

## Destination Guide for Israel

### Overview

#### Destination Risk Levels

- Low Medical Risk for Israel
- Medium Travel Risk for Israel
- High Travel Risk for Border region with Lebanon

#### Northern areas within four miles (7km) of border with Lebanon: HIGH

There has been a sharp reduction in aerial attacks in northern Israel since the implementation of the Hizbullah-Israel ceasefire in December 2024. Hizbullah has not launched any attacks against Israel since the ceasefire expiry date and have abstained from involvement in the Israel-Iran conflict. If attacks do occur from Hizbullah, they are likely to be isolated and cause low impact due to reduced military capabilities.

#### Standing Travel Advice

- Inbound travel to Israel can resume.
- Defer all travel to areas within four miles (7km) of the borders with Lebanon, the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories) and Syria.
- Normal travel to the rest of Israel can resume.
- Liaise with your manager to understand your organisation's evacuation plans and take all necessary personal-preparedness steps for any evacuation. These may include obtaining necessary permits, making visa arrangements and being prepared to move with little warning.
- Expect heightened security and follow all official directives following the Israel-Iran conflict. These include any local emergency and evacuation procedures, movement restrictions, curfews and road closures.
- Follow the advice and instructions from the emergency services and civil authorities. For further information on what to do during an aerial attack, download the Israel Home Front Command mobile app (access from outside Israel may not be possible).
- Shelter in place if you are in immediate proximity to ongoing air raids or if you hear an air-raid siren. Prepare to move as soon as feasible and permitted by the local authorities.
- **We do not hold information on specific flight schedules.** Reconfirm flight schedules and airspace status with the relevant airline. Residual delays may persist even after normal operations resume as airlines attempt to clear flight backlogs. In the event of any cancellations, your travel agent will be able to assist with alternative arrangements.
- Avoid all public gatherings due to a credible risk of unrest and to minimise travel disruption. Flashpoints include universities and public squares. The security forces are likely to disperse any gatherings not adhering to movement restrictions.
- Ensure you have full confidence in the security of your accommodation by selecting rooms within proximity to onsite air-raid shelters.
- There is an underlying risk of terrorism. Minimise time spent in the vicinity of likely targets, such as religious gatherings, public transport, military and government premises and personnel, and poorly secured and densely populated public areas.
- Ensure you have access to reliable back-up methods of communication, in case of disruption to internet services and other telecommunications.
- Ensure you have access to verified information provided in a timely manner to enable tactical-level decision-making.
- Understand the situation remains fluid and can escalate at short notice, requiring swift action.
- Monitor our Israel alerts for updates.

#### *Jerusalem*

- Normal travel to Jerusalem can resume.
- In-country workforce should avoid public transport. If using public transport is unavoidable, business travellers should remain alert to their surroundings. When waiting for transport, business travellers should stand behind any bollards or cement cubes present and away from individuals with overt displays of religious identity.
- Exercise caution in and around the Old City. Seek the latest security information prior to accessing the site and exercise caution when entering this area through the most high-profile access points such as Herod's, Jaffa and especially Lions and Damascus gates. We advise avoiding, wherever possible, visits to the Old City on Fridays and on religious holidays.

- Larger groups should consider using the services of a security consultant/experienced local guide for the duration of the visit.
- Exercise heightened vigilance in public areas around potential militant targets. These include religious sites, security force personnel and members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, who may be specifically targeted.
- Travel to locations in East Jerusalem outside of the Old City, Sheikh Jarrah and French Hill neighbourhoods should be kept to a minimum. The Jabel Mukaber, Silwan and Abu Tor neighbourhoods – as well as Jewish settlements and areas adjacent to Salah Ed-Din Street – should only be accessed after business travellers have ensured the situation in the area is calm.

### Israel-occupied Golan Heights

- In-country workforce should defer travel to HIGH-risk areas near the demilitarised buffer zone.
- Normal travel to the rest of the Israel-occupied Golan Heights can resume.
- Mines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) pose a risk in some rural areas. Be alert for signs indicating areas of danger.
- Follow all instructions issued by the authorities and be prepared for temporary movement restrictions.

