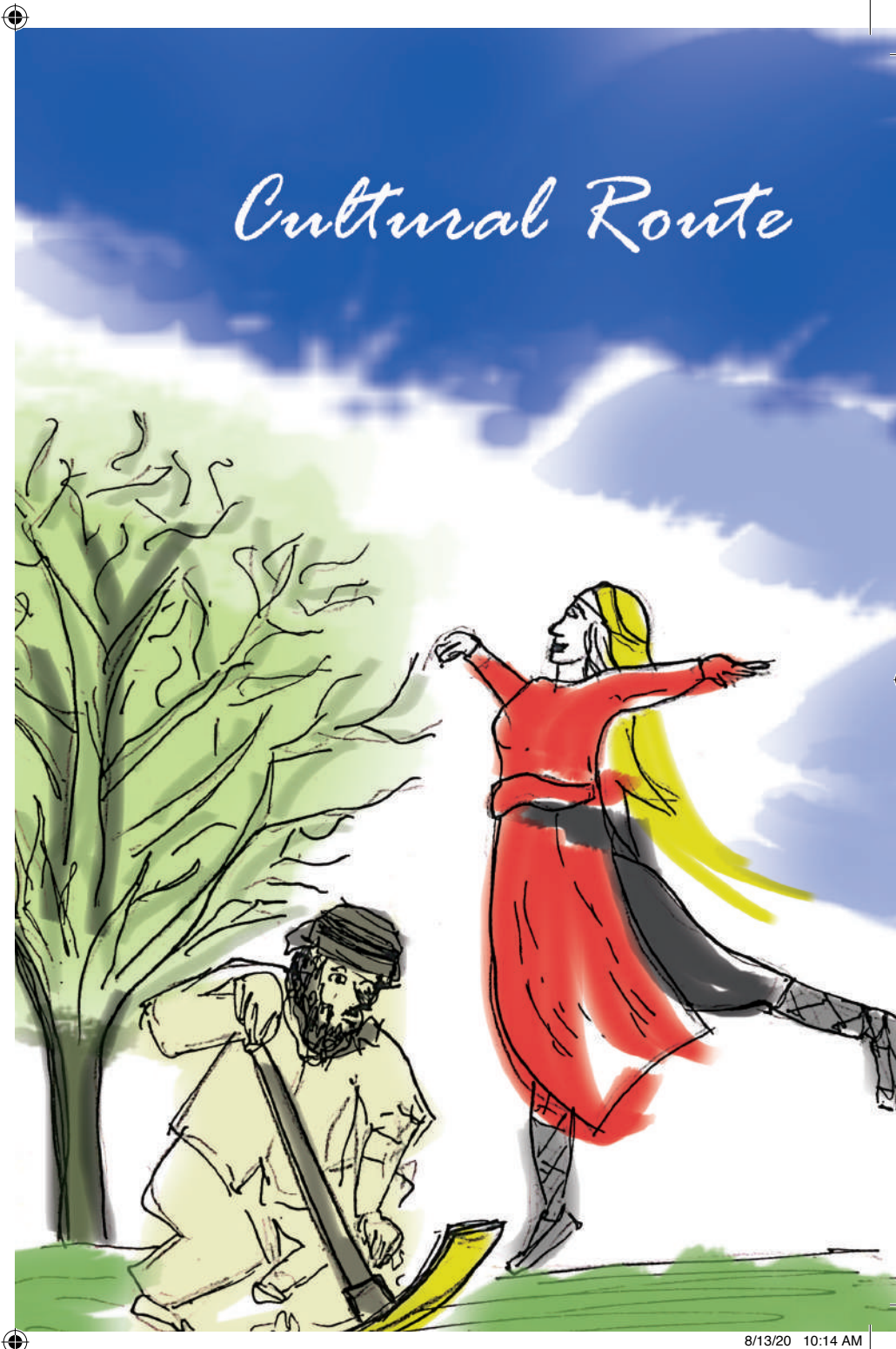


Bethlehem of all faiths fill the church once a week for mass. Miracles are claimed as in the healing of some illnesses by using holy oil brought exclusively from the Saint Charbel Church in Lebanon. In the Holy Land, the Maronites live side by side with the other Christian communities, celebrating both their own feasts and those that they share with the Roman Catholic Church.

