

TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO ISRAEL

General:

- Travel insurance should be hired. It is useful in case of hospitalisation or repatriation.

Specific:

- PLEASE NOTICE:
 - It is not so recommended travelling to Golan Heights and surroundings to borders with Lebanon and Syria, due to the existent tension between Israel, Iran and Syria. For more information, please check out *Home Front Command* web (<https://www.idf.il/en/minisites/home-front-command/>).
 - In case of rocket launch against Israel from Gaza Strip, it is highly recommended following the security procedure when hearing alarms. It consists on immediately search a bomb shelter wherever you are.
 - It is not recommended travelling to Gaza Strip border. Caution ought to be extreme in 40 kilometres radius: Sederot, Netivot, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Bersheba y Kiryat HaMalachi.
 - Travelling by boat to Gaza is strongly discouraged. Entering in Gaza by sea is extremely dangerous for life and physical integrity of participants.
 - It is quite important to keep a cautious and alert attitude, avoid problematic situations and limit the use of public transport. Also, is necessary to be specially warned in railway stations, bus or tram stops, shopping centres and places in which crowds can take place, because they are potential terrorist objectives.
- DOCUMENTS AND VISA:
 - Passport: It should have validity for six months minimum up to the departure date from Israel.
 - Visa: It is no necessary for tourists' stays for less than three months (90 days).
 - Israel authorities can deny access to somebody that could be suspicious of being in favour Palestinian cause or wants to visit West Bank and/or Gaza Strip for political grounds.
 - Israeli Parliament approved in 2017 a law that does not allow to foreign people that call to boycott against Israel entering into the country.
 - Border authorities are able to interrogate any traveller, both to arrival and departure. Due to these strict controls, it is highly recommended to get in contact before with the respective Embassy. That applies specially to groups, NGO collectives or delegations and similar organizations.
 - Those citizens of Palestinian origin or married with Palestinian people may be denied when entering into Israel international airports.
 - People that travel to Israel from Egypt by plane should contact with their respective Embassy, in order to avoid some problems at arrival.

- SECURITY:
 - General:
 - It is recommended to extreme caution in ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods, especially those placed in Jerusalem: not to take any photographs, being dressed with reserve –shoulders and legs should be covered- and not driving during Sabbath -since Friday to Saturday afternoon.
 - It is recommended to somebody who is going to travel to Gaza and West Bank to get in contact in advance with the respective Embassy.
 - Although Israel is a secure country and there is a low criminality, sometimes foreign tourists are stolen in Tel Aviv and tourist areas. It is highly recommended to keep alert and maintain all belongings under control.
 - High Risk Areas –travel to these areas should be avoided:
 - Israel-Gaza border
 - Israel-Syria-Lebanon border
 - Israel-Egypt border
 - Low Risk Areas:
 - There is a normal situation in the rest of Israel. However, it is important to keep cautious and get informed.
- HEALTH:
 - Health infrastructures in Israel can be compared with those ones in Europe. They have generally a good functioning.
 - Due to the high costs of medical services, it is recommended to hire travel insurance before travelling.
 - The authorities have recommended some caution and use of mosquito repellents, due to the recurrence of West Nile fever. The symptoms are like those ones of flu and may cause death.
 - People with heart illnesses or conditions could have complications in Dead Sea coast, which is 400 meter below sea level.
 - Compulsory vaccinations: Any.
 - Recommended vaccinations: Please check it depending of your country.
 - Most important hospitals:
 - Sourasky Medical Center-Ichilov.
(<https://www.tasmc.org.il/sites/en/Pages/default.aspx>).
 - Tel HaShomer Medical Center (<https://www.sheba-hospital.org.il/>).
- CURRENCY:
 - Currency with value up to 100.000 shekels must be declared.

- OTHER:
 - Drugs: The carrier or smuggler of drugs may be sentenced until 20 years of jail, depending of the amount and type of drug. If it is for someone's consume, the punishment can be increased until 3 years of jail.
 - Driving Licences: There is no agreement between Spain and Israel for the exchange of driving licences. You must have a foreign driving licence for driving in Israel, but if the stay is going to take up to one year, it is necessary to get an Israeli one.
 - LGBTI: Israel is one of the most tolerant countries with this collective. Although same sex couples are not legally recognized, for marriages got abroad the situation is just the opposite. Besides, adoptions by same sex couples are allowed.
- ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS:
 - Israel code: 972
 - Tel Aviv code: 3 (dial 03 when calling into Israel).
 - Jerusalem code: 02 (dial 02 when calling into Israel).
 - Phone numbers:
 - Police: 100
 - Ambulance: 101
 - Firefighters: 102
 - *Home Front Command*: 104 → Useful for knowing both about alert status into different territories as nearest placement of bomb shelters.
 - Ben Gurion International Airport: (03) 972 3332, (03) 975 5555, (03) 975 6663.
 - Haifa Airport: (04) 847 6100
 - Allenby Border Crossing: (02) 548 2600
 - Jordan River Crossing: (04) 609 3400
 - Arava Border Crossing (Crossing Yitzhak Rabin): (08) 630 0555
 - Taba Border Crossing (Eilat): (08) 636 0999
 - Haifa Port: (04) 851 8518
 - Ashdod Port: (08) 851 7604, (08) 855 7246
 - Eilat Port: (08) 637 6761
 - Tel Aviv Port: (03) 527 2596
 - Herzliya Port and Marine: (09) 956 5591