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Wadi Qelt farms
Farms found along the trail are irrigated from the springs of the Wadi where diverse crops and vegetables are grown. Different methods of agriculture are used in the area; one can find modern greenhouses as well as the more traditional farming techniques that use open spraying fields.

Jericho Dumping Site
Funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency JICA, the new authorized dumpsite serves the Jericho area and is an important project for environmental protection.

Baptism site (Bethabara)
The Baptism site is located on the banks of the Lower Jordan River. According to the New Testament, this is the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. The site is an attraction for many local and foreign visitors, however, the Jordan River today is in poor condition, with its waters being diverted and polluted, endangering the river’s ecosystem. FoEME is working towards registering the Lower Jordan River and the fields surrounding Jericho. For more information please visit: http://www.jericho-city.org/accomodations.html

Jericho city has many accommodations and facilities for tourists. For more information please visit: http://www.jericho-city.org/accomodations.html

Ain Far'a (Ein Parat)
Of the three springs that feed Wadi Qelt, the Ain Far'a spring is the largest one (others are Fawwar and Qilt). The aqueducts found in Wadi Qelt were built to channel water from the three springs to the St. George Monastery and to the Hasmonian and Herodian palaces. The King James Version of the Bible, in Jer. 13:5, reads; “The Lord told Jeremiah to hide his loincloth at Parath”, and mistakenly identifies this spring as “Euphrates” (“Parath”)!

St. George Monastery
St George is a Greek Orthodox monastery, founded by a Syrian monk in the 5th century, but takes its name from George Kosiba who lived and taught in the area in the 6th and 7th century. The monastery was destroyed in 614 AD by the Persians, and rebuilt during the Crusader period. It then fell into disuse and in 1878 a Greek monk settled here and restored the monastery, finishing it in 1901. It is built into the mountainside on the northern cliff face with an exquisite view of the wadi and the surrounding area. An aqueduct crosses the valley adjacent to the monastery and carries water to the fields surrounding Jericho.

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Herod’s Winter Palace
Since Jericho is some 25 km. east of Jerusalem and its winters are extremely mild. For this reason, Herod was chosen by Kings of the Hasmonian dynasty and by King Herod to be the location of their winter palaces. Fertile soil and an abundance of water from the nearby springs characterize the area. Several rare plants that produce aromatic essences and spices were planted in this area, the most famous being the opobalsamum plant. This oil from this plant was once among the most expensive in the ancient world.

Jericho Municipality and the Old City
Various facilities have been built for tourists in Jericho. These include several hotels and plenty of restaurants that offer a variety of foods. The Municipality of Jericho has developed a public park, the “Spanish Park”, giving residents and visitors a place for leisurely activities and general enjoyment.

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Baka Al Sharkia

Background
Baka Al Sharkia at a glance:
Baka Al Sharkia is located approximately 16 Km. north of the city of Tulkarem, directly on the Green Line. On the western side of the Green Line lies its sister city, Baka Al Gharbia (west), an Israeli Arab town. Baka Al Sharkiya is about 4,200 dunums and is home to more than 4,200 residents. The town was considered to be a prime example for cross border trading and social relations until the Separation Barrier was erected, Baka Al Sharkia is located on the western mountain aquifer - the most important aquifer between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean.
The economy of Baka Al Sharkia was heavily reliant on trade until the year 2002-2003. Since then, a large number of businesses that were located on the Green Line between Baka Al Sharkia and Baka Al Gharbia-Jat were destroyed in preparation for the building of the Separation Barrier. With the Separation Barrier built in 2004, measuring 5 km. in length around the village, Baka Al Sharkia suddenly found itself isolated from its neighbors and deprived of its main source of income. Today, Baka residents must rely mainly on agriculture in order to make their living.

Temporary local landfill

A temporary local landfill for Baka Al Sharkia and the Tulkarem area; one can see the severe environmental problems caused by such open dumping sites. The landfill is being used temporarily in an effort to stop waste from being dumped into Wadi Abu Nar, which underwent an initial clean up process in 2006. In recent years, the wadi has turned into an extreme environmental hazard, with sewage and solid waste being dumped into it, exacerbating by winter floods. The local temporary landfill site is located northeast of Baka and produces coal by wood burning. Unfortunately, this traditional method of coal production is burning. It is estimated that around 500 m. of solid waste is dumped into Wadi Abu Nar every day. To reduce illegal disposal sites in the district, this decision has been taken in cooperation with Joint Services Council in the district of Jenin, in cooperation with the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority, has decided to reduce illegal disposal sites in the district. This decision has helped to reduce the negative environmental impacts as well as public complaints, caused from the more than 80 open dumping sites found in the area.