  All week 7:30 - 18:00.





The character of the historic center of Bethlehem is evident in its historical monuments and buildings, the churches and mosques, public ovens, and crafts and trades. Residents have preserved the heritage of their ancestors; the influence of religion on daily lives is visible in the ornamentation on external doors or in the icons that adorn houses and workplaces.

This cultural route guides you through the city market areas, cultural associations and schools, and past mansion houses of architectural splendor.


- The route includes stairs and is not accessible by people with disabilities.

It is best to start early in the morning (9 a.m.) on weekdays if you want to visit any of the associations. Begin at **Bethlehem University** to visit the historic De La Salle school building and **Hirmas Mansion**. From the main gate of Bethlehem University, walk up the incline to

the St. Vincent guest house, which was built as part of the **Holy Family Hospital complex**.

## 1. Bethlehem University

Bethlehem University was established by the Christian De La Salle Brothers in 1973, with support from the Vatican following a proposal made during the visit of Pope Paul VI to Bethlehem in 1964. A school since 1909, it was the first registered university in the West Bank and today teaches six specialties: Education, Hotel Management and Tourism, Arts, Science, Nursing, and Business. **Turathuna**, the Palestinian Cultural Heritage Center, is housed in the university and opened a library in 1990 for rare books, manuscripts, and old newspapers and magazines on Palestinian heritage and identity.

 [www.bethlehem.edu](http://www.bethlehem.edu), 0 2-274 1241. Mon-Fri 8:00-16:00. (To enter the university, you need to fill in a form available on the university website.)




De La Salle Building inside Bethlehem University Campus

## 2. Hirmas Mansion

Mitri, Saleh and Jeries Hirmas, who emigrated to Chile, erected the building in 1910 in the hope that they would one day return to live in Bethlehem. The family never came back to live the mansion and since then, the building has been used for various purposes: as a private residence, a reform school for boys, and a school for the blind.

Set on the slope of a hill, the mansion was designed by the first Bethlehem architect, Morcouss Nassar, and constructed from a combination of geometrical red

and white carved stones; its main entrance sits on an elevation facing Jerusalem. Hirmas Mansion is now home to the science and education faculties of Bethlehem University.

 [www.bethlehem.edu](http://www.bethlehem.edu), 02-274 1241. Mon-Fri 8:00-16:00.




Hirmas Mansion inside Bethlehem University Campus

The second half of the 19th century brought socio-economic development thanks to the openness of the Ottoman state to the Western world. Trade relations were initiated and foreigners or foreign institutions gained more privileges and the right to own land in Palestine. Local craftsmen participated in world trade exhibitions and established links all over the globe.



### 3. Holy Family Hospital

Set on the western slope of a hill overlooking the city of Beit Jala, the hospital was inaugurated in 1885 as a general hospital and an orphanage with a capacity of 80 beds. The Community of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul operates a complex that comprises an orphanage, a guest house, and a specialized maternity hospital with around 3,200 deliveries a year. The original construction was built of white Bethlehem limestone surrounding a courtyard, with a church as a focal landmark, accessed through two beautifully integrated staircases.

 [www.holyfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org](http://www.holyfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org), 02-2741151.



Holy Family Hospital

Turn left towards **Cinema Square** and continue straight until you find the beautiful two-story **Hanna Ja'ar Mansion** fronted by a garden with a decorated gate and a garden fence of stones and steel. Continue straight and on your left is the **Bethlehem Arab Women's Union Center**; this is the first women's association established in Bethlehem to aid refugees settled in the city during conflicts and the 1948 Nakba. Continue straight to a

quiet alley leading to the **Madbaseh Commercial Zone**. Don't miss two historic mansions: **Saleh Giacaman Mansion** and **Handal Villa**. At Handal Villa, look right towards **Cinema Square**. Madbaseh Commercial Street is lined with attractive mansion houses with a variety of architectural details and stone carvings.

