



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Safeguarding Bethlehem's Heritage through the Excavation of Khalet al-Jam'a Necropolis and monitoring the surrounding area

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Abstract

The joint mission between the Sapienza University of Rome and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA of Palestine) in Bethlehem focuses on the identification, protection and excavation of key archaeological sites in the region, with particular emphasis on the necropolis of Khalet al-Jam'a. This necropolis, known for its richly furnished tombs, provides invaluable insights into the burial practices, material culture and social structures of the region during the Bronze Age. The joint mission aims to systematically document the tombs, analyse the grave goods, and better understand the spatial organisation of the necropolis. Using advanced archaeological methods, including 3D documentation, mapping of the historical and archaeological sites through the QGIS platform, and stratigraphic excavation techniques, the team is working to preserve the site and ensure that the data collected is both comprehensive and accessible for future studies. Working with local authorities and the local community, the mission is involved in heritage conservation initiatives and raising awareness of the site's cultural value. This project aims to safeguard Bethlehem's archaeological heritage, enhance our understanding of the region's historic landscape, and support MoTA's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable cultural tourism.

Keywords

Bethlehem, Bronze Age necropolis, Rescue excavations, Endangered heritage, Monitoring

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