



HKU TEL AVIV INNOVATION HUB



VISITING ISRAEL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contacts in Tel Aviv:

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HKU Tel Aviv Innovation Hub:

- Address: 2 Weizmann Street, Tel Aviv. Amot Investment Building.
The office is situated on the 6th Floor, turn left on exiting the elevator.
- Dress code: business casual/casual, trousers and a polo shirt/button shirt without tie or jacket, similar for women.
- Free WIFI connection is available at the Hub.

Other useful information:

- Power plug sockets are of type C, H and M. The standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.
(Plug type C has two round pins, plug type H has three pins in a triangular shape and type M has three round pins).
- The work week runs Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday are resting days. Religious Jews observe the Shabbat, which runs from Friday afternoon to Saturday early evening. Some places and shops are closed during the Shabbat. If you visit on a Saturday, it is always advisable to check if venues are open.
- Major shopping malls are open from 09:30-22:00 Monday to Thursday, 09:30-15:00 on Friday and from 20:00-23:00 on Saturday (this may vary depending on the location of the mall).
- ATMs are easily accessible for cash withdrawals throughout the City.

- Many coffee shops and restaurants offer free WIFI services and are open all week (including on Friday and Saturday).
- Convenience stores such as AM:PM or Tiv-Ta'am in the City are open 24/7 and are very abundant in Tel Aviv.
- Food delivery apps that operate freely in Tel Aviv are Wolt and Yango Deli.
- Tipping in Israel is customary at between 12-15%.

Weather

Expected weather conditions can be found on the website of the Israel Meteorological Service: <https://ims.gov.il/en>.

Tel Aviv is by the sea. Winters are mild (but can be rainy), and summers tend to be humid. Indoor places are fully-air-conditioned.

Planning your trip

What you'll need:

- Passport, Visa and Invitation to HKU-TLV Innovation Hub.
- Money, Credit Card.
- Clothing – casual/business casual for the duration of your stay in Tel Aviv.

Modest clothing for visiting Jerusalem's Holy Sites (shoulders and knees should be covered).

Comfortable shoes and clothing for trip to Masada and desert/camel riding. The sun is very strong, so make sure to wear a t-shirt with sleeves, to avoid burnt shoulders.

Swimsuit, beach towel, sunscreen, hat and flip flops for visit to the Dead Sea.

Jerusalem and the desert regions are much cooler in the evenings so bring a sweater or light jacket.

Passports and visa

- All visitors to Israel must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date they are departing the country. People with no nationality must hold a valid laissez-passer, as well as a visa back to the country that issued it.
- Visitors are entitled to remain in Israel up to three months from the date of their arrival, in accordance with the conditions of the visa issued to them. Visitors intending to work in Israel must submit a request to the Ministry of the Interior for a special visa.

Arriving in Israel

- Israel no longer stamps passports at airports and most Land Crossings. Visitors entering Israel will be issued with an electronic gate pass which replaced the system in which passports were stamped upon entrance and exit from Israel.
- At the airport, this card allows the traveler to exit the arrival terminal without further delays.
- The Gate Pass is an official form of identification while in Israel and should be kept on hand at all times.
- Incoming travelers continue to the passenger luggage area after their passports have been inspected. Carts are available for a fee. From there, travelers continue to customs control and to the airport exit.

Additional information on tourist entry into Israel can found here https://www.gov.il/en/service/group_entry_to_israel

Entry to Israel from some countries of origin may require a visa. Please consult with the Israeli embassy at your location for specific details: <https://embassies.gov.il/Pages/IsraeliMissionsAroundTheWorld.aspx>.

Healthcare

Israel has an excellent medical facilities and tourists may access all emergency departments and first-aid centers. Health facilities are marked by a red Star of David on a white background.

Most hotels can arrange for on-call doctors if necessary.

Medical insurance is a must, as healthcare services can be expensive.

In case of a medical emergency, dial 101.

Food and drink

Tap water is safe to drink throughout Israel. Bottled water is readily available.

Milk is pasteurized and dairy products are safe for consumption, as are meat, fish and local produce. It is advised to rinse fruit and vegetables before consumption (to remove any pesticides).

Currency

The currency is New Israeli Shekel.

Hotels, car rental agencies and tour companies often quote their prices in US dollars.

All major credit cards are accepted (Diners is somewhat limited).

Currency Exchange

Major currencies can be exchanged for Shekels at the airport, banks, post offices, hotels or licensed change booths.

It is easiest to draw Shekels from an ATM.

