

WORKCAMPS IN Palestine

2016

International Work camps Table

camp code	Dates	Place	Camp name	Type
IPYLo74	23/7-2/8/2016	Hebron and Bethlehem	Palestine: past, present and future	Rehabilitation. agriculture and environment
IPYLo75	22/12/2016 01/01/2017	Bethlehem	Welcome to Christmas in Palestine	Recreation and rehabilitation

MEo 64- IPYLo74 " Palestine: past, present and future "

Code: IPYLo74

Date: 23/7-2/8/2016

Place: Hebron and Bethlehem

Hosting Organization: IPYL-The International Palestinian Youth League and Palestine Child Home Club (Hebron) and Battir landscape Eco-Museum Center (Bethlehem)

Work type: Rehabilitation. agriculture and environment

Number of Volunteers: 20 Internationals + 10 locals

Participation Fee: 250 Euros

Introduction:

This work camp, will be carried out in two cities. Hebron and Bethlehem in cooperation with two local partner organizations. This work camp will include work in both cities, where in Hebron, volunteers will work in the old city (if the security situation allows) and the center of the children club, while in Bethlehem, volunteers will work side by side in the village of Battir (very ancient town listed in the World Heritage Center of UNESCO) as well as other parts inside the city of Jesus. The workcamp will include intensive cultural events that aim at raising the awareness of the volunteers on the history of Palestine and the conflict, in addition to meetings with civil society representatives in both cities that work in social development and for the future Palestinian free state. Civil society in Palestine played, and still playing, very important role in the resilience of the people to overcome the challenges exerted by the occupation of the country. This should be an excellent learning experience for the volunteers to learn about this unique innovative struggle tools.

International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)

IPYL is an organization that aims at empowering Palestinian youth through non-formal educational programs, intercultural learning, training, media literacy and youth leadership activities. Since its inception, IPYL has implemented hundreds of activities, including 73 international voluntary Workcamps in Palestine (and 68 in different countries in the Middle East), youth exchanges, cross-cultural study trips, leadership seminars, think tank groups and community meetings. By undertaking these activities, IPYL has developed strong alliances with

a wide network of individuals and organizations. For more information about IPYL, please visit <https://www.ipyl.org> (the site is not updated yet).

The Palestinian Child's Home Club (PCHC)

Is a non-governmental organization founded in 1996 in the city of Hebron, making it the first institution of its kind aimed at children from the ages of 9 to 18 years old. It works to provide social, cultural and sports program and since its foundation has worked to create better quality program which include camps, technology program and music and theatre training. Through these activities the club has become the only refugee available for children in this area and is now known on a national level and among international institutions as a distinctive space for youth.

Battir Landscape Eco-Museum Center:

Local organization that is working on reserving their village's ancient sites after being listed in 2014 on the world Heritage List. Active in renovation, landscaping and archeology. The club was established 6 years ago and now seeking the world help to renovate the old monuments and water canals that goes back to thousands of years. The landscape resembles the Babylon gardens. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/BattirLandscapeEcomuseum>

Project Description:

The work will include the following activities:

- ☑ Plant trees in many places in Hebron
- ☑ visit villages around Hebron city and help them rehabilitating their lands
- ☑ Fun activities with kids attending summer camps
- ☑ Tours around the old cities in Hebron and Bethlehem
- ☑ Painting, cleaning, and renovating old places
- ☑ Rehabilitating the old places in it including the very ancient water canals (Battir Village has a special and ancient water system that is connected to several water natural resources).
- ☑ Assist in rebuilding of an ancient wall that leads to the very ancient water cistern at the edge of the village. This wall will help the locals and internationals reaching the water cistern, which is hoped to be a touristic historical and natural attraction.
- ☑ Working on several locations beside the ancient train railway which was established since the Ottomans Empire that was a main line that connected Turkey to Palestine. The location of the railway is the borderline between Palestine and Israel.

(Detailed program will be sent ahead of the workcamp date)

Cultural Activities:

The afternoon will be used to give volunteers an inter-cultural learning experience, with focus on exposing the Palestinian culture within the context of the occupation and hopes for the future. This will include visits to refugee camps in the Bethlehem area, tours of place of interest, lectures, and most importantly interaction with the local people. The volunteers will be able to visit the different associations and centers where they can watch Documentaries or attend lectures about the situation in Palestine and the Middle East. They will also have the opportunity to speak with the Palestinian politicians and activists to open the space for them to find the answers for all the questions they want to ask. The volunteers will also have the opportunity to visit other cities in occupied West Bank.

(Detailed day by day cultural program will be developed and sent to the participants before their Arrival).

Accommodation: the volunteers will be hosted in rented flat in Bethlehem, while in Hebron, volunteers will be hosted at the Palestine Children Home Club or IPYL volunteers flat.

Food will be prepared by the volunteers themselves (kitchen group-daily) or provided by some sponsors if any.

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

MEo65- IPYL075 " Welcome to Christmas in Palestine"

Code: IPYL075

Date: 22/12/2016-1/01/2017

Place: Bethlehem city

Hosting Organization: IPYL-The International Palestinian Youth League

Work type: Renovation and information

Number of Volunteers: 30 Internationals

Participation Fee: 250 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 their future and 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. The work includes renovation of old sites near the church of the Nativity and assisting the Bethlehem municipality in preparing for the Christmas season; painting the streets, distribution of booklets and flyers to the tourists, decorating walls.. etc. (*more detailed program will be sent to the volunteers ahead of the workcamp*).

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 separated rooms. The accommodation includes hot water and kitchen with basic equipment. The volunteers will cook by themselves through the kitchen group. Tea and coffee will be available all the time.

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

Cultural Activities:

The afternoon will be used to give volunteers an inter-cultural learning experience, with focus on exposing the Palestinian culture within the context of the occupation and hopes for the future. This will include visits to refugee camps in the Bethlehem area, tours of place of interest, lectures, and most importantly interaction with the local people. The volunteers will be able to visit the different associations and centers where they can watch Documentaries or attend lectures about the situation in Palestine and the Middle East. They will also have the opportunity to speak with

the Palestinian politicians and activists to open the space for them to find the answers for all the questions they want to ask. The volunteers will also have the opportunity to visit other cities in occupied West Bank.

Detailed day by day cultural program will be developed and 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 it is considered the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth according to the Gospels. 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 negative impact on Bethlehem; 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 Jerusalem on the other.

The workcamp will be running in the period of Christmas, where Bethlehem is the best place to celebrate the Christmas. 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:

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

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 250 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 4.8 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 the volunteer to respect this rule. We will arrange for the volunteers times and places where they can drink in some bars and areas inside Bethlehem city.
- 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.stopthewall.org

Information about IPYL: www.ipyl.org

Information about the city of Bethlehem: www.bethlehem-city.org

Why Palestine is not on the map?: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9rgACkpFVk>

Documentary on Palestine: occupation101 on youtube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18TRLG8Gwqs&feature=player_embedded#!

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization

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