aquifer’s northern basin lies beneath this area. It is an underground reservoir of high quality. The presence of several natural springs, and the diverse of habitat host many species of flora and fauna.
The village of Sanor

Sanor has a remarkable architectural style unique to the throne villages of this region. In Palestine during the late Ottoman rule (1517-1917), throne villages served as the center of local governance. Elsewhere in the Ottoman Empire, the political structure was centered around powerful provincial governors, or Walis. However, in Palestine, the local sheikh collected taxes and administered government from his rural village. Thus these small villages became wealthy centers of Palestinian society and government. Today, Sanor and the 24 other throne villages like it represent the semi-feudal system of the Ottoman era. Various natural and architectural elements exist in the village, such as Jarrar Castle, which displays an urban mansion style distinct from the rural architecture of surrounding peasant houses.

Khirbet Bal’ame

This site is located on a mound approximately 2 km south of Jenin. Khirbet Bal’ame is a Canaanite city said to contain remnants from the Early, Middle, and Late Bronze Age, the Iron Age, the Roman era, the Byzantine era, and the late Islamic Period. A very important feature of the site is the water tunnel, one of the largest in Palestine, which was built to ensure continuous access to the water source at the foot of the eastern edge of the site.

Burqin

Located 3 km west of Jenin, where this village consists of a beautiful church situated on the slope of a hill, overlooking a green valley. In the Roman period, the church was originally a cave where lepers were kept isolated from the village. According to the Christian tradition, Jesus Christ passed through the village on his way to Jerusalem and miraculously healed any lepers who asked for his help. The valley beneath, called Wadi Burqin, is considered an important ecological feature of the northern West Bank. Several plant species endemic to the Mediterranean grow here. Unfortunately, the valley and the mountain have been damaged by the expansion of the village.

Marj Ben-Amer and the Trade Route Station

Marj Ben-Amer, known as the Jezreel Plain or the plain of Esdraelon. The beautiful panorama of Marj Ben-Amer is home to some of the most fertile farmland in Palestine. Marj Ben-Amer sits between the mountains of Samaria in the south and the Galilee hights in the north. The water flowing from these mountains, in addition to natural springs along the plain, have formed an important landscape for agriculture. Al-Moqata’a stream, also known as Qishon, runs through the Marj diagonally from its sources in and around Jenin in the south-east to the Haifa plain in the north west, where it ends in the gulf of Haifa. Nevertheless, Al-Moqata’a stream and its tributaries are severely polluted, mostly from untreated wastewater reserviars situated near the stream, which overflow in the rainy season.

Touring tips

At Sanour, a panoramic view of the steppe and the mountains around it is worth the shot. A special ecological and phyto-geographical formation is visible from the kind of soil this steppe has.