

TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO ISRAEL

General:

- Travel insurance should be hired in case of hospitalisation, repatriation, etc.

Specific:

- PLEASE NOTICE:
 - The tension between Israel, Iran and Syria urges to reconsider eventual travel to Golan Heights and surroundings to Israel borders with Lebanon and Syria. For more information, please check out *Home Front Command* web.
 - In case of rocket launch against Israel from Gaza Strip, it is highly recommended following the security standard 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 recommended to keep a cautious and alert attitude, avoid susceptible 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 a minimal validity for six months up to departure date from Israel.
 - Visa: It is no necessary for tourists' stays that are less than three months (90 days). For students' stays an A/2 type visa is required. For more information, please search at Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry: <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>.
 - 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 07/03/2017 a law that does not allow to foreign people, who calls to boycott against Israel by any means including social networks, entering into the country.
 - Border authorities could be able to interrogate any traveler during a long time, both to arrival as departure. Due to these strict controls, it is highly recommended to get in contact with the respective Embassy. That applies specially to groups, NGO collectives or delegations and similar organizations that are going to travel to Israel.
 - 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 especially by plane, have to contact with their respective Embassy, in order to avoid some problems at arrival.
- SECURITY:
 - General:
 - It is recommended extreme caution in ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods, especially those placed in Jerusalem: not to take any photographs, being dressed with some reserve –shoulders and legs should be covered- and not driving during Sabbath, since Friday to Saturday afternoons.
 - It is recommended to somebody who is going to travel to Gaza and West Bank get in contact in advance with his/her Embassy.
 - Although Israel is a secure country and there is a low criminality, sometimes foreign tourists are stolen from 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 informed.
- HEALTH:
 - Health infrastructures in Israel can be compared with European ones. They have a good functioning in almost all the country.
 - Due to the high costs of medical services, it is recommended to hire travel insurance before travelling.
 - Israeli authorities have recommended 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 to susceptible people.
 - People with heart illnesses or conditions could have complications in Dead Sea coast, which is 400 meter below sea level located.
 - Compulsory vaccinations: Any.
 - Recommended vaccinations: Please check it depending of your participant 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 100000 shekels must be declared.

- OTHER:
 - Drugs: The carrier or smuggler of drugs may be sentenced until 20 years of jail depending of amount and type of drug. Whether 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. It must have a foreign driving licence for driving in Israel. Whether 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, that is the opposite for marriages got abroad. Besides, adoptions by same sex couples are allowed.
- ADRESSES 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 of interest:
 - 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