### 4. Hanna Ja'ar Mansion

The two-floor mansion was built in the 1930s by Hanna Khalil Ja'ar, a cloth merchant who returned from the Dominican Republic. Ja'ar Mansion was built of the best local, red sleib stones enclosed with a frame of engraved openings. Designed by Morcouss Nassar, the house displays many fine details such as a riwaq balcony on the first floor, and a garden fence built of the same stone. Enjoy the sight from street level over the main gate. The steel handrail ornamented

with floral elements was made at the Salesian Convent workshops. The status of the family is reflected in the indoor marble stone tiles imported from Italy.




Hanna Ja'ar Mansion

### 5. Bethlehem Arab Women's Union Center

Established in 1947, the Bethlehem Arab Women's Union served as a first aid center to care for refugees from the first Arab-Israeli

war. The Union works to meet the needs of Bethlehem residents of all ages, organizes luncheons for senior citizens, and encourages income-generation projects for women through food and craft production. It also runs the Arab Women's Union museum in Bethlehem's old city and part of the Bethlehem Museum on the Jerusalem-Hebron road. Today, the Union employs more than 150 women from nearby villages and refugee camps in Palestinian embroidery and a bakery. Tip: Get a freshly baked pastry at the kitchen door!

 [www.bethawu.org](http://www.bethawu.org),  
02-274 2453. Mon-Sat 8:00-16:00.



Bethlehem Arab Women's Union Center

## 6. Saleh Giacaman Mansion



Saleh Giacaman Mansion

Constructed out of red sleib stone, this three-story house was designed by Morcouss Nassar in 1924 for Saleh Jerjes Giacaman, the mayor of Bethlehem from 1917 to 1921. The main gate to the building is decorated with a stone sill engraved with a poem, the name of the owner, and the year of construction. Notice the letters "SG" welded onto the main metal gate decorated with floral motifs.

## Red Sleib Stone

This is hard limestone with a light rosy red color combined with shades of yellow. Constructions built with the red sleib stones attracted more attention and admiration when located among traditional white stone buildings. Red sleib stones are difficult to carve, which explains the use of local white stone for openings, frames and cornices. The red stone used in the Bethlehem area was originally quarried from the Jerusalem hills, specifically the areas of Baka, Katamon (Jerusalem) and Sleib (Beit Jala).

## 7. Handal Villa

Commissioned in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Handal family, this house has a Baroque style influenced by European architectural elements. The building has strong symmetry and is a unique site standing on the main elevation overlooking Paul VI Street. The building was renovated to become a shopping center, but its key elements of beauty were preserved. Don't miss the rear corner of the building at ground level, which is ornamented with carved stone edging up to the first floor.



Handal Villa

## 8. Cinema Square

The Amal Cinema and Bethlehem Cinema were once city landmarks, both constructed during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to offer entertainment to Bethlehem residents and the surrounding towns. These cinemas were packed at weekends and attracted other leisure attractions, becoming an area where the upper classes spent their spare time in the 1940s to 1960s. The location has kept its name of Cinema Square even though the cinemas are no longer open.



