



MUSEUM REVIEW

WUJOUD Museum

WUJOUD (Arabic for “existence”) is situated in the heart of Jerusalem’s Christian Quarter and includes an ethnographic museum, a cultural centre, and a cafeteria. Housed in a 650-year-old building, it also enjoys a rooftop veranda with lovely views of the Old City, including an exclusive view of Hezekiah’s Pool (Bath of the Patriarchs), a Biblical-era water reservoir.

The building was constructed during the Mamluk period, transformed into a military coffee house during the Ottoman era, used as residential homes during the British Mandate and Jordanian rule, and then neglected for decades. Rehabilitation of the building began in 2008; the museum was inaugurated on May 14, 2011.

WUJOUD offers a glimpse of Palestinian daily life from the eighteenth century until the early twentieth century. It houses more than 400 historical items from all over the region, including antique furniture, cooking equipment, local musical instruments, and a rich collection of regional textile embroidery.

WUJOUD is a place of cultural interaction for people of all faiths and all denominations who can come to meet and share culture and stories.

Contact WUJOUD to arrange a visit, a special tour, or a delicious traditional Palestinian meal (light breakfast, lunch, or dinner) prepared by local Palestinian women. The entire facility can fit 120 people to enjoy traditional Palestinian food. The cultural centre’s lounge can seat up to 70 persons.

“Culture draws people together and builds bridges for tolerance, peace, and reconciliation. Above all, beauty and humanity transcend all borders,” says Nora Kort, founder of the museum and chairwoman of the Arab Orthodox Society.

For more information, check the WUJOUD website at www.araborthodoxsociety.com, or contact us at 02-626-0916 (tel.) or 02-627-2625 (fax).

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