

Israel



**Miraculous.
Passionate.
Unique.**

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Israel

Explore a land of enchanting diversities



Miles of golden sand blessed with year-round blue sky.



Famous local wineries and gourmet restaurants serving dishes that leave people hungry for more.



Rolling hills, multi-colored canyons, bike trails, scuba diving and more.

A phenomenal experience – nature, tradition, innovation, and many more wonders.



They say the best things come in tiny packages –

Israel is a small country that packs in an incredible number of unrivaled experiences. Imagine a rich fusion of fascinating cultures, world-shaping history, authentic cuisines, boutique wineries, and one-of-a-kind adventures – no wonder Israel leaves every visitor in awe.

It's in Israel where thousands of years of history meet outstanding geographical variation, inspiring natural sceneries, perfect relaxation spots, UNESCO World Heritage sites, eclectic architecture, and cosmopolitan living – all within a few hours' drive.

From well-preserved biblical ruins to impressive crusader fortresses, cherished religious sites, and spectacular natural wonders such as the Negev desert and the Dead Sea, Israel offers thoroughly unique adventures you will talk about long after you return home.

Small in size, big in character –

the cradle of five religions, Israel is a true emotional experience. It brings together the millennia-strong customs of the three major monotheistic religions, plus those of minority communities such as the Druze, the Bedouin, the Circassian and the Bahai, creating an incredibly rich intercultural mosaic.

Add to it the special vibe of old cities, combined with modern shopping malls and with legendary beaches on the Mediterranean, the Dead Sea, the Red Sea, and the Sea of Galilee, under blue sunny skies, and you'll experience the intense joy such contrasts evoke. You'll find yourself smiling warmly like the locals.

Drop everything and plan your Israel trip today!



Numerous museums, art galleries, theaters, and cultural centers.



Old and new city markets, countless local boutiques, and great modern shopping malls with popular shopping brands.



From yoga in the desert to five-star spa retreats in the Galilee and the Dead Sea, an impressive array of wellness experiences.



Jerusalem

No other place like it. Period.

The capital of Israel, the holiest city in the world to billions of people, one of the most famous cities ever – there's simply not another city like Jerusalem. Overwhelmingly beautiful and powerful to experience, Jerusalem is where 3,000+ years of pivotal history and rich heritage find home alongside of innovation and cosmopolitan living. It's where the holy and the modern mingle seamlessly.

The Old City – a peek into the ancient

Jerusalem is surrounded by magnificent city walls, rebuilt in the 1500s partly on the remains of the city's ancient walls.

The Old City – an absolute must-visit – has four quarters: The Jewish Quarter, The Armenian Quarter, The Christian Quarter, and The Muslim Quarter. Outside the city walls is the City of David, the site of biblical Jerusalem, the original core of the city.

A thoroughly moving spiritual experience

A visit to the Western Wall, the last remaining wall of the ancient Jewish Temple, is a mighty sight to behold.



Lined up with people in deep prayer and meditation, some whispering their wishes and kissing the wall, others leaving written prayers in the cracks of the limestone wall, it's a compelling experience.

Next on your path is the Temple Mount, the third holiest site for Muslims after Mecca and Medina. Just a short walk away lie the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as well as the Garden Tomb.

An eye-catching hill for eye-catching views

Those who love spectacular views from high above must visit Mount Zion, the highest point in ancient Jerusalem.

Among the sites to visit are the Room of the Last Supper and King David's Tomb. Mount Zion is a beautiful spot for aerial photography as well as selfies.



Buzzing markets

From fresh produce to delicious spices, from one-of-a-kind artifacts to handmade goods, the markets in Jerusalem are as unique as the city itself. Among them the Old City market is famous for souvenirs and antiques, and Mahane Yehuda for restaurants and tastings.

Picturesque villages

Jerusalem is surrounded by small hillside villages such as Ein Karem. A walk down its narrow streets will take you to local galleries and shops selling hand-crafted jewelry and tiles, busy cafes and restaurants juxtaposed with centuries-old holy sites such as the Church of St. John the Baptist and Mary's Spring.





Tel Aviv

Every bit brimming with life

Tel Aviv is the cosmopolitan heart of Israel. Its bohemian downtown is filled with Bauhaus architecture, busy cafes, street food stands, and people riding their bikes everywhere. In Neve Tzedek, you will be basking in the beauty of one of the oldest neighborhoods of the city with charming narrow streets, home to artists, writers, and poets. In Jaffa, one of the oldest port cities in the world, you will witness a rich history, bespoke architecture, art studios, galleries and shops, and a world-class food scene.

So MUCH culture -

soak your soul in the things you love. From concerts and festivals featuring Israel's best musicians, to one-of-a-kind dance shows, museums, opera, and theatre, Tel Aviv is home to so much culture and

vibrancy.

