



A Return to the Roots
Bethlehem District Diaspora Convention

Program

October 1st – 3rd, 2016

- **Day 1: Saturday. October 1st, 2016**

Venue Location: Convention Palace

10.00 Registration

11:00 Official opening

- Speech by Mayor of Bethlehem, Ms. Vera Baboun
- Speech Palestinian Diaspora representative, Alberto Kassis Sabag
- Speech by President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas

12:00-12:30 Traditional Cultural Performance

12:30 – 14: 00 **Lunch at CPC hall**

14:15 – 15:30 **Call for engagements**

- **Speech from Mayor of Bethlehem + short film**
- **Speech from Mayor of Beit Jala + short film**
- **Speech from Mayor of Beit Sahour + short film**

15:30 – 16:30 **Session 1: Bethlehem through the past, present & future**

Q & A

16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 17:30 The story of the Diaspora

17:30 – 19:00 **Visit to Palestine Heritage Museum**

Exhibition: embroidery, olive wood handcrafts, mother of pearls,

info@bethlehem-city.org

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ساحة المهد - بيت لحم - فلسطين - صندوق بريد ٤٨ - هاتف. ٢٧٤١٣٢٣ - ٢ - ٩٧٠ فاكس ٢٧٤١٣٢٧ - ٢ - ٩٧٠



19.00 – 20:30

Dinner

20:30

Bethlehem Cultural Night

At Salomon's Pools

- Palestinian Tradition Wedding performance with Palestinian costume show
- Haya Performance

22.00

Back to the Hotels

End of Day 1: Saturday, October 1st, 2016

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- **Day 2: Sunday, October 2nd, 2016**
Location: Bethlehem Peace Center

9:00 – 10:00	Attend a Holy Mass at the Church of the Nativity
10:30 – 12:00	Guided tour to the Church of the Nativity and the Milk Grotto
12:00 – 13:00	Session: A Return to the Roots <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Palestinian communities Formation of identities and politics of homeland- The role of the diaspora as development actors in their homeland
13.00-15.00	Cooking & having lunch with local families (Each family from Bethlehem hosts different number of Diaspora members)
15.30 – 19.00	Explore Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour Dividing groups with the colors of the Palestinian flag to visit the 3 cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Red: Bethlehem (Old city quarters –Harat, Church of the Nativity, Museums, Star Street, Hosh Abu Jarour, Hosh Al Syrian, Al-Bad Museum, Salesian Artistic Center, Nativity Church, Milk Grotto Church, the Wall)✚ Black: Beit Jala (St. Nicolas Church, Beir Una, Cremisan, al Makhrou, the Seminary, the quarters of Beit Jala)✚ Green: Beit Sahour (Shepard's field, the quarters of Beit Sahour, Oush Ghirab, old buildings)
20.00 – 21.00	Having Dinner on the roof of the Peace Center/ Manger Square Cultural Night
22.00	Back to the Hotels

End of Day 2: Sunday, October 2nd, 2016

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Day 3: Monday, October 3rd, 2016

Location: Convention Palace / Industrial Zone

9:00 -10:30 **Session: Economy in Palestine** - Palestine Economy and the role of the diaspora as development actors in their homeland

- **Banking in Palestine**
- **Investment Climate**
- **Trading environment**

10.30 -13.00 **Specialized Parallel Panels**

➤ **Opportunities in Palestine:**

- *Tourism*
- *Manufacturing Industry*
- *ICT*
- *Service Sector*
- *Agriculture*
-

13.00-14.00 **Lunch**

Afternoon sessions: B2B meetings will be held, for discussing several ways of business cooperation between local Business people and the Diaspora.

18.00 ***Return to the Roots & Reconnecting Activities***

- *Inaugurating the Bethlehemites' Diaspora Monument*

20.00 **Closing session, and Final Dinner**

Giving Certificates of participation and closing activity

The Convention coordination is willing to prepare a 4th day for those interested in extra meetings.

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