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[Next Online Gathering](#)

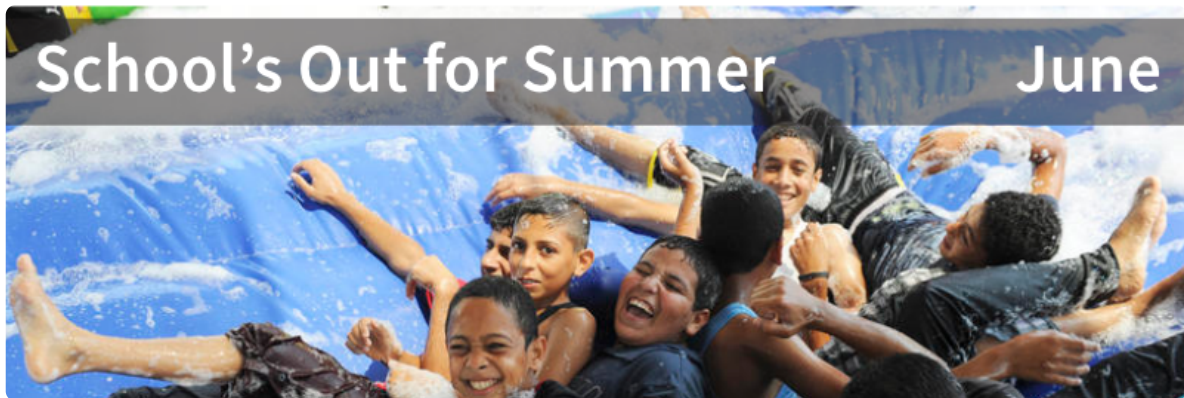
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Week 24: Tourism and Pilgrimage



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

For the northern hemisphere, students and families around the world are beginning their summer vacations. While in the southern hemisphere students may be looking forward to a winter break. Many people take these times to travel: to visit family, as tourists, or as pilgrims. Whether or not you are spending your own travel money to go on holiday or pilgrimage in Palestine and Israel, you can, as part of the Kumi Community, have an impact. Start by joining us for Tuesday's online gathering:

Next Online Gathering

WEEK 24 KUMI NOW ONLINE	TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGE	
	featuring George Rishmawi of Siraj Center and Abraham Path	TUESDAY JUNE 15 6PM (UTC+3)

June 13: Week 24 - Tourism and Pilgrimage

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

Our guest will be **Hamza Sarrah**, the founder and CEO of **Memories from Palestine**, which is creating virtual tours of Palestine.

Time: Tuesday, June 13, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm

- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (You might need to do a quick registration. This link is the same, either way.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

This Week's Entry

Kumi Week #24: Tourism and Pilgrimage

Week 24 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). For the northern hemisphere, students and families around the world are beginning their summer vacations. While in the southern hemisphere students may be looking forward to a winter break. Many people take these times to travel: to visit family, as tourists, or as pilgrims. Whether or not you are spending your own travel money to go on holiday or pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, you can, as part of the Kumi Community, help have an impact. With this in mind, the Kumi Now community this week looks at what we can do so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story from Aziz Abu Sarah, a tour operator. Last year we were joined by **George Rishmawi** of **Siraj Center** and **Palestinian Heritage Trail** for our [online gathering](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

Understanding Tourism and Pilgrimage: Just the Facts. Israel...

- Has full control over who can visit Palestine and restricts access of tourists to the occupied territory.
- Uses tourism to justify its position as an occupying power.
- Uses tourism to disseminate propaganda, spreading an official Israeli narrative.
- Omits Palestinian history and hides Arabic/Palestinian place names from parks, tours, and other materials.
- Keeps visitors from having contact with Palestinian communities.
- Has "annexed" tourism and pilgrimage sites controlled by Palestinians.
- Grants preferential treatment to Israeli tour companies over Palestinian ones and denies permits to Palestinian tour guides and for the construction of tourism infrastructure including transportation systems and building.
- Costs Palestinian businesses and the government billions annually in lost revenue.

These facts are drawn from **Alternative Tourism Group's [Alternative Tourism Journal](#)**, particularly "Tourism & Media", "Conflict Between 2 Narratives", "Palestinian Cultural Heritage in Israel" and "Staged Authenticity".

Learning More

You can start by reading "[Tourism in Service of Occupation and Annexation](#)" by **Halah Ahmad** for **Al-Shabaka**.

To go deeper, we are developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry as well as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week.

Kumi Action



We have created short profiles of different sites around Palestine. The first three are available below and the rest are available under the [Kumi Action on the website](#) and we will post them on the Kumi Now social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Take these images and post them (or share our posts), one per day, on social media, or print them out and post them someplace others can see them.

Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #VisitPalestine, #EthicalTourism, #KumiNow, and #Kumi24.



Biddya in Spring

One of many villages that allow you to experience nature among the ancient olive trees of Palestine.

