



# Muaz Bin Jabal

## Background

The Muaz Bin Jabal municipality is a medium sized cluster of towns and villages incorporating the communities of North Shouneh, Adassiya, Manshieh and Bakoura totaling approximately 40,000 residents. It is located in the Jordan Valley, and has magnificent landscapes and buried treasures. Ruins from the Roman, Ottoman and Muslim periods can be found here, and both the Jordan River and Yarmouk River pass through its territories as well. Friends of the Earth Middle East is promoting the Lower Jordan River Valley, including this area, for registration as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The area is home to the important historical site of the "Three Bridges"; where Roman, Ottoman and British mandate bridges still span the River Jordan today. Additionally, FoEME is promoting this site, together with the adjacent area of the Peace Island / Bakoura to become a national Eco Tourism Park with special border crossing status into Israel.

Muaz Bin Jabal is partnering with two other communities on the western side of the River Jordan – namely, the Beit She'an Valley Regional Council and the Jordan Valley Regional Council. They have been working together to promote the protection of their shared ecosystems.

**This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the "Good Water Neighbors" project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities**

### The goals of the trails are to:

- Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
- Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
- Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The "Good Water Neighbors" project was established in 2001 by "EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East" in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

"EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East" is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

- For more information, please visit our website: **[www.foeme.org](http://www.foeme.org)**
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Tel **+962-6-5866602/3** Fax **+962-6-5866604**  
info@foeme.org
- Specific information on the neighbors trails: **<http://www.foeme.org/publications>**

**Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: [info@foeme.org](mailto:info@foeme.org)**

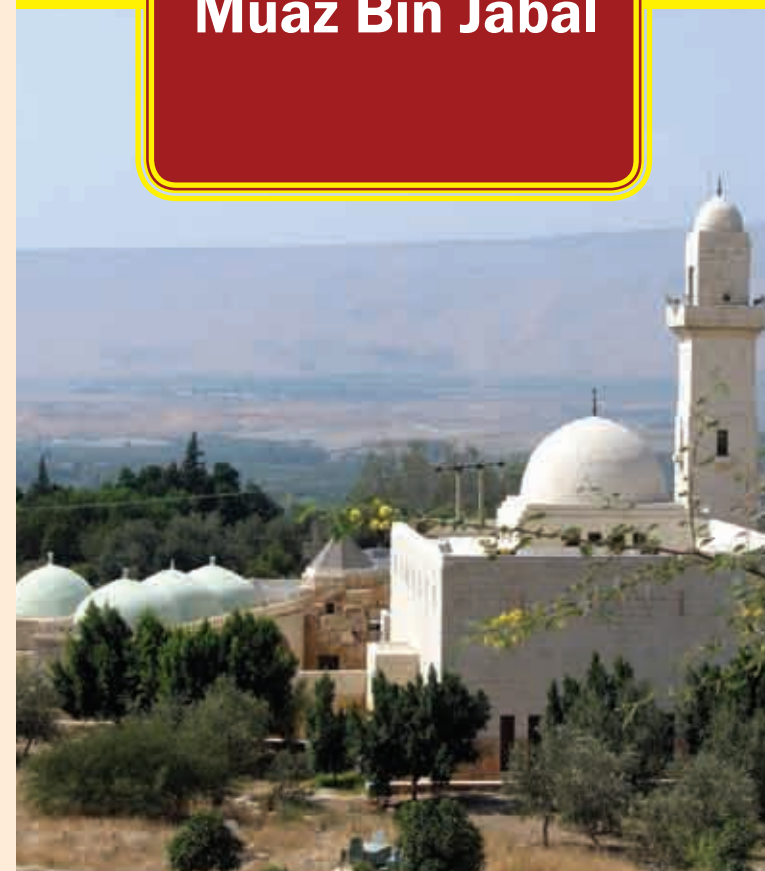


Friends of the Earth Middle East



## Neighbors Path

# Muaz Bin Jabal



THE RICHARD & RHODA  
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# The Path's Stations

## 1 Adasiya Diversion Wier

Here, the waters from the Yarmouk River (one of the River Jordan's main tributaries) are diverted to Jordan into the King Abdullah Canal through a tunnel to be used for irrigation, and to Israel into the Yarmouk River. (The 1994 Israeli-Jordanian Peace Agreement resolved that the water in the Yarmouk River belongs to the Jordanians, except for 25 million cubic meters that Israel receives annually). The site offers a beautiful view of the Yarmouk River and the Golan Heights.

## 2 King Abdullah Canal Tunnel

The diverted waters from the Yarmouk River exit the tunnel here and then flow into the open Canal. At this precise location on the road the visitor can see the canal and the Yarmouk River almost adjacent to one another. Here is an example of how Man has intervened in the natural ecosystem - by channeling the natural river flow into a concrete structure for irrigation purposes.

## 3 Water Intake from Lake Tiberias

At this historic location Jordan takes its share of water from Lake Tiberias, as agreed upon between Jordan and Israel in the 1994 Peace Treaty (please note that supply is based on a fixed schedule)

## 4 Al Baqoura Peace Park

Based on the significant historical and natural importance of this area, FoEME is promoting the creation of a unique national Eco Park at Al Baqoura. The site has an early 1920 hydro-electric power station (an indication of the power of the River Jordan in those days) and Roman, Ottoman and British mandate bridges (evidence of the site as an historical crossing point). Entrance from the Jordanian side requires a military permit that can be arranged through FoEME. Visits can be conducted before 3:00 PM.

## 5 Muaz Bin Jabal Eco-Garden / Picnic Area Municipality Garden

These are two adjacent gardens that are being developed by Friends of the Earth Middle East and the local municipality in an effort to create an "open space" for the visitor and for local residents of the community.

## 6 Wadi Arab Picnic Area

This is a small forest downstream of the Wadi Arab Dam, suggested for hiking and picnic activities.



## 7 Shuna Shamaliya Hot spring

A mineral hot spring with medicinal features, this site has swimming pools, chalets and rooms for overnight accommodation.

*Reservations are available at the site + 962 (0)2 6587189 and through FoEME. Conditions are fair.*

## 8 Wadi Al Arab Restaurant

The restaurant offers a magnificent view of the Arab Dam. For reservations: + 962 077 77 43714

## 9 Muaz Bin Jabal Shrine

Muaz Bin Jabal was Prophet Mohamed's close companion. He was buried in this location which was recently rehabilitated by King Abdullah the II. It is a significant religious attraction, and includes a small library and a mosque.

## 10 Environmental Street

This is a street that connects the city of North Shouneh to the Peace Island. The street is narrow and lovely, and FoEME has proposed to the local municipality to turn it into an 'Environmental Street', for safe use by pedestrians and cyclists.

## Souq

A market area in the center of the North Shouneh community; this is a perfect place to do your shopping before ending the tour!