Heaven for foodies -

explore new culinary delights at trending restaurants that offer exquisite local, international, and fusion menus. Delight your appetite with legendary Middle Eastern street food for finger-licking moments. Local vegetarian and vegan specialties are a real invitation to rediscover the most genuine flavors in a fresh and joyful way.

Sensational beaches -

Tel Aviv will win your heart with its soft sandy beaches. Whether you prefer relaxing under an umbrella with a drink from the beach bar, surfing on crystal-clear waters, or partying at late-night beach events, Tel Aviv has you covered.

Shop till you drop -

you'll love the variety of leading brands, edgy alternative shops, and local designer stores. From-fast fashion to eco-friendly alternatives, Tel Aviv has it all.

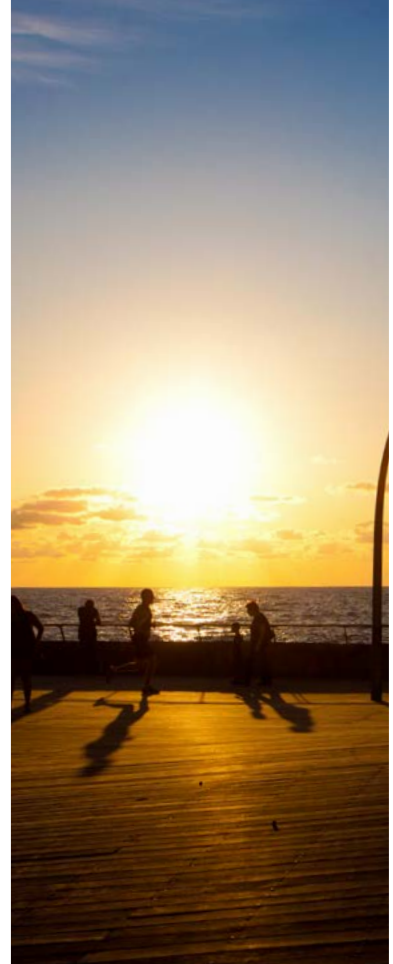


Authentic local markets -

in Nachalat Binyamin everything is handcrafted. In the landmark Carmel Market, you find a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and souvenirs. And while Jaffa flea market offers everything you didn't even know you needed, the hip Sarona Market brings you all the culinary goodies you can dream of.

Epic nightlife -

get some rest before sundown as Tel Aviv comes



even more alive at night. Pick any one of its many bars, pubs, or clubs, and you are sure to have a great time. LGBTQ will feel right at home in Tel Aviv, also known as the Gay Capital of the Middle East.

Incredible outdoors -

walk, run a marathon, or cycle the city's famous HaYarkon Park. Enjoy a picnic on the HaYarkon lawn, go pedal boating on the Park's man-made lake, and explore beautiful gardens.



Galilee

Full of soul, history, and tranquility

Imagine a sparkling freshwater lake with sapphire waters, surrounded by wildflower meadows, orchards, birdsongs, and mountain panoramas as far as the eye can see. It's the Kinneret, the Sea of Galilee. Combine this pure beauty with biblical history, ancient masterpieces, natural attractions, breath-taking bike trails, and world-famous wineries, and you'll understand why the splendor of the Galilee cannot be overstated.

An oasis for nature lovers

From swimming to serious hiking, base jumping, paragliding, canyoning, scenic bike trails, viewpoints, nature reserves, and more, there's so much to do in the Sea of Galilee. Those who love skiing can head to Mount Hermon in winter, depending on the weather.

Where the Bible comes alive

The Sea of Galilee is where Jesus is believed to have walked on water. Nearby is Yardenit, the site of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, where you too can get baptized today.

Galilee's diverse ancient ruins



On the shores of the Sea of Galilee is Capernaum, a breathtaking city with a thoroughly unique collection of ruins. From the remains of a fourth-century synagogue to places of Byzantine worship, Capernaum will leave you feeling like you are in another world.

Bird watching

Located on the main bird migration route of the African Rift Valley, the Hula Valley is one of the popular bird watching sites in the world.

Multicultural cities that mix old and new

A trip to the north of Israel is not complete without visiting Nazareth, Haifa, and Acre.



Nazareth's old city, the city of the Gospel, is where the childhood home of Jesus is believed to be. Set in the modern Jewish state with a Muslim-majority population, visiting Nazareth is like going back to the past.

Haifa is a large Mediterranean port city situated on the slopes of Mount Carmel. A visit to the exquisite Bahai Gardens with its colorful flowers, trees, sculptures, fountains, and pools is an absolute must. So are the restored German Colony and Wadi Nisnas.