#VisitPalestine #EthicalTourism

<http://kuminow.com/TourismandPilgrimage>



Apricots of Jifna

**The first week of May brings the apricot festival,
celebrating the new harvest.**

#VisitPalestine #EthicalTourism

<http://kuminow.com/TourismandPilgrimage>



Terrace Farms of Battir

The terraced farms and ancient irrigation system of Battir are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#VisitPalestine #EthicalTourism

<http://kuminow.com/TourismandPilgrimage>

Again, these and the rest of the images are available [on the website](#) and are being posted on our social media accounts, including [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Alternative Tourism Group (ATG)

The **Alternative Tourism Group (ATG)** is a Palestinian NGO specializing in tours and pilgrimages that include critical examinations of the history, culture, and politics of the Holy Land. Established in 1995, ATG operates according to the tenets of “justice tourism”, that is, tourism that holds as its central goals the creation of economic opportunities for the local community, positive cultural exchange between host and guest through one-on-one interaction, the protection of the environment and political/historical education. ATG works to encourage all tourism operators to abandon exploitative mass tourism and to adopt practices that positively affect the host population. Through these methods, ATG

seeks to promote a positive image of Palestine and its people and to contribute towards establishing rightful peace in the area. Since its establishment, ATG has provided its services to thousands of people from all over the world. You can read more about ATG [here](#).

You can find ATG on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

ATG publishes an amazing guidebook called *Palestine & Palestinians* that is available in EIGHT languages. You can find [more information on their website](#). You can order it several places, including at [kufiya.org](#).



Grassroots Al-Quds

Grassroots Al-Quds was established in 2011 out of the belief in Jerusalem's historical and current importance and the need for a platform for Palestinian networking in the city. Their goal is to support Palestinian sumoud (steadfastness and resilience) in Al-Quds. They research and create knowledge that supports community mobilization. They build networks between the different Palestinian communities in Jerusalem, so that they can overcome their fragmentation by the Israeli occupation authorities, and make long-term plans and strategies for the city as a whole. They can help you learn about [Jerusalem](#) and help you [book a tour](#).

You can find them on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) https://twitter.com/grassroots_quds, and [YouTube](#).

You can buy their amazing guidebook to Jerusalem, *Wujood*, and map of Jerusalem [here](#). The page also has links to their wonderful FREE apps for iOS and Android. Or just search for 'Wujood' in the iOS or Android app stores.



Network for Experiential Palestinian Tourism Organization (NEPTO)

Network for Experiential Palestinian Tourism Organization (NEPTO) is a coalition of 16 Palestinian organizations that work in tourism and pilgrimage. Its mission is "To develop, consolidate, coordinate and promote the humanistic, cultural, heritage, historic, solidarity and environmental programs and to incorporate them into the Palestinian tourism and cultural developmental frame through the establishment of a representative coalition of common efforts producing tourism programs with a distinct Palestinian identity."

You can find NEPTO on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#).

Siraj Center



Siraj Center creates links between Palestinian people and friends from around the world through educational tourism and cultural exchange. Since 2005 Siraj Center has, according to its website, “been achieving its vision of becoming one of the most prominent and innovative organizations driving the development of responsible tourism, and re-branding Palestine as a destination for experiential travel and human connection. We are pioneers in Palestine. Our diverse responsible tourism programs include local community tours, home stays, interfaith programs, pilgrimages, and cultural and fact-finding missions, as well as other special interest programs. We are committing to making our tourism packages environmentally friendly, and offer an extensive array of outdoor programs, including walking/hiking (www.walkpalestine.com) and cycling tours (www.bikepalestine.com) along the Nativity Trail, Sufi Trail, Jerusalem Wilderness and Abraham Path, the first long distance walking route through the West Bank (www.masaribrahim.ps).”

You can find Siraj Center on its [website](#) and follow it on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in June so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: JUNE, 2023

Week 23



June 6

Environmental Effects of Occupation

Week 24



June 13

Tourism and Pilgrimage

Week 25



June 20

Palestinian Refugees

Week 26

June 27

Nuclear Israel

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

June 18 to 24: Week 25 - Palestinian Refugees

[Read the full entry online.](#)



Palestinians who were either forced from or fled their homes in 1948 and 1967 hoped for a quick return to their houses and land. Few would have foreseen that, decades later, they and their descendants would be living as refugees or internally displaced Palestinians. As the United Nations celebrates June 20 as World Refugee Day,¹ we want to work to restore hope to those original Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

For our Kumi Action we will send copies of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 to those that really need to read it.



June 25 to July 1: Week 26 - Nuclear Israel

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was signed on July 1, 1968. According to the U.N., “More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty’s significance.”¹ Only five countries are not party to the treaty: North Korea, South Sudan, India, Pakistan, and Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will design nuclear hazard signs and give them to Israel.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday **Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh** of the **Palestine Museum of Natural History** and **Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability at Bethlehem University** spoke to us about the environmental effects of Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes his bio, the advocacy instructions, and links shared during the gathering.

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Palestinian Refugees](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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