Al-Amal Cinema 1950s

## 9. Madbaseh Commercial Zone – Paul VI. Street

Lined with Palestinian fast food restaurants and cafes, colorful vendors, and a wide selection of shops, this pedestrian walkway is a favorite hangout for visitors looking to immerse themselves in the hustle and bustle of Bethlehem daily life. The street provides another entrance to Bethlehem's historic center, the main commercial zone, and transportation stations to surrounding villages. On Saturdays farmers sell their fresh goods here; there are few reminders of how this street once housed high-class clothes shops, an ice-cream parlor, two cinemas, and the Bethlehem club. These were the public areas where socio-cultural activities took place in the 1940s to 1960s, and where the middle classes (who started to emerge towards the end of Ottoman rule) enjoyed shopping. 📍♿



Madbaseh Commercial Zone

If you have enough time, leave the trail and turn first right just before reaching **Madbaseh Square** opposite the Lutheran Church. Walk for 300 meters along Qita Street until you reach a magnificent mansion house built of red stone on the right-hand corner: **Anton Ja'ar Mansion**.

## 10. Anton Ja'ar Mansion

This mansion was constructed in 1914 by Anton Ja'ar but was never completed. It has been inhabited by different families and also served as the court house after the Assaraya building was destroyed by fire in 1939. Designed by Morcouss Nassar, the building was based on the tra-

ditional Arab liwan layout of an all-important central room that gives access to other minor rooms.

The red house is framed and decorated with carved local white stone at the edges, openings, floor cornice, and columns. Ja'ar Mansion was one of the first houses to use concrete for decoration in the form of two columns with plant containers that define the external entrance. Karimeh Abbud, the first female Palestinian photographer, lived and founded her studio in this building.



Anton Ja'ar Mansion



## Karimeh Abbud

The first female photographer in Palestine and throughout the Middle East, Karimeh was born in Bethlehem in 1893 as the daughter of the Lutheran pastor, Said Abbud. In the early 1920s, Karimeh started her profession as a national photographer moving between four studios in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Haifa. Karimeh left a treasure of unique photos depicting major shrines, sites, and landscapes. Her legacy was primarily in her family portraits documenting middle-class life in Palestine prior to the 1948 Nakbah. Karimeh died in 1940 and was buried at the Lutheran cemetery of Bethlehem (**Bethlehemites in Jerusalem Route**).



Karimeh Abbud

## 11. Madbaseh Square

The name of this lively shopping area comes from the grape pressing that used to take place at this location during September to produce wine, malban (a seasonal sweet dish), and dibis (grape molasses). The Square connects the Nativity Church with the main road leading to Hebron and Jerusalem and the St. Joseph Hospital, thereby making it significant commercially for trade and commerce during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the center of the Square, the Cologne Cathedral Stone was sent as a gift and first installed in 1999; it was destroyed during the siege that took place in the second Intifada (Spring 2002). The square now encloses a skillfully carved black stone installed in 2010 and surrounded with greenery and iron handrails.



Madbaseh Square

On Madbaseh Square, take the alley to the left: **Paul VI. Street** to arrive at **Dar Annadwa - International Center of Bethlehem** on your right. Continue walking straight down Paul VI. Street before turning left down the stairs that cross **Qos Al-Abed**. On your left is the **Salesian Convent**, church and museum, which you can visit by prior arrangement. Turn right to pass through **Hosh Kattan**, which is lined on both sides with mansion houses and villas belonging to the Kattan family.

### Dibis (Grape Molasses)

The concentrated sweet syrup is made of grape juice cooked for many hours over a high heat. Dibis is a staple winter treat for Palestinians and is ex-

ceptionally tasty served with tahina (sesame seed sauce) and bread.

## 12. Dar Annadwa – International Center of Bethlehem

Dar Annadwa was established in 1995 in the subterranean crypt of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church as a center for youth and women, as well as a center for intercultural and ecumenical encounters. Two years later, in preparation for the Bethlehem millennium celebrations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland responded positively to Dar Annadwa's proposal to transform the old Lutheran school compound into a cultural and conference center. The Finnish Foreign Ministry invited several leading Finnish architects to submit plans and ultimately contracted Juha Leiviskä. The design is unique and is based on the agricultural terraces of

Bethlehem, the cubic form of its houses, local stone, and a blend of modernity within old structures, all combined with a Scandinavian touch of splendid natural light and green spaces.

