



# PUSH

Promoting dialogue and cultural Understanding of our Shared Heritage



## **PUSH/ AL QUDS UNIVERSITY TOUR GUIDE TRAINING SESSION, SABASTIA AUGUST 14, 2008**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



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*With additional support provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



**PUSH/ AL QUDS UNIVERSITY  
TOUR GUIDE TRAINING SESSION AGENDA  
AUGUST 14, 2008**

**08:00** Depart Jerusalem

**09:00** Arrive at Khan Lubben

**10:00** Arrive in Sabastia

**10:15** Registration and Welcome



**10:30** Introduction to PUSH and Shared Common Heritage  
Presented by Dr. Yusuf Natsheh,  
PUSH Project Manager

**11:40** Sabastia: A Model for Understanding  
Shared Heritage  
Presented by Dr. Marwan Abu Khalaf, PUSH  
Team



**12:10** Understanding Sites of Shared Heritage using  
GIS Modeling  
Presented by Mohammad Jaradat, PUSH Team

**12:45** Sabastia: On-going Conservation Projects  
Presented by Osama Hamdan, PUSH Team



**13:15** Sabastia Community Site Visit  
Led by Osama Hamdan, PUSH Team

**14:40** Lunch

**15:30** Sabastia Archaeological Site Visit  
Led by Osama Hamdan, PUSH Team



**17:00** End of Workshop

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PUSH/ AL QUDS UNIVERSITY TOUR GUIDE TRAINING SESSION OVERVIEW**

The PUSH – Al Quds University Tour Guide Training Session set off from Jerusalem picking up groups of participants on the way to Sabastia where the main activities were held. The group's first stop was at Khan Lubben. At the site PUSH Team Members began by introducing the participants and themselves followed by a short introduction about



PUSH and a discussion about the role of caravanserai (khans) in the economic, social and religious history of the region and their role as meeting points on the major routes of the region. Subsequently the group continued to Sabastia where they were welcomed by members of the Sabastia Municipality and joined by other participants.



With the full group now assembled, Dr. Yusuf Natsheh began with an introduction presentation about the PUSH project, its methodology and innovative approach to understanding the region's shared heritage. Dr. Natsheh spoke about the concept of shared heritage using many examples of well known sites with elements of shared heritage. Dr. Marwan Abu Khalef, PUSH Team Member and Archeologist, then presented the historical background of the Sabastia site as a model



for sites with numerous historical layers and narratives. Mohammed al-Jaradat, PUSH Team Member and Archeologist, followed with a discussion on how maps reflect narrative and can thus be utilized to present issues of shared heritage to the public. Osama Hamdam, PUSH Team Member, Architect and the Head of Excavations at Sabastia then presented information on the on-going conservation activities in Sabastia as well as the political context of conservation activities in the area including issues of sovereignty and access. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions following each session.



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Following these presentations, Osama Hamdam led the participants on a site visit of the excavations and restoration works in the community center of Sabastia including the mosque, the tomb of John the Baptist and the Sabastia Cultural Heritage Center. This was followed by a group lunch in a local restaurant. After the lunch participants were taken on a site visit to the archeological park including the main remains of the Roman era such as the forum, basilica, columned street etc. Throughout the site visit participants and PUSH team members made connections to the other Great Cities of the region such as Pella and Beit Shean.



## **Tour Guide Training: Participants in Alphabetical Order**

**Khaled Abu Alia**, Tour Guide, Jerusalem  
**Jamal As'ad**, Member of Artas Municipal Council  
**Hamdi Ayish**, Head of Artas Municipal Council  
**Issa 'Abdullah 'Awad**, Tour Guide, Jerusalem  
**Nedal Barahma**, Tour Operator, Jericho  
**Fattima Buhluq**, Teacher, Sabastia  
**'Abir Darwish**, Computer Technology, Sabastia  
**Samir Yahia Mohammad Darwish**, Teacher, Sabastia  
**Rami Samir el-Haj**, Hotel Management, Sabastia  
**Adham Ghazal**, Archaeologist, Sabastia  
**Qadri Ghazal**, Deputy Mayor of Sabastia Municipality  
**Sameh Halleq**, Financial Manager, Al Quds University  
**Ala' Hamad**, Member of Sabastia Municipality  
**Osama Hamdan**, Architect, PUSH Team, Al Quds University  
**Maha Hawari**, Sabastia Community Center  
**Mohammad Jaradat**, Archeologist, PUSH Team, Al Quds University  
**Ahmad Ahmad Kayed**, Computer Technology, Sabastia  
**Marwan Abu Khalaf**, Archeologist, PUSH Team, Al Quds University  
**Ruba Khashan**, Tour Operator, Jericho  
**Elizabeth Koch**, PUSH Project Coordinator  
**Maram Muhanad**, English Teacher, Sabastia  
**Ghasan Muheibesh**, History and Archaeology, Sabastia  
**Wafa' Muhibish**, Teacher, Sabastia  
**Yusuf Natsheh**, PUSH Project Manager, Al Quds University  
**Mohammad Sa'd**, Member of Artas Municipal Council  
**Fadi Musa 'Issa Sanad**, Folklore Research, Artas  
**Rezqallah Mahmud Shahin**, Folklore Center, Artas  
**'Aysha Shihada**, Sabastia  
**Muna Shihada**, Sabastia  
**Ihab Taysir Sulaiman**, Tour Guide, Jerusalem

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