

TRAVEL TIPS & INFORMATION ISRAEL

A few instructions to follow and you will be off on the journey of a lifetime. Please do not forget to take with you your PASSPORT & TICKETS.

Luggage: Allowance for various Airlines differ however if you stay within these guidelines you will have no problems.

1 Piece of Checked in Baggage Up to 23 kilos. The sum of the 3 dimensions shall not exceed 158 cm. You are entitled to one piece of hand luggage weighing up to 7kg plus one small handbag. If you have a laptop you wish to take into the cabin, it will have to be packed within your hand luggage. **Total dimension should not exceed the sum of 115 cm.** Liquid products for carryon luggage must be presented in a clear, resealable plastic bag and must not exceed 100 ml per container. All other liquids, aerosols and sharp metal objects, scissors, nail clippers/files, tweezers etc must be placed in your checked in luggage.

Check in Procedure: You will be required to check in on an individual basis. Please arrive to the **INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 3 hours** prior to your flight departure time. Unless breaking your journey in Asia, **Check your luggage all the way through to your final destination on check in at the International Airport.**

Seating & Meal Request for in Flight: Specific seating and meal requests can be made to the airlines however are not guaranteed. It is at the discretion of airlines to confirm your preferences. To make your long flight more comfortable an inflatable neck cushion, bed socks, and personal hygiene toiletries are recommended. Wear warm, soft loose clothing so you can snuggle down and rest.

Passport:

Travellers are responsible for ensuring that their passport has a minimum validity of 6 months from the date of return to from Australia. Similarly, you are responsible for ensuring that you have all the correct visas for any countries that require them. **Keep a photocopy of your passport, visa, e-ticket and insurance policy (with emergency numbers) in a place separate from your actual documents or email a copy to yourself so that you have access if necessary.**

Visas

Australian & New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa to enter Israel.

Note: If intending to visit any Arab countries after your journey to Israel and within the lifetime of your current passport, (not Egypt, Jordan and Turkey) please ensure that YOUR PASSPORT IS NOT STAMPED by Immigration on arrival (or departure). Ask them to stamp a separate piece of paper which should be kept in your passport during your stay. Such a "Loose-Leaf Visa" is free of charge.

Health & Vaccinations: Although there is no legal requirement for specific inoculations for the countries visited, it is always advisable to check with your health practitioner for any changes. Be prepared if you are prone to an upset stomach or flu. Keeping to a healthy diet, taking of a pro-biotic and Vitamin C or multi-vitamin supplement along with regular exercise, such as walking, leading up to your departure can reduce the risk. The DFAT website has up to date health warnings.

Power

Electrical current is 220 volts, 50 Hz. Sockets take standard continental European two round-pronged plugs. Australian appliances will require an adaptor to operate.

Tipping

Please remember tipping is the normal way of life in the Middle Eastern countries. In hotels and restaurants it is usual to give between 10-12% of the bill. Your tour leader will be arranging tipping whilst you are touring.

Climate:

Israel enjoys long, warm, dry summers generally from April – October. It is a good idea to check on the internet closer to the time to see what the temperatures are, as it has been un-seasonally warm in recent times.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jerusalem	6-11	7-14	8-16	12-21	15-25	17-27	19-29	19-29	18-28	16-26	12-19	8-14
Tel Aviv	9-18	9-19	10-20	12-22	17-25	19-28	21-30	22-30	20-31	15-28	12-25	9-19
Tiberias	9-18	9-20	11-22	13-27	17-32	20-35	23-37	24-37	22-35	19-32	15-26	11-20
Dead Sea	11-20	13-22	16-25	19-29	23-34	26-37	28-39	28-38	27-35	23-32	18-26	13-21

Clothing:

Our tour is relaxed and casual clothing is in order. Jeans, slacks, t-shirts, sweaters and jumpers are fine. A pair of slacks and a collared shirt / blouse for evening meals in the hotel may also be considered. Suits, ties and jackets are not needed. Head coverings can sometimes be required for 'holy sites'. A large scarf can be useful for ladies. Shoulders & knees should always be covered when visiting holy sites and men must wear a hat or Kippur when entering Synagogues heads. For protection against the sun, a large sunhat, sunglasses and sun protection cream are advised. Comfortable flat, grip sole, covered walking shoes are essential as archaeological sites can have rough and broken ground. The norm is semi-conservative attire particularly in Jerusalem, but in Tel Aviv, clothing is more relaxed particularly near the beach. Please remember to bring your swimming gear for a float in the Dead Sea. Thongs for walking on the rough shoreline are also great to have!

Food & Drink:

Suggested that you drink only bottled water. Your bus driver generally has a good supply of cold water at a reasonable price or you can buy in bulk from a supermarket if time permits. In all main cities you will find numerous side-walk cafes where most nationalities of food are represented. Specialities include: humus, tahini, falafel, shashlik, kebabs and halva. Budget on 15-20 USD per day for lunch and refreshments.

Hygiene:

It is advisable to carry a pack of tissues and wet wipes with you, as these are very useful when travelling. Some public toilets require a small coin payment and not all provide toilet paper.

Language:

Although Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages of Israel, English is also widely used.

Shopping:

Bargaining is a standard practice in the market places. However, in modern shops prices are fixed. Avoid bargaining for anything you have no intention of purchasing. Most stores in Israel are open daily from 8.00am-1.00pm and 4.00pm-7.00pm. On Fridays and the eve of Jewish Holy days shops close around 2.00pm and Jewish shops are closed for the Sabbath. Muslim shops are closed on Fridays while Christian ones are closed on Sundays.

Currency:

The official currency in Israel the NIS or Israeli New Shekel. It is advisable to take 100 USD in small denominations to begin with and a credit/debit card to use in the ATM's in Israel to withdraw Shekels (pin number required). There will also be opportunity for foreign exchange at airports. Thai Baht is required for purchases within the Bangkok Airport. Ensure you have checked with and informed your bank of your intention to use your credit/debit card overseas. You may exchange shekels back to USD at any bank; however, on departure a maximum of USD \$100.00 may be exchanged, after clearing customs and passport control. (Please change all shekels prior to departing Israel). On a day-to-day basis, try to avoid carrying more cash than you need for immediate purposes to reduce the potential loss from pick pocketing. If unsure, enquire at your hotel about safety deposit boxes.

Coffee & Tea Making Facilities in Hotel Rooms:

Some hotels do not provide tea/coffee making facilities in the room. If an early morning or late evening cuppa is a must then bring an immersion heater, your own mug, long life milk, tea/coffee etc.

Valuables & Cash:

Best to keep your cash and valuables in an underclothing money belt or leave them in the hotel safe.

You might wish to register your travel details with the Department of Foreign Affairs on dfat.gov.au