### Active Alerts (3)

● Advisory | Category

#### Monitor developments amid implementation of Hamas-Israel ceasefire agreement (Revised)

15 October 2025 at 14:19

**Location :** Israel, Palestinian Territories

**Category :** Conflict

Monitor developments amid the implementation of a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel that came into effect at 12.00 (local time) on 10 October. Within the first phase of the ceasefire, the remaining 20 live hostages have been returned to Israel, while the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has withdrawn from pre-arranged lines in the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories). We expect regional tensions to reduce **in the coming weeks** if the agreement holds. Inbound travel to Israel and the West Bank (Palestinian Territories) can continue. Workforce should defer all travel to areas within four miles (7km) of the borders with Lebanon, Gaza and Syria.

#### Advice :

##### *Inbound business travellers*

- Inbound travel to Israel and the West Bank can continue.
- Monitor and follow all official announcements. Remain informed of the latest updates during the Israel-Iran ceasefire.

##### *In-country workforce in Israel or West Bank*

- Defer all travel to areas within four miles (7km) of the borders with Lebanon, Gaza and Syria. Normal travel to the rest of Israel can proceed.
- Defer all travel to Jenin, Tubas and Tulkarm governorates (all West Bank). Normal travel to the rest of the West Bank can resume.
- Liaise with your manager to understand your organisation's evacuation plans and take all necessary personal-preparedness steps for any evacuation. These may include obtaining necessary permits, making visa arrangements and being prepared to move with little warning.
- Expect heightened security and follow all official directives. These include any local emergency and evacuation procedures, movement restrictions, curfews and road closures.
- Follow the advice and instructions from the emergency services and civil authorities. For further information on what to do during an aerial attack, download the Israel Home Front Command mobile app (access to the app from outside Israel may not be possible).
- Shelter in place if you are in immediate proximity to ongoing air raids or if you hear an air-raid siren. Prepare to move as soon as feasible and permitted by local authorities.
- **We do not hold information on specific flight schedules.** Reconfirm flight schedules and airspace status with the relevant airline. Residual delays may persist even after normal operations resume as airlines attempt to clear flight backlogs. In the event of any cancellations, your travel agent will be able to assist with alternative arrangements.
- Avoid all public gatherings due to a credible risk of unrest and to minimise travel disruption. Flashpoints include universities and public squares. The security forces are likely to disperse any gatherings not adhering to movement restrictions.
- Ensure you have access to reliable backup methods of communication in case of disruption to telecommunication or internet services.
- Ensure you have access to verified information provided in a timely manner to enable tactical-level decision-making.

- Understand the situation remains fluid and can escalate at short notice, requiring swift action.
- Monitor our alerts for updates.

#### Gaza

- Account for evacuation orders announced by the Israeli military within areas of Gaza. These are liable to change in tandem with Israeli operations.
- Shelter in place if you are in immediate proximity to ongoing armed clashes, air raids or artillery shelling, and prepare to move as soon as feasible.
- If unable to relocate, prepare to shelter in place for extended periods of time with limited potential for support. However, remaining in areas under siege for potentially weeks or months will pose serious risks due to the increased potential of impact by military targeting, infrastructure damage, shortages of essential goods and the suspension of public services.
- Do not approach Gaza's borders with Egypt and Israel. The IDF has warned people not to approach the security perimeters to the east and south of Rafah (Gaza).
- Those seeking to cross to Egypt via the Rafah crossing should not attempt to do so until the Egyptian and Israeli authorities allow it.