GETTING AROUND

Transport	Payment	Notes
Walking		Google maps works in the City for directions.
Gett. (Taxi Service App)	Cash or Credit Card	Please check the car registration before getting in. Gett is recommended for getting around without having to communicate with the driver and the price of the fare is shown before you place the order. You can insert your credit card so there is no need for cash, which is more secure. This App can be used in English. Uber does not operate in Israel.
Taxis	Cash or Credit Card	Ask your Hotel Reception for assistance or hail a taxi in the street.
Bicycle Rental	Credit Card	https://www.touristisrael.com/tel-aviv-bike-rentals/1795/
Buses	Moovit App	https://moovit.com/tariff-reform-payment-public-transport/ Moovit an also be used to track the bus information.

DINING OUT in Tel Aviv

Grabbing a bite within walking distance of the HKU-TLV Innovation Hub:

Ibn Gvirol Street	10 Minute walk	Numerous Cafes and Restaurants
Midtown TLV	10 Minute walk	Numerous shops, Cafes and Restaurants. A fun place to go for a lunch break.
Azrieli Shopping Mall	15 Minute walk	Offers a huge shopping mall, a food court and the DNA TLV food truck court.
Sarona Market	15 Minute Walk	Offers an indoor food market, with beautifully restored Templar buildings in extensive grounds and gardens.

RESTAURANTS in Tel Aviv

Most restaurants require a reservation, please check websites for further details.

Manta Ray	<p>A true beachfront restaurant, located alongside the sands of the beach, and just steps away from the clashing waves. The kitchen is unique for its special and creative Middle Eastern cuisine. All of Manta Ray's fish and seafood are cooked with a lot of Love and passion.</p> <p>Chef Ronen Skinezis</p>
Animar	<p>Modern Mediterranean cuisine. We call it Med To Table, the best raw materials from the Mediterranean directly to your table, with a personal and authentic interpretation.</p> <p>Chef Hillel Tavakuli</p>

North Abraxas	<p>Upscale restaurant and bar by chef Eyal Shani, that offers a cool atmosphere and a changing menu of small, seasonal, and prestigious dishes. The space is vibrant yet intimate, with an open kitchen, where guests can observe the cooks preparing everything fresh and live.</p>
Milgo & Milbar	<p>Founded in 2013 in one of Tel Aviv's main corners on Rothschild Avenue, this restaurant – a popular venue in town – transformed over time into a casual fine dining experience with original dishes. Courses are based on fresh seasonal vegetables, fish, seafood and meat.</p> <p>Chef Moti Titman, one of Israel's most promising young chefs.</p>
Dallal	<p>Located in the historic neighborhood of Neve Tzedek in Tel Aviv, Israel. The word “Dallal” has several meanings in Arabic, amongst others, prosperity, indulgence and a meeting place whose focal point is good food. All of these elements reflect the essence of Dallal.</p> <p>The restaurant is situated on the corner of the main street Shabazi and the magical Kol Israel Haverim alley. Dallal offers a classic European kitchen with Mediterranean influences, using top notch seasonal ingredients.</p>
Jasmino	<p>This is a very small and crowded food stand that’s very busy all hours of the day and night. Everyone from the area knows this place very well and they come to taste their wonderful pitas. It’s a hot spot even at a crazy time like 1 am. In the relatively limited menu of Jasmino’s Pita, you can find some interesting things that can be combined together for those who want to. The 4 “regular” options such as kebab, spring chicken, heart of veal and sausage Margez are always available.</p>

Hudson Brasserie	<p>Hudson is an American-inspired meat restaurant. The menu includes a variety of cuts, burgers, sandwiches and a variety of classic dishes with a unique twist. Our raw materials are at the highest level, fresh and excellent and we try to let them “speak for themselves”. The meat processing process is unique and uncompromising, the meats receive dedicated and meticulous care at our butchers.</p>
Hotel Montefiore	<p>As much a local haunt as it is a dining destination, Hotel Montefiore serves French cuisine under a Vietnamese spell. The kitchen is based on seasonal, local ingredients that show off Israel’s range of homegrown produce and products. The wine list was curated by in house sommeliers to feature a range of varietals from both Israeli vineyards and foreign winemakers, while artisanal cocktails emphasize local herbs and bitters.</p>
Magazzino	<p>Relaxed Italian eatery whipping up small plates, pizza, meat dishes & pasta, plus wine & cocktails. Casual dining atmosphere, with great cakes and deserts.</p>
Café Italia	<p>Cafe Italia is an Italian bistro-café. The restaurant’s menu is filled with simple yet authentic Italian cuisine, impeccable and attentive service, and a comfortable atmosphere for all diners. The decor is elegant, with rich brown and chocolate colored wood, luxurious white marble, and rustic touches that bring about the spirit of Italy and the freshness of the food.</p>
Pastel	<p>Housed in the Herta and Paul Amir Building of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Pastel is applauded by culture vultures and gastronomes alike. The menu, by Michelin-starred chef Gal Ben Moshe is a true representation of modern Israeli cuisine which integrates local flavors, herbs and spices with classical French techniques.</p>

Shila

The bar with the best food, or the restaurant with the hottest bar, Shila is a gastronomic home for people that like to eat and have fun. Sharon Cohen, the Chef, manages his kitchen with humor behind the flames, seasons the food with grace, and serves with love.

