



Tips, how to help wildlife

Our parks offer a variety of natural, recreational, and historical activities. When you are in protected nature reserves, it is especially important to remember to be cautious, as many sites are endangered by human activity.

1. Dispose of all garbage, including food, in appropriate waste areas for collection or take your garbage back home. Garbage in the landscape, also food leftovers are threatening the wildlife. Animals might eat plastic bags and bottles which will result in their death!
2. Avoid feeding animals, hunting, or collecting plants, trees and insects. Your food is not digestible for wildlife and can kill it! Despite their beauty, popular wildflowers are protected. Don't pick, uproot, buy or sell them.
3. Do not damage or remove pieces of historic structures.
4. If you encounter damaged or hurt wildlife, report the location to the nearest Park Ranger.
5. Do not smoke, burn firewood, or attempt to alter the landscape in anyway. Fires are a main threat to the plants of the area!
6. Illegal activities will not be tolerated. If you see something suspicious, please report to the nearest Park Ranger.
7. Be thoughtful, responsible, and friendly towards others as you enjoy the delights of the nature reserves. Greet anybody you see on the trail.



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**Hanns
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Foundation**



PROMOTING THE ROLE OF NATURE
RESERVES IN ECOTOURISM

**WADI AL-QUFF
NATURE RESERVE**



Location and access

Wadi Al-Quff Nature Reserve is located west of Hebron, about 6 km away from the way that connects the city with the western villages. The Nature Reserve is part of the Hebron district with an area of about 3.73009 km².



Calm hiking in Wadi Al-Quff

Different hiking trails await you. You may decide to scale the terrace rocks near the Wadi Hasakeh, overlooking a wide expanse towards the waters of the distant Mediterranean Sea within eyesight. Or walk through the valley of orchards with grapes, plums, cactuses and olive trees at your side. Today's villages surrounding the upper area of the park lend an image of the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and Ottoman empires of past centuries. The current landscape of Wadi Al-Quff is a window into this rich history, including the more recent British and Jordanian protected areas from 20th century.



Flora and Fauna

Wadi Al-Quff consists of a mixture of Mediterranean oak forest, extensive areas that have been planted with Aleppo pine, and areas without vegetation. There are steep cliffs and outcrops of limestone and dolomite, as well as caves which may be inhabited by endangered bat species. Evergreen Sclerophyllous Maquis inside the reserve is dominated by Mount Thabor's oak and Palestine Buckthorn. This vegetation is accompanied by a few vines and plants adapted to shade. More conspicuous than the natural vegetation are the extensive Pine plantations, which represent limited conservation value. Some of them may be suitable as nesting trees for raptors though.

Use of natural resources and ecosystem services

Where there are natural resources humans usually use them in a more or less sustainable way. To keep resources available also for future generation, sustainable use is very important. In Wadi Al-Quff Nature Reserve grazing is an

important factor, particularly to people of Tarqomia who own 3,000 head of sheep and goat. People of the area use Jerusalem Sage, Biblical-hyssop and various edible mushrooms. There is still a limited use of fuel wood (1-5% of fuel demand of villages in the vicinity). The limitation is thanks to the enforcement of the reserve regulations by rangers. Furthermore, the Nature Reserve is a very important recreation area for the entire Hebron Governorate (particularly Hebron City), partly because a small amusement park was erected at the site by Beit Kahel Village Council.

Pressures and threats

The natural forest at Wadi Al-Quff has already been modified significantly through widespread afforestation with Aleppo Pine, the establishment of a small amusement park and intense natural resource use. Current pressures include grazing (particularly relevant to the natural rejuvenation of the Mediterranean Oak forest), habitat destruction, logging/fuel wood removal, and recreation-related waste accumulation. An additional threat to the forest are fires.