● Advisory | Category

#### Modiin-Maccabim-Reut: Expect disruption, heightened security along Highway 443 following fatal shooting

15 October 2025 at 13:28

**Location :** Israel

**Category :** Police/security operation, Road disruption, Shooting

Expect disruption and heightened security measures along [Highway 443](#) near Modiin-Maccabim-Reut (Central district) **over the coming hours** following a fatal shooting. Local sources indicate two people were killed and three others injured in a shooting incident near the [Maccabim Checkpoint](#) at around 14.05 (local time) on 15 October. The suspect has reportedly been arrested. Amid investigations, the authorities have closed parts of the highway towards Jerusalem (Jerusalem district) and Tel Aviv (Tel Aviv district).

#### Advice :

- Expect heightened security measures and related disruption in the affected area over the coming hours.
- If planning to travel near the affected area, ensure routes are clear before setting out and allow additional time for journeys.
- Follow all official directives.
- Monitor our Israel alerts for updates.

● Notice | Category

#### Expect, avoid further anti-government protests over coming weeks

13 October 2025 at 12:55

**Location :** Israel

**Category :** Protest/Rally, Road disruption

Expect further anti-government protests **in the coming weeks** and avoid them as a precaution. Protests have taken place over the government's military actions in the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories), with participants also calling for the release of the remaining Israeli hostages held by Hamas since the 7 October 2023 attack. However, a ceasefire agreement and the release of all remaining hostages on 13 October (*see related alert*) may lead to a decline in anti-government protests. Demonstrations have frequently occurred in Tel Aviv and other urban centres, causing traffic disruption and occasional unrest. The police may use tear gas to disperse crowds.

#### Advice :

- Liaise with local contacts for information on any related protests in your area and avoid all associated events as a precaution. The risk of unrest increases in the evening hours.
- Expect localised traffic disruption around demonstrations. If travelling near one, ensure routes are clear prior to setting out and allow additional time for journeys.

- Expect heightened security measures near protests and follow all official directives. Leave an area at the first sign of unrest.
  - Monitor our Israel alerts for updates.
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## Destination Guide for Israel

### Before You Travel

#### Visa Requirements

#### IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

##### British

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### Australian

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### Canadian

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### USA

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

#### Visas

Nationals of countries mentioned in the chart above do not require visas for stays of up to 90 days. All other foreign nationals can check the government [website](#) to see if their nationality is eligible for visa-free travel.

Immigration officials issue restricted entry visas that permit travel either only to the Palestinian Territories or only to Israel and Jerusalem. This means that business travellers with a so-called Palestinian Territories-only visa who wish to cross into Israel after visiting the West Bank (Palestinian Territories) will be required to exit and then re-enter Israel to seek a so-called Israel-only visa. People should always remain polite and co-operative with the security forces. Arguing with officials is likely to be counter-productive.

Starting from 1 January 2025, foreign nationals from visa-exempt countries are required to obtain an ETA-IL to enter Israel. An approved ETA-IL permits stays in Israel for up to 90 days per visit. Information on the scheme and eligibility can be found on the [official website](#).

All those travelling to Israel must have a valid visa or ETA-IL approval before they start their journey. Obtaining an ETA-IL is liable to be faster and easier than obtaining a visa. Israeli citizens or holders of an Israeli identity number do not need to apply for an ETA-IL.

The ETA-IL system is currently open for application submissions as a pilot program. During the pilot phase, which will continue until January 2025, applications will be voluntary and exempt from fees. After this, a fee of 25 New Israeli Shekels (approximately \$7) will be charged.

#### Procedures

There is a two-lane custom transit system at Ben Gurion Airport and at border crossing points — the 'red' channel is for passengers with goods that need to be declared and the 'green' channel is for those who do not need to make any declarations. Security checks involve intensive questioning and at times complete baggage searches. If possible, people should carry a letter in Hebrew written by a senior member of their company management in Israel explaining that the traveller is a known and trusted member of the company. The letter should also contain a local phone number where the authorities can directly contact an Israeli national to answer any queries. People can request that the authorities not seize their mobile phone while it is unlocked. They should ask that the phone be inspected via the X-ray machine and mention that they are satisfied if it is examined in their presence. Laptops and other electronic devices can be taken for inspection and it is therefore advisable to ensure that sensitive documents be removed from computers.

