

Rachel Levitt
Managing Editor
Fodor's

Dear Ms. Levitt,

I am writing to express my deep concern that Fodor's has published an article, "The Tourists Are Gone From Palestine/I Went Anyway" which is a reprehensible piece of anti-Israel propaganda. The author, referred to as an "activist" in the article writes content little different from what one would expect from Hamas. Here are three examples.

The writer alleges that she visited "Palestine." Where is "Palestine?" What are its borders? What is its currency? When was it founded? What constitutes its army, navy, or air force? What is its international airport?

Obviously none of these questions has a sensible answer because there is no state of Palestine, nor has there ever been one. At best it can be stated accurately that the author visited Judea and Samaria, which is what those regions have been termed for thousands of years by their indigenous inhabitants, the Jewish people.

The writer alleges that she visited some place called "Al Quds/Jerusalem." The name of this city is actually Jerusalem, Israel's capital. The "Al Quds" part appears on no maps and is not a recognized part of the city's name. Does Fodor's refer to the eastern part of Berlin as "East Berlin" because a few aging Stalinists dream of the glories of Communist rule there? Of course not. Why does Fodor's treat Jerusalem any differently?

The writer alleges that she visited "occupied territories." Yet Israel has valid claims to Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem as specified by Article 80 of the United Nations Charter. Has Fodor's departed from the world of travel and become a credible journal of international law? If so where are your legal citations for your dubious distortions?

I always regarded Fodor's as a reliable and valid source of travel information. This article has convinced me that continuing to do so would be unwise. Withdrawing this article and issuing corrections is your only path out of the Palestinian propaganda morass into which you have veered. Was this accidental, or did someone at Fodor's actually think that this was a good idea?

Daniel H. Trigoboff, Ph.D.