Acre is a crusader port city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the citadel, the old town, the archeological marvels, the mosques, the churches and the synagogues for a wondrous experience.



Negev

Boundless nature meets limitless human imagination

The Negev Desert is a majestic beauty that combines rock formations, cliffs, jagged hills, and red sand with a magical array of historical ruins, fascinating wildlife, eco-tourism in the Arava Valley, Yotvata Chocolate Trail, and unique desert communities – from flourishing kibbutzim to the nomadic Bedouin. Add to this ultra-Westernized amenities, adventures, and experiences, and you have

found yourself a true mirage – so perfect it’s almost unreal.

The Negev covers over half the land of Israel. It consists of six areas: The Blooming Desert, Heritage and Cultures, the Dead Sea Land, Land of Craters and Incense Routes, Arava Valley, and Eilat and the Red Sea. Greener by the year, Israeli initiatives in the Negev have reversed desertification.

UNESCO Heritage Sites

From the Incense Route covering a long trail of incense and spice roads, to the mighty and fabled Masada (in Hebrew: the “fortress”), to Tel Be’er Sheva believed to be the remains of the 10th century BC biblical town Beer Sheva, there’s lots of ancient history to explore in the Negev.

From sand surfing to camel riding

Stunning trails lead through the desert allowing hikers to discover rich natural landscapes. Riding down the great sand dunes offers an epic sand surfing experience. Then at sunset, exploring the Negev on the back of a camel provides the perfect way to ease into the evening in this enchanting desert.

Star studded night skies

At the sun sets, the Negev sky fills with millions of bright stars. Imagine utmost tranquility around you and a splendid radiance above – it’s an experience that moves your soul. Spend the night in a Bedouin tent, a desert lodge, or a hotel – the possibilities are endless.



Relax, relax, relax

From yoga and meditation retreats to countless glamping and B&B options, the Negev has everything you need to relax amidst the most intriguing of surroundings.

Countless festivals to choose from

The Negev hosts many events every year. From music, dance, and film festivals to Midburn – the Israeli version of Burning Man, there’s always something special going on.

A heaven for animal lovers

At the Negev, you can see animals mentioned in the Bible as well as endangered desert species – from ibex along the Mitzpe Ramon cliff in Sde Boker, to many types of birds. In fact, the north-western part of the Negev is one of the most unique birding zones with a high concentration of under-threat species such as Eastern Imperial Eagle, Saker Falcon, Pallid Harrier and Sociable Plovers, plus Long-lagged Buzzard, Merlin, Peregrine, Lanner and Barbary in winter.



Dead Sea

The world's most ancient natural spa

No holiday in Israel is complete without a trip to the Dead Sea. Just a one-hour drive from Jerusalem, this mysterious turquoise lake is in the center of a valley nestled in high cliffs, surrounded by a stunning landscape and jaw-dropping sights.

Combining a desert vacation with a health and wellness experience, against the backdrop of breathtaking natural wonders, the area is a natural miracle that cannot be matched with anything else you have ever witnessed.

The lowest point on Earth

Sitting at -423 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea is the deepest land point in the world.

Multiple health benefits

With an incredible 34% salt concentration and high amounts of other minerals, the Dead Sea delivers a 100% nature-powered spa experience for the skin, body, and soul. Float in its waters and cover your body with mineral-rich mud, like Cleopatra used to as the legend tells.



Ein Gedi – a natural oasis

Located to the West of the Dead Sea, Ein Gedi offers hiking trails, streams, rugged limestone cliffs, waterfalls, archeology and biblical history, botanical gardens, and wildlife. It is home to Nubian ibexes, hyraxes, foxes, hyenas, and leopards on the ground, and hawks, storks, songbirds, quails, and doves in the skies.

Calling all walkers, hikers, adventurers

There are several trails in the Ein Gedi area as well as



in Wadi Arugot which runs along the length of Arugot Stream with many small pools. It also features David Waterfall, a year-round flowing waterfall and the beautiful Dudim Cave.

For serious adventurers, there's rappelling and off-road riding from Arad to Masada – considered one of the most beautiful biking trails in the world.

Masada – a story unlike any other

An ancient fortress built around 30 B.C. on a massive plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. A winding path climbs up to the fortifications taking you to unique ruins with a national story. Start your climb in the early morning to catch its famous jaw-dropping beautiful sunrise.

More ancient history in the middle of the desert

If you're into history, make sure to visit the Chalcolithic temple. There, you'll see the ruins of an ancient temple from over 5,000 years ago. Then visit Tel Goren to see the remains of settlements from the Iron Age, the Persian period, the Hellenistic period, and the Roman period.