People whose passports show visas for Iran and some Arab states will experience increased attention, going from additional questioning to intense scrutiny in the case of Iran, but such visa stamps will not affect entry to the country. Anecdotal evidence suggests people perceived to be of Arab or Muslim descent may be questioned for longer periods of time than other visitors. People have reported being subjected to lengthy questioning and physical searches, as well as being denied consular assistance and access to lawyers.

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## Entry/Exit Requirements

### Entry/Exit requirements

Business travellers must possess a passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended date of departure, along with an onward or return ticket and proof of sufficient funds. Security officials at Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) may inspect laptop computers and other electronic devices. They are also allowed to request access to people's email accounts and deny them entry if the individual refuses. There are no restrictions on the import and export of currency. Amounts of more than 50,000 New Israeli Shekels (NIS) (approx. \$13,142) or more when entering or exiting Israel by air and NIS12,000 (\$3,155) if entering or exiting by land are required to be declared.

People who have publicly called for boycotting Israel or any area under its control may be denied visas, residence permits or entry into the country.

An effective approach to mitigate inconvenience during check-in procedures and security screening is to arrange an escort on arrival and departure, which can be done via logistics providers at Ben Gurion Airport. This usually involves an escort from the plane to a taxi or hotel, depending on the level of service. People leaving the country are advised to arrive at the airport at least three hours before departure.

Some Arab countries, such as Lebanon or Yemen, will deny entry to people with an Israeli visa in their passport or other evidence of travel to Israel, such as stamps from Jordanian or Egyptian border posts. Israeli immigration authorities no longer stamp passports at Ben Gurion Airport. Instead, separate 'stay' and 'exit' permits are issued at arrival and departure. Overland travellers who do not wish to have an Israeli visa stamped in their passport can request the visa on a separate piece of paper, though immigration officials sometimes fail to co-operate with such requests. People who visit both Israel and Arab countries frequently may find it easier to have two passports.

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## Cultural Tips

### CULTURAL ISSUES AND ETIQUETTE

- Avoid discussing topics of politics, conflict and religion.
  - Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Jewish communities tend to be socially conservative. Some may abstain from physical contact with members of the opposite sex, including handshakes. If your counterpart appears religious it is advisable not to extend your hand for a handshake if you are unsure of their acceptance.
  - Do not photograph military or police installations or personnel. Foreign nationals who do so may have cameras confiscated and be harassed by the authorities. If in doubt, avoid photography.
  - Public transport, shopping areas, restaurants and other businesses across the country may close down for the Jewish weekly holiday of Sabbath (Shabbat), which runs from Friday afternoon to Saturday evening.
  - During Shabbat, in predominantly Orthodox areas (especially in Jerusalem), foreign nationals should avoid using any electronic device (mobile phone, computer etc) on the streets or in the presence of Jewish Orthodox people as they might react aggressively.
  - On Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Day), which falls in late April or early May, a siren is blown for two minutes for all pedestrians and vehicles to halt and observe silence in reverence to the victims of the Holocaust. A siren is also blown for two minutes on Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), which also falls in late April or early May, to commemorate soldiers killed in conflicts and victims of political violence.
  - There are no legal restrictions for LGBTQ individuals. Societal attitudes towards the LGBTQ community are highly varied; violence is rare but may be more likely in rural than in urban settings. Although coastal cities are very tolerant and there is an active and supportive LGBTQ community, especially in Tel Aviv, attitudes towards members of the LGBTQ community vary. Jerusalem and areas associated with the ultra-Orthodox community, such as Bnei Brak, are generally more culturally conservative.
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## Getting There

### METHOD OF ARRIVAL

Ben Gurion International ([TLV](#)), Central district), which serves the cities of Tel Aviv (Tel Aviv district) and Jerusalem (Jerusalem district), is the main airport. The second-busiest airport is Ramon International ([ETM](#)), near Eilat (Southern district). Due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, short-notice airport closures and flight disruption are possible.