The cultural and conference center has become the cultural hub of Bethlehem with regular film screenings, theater performances, concerts, and conferences. The lobby of the center is used as an art gallery where people can relax over a cup of coffee or beer. The Kahf gift shop offers innovative crafts and gifts made by Bethlehem artisans. The subterranean caves reveal a fascinating glimpse of what lies beneath most of the city's old houses.

  [www.diyar.ps](http://www.diyar.ps), 02-2770047.

### 13. Paul VI. Street

The name of Paul VI. Street was changed from Hreizat Street for the visit of Pope Paul VI. to the Holy Land in 1964. It stretches from the border of Bethlehem in the west perpendicular to the Jerusalem–Hebron road to Manger Square. The street was extended, broadened, and renovated after several missions constructed their institutions along it.



Paul VI. Street



Dar Annadwa





#### 14. Qos Al-Abed



Qos Al-Abed

The word abed (servants in Arabic) is usually associated with Arabic-speaking people originating from Africa. A half cross vault covering a narrow alley with a staircase was called after the servants who used to live in the area. The staircase connects several convents and churches and was a short cut around the Salesian compound.

#### 15. Salesian Complex and Museum

The Bethlehem Salesian orphanage was first established in 1864 by Father Antonio Belloni to put into



practice his 'calling' to work for orphans. Orphans came from all over Palestine and were taught the art of carving olive wood and mother of pearl; modern European furniture-making; tailoring European clothes; and shoe-making. In 1877 the residents of Bethlehem asked the priest to accept their children at the school for an annual fee. Father Antonio Belloni later invited the Salesians and they joined in 1891. Today the complex contains a technical school, youth center, carpentry workshop, tailoring, and facilities for baking bread or other productive activities.

Gacaman (2000) states that the art of olive wood and mother of pearl carving was first taught by the Salesian Fathers, who later opened the first souvenir shop in front of their church and built the long Salesian staircase to make the shop accessible to pilgrims. The first souvenir shop sold products carved



Salesian Complex and Museum

by Salesian school students, until members of the Tarajmeh and Farahiyeh families learned the profession and opened workshops and shops overlooking Star Street.

  [www.salesianbethlehem.com](http://www.salesianbethlehem.com),  
0 2-2742421 / 2747161.

#### 16. Hosh Kattan

This is a square lined with mansions and villas built by the Kattan family. The

surrounding churches and convents of different denominations create a unique atmosphere. The Kattan family are believed to have come from Lebanon and worked as cotton merchants, thus their name, travelling between the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

On your right, you will see a huge Kattan mansion built in 1736 with additions constructed until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The hosh was divided into different apartments to accommodate extended family members. Don't

miss the prominent triangle on top of the mashrabya window above the entrance to the Issa Kattan house to your left.



Hosh Kattan

Descend the stairs to your left leading to Star Street. The Latin American- influenced mansion, **Sama'n Mansion**, is on your left before you turn right to pass through **Qos Al-Zarara**. Passing the Qos, look to your left at **Hosh Hanania**, a beautiful four-floor 19<sup>th</sup> century building, before arriving at the **Visit Palestine Center**.

### 17. Sama'n Mansion



Sama'n Mansion

The three-story Sama'n Mansion House is another mixed-use late 19<sup>th</sup> century building influenced by Latin American architectural style. The house introduced a revolutionary design of a central courtyard with a communal living area connecting two apartment entrances opposite each other on every floor. Two of the shop units still contain old printing equipment used for the first printing press in Bethlehem. It is believed the print shop was used to publish the first Bethlehem

magazines and newspapers by Issa Basil Bandak (**Cultural Route**). Paintings drawn by Jabra Ibrahim Jabra (**Heritage Route**) were found in this house, which was the last place Jabra lived before he emigrated to Baghdad, Iraq.

### 18. Qos Al-Zarara

Qos Al-Zarara (Damascus Gate) is the most important gate that separated the old core of the city from the outside world. It is said that Qos Zarara was given that name after Persian soldiers attempting to remove marble stone from the internal walls of the Nativity Church were stung by wasps.