1. Path B
   - Temporary local landfill
   - Water supply stations
   - Eco-garden

2. Path A
   - Economic activities
   - Local agriculture
   - Local industry

3. Temple of Sheikh Hamdan Abu Nar
   - Place of worship
   - Historical site

4. Separation Barrier
   - Political barrier
   - Environmental hazard

5. Wadi Abu Nar
   - Natural drainage
   - Historical landmark

6. Baka Al Sharkia
   - Local economy
   - Local culture

The path in Baka Al Sharkia is divided into two sections, Path A and Path B. Visitors can do either section, start from either direction, or combine the two together.

Zaharat Al Finjan dumping site

This new 285-dunam landfill site serves the district of Jenin, as well as other smaller districts in the northern West Bank. The Joint Services Council in the district of Jenin, in cooperation with the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority, has decided to reduce illegal disposal sites in the district. This decision has helped to reduce the negative environmental impacts as well as public complaints, caused from the more than 80 open dumping sites found in the area.

The Separation Barrier

The economy of Baka Al Sharkia was heavily reliant on trade with Israel until the year 2002-2003. Since then, a large number of businesses that were located on the Green Line between Baka Al Sharkia and Baka Al Gharbia-Jat were destroyed in preparation for the building of the Separation Barrier. With the Separation Barrier built in 2004, measuring 5 km. in length around the village, Baka Al Sharkia suddenly found itself isolated from its neighbors and deprived of its main source of income. Today, Baka residents must rely mainly on agriculture in order to make their living.

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This is a message from a previous iteration of the trails and is now part of the new Neighbors Path project.

Al ‘Auja village is located 10 kilometers to the northeast of Jericho city, famous for growing bananas, oranges, and vegetables. The village dates back to the Roman period as part of the city of Archillas. It has a total area of 120,000 dunams and being that it is situated in the Jordan Valley it is 230 meters below sea level! Al ‘Auja is home to 4,500 residents and surrounded by the Israeli settlements of Gilgal, Ni’ran, Noomi (Na’ama), Netiv Hagedud, Yitav and Nahal Tzori.

Wadi Auja begins its flow from Ain Samia, in the district of Ramallah, and continues its way to the Jordan River. The main water supply for the wadi is from the Auja spring. This “Neighbors Path” offers the tourist a unique landscape of flora, including wild laurel trees and lotus jujube trees. Wood from the lotus jujube trees served farmers in making their agricultural tools as well as for fuel.
The Path’s Stations

1. **Ain Samia**
The headwaters of Wadi Auja originate in the district of Ramallah. The area dates back to the Roman period, evident in ruins that have been found in neighboring villages close to the spring.

2. **Ain Auja**
Ain Auja is the main spring that feeds the Wadi with water. The spring is located to the west of Auja village and emerges from the limestone rocks in the nearby cliff. The spring’s flow is influenced by precipitation; in the year 1991 (a dry year) the flow was approximately 3.2 MCM, while in 1992 (a wet year), the flow reached 18.5 MCM. Occasionally however, during the summer and autumn months, water may stop flowing completely.

3. **The Ecological Garden**
The ecological garden in Auja was established on March 2006 in the framework of the ‘Good Water Neighbors’ project, run by FoEME (Friends of Earth Middle East). The municipality of Auja donated a 10 dunam piece of land for this purpose, adjacent to the municipality building. The ecological garden aims to promote water conservation and general environmental education. The garden, still being developed, will be a place where visitors can enjoy refreshments or light meals.

4. **Beir Hedar**
Beir Hedar is an example of one of the many cisterns used in the past to collect water from Wadi Auja before it emptied into the Jordan River. Today the Beir Hedar cistern leaks and does not retain water, therefore making it unusable. Although worthy of renovation and restoration, lack of funding prevents it's repair.

**Notes**
- Lodging is sparse in Auja, however, for Bedouin overnight accommodations, please call Suliman Abu Dahouk at: 052-2649404
- Travelers are advised to carry plenty of water, especially during the summer months. In the winter, especially after heavy rains, please be aware that the wadi may flood.
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Background
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The center was established in 1968 by the World Bank and provides residents with technical and training services. It also hosts environmental activities, to raise the environmental awareness of the residents in the area. The center will serve as a welcoming station for visitors and hosts. An ecological garden project, sponsored by FoEME, is situated on the roof of the center.