Airlines practice variable security standards. You may wish to consult the European Commission's website for a list of [airlines](#) banned within the EU and the US Federal Aviation Administration's [website](#) for a database of aviation accidents and statistics.

#### By land

There are several road crossings with Jordan: the [Allenby Bridge](#) near Jericho (also known as the King Hussein Bridge); the [Jordan River](#) (Sheikh Hussein Bridge) crossing in the north near Beit Shean and the [Yitzhak Rabin](#) Border Terminal near Eilat. Foreign nationals should avoid the Allenby Bridge crossing at times of heightened tensions and use one of the two alternative crossings. Although road travel to and from Egypt is possible via the [Menachem Begin](#) Border Terminal near Eilat, air travel is more convenient for business travellers. These border crossings remain closed over Yom Kippur and other major Jewish holidays. Further information on land crossing points can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [website](#).

#### By sea

Haifa (Haifa district) is the major port and caters to international cruise traffic. Private yachts can use marinas in Tel Aviv and Ashdod (Southern).

### Procedures

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## Getting Around

### BY AIR

The short distances involved in travelling around Israel mean that it is generally quicker to travel by road unless visiting the Southern Negev (Eilat), when it may be faster to fly. [El Al Israel](#) Airlines is the national carrier. Eilat (ETH) and Ovda (VDA) airports in Eilat, and Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) in Tel Aviv are the country's main air hubs.

### BY ROAD

Exercise caution while driving as driving standards are poor. Those intending to self-drive must have a valid driving licence; an international driving permit is not required. Traffic drives on the right. Israeli roads and highways are generally well maintained but congested, particularly in urban areas. Road speed radars are installed on many roads and fines for speeding are high. Road signage is posted on major roads in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic and English. Use of mobile phones while driving is illegal. Wearing seat belts is compulsory for all occupants.

It is mandatory for all vehicles to drive with their headlights switched on at all times on intercity highways from 1 November until 31 March. It is also mandatory for all drivers to carry fluorescent vests with them at all times and they are required to wear these vests whenever they step out of their vehicles to make repairs or change tyres.

There have been a number of security incidents along Route 443 - known as Ma'ale Beit Horon (Bethoron Ascent) - which connects Tel Aviv and Jerusalem through the Palestinian Territories. These include stabbings, shootings, vehicle-ramming

attacks and reports of stones and Molotov cocktails being thrown at cars. Exercise caution when using this route and other routes passing through the West Bank, or use Route 1 instead.

Minefields are common in areas bordering Lebanon and Syria. Checkpoints are common for travel to the Palestinian Territories and vehicles need to comply with orders to stop. Procedures at checkpoints with the Palestinian Territories and border crossing terminals in areas near Jordan and Egypt are subject to frequent changes.

### **BY TAXI**

Taxi services are generally reliable and can be flagged down on the road or booked via telephone. All registered taxis have meters, but taxi drivers may not always use them. Make sure that the meters are on or agree to a fixed rate before entering the vehicle.

Sheruts (shared taxis) are not suitable for business travellers as they do not drop people at specific locations and do not always adhere to road safety standards. The app-based ride-hailing service Gett is a comparatively suitable option.

### **BY TRAIN**

The rail network is modern and extensive. Israel Railways operates regular services which connect major cities, including Afula, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Rail services are reliable and comfortable, though trains do not operate during Shabbat and major Jewish holidays.

Palestinian groups have in the past sabotaged railway lines, though no passenger trains have been derailed and no significant attacks on trains have been reported.

### **BY OTHER MEANS**

Buses are the most common mode of public transport in the country. Several companies offer local and long-distance services, with Egged being the largest operator. Long-distance buses operate between central bus stations in various cities. However, foreign nationals and business travellers are advised to hire a local driver and car for journeys within the country, whether within cities or for travel outside main urban centres. Moving buses have been targeted in stone-throwing or Molotov-cocktail attacks.

Most transport services stop operations from Friday afternoon to Saturday evening during the weekly Jewish holiday of Sabbath. Foreign nationals should constantly reassess transport options. Short-term business travellers and foreign nationals should avoid the use of public transport altogether during times of heightened communal tensions.