Qos Al-Zarara


### 19. Hosh Hanania - Holy Land Trust

Hosh Hanania was built next to the gate and clings to the steeply sloped hill with access from different levels. The hosh was renovated and rebuilt in 2012 to host a peace organization, the Holy Land Trust, after the building collapsed completely in 2000. The Hosh has a hanging staircase of white stone that connects the different levels. The first floor, accessible via Star Street, now hosts the Jivana Restaurant and Café, which offers a magnificent view over the city, especially at night.

The Holy Land Trust is a Palestinian non-profit peace organization that promotes community support through social debate. The organization was founded in 1998 and successfully set up the Bethlehem Live Festival. The festival takes place annually



in the first week of August and includes performances by local and international artists.

 [www.holylandtrust.org](http://www.holylandtrust.org),  
02-2766002; Jivana restaurant and  
café: 0597313599



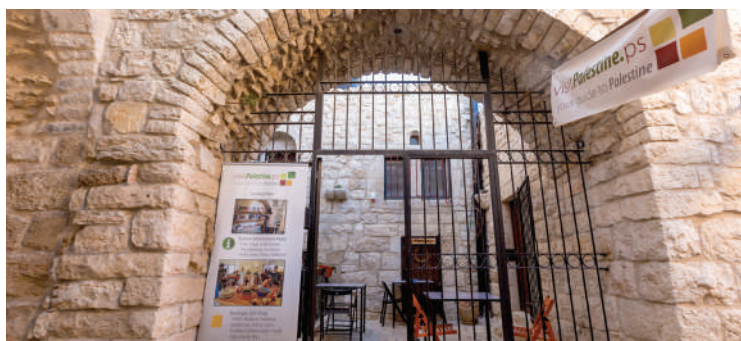
Bethlehem Live Festival Event

## 20. The Visit Palestine Center

The Visit Palestine Center is located in a beautifully renovated 200-year-old

building and is the offspring of the startup [www.visitpalestine.ps](http://www.visitpalestine.ps). It hosts a tourist information center that promotes and supports tourism in Palestine. It provides travel information, tourism services, and high-quality walking tours of Bethlehem neighborhoods, the Bethlehem region, and Battir. The center also houses a boutique gift shop offering a wide assortment of products made in Palestine and a restaurant (DAJO) famous for its outdoor terrace, fresh salads, and tasty sandwiches served with warm hospitality.

 [www.visitpalestine.ps](http://www.visitpalestine.ps)  
02-277 1992. Mon-Sat 9:00-22:00.



The Visit Palestine Center

Walk along Manger Street towards the Nativity Church and turn right to climb the Nasser stairs by two of the **Nasser family mansions**. Don't miss the beauty of the red stone Nasser house balconies on the first floor and their unique, ornamented metal handrails. Turn left, then right, and find yourself opposite three falafel restaurants positioned at **Hosh Nasser**. Try a bite of authentic falafel and hummus at one of the three restaurants.

## 21. Hosh Nasser

Built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this three-story house was designed to benefit from its strategic location. From the openings overlooking Nativity Street, Star Street, and Manger Square, the residents of this house could observe any events taking place. The house is built of white stone in line with local architectural techniques; the central axis at the main elevation is a source of interest. Don't miss the main gate decorated with a floral motif keystone, ornate metal-work, and a wooden door.



Nasser Mansion

Once the site of a famous olive oil press that attracted farmers from Bethlehem and nearby villages, the three shop units are today home to three falafel restaurants: Abu Aladas restaurant owned by a Muslim; Afteem restaurant owned by refugee who fled Jaffa in the Nakba; and the Abu Dawod restaurant owned by a Syriac.

