

READY TO PLAN FOR YOUR TRIP?

# Isreal

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

## WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Time Zone:** Israeli Standard Time (IST) is the standard time zone in Israel. Israel is 8 hours ahead of Central Time Zone and 7 hours ahead of Eastern Time Zone.

**The Israeli Week:** The Israeli week differs from most countries around the world. Workdays are Sunday through Thursday and the weekend is Friday and Saturday. Most business are open on Fridays until early in the afternoon before the onset of the Jewish Sabbath which begins at sundown on Friday and lasts until shortly after sundown on Saturday.

**Weather:** Average High/Low

City	Nov.
Tel Aviv	74°F/58°F
Tiberias	74°F/62°F
Ein Bokek (Dead Sea area)	82°F/62°F
Jerusalem	66°F/54°F

**Currency:** The State of Israel's currency is the New Israeli Shekel (ILS). Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

**Currency Exchange:** For your convenience you may wish to exchange some US dollars to foreign currency prior to departure. We recommend exchanging currency or using a debit or credit card while abroad. Fees apply to all currency exchanges.

**Electrical Current:** The electric current in Israel is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. The power plugs and outlets in Israel are of Type C (a typical Euro plug or two-pin) and an adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

**International Driver & Guide:** Your Driver and Guide will be with you for the majority of your tour. If they meet your expectations, it is suggested you tip them to show your appreciation. The suggested gratuity for your Driver is US \$4 - 7 per person per day (or 15 - 25 Israeli New Shekels). And for your Guide, US \$6 - 10 per person per day (or 21 - 35 Israeli New Shekels). Tipping information for Holiday Vacation Tour Directors can be found in the International Travel documentation.

**Language:** Israel's official languages are Hebrew and Arabic. English, however, is widely spoken and most signs are also in English

**Meal Expenses:** For the meals not included with the tour you can expect to spend the equivalent of an average of \$15 - \$35 US dollars per person, per day.

The suggested gratuity for wait staff serving non-included meals is approximately 12 - 15%. Some restaurants and bars automatically add a gratuity that may or may not be given directly to the server. When in doubt ask your server.

**Other Services:** Taxi drivers are not normally tipped.

**Packing Tips:** While on tour, casual clothing is appropriate, but you may consider packing one outfit that is a little dressier than your everyday casual wear. It is recommended that you pack comfortable clothing and good walking shoes due to uneven terrain in some areas. Since the weather is always changing you may want to dress in layers and bring a light sweater or jacket.

**Packing for Holy Sites:** When traveling to holy sites and religious neighborhoods, it's important to dress conservatively and show respect for the surrounding people and environment. These locations won't always permit entry to those that are not dressed modestly.

Modest clothing consists of covering a majority of the body (such as the shoulders, arms, legs, and chest), especially for women. This includes long-sleeved shirts, over-the-knee skirts, and completely covering the chest area. Often a head covering is also required (baseball caps are acceptable).

**Public Facilities:** Outside of your hotel room some of the restrooms may have pay toilets or attendants collecting at the door. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations.

**Water:** Tap water is generally considered safe in Israel, however, drinking bottled water is advisable.