**Full name:** Gaza Strip  

**Location:** Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Israel  

**Intended seat of government:** East Jerusalem  

**Area:** Palestinian Ministry of Information cites 365 sq km (141 sq miles) for Gaza; slightly more than twice the size of Washington, DC  

**Climate:** temperate, mild winters, dry and warm to hot summers  

**Terrain:** flat to rolling, sand- and dune-covered coastal plain  

**Natural Hazards:** droughts  

**Population:** 1,482,405; (3.8 million in the Palestinian territories) (UN, 2006)  

**Ethnicity:** Palestinian Arab and other 99.4%, Jewish 0.6%  

**Major Language:** Arabic  

**Religion:** Muslim (predominantly Sunni) 98.7%, Christian 0.7%, Jewish 0.6%  

**Life expectancy:** 71 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)  

**Currency:** 1 Jordan dinar = 1,000 fils, 1 new Israeli shekel (NIS) = 100 new agorot