Abasan Alkabira Municipality
According to the Palestinian Authority’s division of districts, the Abasan municipality founded its first Village Council, and as of 1996, it became a municipality. The municipality is active in environmental protection and awareness-raising, as regards the different challenges facing the city.

Abasan Water reservoir
As a result of the water shortage in Abasan the municipality founded its first Agriculture Water reservoir in 1968. The reservoir collects water from rainfall and streams in the Gaza strip. In 1977, one of the residents constructed a pool on a ten dunam area, considered to be one of the largest water harvesting projects in the Gaza strip. The pool collects water from rainfall and streams and is reused later for various purposes.

Abasan Alkabira town council
In 1996, Abasan municipality launched a project of building wells in the Morag area. These wells provided water for various purposes and the pumped water from the wells, used for irrigation in the area, is reused later for various purposes.

Grey water will be collected throughout the center and will be treated and reused for various purposes. A project, sponsored by FoEME, is situated on the roof of the center.

Information and telecommunications center
The Path's Stations
1. Abu Duqqa pool
2. Abasan Alkabira Municipality
3. Abasan Alkabira town council
4. Abasan Water reservoir
5. Abu Duqqa pool
6. Information and telecommunication center
7. Path's Stations

The Abasan region used to suffer from heavy rains that isolated many villages and divided different roads. Unfortunately, these flood waters caused many travelers to get lost. As a result of the water shortage in Abasan, the municipality founded its first Agriculture Water reservoir in 1968 to supply the municipality with water and to connect Abasan with Be'er Sheva to the south. The reservoir collects water from rainfall and streams in the Gaza strip. The pool collects water from rainy season streams and is reused later for various purposes.

Abasan Water reservoir
As a result of the water shortage in Abasan, the municipality founded its first Agriculture Water reservoir in 1968. The reservoir collects water from rainfall and streams in the Gaza strip. In 1977, one of the residents constructed a pool on a ten dunam area, considered to be one of the largest water harvesting projects in the Gaza strip. The pool collects water from rainfall and streams and is reused later for various purposes.

Grey water will be collected throughout the center and will be treated and reused for various purposes. A project, sponsored by FoEME, is situated on the roof of the center.

Information and telecommunications center
The center was established in 2004 by the World Bank and provides residents with technical and training services. It also hosts environmental activities, to raise the environmental awareness of the residents in the area. The center will serve as a welcoming station for visitors and hosts. An ecological garden project, sponsored by FoEME, is situated on the roof of the center.

Grey water will be collected throughout the center and will be treated and reused for various purposes. A project, sponsored by FoEME, is situated on the roof of the center.
This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities.

The goals of the trails are to:
- Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
- Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
- Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

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Specific information on the neighbors trails: http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org

إن هذا المسار هو أحد سبع عشر مسارًا تُطلق عليه موضوع المياه والسلام بين المجتمعات الحدودية في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. شركة المشاركة للمجتمعات الحدودية تргّلت هذه المشاريع خلال عام 2007 ضمن مشروع جيران المياه الذي ي谁都 على مبادرات المجتمع الحدودي.

أهداف المسار:
- رفع الوعي بالقضايا المشتركة المائية والبيئية.
- تطوير التعاون بين المجتمعات الحدودية.
- تطوير وسائل السياحة المحلية.

بدأ مشروع جيران المياه في عام 2001 من قبل شبكة أصدقاء الأرض-middle الشرق الأدنى في إطار مبادرات حماية البيئة والموارد المائية للمجتمعات الحدودية.

جمعية أصدقاء الأرض-middle الشرق الأدنى هي منظمة بيئية تعمّلت من خلال ثلاثة مكاتب في أجمل المواقع البيئية.

المشترك.

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سيكون هناك جولة كل ثلاث أسابيع. للتسجيل الرجاء بث رابطنا على: info@foeme.org

Background

The city of Tulkarem was called “Jabal Al-Karm” (Arabic) and Tur Karma (Aramaic), meaning “the mountain of vineyards”. The area was, and may still be referred to as, Tul-Karem (Hebrew). ‘Kerem’ means ‘vineyard’ in Semitic languages and is even mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah: 31:3: “Again shalt thou plant vineyards upon the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall have the use thereof”. Other names were also mentioned in the past, such as “Berat Soreqa”, which means the “vineyard’s cistern”. The city is known for its fertile land and vineyards that surround it.

