

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter walks the Abraham Path in Palestine

On August 26th the former first lady of the United States, Mrs. Rosalynn Carter, walked through a segment of the Abraham Path near Bethlehem in Palestine. Mrs. Carter was welcomed by Brother Peter Pray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, and guided by a team of experts and Abraham Path partners, including local leaders from the village of Artas. Abraham Path Coordinator and guide, Hijazi Eid, led the travelers to Solomon's Pools, ancient ruins from biblical times that are preserved in the West Bank.



Abraham Path Guide Hijazi Eid and Mrs. Carter with friends and hosts

In true Abraham Path fashion, the travelers not only enjoyed conversations about the culture and values of Palestine, but also heard about the wildlife in the area, the progress of the Path, and the effect it has on the communities who actively shepherd it every day.

As an international visitor, Mrs. Carter experienced with humility the traveler's role in the exchange that takes place on the Path as she walked, listened, and explored. As a special guest, she was able to consider the Abraham Path from varied perspectives -- through the eyes of wildlife experts, directors of development initiatives, academics, historians, proponents of tourism, people of faith, and village leaders.



The Pools of King Solomon in the West Bank

Upon her departure, Mrs. Carter was presented with a Palestinian scarf from her guides Hijazi Eid and Areej Ja'fari.

In addition to the Vice Chancellor, Ms. Carter was hosted by Brother Jack Curran of Bethlehem University, Imad Atrash of the Palestine Wildlife Society, George Rishmawi of Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies, Nabil Mufti of the Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism at Bethlehem University, Jesco Weikert from the German Development Fund, Fadi Sanad from the village of Artas, and Hijazi Eid and Areej Ja'fari of the Abraham Path Initiative Palestine.