

## Beit Sahour (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

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Sunday, 30 December 2007 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 28 November 2008 03:08

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**Beit Sahour** ( [Arabic](#) : بيت سهور pronounced [Bayt Saahoor](#) is a [Palestinian](#) town administered by the [Palestinian Authority](#) , situated to the east of [Bethlehem](#) . The population of 15,400 is largely [Christian](#) .

The town is reputed to be close to the place where, according to the [Bible](#) , the [angel](#) announced the birth of [Jesus](#) to shepherds. There are two enclosures in the eastern part of Beit Sahour which are claimed by different denominations to be the actual 'Shepherds' Field': one belonging to the [Greek Orthodox](#) Church and the other, the [Catholic](#) site, to the [Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land](#) .

The origins of the name Beit Sahour (the house of shepherds) reputedly stems from the [Canaanite family language](#) words &quot;Beit&quot; meaning place, and &quot;Sahour&quot; meaning night watch, which reflected the importance of the area for shepherds.

The full text of the article is available [here](#) .