Eilat

A sunshine city full of natural and manmade attractions

The ultimate sun-filled destination featuring a gorgeous 12-kilometer (7.4 miles) coastline, crimson mountains, spectacular natural treasures, and refreshing waters teeming with marine life. From world renowned five-star resorts to wooden cabins and campgrounds, Eilat caters to every taste and budget.

A five-hour drive from Tel Aviv, Eilat is at the southern tip of Israel, also easily accessible via the Ramon International Airport.

Live by the rhythm of the Red Sea

Eilat's shoreline features many tourist-friendly beaches – some with soft sand, others with pebbles – all of them equipped with all the amenities one could imagine. You will easily find the perfect beach for you, to soak up the sun and relax.

A true paradise for divers

Just off the Eilat shoreline is the enchanting underwater kingdom of the Red Sea famous for its coral reefs, and rich and diverse marine life. Countless diving centers offer guided dive trips as well as hands-on instruction. Whether you are a pro or a first-timer, Eilat has you covered.

Swimming with dolphins

Scuba dive or snorkel at Eilat's Dolphin Reef for a magical chance to swim alongside wild dolphins and tropical fish. Visitors can also watch dolphins from floating piers as they play, mate, hunt, and care for their babies in their natural habitat.

Tax-free shopping

Eilat's wide, busy promenade is filled with famous international and local designer stores. Shopping is always automatically tax-free in Eilat, no need for paperwork.

Fine dining and buzzing nightlife

From seafood to meat to vegan, Eilat's restaurants have it all. Lined with bars and clubs, Eilat is as alive at night as it is during the day.

Nature, nature, nature

At the southern end of the Negev, Eilat is where the desert meets the sea, surrounded by the mountains, ancient copper mines, bird parks, nature reserves, and more – creating a perfect area to cycle around.

Make sure to visit the Timna Park to witness an impressive variety of wildlife, plants, and trees thriving in the middle of the desert, with colorful sands and steep cliffs in the background.

At Yotvata Nature reserve, you can drive among wandering animals in the open range, visit the predator center to see large predators, reptiles, and small desert animals, and view nocturnal animals active in the Darkroom.



Two International Airports

Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main international airport, is located at the heart of the country, off the highway connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. There are taxi services right outside the main gate, a regular bus service, as well as direct or connecting trains between Ben Gurion Airport and the rest of Israel. At the south of Israel is the **Ramon Airport**, the country's second international airport, located 18 km (11 miles) north of Eilat.

Israel Airport Authority:
iaa.gov.il/en

Accommodations

Tourists will find a variety of accommodations to suit all tastes, purposes, and budgets, ranging from five-star luxury hotels of the world-leading hotel chains to boutique hotels, spa resorts, budget hotels, zimmers (local B&B), glamping, and hostels. Accommodation prices vary according to grade and season.

Weather

With not many rainy days a year on average, Israel is known for its sunny disposition. Summers are long, lasting from April to October with higher temperature and humidity during July and August. Fall and winter last from November to March. The Dead Sea and the southern city of Eilat enjoy nearly 360 sunny

days a year, making them popular destinations year-round. The Red Sea water temperature is comfortable throughout the year.

The Israeli Meteorological Service: ims.gov.il/en

The Israeli Week

In Israel, workdays are Sunday through Thursday, and the weekend is Friday and Saturday. On Friday, most businesses are open until early in the afternoon before the onset of the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at sundown and lasts until shortly after nightfall on Saturday.

Transportation

Israel is a small country, making it easy and convenient for getting around. Taxis are common for urban and interurban travel and can be flagged in the street or booked via phone or designated apps. Many car rental companies operate throughout Israel as well as at Ben Gurion Airport

Train Information Services:
rail.co.il/en

☎ **08-6831222 or *5770.**

Bus Information Services:
bus.co.il

☎ **Telephone: 1-900-72-1111**
(call fare of 1-900 numbers)

Driving in Israel

Driving in Israel is allowed from the age of 17 with an international driving license.

Cars drive on the right. Speed limits are 30 to 50km/h in cities, 80-90km/h on

freeways, 110-120km/h on highways and Route no. 6. If you're enjoying a night out, keep in mind there is a zero-tolerance policy for drinking and driving.

Currency and Exchange

The domestic currency is the Israeli New Shekel. Local and foreign money may be brought into Israel as cash, travelers' checks, and credit cards. Foreign currency of most kinds may be exchanged at the airport, banks, post offices, most hotels and at licensed exchange agencies in the major cities. Cash can easily be withdrawn from the many widespread ATMs via international credit or debit cards.

Languages

Israel's national language is Hebrew and the official languages are Hebrew and Arabic. While English is the main language for foreign communication and is spoken and understood by most, you will also find many people speaking other languages, including Russian, French, Spanish, Amharic and more.



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