Tulkarem is 15 km. away from the Mediterranean and was known as an important station for traders and travelers. Tulkarem is connected by roadway to the cities of Nablus, Jenin, and Qalqilia today, however, in the past, it used to be linked to many other cities through two railways that reached Cairo and Damascus.
Beit Lied and the Roman Pools

Beit Lied is a village to the east of Tulkarem city and is known for its Roman pools, recently restored by the village. The pools were used during Roman times to cut stones and stone columns, sending them on to Sabastia. A cafeteria is located at the site, providing visitors with refreshments and light food.

The Olive Mill in Beit Lied

The old olive mill in Beit Lied is one of the historic mills found in Palestine. It dates back to Roman times and was used during the Ottoman period as well.

The Shrine (Al-Mazar)

In the Beit Lied site there is a road connecting the eastern with the western part of Palestine - from Taybeh to Sabastia. The historic road used to be known as the "Sa'abneh Road" referring to a tribe called "Bani Sa'ab". Along the road many shrines and small size mosques were built for travelers needing praying and rest.

Banat Yaqub (Jacob’s daughters) Monument

This is a Roman, Islamic site situated in the suburb of Irtah, south of Tulkarem city. The site is thought to be Jacob’s resting place, hence, the name Irtah (meaning "to have a rest" in Arabic). The monument consists of two floors: the lower floor is Roman while the upper floor is an Islamic shrine with domes. The site was restored in 2005 in cooperation with UNDP. Monument visitors can find a park and a pottery workshop nearby.

The Separation Barrier

Since Tulkarem is located on the Green Line, the Separation Barrier can be seen from the city’s Irtah suburb. The Wall separates Tulkarem from the Israeli-Arab town of Taybeh and from the Israeli regional council of Emek – Hefer.

Tulkarem Museum

This historic building is itself the museum. It dates back to the Ottoman period, during which time it was used as a post office. It is located in the city center and is managed by the Ministry of Tourism. It consists of four big rooms, a guest room and a garden. It was transformed into a government center during the British mandate.

Tulkarem Municipality

The Tulkarem municipality is one of the oldest buildings in the city, dating back to the Ottoman era when it served as the government house. The building will be converted into a boutique hotel with a gallery, restaurant and a bazaar.
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“Future Vision” Institution and the Old Mosque Dome
The “Future Vision” Institution is located near the main village’s water spring (the Ain Albalad spring) that was recently restored through the Good Water Neighbors Project. The spring is used for irrigation purposes via its traditional pools and channels. The Institution houses a kindergarten and a climb up to its rooftop offers visitors a wonderful view of the village and the entire valley. Adjacent to the Institution is a mosque that can serve as a gathering place for groups before they begin their journey along the Neighbors Path.

The Women’s Center and the Village Council
The two-story building is divided between the Women’s Center activities while functioning as a gathering place for the Village Council. The Center is quite new to village inhabitants but it is nevertheless an important public location for the community. The Center will be providing visitors with refreshments, traditional meals, local food products, embroidery, and handmade crafts.

The Traditional Water Irrigation System
By walking in the valley itself, guests can visit one of the villagers’ agricultural plots and learn about the traditional water pool systems designed to irrigate the valley. One can learn about the different seasonal crop variability, and have the opportunity to buy fresh products directly from the field. One of the springs - “Ain AL-Teena” - will also be visited.

The Ecological Garden in Wadi Fadi School
The ‘Good Water Neighbors’ project has built ecological gardens in the communities in which it works - Wadi Fukin is one of them. The Wadi Fadi School has cooperated with FoEME in showcasing the garden as an example of community awareness for the environment and promoting efforts to conserve water, as the garden is irrigated by water from the grey water collection system.

The Berry Tree
The path’s ending point will be stationed beneath trees in the valley where local village products can be bought. Visitors will enjoy and admire the beauty of the valley from this site. Guests coming during different seasons will notice different types of plants and blooming trees. Spring is one of the most interesting seasons to tour Wadi Fukin since many wild flowers and fruit trees are in full bloom. As part of the good neighborly relations between the residents of Wadi Fukin and Tsur Hadassah, fruits and vegetables from Wadi Fukin are sold to Tsur Hadassa on a weekly basis.