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## **Business Women**

### **BUSINESSWOMEN**

There are a few specific security concerns for businesswomen. Female travellers should dress conservatively if passing through ultra-Orthodox Jewish areas. In Tel Aviv district, the main ultra-Orthodox area is the city of Bnei Brak. In Jerusalem, these are Mea Shearim and the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Women should also dress conservatively at religious sites.

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## **Working Week**

### **WORKING WEEK**

- Working week: Sunday to Thursday.
- Banking hours (varies depending on bank): 08.30-14.00, Sunday to Thursday and 16.00-18.00 on Mondays and Thursdays; on Fridays banks are open until 12.00.
- Office hours: 08.30-18.00, Sunday to Thursday.

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## **Language & Money**

## LANGUAGE

Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages, while English and Russian are also widely spoken.

## MONEY

The official currency is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS), which can be exchanged at airports on departure but is difficult to sell outside Israel.

Credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express, are widely accepted in hotels, shops and restaurants. ATMs are widely available.

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## Tipping

### TIPPING

It is customary to tip hotel staff such as bell-boys and concierges. At restaurants, customers are expected to tip about 10%-12% if the bill does not include a service charge. Taxi drivers are usually not tipped unless they help with carrying luggage.

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## Geography & Weather

### CLIMATE

#### Climate overview

- The country's northern and coastal areas have hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters.
- The eastern and southern areas have an arid climate.
- October to early May is the rainy season, with rain peaking in the December-February period.
- Monitor the website of the [Israel Meteorological Service](#) for weather updates and warnings.

#### Flooding

- Heavy rain during the winter months (November-March) can cause flooding in some northern areas.
- Flash floods can occur in low-lying and coastal areas, particularly around the Judean Desert and Dead Sea.
- Flooding can cause road closures.

#### Earthquakes

- Israel is located in a seismically active zone.
- A majority of the earthquakes are minor and rarely cause any damage.

#### Bush and forest fires

- The country is vulnerable to bush and forest fires, some of which are started intentionally.
- Such fires usually occur between April and November, though incidents have also taken place outside of this period.
- Forest fires can affect residential areas, leading to road closures and evacuations of residents.

### GEOGRAPHY

Israel is located in the Middle East, on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bordered by Lebanon in the north, Syria in the north-east, Jordan in the east, and Egypt in the south-west across the Negev. Israel is divided into six administrative units, also called districts or mehozot. These are Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and the Northern, Central and Southern districts. Tel Aviv is Israel's internationally recognised capital and most foreign embassies are located there, though most Israeli government buildings are located in Jerusalem, which Israel views as its capital. Eilat, Haifa, Beersheba and Ashdod are other major cities.

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## International Dialing & Power

### DIALLING CODES

Country Code : 972

IDD Prefix (International Direct Dialling) : 00; 012 (Golden Lines); 013 (Barak LTD); or 014

NDD Prefix (National Direct Dialling) : 0

## COMMUNICATIONS

The telephone system in Israel is efficient. Mobile phone coverage is excellent; the main networks have roaming arrangements with providers in most other countries. The main mobile network providers are Pelephone, Cellcom, Partner, Hot Mobile, Golan Telecom and we4G. The Palestinian Jawwal and Ooreadoo can be used in Israel, while and Partner can be used in the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories). Internet access is easily available. The postal service is slow but reliable.

### Information Security

Israel has a relatively benign cybersecurity landscape as the local cyber-crime ecosystem lacks the capability to execute high-impact attacks on organisations. However, the authorities have recorded a steady increase in cyber-crimes in recent years. According to the Israel National Cyber Directorate's annual report, there was a 43% increase in cyber incident reports in 2023 as compared to 2022. Nonetheless, the overall majority are untargeted hacking incidents and fraud against private individuals. Non-native cybercriminal groups from the broader MENA region and Russia, however, have targeted Israeli organisations. Since 2012, the Butterfly hacker group undertook commercial espionage against companies in the country, while the Ukrainian-based Cobalt hacker group is believed to have targeted Israeli financial institutions. Business travellers working with local partners should exercise caution, follow standard precautions and ensure they are using up-to-date anti-virus software. Upon arrival to the country, laptops, mobile phones and data storage devices can be taken for inspection by the security forces at the airport or border crossing. It is advisable to remove all sensitive documents before travel. Members can request that the authorities do not seize their mobile phone while it is unlocked.

