



2: Tal al-Qamar to Bethlehem

Distance: 14.6 km

Time: 4-6 hours

Challenge: Moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0	From Tal al-Qamar, walk downhill on the 4x4 that heads SE toward a wadi bed.	0.75
0.75	When you reach a wadi joining from the R, turn R and head up the smaller wadi.	0.35
1.1	Pass Abu Matlub well above the wadi on L. Continue up a footpath along the hillside, then it stays level not far above the wadi as it curves R to head W	1.4
2.5	At Y intersection of 2 wadis, take the L branch uphill	0.3
2.8	Go slightly L to begin climbing away from wadi bed toward a small building on ridge above, following a rough footpath. Continue past the house onto a 4x4 and then pass a cistern. Continue W to a fence and head R along it with another 4x4	0.5
3.3	Stay straight on 4x4 past another rough one going uphill to R. Then leave the 4x4 you're on, heading down into a small wadi that feed into a larger one ahead	0.3
3.6	At the bottom of the larger valley, go around a small wheat field, cross a 4x4, and head across the valley bottom, for a 4x4 that winds R up the other side of the valley heading W. Village of Ras Sinsil visible on hills above to R	0.5
4.1	Continue on the dirt road past a cemetery above to L, and two 4x4's joining from L above	0.6
4.7	Where a paved road (at R) ends and turns to dirt, cross it just to L of the barbed-wire fenced area and follow a footpath W above the valley on L, toward another paved road. Herodion is visible ahead past another village	0.4
5.1	Turn R at the long farm shed onto an asphalt road. At the end of that shed, turn L to make your way down toward the wadi below (Wadi Darja), and head W along the ridge above it, then along its bed	2.1
7.2	Reach an asphalt road crossing the wadi. A main road is just to L. Stay straight down the paved road, toward the mosque with the teal dome, through the western outskirts of Ras Sinsil	0.3
7.5	At the 4-way junction, stay L, staying uphill to pass the mosque after 150m on L	0.2
7.7	At the next 4-way junction; stay straight, downhill, continuing on the asphalt road	0.5
8.2	Turn L at the next 4-way junction onto a larger, busier road, passing a bus stop shelter on L	0.6
8.8	Just after you go under the overpass bridge, at the junction with spraypainted signs to "Shdema" on R, cross the busy road, continuing onto a footpath up the valley, in the general direction of the tall apartment block, which is next to Beit Bassa	0.6
9.4	Stay W on the footpath as it widens to a dirt road and crosses another dirt road	0.3

9.7	Stay straight in the valley, past a dirt road going R, uphill	0.4
10.1	Cross another paved road and stay straight (now on a paved road); then curve L (S)	0.5
10.6	Turn sharp R, steeply uphill, onto a rough 4x4 past a house under construction. Turn L up onto a rough 4x4 just before reaching a high-walled building uphill	0.4
11	Soon after the road becomes paved, turn L on the residential street, continuing uphill. Look for a low point in the rock ledge on R to climb up, then head for the top of the hill to find Beit Bassa ruins	0.6
11.6	From the hilltop, head N down the steep hillside through ancient terraces to the street below, with another apartment tower; turn L (W) on that street	0.2
11.8	At T intersection, turn R, going toward buildings of Beit Sahour; ahead pass a couple of minmarts and a restaurant	0.9
12.7	At another T intersection, turn R, going downhill, before climbing into Beit Sahour's old town	0.4
13.1	Turn L onto Star St., then L onto Central St. at the mosque	0.2
13.3	After passing the Citadel Restaurant, take the first R onto "Old City St.", then immediately go L onto a narrow pedestrian-only street. Just after passing Al-Awda Youth Activities Center on L, turn R onto St. Michael St., passing Dar al-Balad restaurant	0.2
13.5	At the end of St. Michael St. turn L uphill onto a busier road, leaving the old city, and passing a Catholic church on R	0.2
13.7	At the roundabout by Ararat Hotel, turn L and then turn R uphill past Antonio Café. Continue up the steep hill	0.4
14.1	When you reach perpendicular street (sign for Atan St.) jog R to climb the stairs and then turn L, staying uphill on Milk Grotto St. Stay straight until you reach Manger Square	0.5
14.6	Reach Manger Square. Entrance to Nativity Church is just to R. STAGE END	END
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9.4	Stay W on the footpath as it widens to a dirt road and crosses another dirt road	0.3
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10.1	Cross another paved road and stay straight (now on a paved road); then curve L (S)	0.5
10.6	Turn sharp R, steeply uphill, onto a rough 4x4 past a house under construction. Turn L up onto a rough 4x4 just before reaching a high-walled building uphill	0.4