

# Olive Picking Program 2012

## A program for Civil International Solidarity with Palestinians

The Alternative Tourism Group

and the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine



For the past 9 years, the Alternative Tourism Group ([ATG](#)) and the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine ([JAI](#)) have been organizing an annual olive picking program in Palestine; a special event where support for Palestinian farmers is provided as well as granting an opportunity to people from around the world to experience Palestine under the Israeli military occupation.

Since the year 2000, the olive harvest has been overshadowed by the Israeli policies of repression, closure, blockage of streets, confiscation of agricultural lands, as well as repeated attacks against Palestinian farmers by Israeli settlers and military. Now with the construction the Apartheid Wall and the continuous expansion of Israeli settlements at the expense of agricultural land in the occupied Palestine, many farmers are separated from their trees, and help is most needed.

Building on experience from previous years, the [JAI](#) and the [ATG](#) have planned a program for civil international solidarity with Palestinian people and farmers. The objective of this program is to mobilize as many people as possible for olive picking, especially in areas that are situated in proximity to Israeli settlements and bypass roads, in order to help Palestinian farmers harvest their olive trees which they might be unable to do without international support. Also, the event has brought up awareness to hundreds of people from many countries around the world about real life under the Israeli Military Occupation, and the experience itself was referred to by several participants as a life changing one.

Besides picking olives, the program will feature introductory presentations about the organizing institutions, the current situation in Palestine and the effect of the Apartheid Wall, tours in the old city of Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, a tour of Hebron, cultural evenings and social gatherings.

### Olive Picking 2012 - Proposed schedule

**Day One – Saturday 13/10/2012:** Arrival. Meeting representatives from the organizing institutions for an overview and discussion of the program.  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour (near Bethlehem)

**Day Two – Sunday 14/10/2012:** Half day picking olives at a selected field.  
After lunch, political tour and sightseeing in Bethlehem, including the visit of a refugee camp. Dinner, followed by screening of a documentary at Jadal / Alternative Information Center ([AIC](#))  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Three - Monday 15/10/2012:** Half day picking olives at a selected field, followed by lunch. Meeting at The Applied Research Institute Jerusalem ([ARIJ](#)) for a presentation on the Apartheid Wall and land confiscation. Visiting an olive press  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Four - Tuesday 16/10/2012:** Tour in the Old City of Jerusalem.  
Lunch, followed by a settlement tour around Jerusalem with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions ([ICAHD](#)).  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Five - Wednesday 17/10/2012:** free day

**Day Six - Thursday: 18/10/2012:** A tour in the old city of Hebron. Visiting the Ibrahimi Mosque. Meeting with the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee ([HRC](#)) for a presentation about the situation in Hebron.  
Lunch. Visiting a glass factory. Free time  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Seven - Friday 19/10/2012:** a full day of picking olives at a selected field, lunch included.  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Eight - Saturday 20/10/2012:** Half day picking olives at a selected field.  
Dinner followed by a presentation on the refugee questions with [BADIL](#) Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugees' Rights  
Dinner and overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Nine - Sunday 21/10/2012:** Half day picking olives at a field.  
Lunch  
Evaluation meeting followed by a musical evening.  
Overnight in Beit Sahour

**Day Ten - Monday 22/10/2012:** departure.

To learn more about previous seasons please go to <http://www.jai-pal.org/content.php?page=914> where you can find reports of how the programs were carried out.

Also, you can see short films about the Olive Tree Campaign here <http://www.youtube.com/JAIPalestine>

More Information:

- The cost of the program including accommodation in a double room, meals, guides, local transportation and other relevant expenses is \$650.
- Accommodation can be arranged at a hotel or with a local family.
- A tour guide will be present with the group at all times for facilitation purposes.
- Travel from and to the airport is not included in the cost but can be arranged for groups.

**For any other information, questions, concerns, or to request a registration form, please contact:**

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