

Emmaus - qubeibeh village

The Gospel of Luke recounts the story of two disciples of Jesus Christ, Cleopas and Simeon, who distraught and confused after his crucifixion and the subsequent disappearance of his body from the tomb, begin travelling from Jerusalem to the home of Cleopas in Emmaus. On the road they are met by a stranger who gives them a Scripture lesson; it is only after they are later breaking bread together that the two disciples realize that this man is Jesus Christ resurrected. He disappears and the two disciples quickly return to Jerusalem. The location of the Biblical village of Emmaus is hotly debated today, but many believe it to be the modern-day village of Al Qubeibeh. The small Palestinian village lies just 11 kilometers northwest of Jerusalem, within the West Bank. The belief in Al Qubeibeh as the location of Emmaus dates back to the time of the Crusaders. In the Bible there is reference to the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus as being 60 stadia, a Roman unit of measure equivalent to about 11 kilometers. There is some debate as to whether this is the correct distance, as it is occasionally also referenced as 160 stadia, although less frequently. In 1099, along the Roman road to Lydda, the Crusaders uncovered a Roman fortress on the location 60 stadia from Jerusalem and believed it to be Emmaus. The Crusaders built a Frankish village along this Roman road and throughout the 13th century Al Qubeibeh was adopted by pilgrims as Emmaus. This included the Franciscans, who began their annual pilgrimages there in 1335. In 1861, the site was purchased by Marchioness Paolina de Nicolay and gifted to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who began excavation, uncovering the site of the Crusader Basilica that is believed to have stood, in part, on the location of Cleopas' house. The Franciscans constructed a Church and Monastery there in 1902 incorporating whatever was left of the Crusader Basilica. During the Second World War, the monastery was used to inter Germans and Italians living in Palestine, including archaeologists from the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, who used their time there to continue excavation piecing together more of the location's rich history. Visitors today can see the history of the location and the depictions of the Biblical story at the Franciscan sanctuary that still remains on the site. Outside, one can see where the Sanctuary was built on the remains of the Crusader Basilica and on its façade is a depiction of Jesus Christ and the two disciples. Inside there are sculptures, including one of Jesus walking and speaking with the two disciples and another of the disciples recognizing him as they sit together for a meal. Also visible under glass, are the remains of what is believed to be the foundations of Cleopas' house. Visitors are welcome in the mornings and afternoons. The village is only accessible by road.

Site Religion & Type

- [Christian Site](#)
- [Convent](#)

Target Group

- [Organized Groups](#)
- [Christian Groups](#)

Denomination with high relevance

Benedictine
Brothers
, Catholic -
Armenian
, Catholic - Greek
, Catholic - Roman , Coptic
, Mennonite , Mormon
, Orthodox -
Armenian
, Orthodox - Assyrian
, Orthodox - Ethiopian
, Orthodox - Greek
, Orthodox - Russian
, Protestant - Anglican
, Protestant - Baptist
, Protestant - Methodist
, Protestant - Pentecost
, Protestant -Lutheran
, Salesian
Brothers , Zion sisters

Telephone

[009722473612](tel:009722473612)

Address

Al Qubeibeh village
Jerusalem
PS-JEM
Palestinian Territories

31.839668,35.135382
[View in Google Maps](#)

Best time of day to visit

No difference

Best Time of Year to Visit

Year round

Estimated time of visit

1-2 hours

Weather Consideration

Avoid on rainy , bad weather days

Dress Code

Modest Clothes , Trousers Allowed For Female Visitors

Entry Limitation

No limitations

Summer Times

Sunday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Monday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Tuesday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Wednesday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Thursday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Friday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400
Saturday: 8:00-18:00
1200-1400

Winter Times

Sunday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Monday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Tuesday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Wednesday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Thursday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Friday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400
Saturday: 8:00-17:00
1200-1400

Booking On Site

No

Booking Online

No

Booking via Phone

Yes

Advance booking required

Yes

Free For

Free (locals only) , Free for everyone

Bathrooms

Free

Handicap bathroom

No

Stairs

No

Wheelchair Friendly

No

Stroller Friendly

No