



Country Profile: Israel

The State of Israel is a parliamentary democracy with a modern economy. Tourist facilities are widely available. Travelers may visit the web site of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism for tourist information at <http://www.goisrael.com/>. Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem as a result of the 1967 War. Pursuant to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was established in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in 1994, although its authority is limited, especially in Gaza. Palestinian Authority security forces are responsible for keeping order in those areas, and the PA exercises a range of civil functions there. The division of responsibilities and jurisdiction in the West Bank between Israel and the PA is complex. Definitive information on entry, customs requirements, arrests, and other matters in the West Bank and Gaza is subject to change without prior notice or may not be available. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Israel.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Israel
Continent:	Asia (Middle East)
Capital City:	Jerusalem; note- nearly all countries maintain their Embassy in Tel Aviv
Boundary Countries:	Egypt, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Haifa: Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center Herzliya-On-Sea: Herzliya Medical Centers Holon: Edith Wolfson Medical Center Jerusalem: Hadassah Medical Organization Beer Sheva: Soroka Medical Center Jerusalem: Herzog Hospital, Shaare Zedek Medical Center Kfar-Saba: Meir Hospital Nazareth: Nazareth E.M.M.S. Hospital Netanya: Laniado Hospital Petach Tikva: Rabin Medical Center, Ramat Marpe Hospital Tel Aviv: Assuta Hospital, Basel Heights Medical Center, Sanitas Hospital, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center
Main Cities:	Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth
Country Size:	20,770 sq km
Population:	6,199,008 note: includes Israeli settlers in West Bank, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Hebrew (official), Arabic used officially for Arab minority, English most common used foreign language.
Currency:	New Israeli Shekel (ILS); note- NIS is the currency abbreviation; ILS is the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code for the NIS
Predominant Religions:	Jewish 76.4%, Muslim 16%, Arab Christians 1.7%, other Christian 0.4%, Druze 1.6%, unspecified 3.9%.
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 14 May (1948); note- Israel declared Independence on 14 May 1948, but the Jewish calendar is lunar and the holiday may occur in April or May

Economic Status:	The State of Israel is a parliamentary democracy with a modern economy.
Security:	Israeli Defense Forces (IDF): Army Headquarters, Israel Navy, Israeli Air and Space Force (ISAF, includes air defense forces); historically there have been no separate Israeli military services.
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Jerusalem 14 David Flusser Street Jerusalem 9378322 Phone: 02-630-4000
Major Airports:	Airports: 53, Airports w/paved runways: 30 Tel Aviv – Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV/LLBG) Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion, Israel, PO Box 7, Ben Gurion International Airport, 70100 Lod, ISRAEL Tel: +972 (0)3 972 3344 Fax: +972 (0)3 975 2387 Website: www.iaa.gov.il Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +972 (0)3 971 5511

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