The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities issue a joint press release on the World Tourism Day

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, jointly issued a press release on the World Tourism Day on September 27 each year.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has set the theme of the World Tourism Day for 2026 to be **"Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism".**

On this occasion, the most prominent tourism indicators in Palestine were highlighted, reflecting an improvement in the tourism sector compared to the previous year, despite the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, as follows:

A Decrease in the Number of Hotel Guests in the West Bank during the First Half of 2026

According to the Hotel Survey Data for the first half of 2026 issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of hotel guests in the West Bank during the first half of 2026 decreased by 28.5% compared to the same period of the previous year, reaching 86.6 thousand guests who spent about 183 thousand overnight stays.

Ramallah and Al-Bireh hotels received the largest number of guests with 36% of the total number of hotel guests, followed by hotels in Nablus Governorate with 28%, followed by hotels in Jericho and Al-Aghwar Governorate with 15%, and hotels in Bethlehem Governorate with 14%.

It is worth mentioning that 60% of hotel guests were inbound visitors from Palestinians residing in the 1948 territories, followed by domestic guests with 28%, while guests from other nationalities constituted 12%.

Number of Hotel Guests in the West Bank by Governorate, during the First Half of the Years (2022-2026)

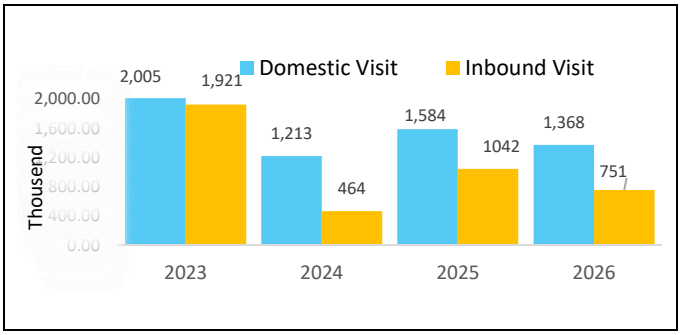
Governorate	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jenin	5,090	4,965	2,637	1,998	3,188
Nablus	13,504	19,414	13,180	21,999	24,297
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	35,996	36,801	15,582	42,577	31,083
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	25,278	32,535	13,338	26,798	12,619
Jerusalem	11,186	57,619	5,135	1,040	-
Bethlehem	48,805	221,377	6,187	24,034	12,170
Other Governorates	4,896	7,024	3,839	2,913	3,294
Total	**144,755**	**379,735**	**59,899**	**121,359**	**86,651**

-: No observations

A Noticeable decrease in the Number of Inbound and Domestic Same-day Visitors to the West Bank during the First Half of 2026[1]

According to same-day visitor data from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for the first half of 2026, more than 2,119 thousand inbound visits (same-day visitors) to tourist sites in the West Bank during the first half of 2026, compared to 2,626 thousand in the first half of 2025, with a noticeable decrease of 19%. The number of same-day visitors consists of 1,368 thousand Palestinian visitors and 751 thousand arrivals from abroad.

Number of Visits During the First Half of the Years (2023-2026).



Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Tourism Activity in Gaza Strip (Establishments and Workers) for the Second Consecutive Year

Estimates indicate that the systematic destruction caused by the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip led to the total destruction of about 4,992 establishments operating in tourism activities. These included 3,450 establishments in restaurants and beverage serving activities (69.1% of tourism establishments in Gaza Strip), 921 in creative, arts, entertainment and recreation activities (18.4%), 182 in manufacturing and selling handicrafts and souvenirs, and 173 in hotels, accommodation, and similar establishments.

[1] Data on the inbound visits do not include Jerusalem Governorate.

Number of Facilities in Gaza Strip that were Completely Destroyed

Governorate / Activity	North of Gaza	Gaza	Dier Al-Balah	Khan Yunis	Rafah	Total
Manufacturing and selling handicrafts and souvenirs	15	116	20	15	15	**182**
Passenger land transport by scheduled long-distance buses & car rentals	20	17	8	6	17	**67**
Accommodation and similar establishments activities	23	67	63	17	3	**173**
Restaurants and beverage serving activities	531	1,342	448	684	445	**3,450**
Travel agencies, tour organizers, reservation service and related activities	12	86	14	40	20	**171**
Creative, arts, other amusement and recreation and entertainment activities	155	315	127	141	184	**921**
Other tourism activities	6	6	8	5	3	**28**
Total	**762**	**1,949**	**687**	**907**	**687**	**4,992**

The aggression also caused 15,265 workers in the tourism sector to lose their jobs, including 10,887 workers in restaurants and beverage serving activities (71.3% of those working in tourism activities in Gaza Strip), 2,277 in creative, arts, entertainment, and recreation activities (14.9%), and 964 in hotels, accommodation, and similar establishments.

Number of Workers Who Lost Their Jobs in the Tourism Sector in Gaza Strip

Governorate / Activity	North of Gaza	Gaza	Dier Al-Balah	Khan Yunis	Rafah	Total
Manufacturing and selling handicrafts and souvenirs	15	252	40	24	28	**360**
Passenger land transport by scheduled long-distance buses & car rentals	52	78	29	23	47	**230**
Accommodation and similar establishments activities	98	734	75	46	11	**964**
Restaurants and beverage serving activities	1,417	5,147	1,294	1,700	1,330	**10,887**
Travel agencies, tour organizers, reservation service and related activities	24	259	31	92	44	**450**
Creative, arts, other amusement and recreation and entertainment activities	430	814	291	355	387	**2,277**
Other tourism activities	32	35	15	3	12	**98**
Total	**2,069**	**7,320**	**1,775**	**2,243**	**1,859**	**15,265**