

West Bank

Full name: West Bank

Location: Middle East, west of Jordan

Intended seat of government: East Jerusalem

Area: Palestinian Ministry of Information cites 5,970 sq km (2,305 sq miles) for West Bank territories; slightly smaller than Delaware

Climate: temperate; temperature and precipitation vary with altitude, warm to hot summers, cool to mild winters

Terrain: mostly rugged dissected upland, some vegetation in west, but barren in east

Natural Hazards: droughts

Population: 2,535,927; (3.8 million in the Palestinian territories) (UN, 2006)

Ethnicity: Palestinian Arab and other 83%, Jewish 17%

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Muslim 75% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 17%, Christian and other 8%

Life expectancy: 71 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 Jordan dinar = 1,000 fils, 1 new Israeli shekel (NIS) = 100 new agorot

