

Conservation & Tourism

The beauty of natural and cultural heritage in this valley encourages tourism. hiking, sightseeing. Engagement with locals is encouraged.

DO:

- Keep it clean & Collect trash
- Walk in the designated trail paths
- Keep noise down & listen to the sounds of animals
- Enjoy the fauna and flora and scenery
- Interact friendly with locals
- Enjoy the local cuisine

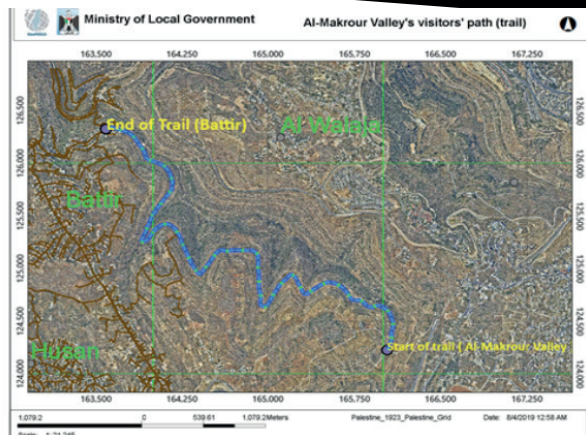
DO NOT:

- Leave trash
- Disturb or remove any material (rocks, fossils, animals, or plants)
- Create noise or other pollution
- Start a fire



Nature sustains humans and all living things
Nature is our mother that must be sustained, balanced and preserved because it is the main support for our survival as humans and all living things.

Enjoy it, preserve it, and protect it.



Palestine Museum of Natural History



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Al-Makhrou Valley

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

History and Geology

The upper layers of rocks here formed nearly 100 million years ago. Erosion by water in late ice age (170,000 to 60,000 years ago) formed the interesting rock shapes and deep Wadis. Water produced from soft areas and dripping over the rocks gave the valley its name in Arabic/Aramaic: Al-Makhroul (lit dripping). There are several springs in the valley system that allowed early human habitations in villages like Battir, Hussan, Al-Khader and Alwalaja.



Biodiversity

Al-Makhroul Valley is the last remaining biodiversity-rich area in rural Bethlehem area. The 2.6 Km² of natural with a buffer zone of more than 5 km² are a UNESCO world heritage site and the best citizen mapped Palestinian area. The rich fauna include mammals like hyenas, jackals, foxes, gazelles, rodents and bats. It includes both resident and migratory birds. The valley hosts hundreds of species of plants, > 20 species of butterflies, many species of bees, and hundreds of species of other insects. Many fauna and flora are endangered or threatened.



Our role is to be trustworthy in protecting our national heritage and guard it for future generations for protecting the environmental balance for the benefit of mankind and the valley's future.



Agriculture

- Palestine is part of the Fertile Crescent where humans first domesticated animals and plants.
- Our Canaanite ancestors farmed valleys like this one for thousands of years.
- Early agricultural practices are still practiced here and they are eco-friendly (you can find famed plants like Battiri eggplant and gourds).

