



DESTINATION INFORMATION

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

If you require any emergency assistance during your stay, please contact the Australian Embassy for Australian passport holders only.

Discount Bank Tower

Level 28, 23 Yehuda Halevi St.

Tel Aviv 65136, Israel

PH: 972 3 693 5000, FX: 972 3 693 5002

If your nationality resides outside Australia, you must check with the appropriate consulate.

HELPFUL TRAVEL HINTS

TRANSFERS

Arrival:

Upon arrival into Israel, you will arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport, which is approximately 20 kms from both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem city centres.

When booking any transfer, you will be greeted outside of customs with a sign detailing the operators name or your name.

Departing Tel Aviv: All passengers departing Tel Aviv will be advised of their pick-up details by the ground operator.

(Important note: if you have made alternative travel arrangements than the group, please make your own way to meet the group at Tel Aviv airport at 07:30am.)

TAXIS

There are two types of taxis in Israel. The first type is a normal taxi, white with the registration number printed on the side of the vehicle in orange. All normal taxis have a meter and by law, must turn the meter on without being asked. Taxis can be flagged down anywhere or ordered by telephone.

The second type is a shared service taxi. This is a small minibus seating up to ten people stopping whenever flagged down, if seats are available. Costs are approximately the same as a normal bus ride.

CLIMATE

The best time to visit Israel is March to June and October to November when the temperatures are very pleasant throughout the country. The Israeli climate is temperate, and temperatures all year round are reasonable. Israel has two main seasons: Winter from November to March is cold and rainy in most parts of the country; summer from April to October is hot and dry with little or no rainfall. The desert areas can be extremely hot in summer time.

CLOTHING

Visitors should dress for comfort and good walking shoes are a must. It's imperative to dress modestly if you plan to visit observant areas or religious sites. For women, this usually means a head covering, long sleeves, and a skirt at least mid-calf in length. For men, trousers and a short-sleeved shirt are customary. Cool clothing is best during the summer/spring months; some warm clothing may be needed during the winter months, especially at night.

RELIGION & HOLIDAYS

The Jewish "Shabbat", observed from Friday evening until Saturday evening, governs many activities in hotels and some public places. The Jewish holidays of Passover (Easter), Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year in September), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), Sukkot (Tabernacles in October) and Chanukah (Festival of the Lights in December) are some of the main religious holidays which are observed. You may find that most public transport services do not run during these periods and stores are also closed. We will endeavour to inform you of this where we can.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Israeli Shekel, symbol ₪. The shekel is divided into 100 agorot. Notes are in denominations of ₪200, 100, 50, and 20. Coins are in denominations of ₪100, 50, 10, 5 and 1, and 50 and 10 agorot. Foreign currency can only be exchanged at authorized banks, hotels and exchange booths.

Exchange rate as of 27Mar 2023: 1 AUD ~ 2.3 IS

US dollar is widely used more than the local currency even at restaurant and take away shops.

Exchange rate as of 27Mar 2023: 1 USD ~ 3.5 IS

SHOPPING

Most Israeli shops are open from Sundays to Thursdays. Some establishments are open from 08:00 - 13:00 and again from 16:00 - 19:00; others may be open straight through the day, from 08:00 - 19:00. Some Jewish establishments will close early on Fridays for Shabbat, whereas Christian and Muslim will remain open during that time.

TIPPING

Tipping is customary for taxis, guides and hotel portage. In restaurants, the recommended tip is 10-15% of the bill. With regards to other services, tipping is up to your discretion.

Tour guides: USD\$5 per person per day.

Tour drivers: USD\$2.50 per person per day.

Private tours: USD\$10 per person per day.

Porters: USD\$1 per bag.

VOLTAGE

220 AC volts, 50 cycles, requiring rounded two-prong wall plugs.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All visitors require a passport valid for at least six months after date of arrival in the country. A three-month visa is granted to Australian passport holders upon arrival in Israel. A "loose leaf visa" is strongly recommended rather than a visa stamped in your passport as many Middle Eastern Countries may refuse entry to those with an Israeli visa. All documents and tickets for onward travel are also required.

YOU MUST ASK FOR THE LOOSE-LEAF VISA.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly advise that you do not travel without having travellers insurance. You should at all times carry this on you in case of any emergency.

FINAL TRAVEL TIPS:

1. Check the latest travel advice for your destination (www.smartraveller.gov.au)
2. Take out the appropriate travel insurance.
3. Before travelling register your details with the smart traveller so in an emergency you can be contacted.
4. Always have a copy of your passport details, visas, credit cards, insurance details with you and keep a copy with family just in case.
5. Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months.
6. Check to see if you require any visas for the country/countries you are travelling to. Be aware visa does not guarantee entry.
7. Leave a copy of your itinerary with relatives.

SAFETY ADVICE:

Please at all times be very wary as you would in your own country when in crowded places such as train stations, squares or churches/cathedrals, never leave your luggage/handbags unattended or out of sight in public areas.

Make sure all personal belongings are secured to your person.

***Please note that Israel is a largely religious society and their customs should be respected. It is strongly advised that visitors do not take any photographs of police and military personnel.

Visitors should be careful when taking photos in the Jewish Orthodox region.

We recommend that you carry identification on you at all times when in Israel.

WORLDSTAR TRAVEL WISH YOU A WONDERFUL, MEMORABLE AND SAFE TRIP