Continue up the remaining steps towards Manger Square with the **Bethlehem Peace Center** to your left and **Bethlehem Municipality** on your right. Walk south-east towards Milk Grotto and continue straight with the **Armenian Convent** to your left. Turn right down the stairs to **Dar Sitti Azzizeh Guest House** on the left hand corner before crossing the street to another set of stairs. Walk down the stairs to the end where **Hosh Hazboun** is on your left and the **Candle Workshop** faces you. Turn

left and walk through an alley surrounded by traditional buildings to **Hosh Morcouc Nasser**.

Afteem restaurant is the most famous falafel and hummus restaurant in Bethlehem and has attracted celebrities and politicians to try a bite of Middle Eastern food. Saliba Salameh left Jaffa in 1948 with his family, leaving his house and properties behind, to open a very small falafel restaurant at a shop he rented in Manger Square. He worked night and day with his sons selling falafel at the shop, named Afteem after his eldest son, and also went around the streets of Bethlehem to sell to locals. The Afteem restaurant has become a landmark in Bethlehem and continues to draw locals and tourists despite the shop changing its location several times.

The circular balls of falafel are made of dried chickpeas, onions, garlic, parsley, and hot peppers, seasoned with a variety of spices. The falafel paste takes around an hour to prepare and a high level of skill is required to shape and fry them.

Hummus is an oriental dish eaten as a dip or spread on bread. It is made of cooked, mashed chickpeas blended with tahini, olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and garlic. Dishes with various spices and combinations of beans are available at the hummus restaurant.



Falafel & Hummus Meal


## 22. Bethlehem Peace Center

This cultural center for art and music was designed by Swedish architect Snorre Lindquist and was constructed in 1999 after the decision to demolish the Tegart British police building. The current building contains exhibition halls, a library, a tourist information office, a book shop, a restaurant, a museum, and a conference hall.

The Ottomans first established a building here following a fire in the Cave of the Nativity in 1873; the building housed government offices, the police, and a jail. The Tegart building was constructed in the early 1940s and was used as a jail by the British, and later by the Jordanian and Israeli administrations. In 1954 work to expand Manger Square saw the gate at the front of the building moved to the area by Rachel's Tomb.



Excavations during construction work in 1998 revealed the remains of a Byzantine church mosaic floor. The Riwaya Museum located on the ground floor displays the remains of a church, a mosaic floor, and a well dating from the Byzantine and Mamluk eras.

 [www.peacenter.org](http://www.peacenter.org), 02-2766677. Mon-Sat 9:00-18:00.

### The Lama Brothers

The first Arab cinema film ever produced was called *A Kiss in the Desert* and was screened in Alexandria in 1927. The film was directed by Ibrahim Lama and the main character in the film was his brother, Bader. Ibrahim and Bader Lama were the sons of Abdallah Lama, a native of Bethlehem who emigrated to Chile in 1890, and then moved to Egypt. His sons returned to Chile, where they were introduced to photography and film. In 1926 they decided to return to Bethlehem, the hometown of their parents, to start a Palestinian film industry. In the same year they established their own company called Condor Film. In 1934, during the British Mandate era, the first silent movie by Badir Ama, *Al-Harib* was filmed in an underground stable. Inspired by political events, the film portrays the forced drafting of young men in World War I, with Turkish soldiers shooting at Bethlehem residents as they flee across the rooftops.



Assaraya Building in place of Bethlehem Peace Center


### 23. Bethlehem Municipality

First established as a municipal council in 1867 with six council members, it became a municipality run by an appointed mayor, Hanna Mansour (Abu Khalil), in 1895.



Bethlehem Municipality

Two municipal buildings overlooking Manger Square were built after the expansion project of the late 1960s. A three-story building was built in 1970 with shop units for second-hand goods in the basement and shops on street level, today souvenir shops and a café. The main municipality building on the western side of Manger Square was constructed in 1976 following a design by Issa Tawil. It holds all the main offices, including the Mayor's office and a hall for meetings. In 2000, a new urban space was created combining public services, private businesses, and a cultural space in place of the bus station.