SIGHTSEEING around Tel Aviv

Rothschild Boulevard	A very beautiful boulevard with lots of shady trees and Bauhaus architecture. There are many small cafes and restaurants along the boulevard. If you walk the boulevard to the north, you will reach a very nice square, where the national theater and a large concert hall are located. Right at the end of Rothschild is Milgo & Milbar Restaurant (see above).
Neve Tzedek	Walking to the south will lead you to Neve Tzedek, a beautiful neighborhood with quaint houses, some from the very first days of Tel Aviv (Dallal Restaurant – see above - is located there). Shabazi Street, which is the main street, has many cafes, boutiques and galleries.
Tel Aviv Museum of Art	Located right across from the Hub and Pastel Restaurant (see above).
Port of Tel Aviv	A very nice place to stroll as at sunset, with a beautiful decked promenade right next to the beach and has many cafes, restaurants and shops.
Carmel Market	The Carmel Market (Shuk Hacarmel) is the largest market in Tel Aviv. It's a vibrant marketplace, with nearly everything sold there – from clothing to spices, fruits and electronics. The market is home to many small eateries and bars and has a great, vibrant atmosphere at night.

<u>Old Jaffa Port</u>	The modern city of Tel Aviv had its humble beginnings in the port of Jaffa where immigrants, armies and traders docked their ships. The port is famed as one of the oldest in the world and today it is still used by local fishermen while the historic surrounding area has become a popular tourist destination.
<u>Jaffa Port Market</u>	The location of the Port Market in an ecological building that overlooks a stunning view of the Tel-Aviv Port, along with the collection of quality stores offering local and international products has made the Port a genuine gastronomic wonderland.
<u>Jaffa Flea Market</u>	Just next to Jaffa's picturesque Old City and ancient Clock Tower, is a treasure trove of antiques, handmade and secondhand items over at the Jaffa Flea Market (Shuk HaPishpushim). Literally "the Flea Market", this port-side neighborhood of alleyways, covered walkways and outdoor verandas has been operating for more than 100 years across the same sprawling streets.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - JERUSALEM

Dress code for Jerusalem

- Modest clothing is required for visiting religious sites in Jerusalem. In most places, clothes that cover you up to your elbows and below your knees should be ok. That means avoiding Bermuda pants or short skirts.
- Avoid sleeveless shirts. Some places will be ok with t-shirts but others not so much. To stay on the safe side, carry a long-sleeve shirt or even a pashmina with you. Wrap up if you're asked to. This rule holds true for men and women and for places of worship of all local religions.
- A light jacket or long-sleeve shirt is recommended for evenings spent in the desert and in Jerusalem. Also, you'll find most places in Israel are fully air-conditioned which some people find too cold. That extra layer could come in handy if you're one of those people.

Special Safety instruction for the DEAD SEA

Make sure you drink plenty of water and remain hydrated when visiting the Dead Sea!

Tips for Floating in the Dead Sea

- Do not dive or jump in!
- Do not immerse your head!
- Do not splash water on yourself or on others!
- Walk into the Dead Sea until the water is around knee-high.
- First sit down and lean back, as you would sit down in a chair.
- Float!

How to Get Up

- Float as close as you can to the shore.
- Once your hands easily touch the ground, you should be able to use them to lift yourself back up onto your feet.
- Stand up and get out of the water.

What to Avoid in the Dead Sea

- Don't get water in your eyes. The water is 10 times saltier than ocean water and it will hurt. If you get sea water into your eyes, make sure to rinse with plenty of sweet water. Alert the lifeguard or medic on site.
- Avoid splashing so that you and those around you do not get water in their eyes.

- It's not advisable to get water in your mouth.
- Do not swallow sea water! If you swallow sea water, alert the lifeguard or medic on site.
- It is best NOT to shave at least 24 hours before going into the Dead Sea. Cuts and abrasions will burn in the intensely salty water.
- It is best not to wear any jewelry while swimming in the Dead Sea.

Protect your feet.

- It is recommended to use flipflops or sea-shoes for entering the dead sea, as salt rocks can be rough and cause unnecessary scrapes.

Further information on visiting Israel can be found here:

<https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/middle-east/israel/>

<https://www.gov.il/en/departments/topics/tourist-and-travelers-info/govil-landing-page>

Have FUN!!!!

