


# WHV – Oral History Collection related to Al Khidr Monastery

## Tell Umm Amer, Palestine

Site inscribed on a tentative list since 2012

01/08/2017 – 10/08/2017

 The first settlement in the site was established during the Roman era on Wadi Gaza close to the seashore. It appears on the Madaba map with the name of Tabatha, dated from the Byzantine to the early Islamic period (400-670AD). The site contains the ruins of the monastery of Saint Hilarion (born in 291 AD), which consists of two churches, a burial site, a baptism hall, a public cemetery, an audience hall, and dining rooms. The monastery was provided with good infrastructure facilities, including water cisterns, clay-ovens and drainage channels. Its floors was partially paved with limestone, marble tiles and coloured mosaics, decorated with plants and animals scenes. A great fifth century mosaic was probably laid on the floor of a chapel. The floors include also a Greek inscription decorated with circular motifs. In addition, the monastery was equipped with baths, consisting of Frigidarium, Tepidarium and Caldarium halls. The wide space of these halls ensured that the baths could adequately serve the pilgrims and merchants crossing the Holy land from Egypt to the Fertile Crescent through the main route of Via Maris.

### Project objectives:

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness amongst youth about the site of the monastery of Saint Hilarion, which was recently restored, in order to promote its sustainability and value. Specifically, the activities intend to combine the preservation of both tangible heritage (cleaning of the Saint Hilarion site) in the Gaza Strip and intangible heritage (the oral history collection of Al Khidr Monastery).

### Project activities:

The volunteers will perform activities related to the tangible and intangible heritage of the site. They will be engaged in the collection of the oral history related to Al Khidr Monastery, which will be used for a play they will perform. Furthermore, the volunteers will perform cleaning activities to help the site's maintenance and bring them nearer to their heritage.

### Partners:

Unesco Office in Ramallah

**Nawa for Culture and Arts Association/ Al Khidr Library for Children**

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