 [www.bethlehem-city.org](http://www.bethlehem-city.org)  
02-274 1322/3/4. Mon-Sat 8:00-14:00.

Born in 1891, Issa Bandak finished his studies at the Frères School in Bethlehem in 1913. He joined the government telegraph school in Jerusalem in 1914 as a way of escaping the draft by Turkish military forces. He taught at the Jerusalem Frères School and joined with Hanna Dakarat in 1919 to create his first magazine, *Bethlehem*, which was published for about two years. Bandak was an activist and published his own newspaper, *Saut al-Shaab* (Voice of the People). He contributed to the Islamic-Christian community speeches directed by Arief Basha Adagani against immigration to Palestine by Zionist organizations and was the director of the Arab executive committee for the Bethlehem district. He was elected as mayor on two occasions with an overwhelming majority of votes, from 1934 to 1951, after which he was appointed as a Jordanian delegate in Spain and later in Chile.



Issa Bandak reflecting one of his important activities.

Source: Adnan Musallam, MUSALLAM, A. 2013. Issa Bassel Bandak : Biography (1898 - 1984). Bethlehem : Latin Patriarchate Press. (In Arabic).


## 24. Armenian Convent

Originally built to serve as a base for the Ottoman administration, it was later given to the Armenian Church in an agreement with the Ottoman authorities during the final period of their rule. A fortress-like building, it was construct-

ed with minimal openings around a central courtyard and garden. The Armenian Church is on the first floor. The Armenian convent constructed shops next to their convent with huge doors and beautifully ornamented carved stones.

## 25. Dar Sitti Aziza Guest House

Named after the owner's grandmother (sitti in Arabic), the guest house includes nine rooms and two pavilions. It is a truly authentic cultural experience to stay at this traditional Ottoman building with cross vault ceilings, stone tiled floors, and a central hosh. Book your Palestinian breakfast in advance as it is prepared with organic ingredients and served with love.

 [www.darsittiaziza.com](http://www.darsittiaziza.com),  
02 274 4848.



Dar Sitti Aziza Guest House

## 26. Church Candle Factory

This one-room factory still uses traditional methods to make high-quality church candles of various sizes and colors.

  Mon-Sat 8:00-17:00.



Church Candles


## 27. Hosh Hazboun - Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP)

Hosh Hazboun was renovated in 2015 to host the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP). CCHP was established in 2001 to preserve tangible and intangible cul-



tural heritage resources. A team of architects and researchers worked with Bethlehem governorate to document and rehabilitate built heritage, while also raising local community awareness about heritage preservation. CCHP has succeeded in renovating 41 traditional buildings and has implemented 11 urban and infrastructural projects throughout towns and villages in Bethlehem governorate.

CCHP formulates conservation plans for towns and villages and conducts research on cultural heritage and its role in sustainable development. CCHP played a fundamental role in the preparation of the nomination dossiers for inscribing Bethlehem and Battir on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

 [www.cchp.ps](http://www.cchp.ps), 02-2766244.  
Mon-Thur & Sat 8:00-16:00.



CCHP Renovation works

## 28. Morcous Nassar House - Ma'an lil Hayat/L'Arche Bethlehem Association

The house of Bethlehem's first architect, Morcous Nassar, was designed of three floors accessible via a staircase. The walls and ceiling of the living area, dining room, corridors and bedrooms are hand-painted with drawings related to each of the room's functions. A terrace and two balconies offer a magnificent view over the Bethlehem valley.

The house was renovated to host Ma'an lil Hayat /L'Arche Bethlehem Association, the first and only wool-felting project in Palestine founded in 2009. Ma'an lil Hayat brings together people with disabilities to share life through structured creative activities. It is a project of the International Federation of l'Arche Communities, founded by Jean Vanier.

 [www.maanlilhayat.ps](http://www.maanlilhayat.ps),  
02-2743345.



Morcous Nassar House