Surveillance and tracking activities by authorities remain a concern for pro-Palestinian activists. Although the 1979 Secret Monitoring legislation limits surveillance activities against individuals, Israeli security and law-enforcement agencies can be authorised to conduct secret monitoring on grounds of national security.

### Advice

- Minimise the number of devices you bring into the country and avoid carrying sensitive data.
- Log out of any social media accounts or potentially sensitive apps prior to your arrival in the country. Avoid posting on social media when in-country or sharing details of your location with those who are not need-to-know.
- Keep devices on your person as much as possible. If unattended, ensure devices are powered down. If using hotel safes, secure them with a secondary device.
- Ensure anti-virus software is up to date prior to travel and conduct a thorough check of all devices post-trip
- Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to protect communications and secure data. Always familiarise yourself with the legal status of any VPN or application in your destination country prior to travel.
- Use the 'forget network' setting upon your return if you connected to any public Wi-Fi networks while travelling.
- Obtain profile-specific advice taking into account your industry and position in the company.

## ELECTRICITY



## Calendar

### Holidays & Security Dates

#### 2026

**01 Jan** New Year's Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is declared for the following Monday.

**07 Jan** Orthodox Christmas Day

**21 Jan** Tu B'Shevat

The day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees.

**21 Apr - 22 Apr** Yom Ha'atzmaut Independence Day

Public holiday. Localised traffic disruption nationwide due to related events.



## Destination Guide for Israel

### Medical Overview

#### Medical Care

Excellent

#### Standard of Health Care

Israel has a high standard of medical care. International standard, tertiary-level care is available in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Most other cities have referral hospitals with all specialities available.

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### Medical Contact

Emergency Numbers, hospital and clinic contact information

#### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance : 101

Fire service : 102

Police : 100

#### Hospitals & Clinics

##### Hadassah University Medical Center, Ein Kerem

Kalman Yaakov Man Street  
97226777111  
mhazmanot@hadassah.org.il

##### Sourasky - Tel Aviv Medical Center

6 Weizman Street  
97236974444  
limorz@tasmc.health.gov.il

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### Vaccinations

Routine and additional

#### Hepatitis A

Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis A vaccination for all travellers regardless of destination, especially those who are at higher risk (see [US CDC](#)), such as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, people who use illicit drugs or those with liver disease.

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort, jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people

suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy. Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

[Watch the Hepatitis Video Podcast](#) (Vimeo)

[View Viral Hepatitis Infographic Poster](#) (PDF)

### The Disease

*Hepatitis* is a general term that means inflammation of the liver. Medications, poisons, alcohol and infections can all cause hepatitis.

Hepatitis A is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. The virus is highly contagious. People are mostly infected through eating or drinking contaminated food or water, or through direct contact with an infected person. Usually people make a full recovery, however occasionally the disease can be severe or fatal. There is an effective vaccine available.

### Transmission

The illness is transmitted via the "faecal-oral route". The virus is present in the stool of an infected person. Others are infected when they consume food / drink contaminated with the virus. This is more common in areas with poor sanitation systems and limited access to clean water.

It is also possible to get the disease via direct contact with an infected person's faecal matter, for example through incompletely washed hands, sexual contact or through shared illicit drugs.

### Symptoms

Not everyone gets symptoms. Most childhood infections will be asymptomatic or mild. Most adults will develop symptoms, and severity increases with age.

If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four or more weeks after infection and can last for weeks or months. They include any or all of the following:

- fever
- fatigue
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- nausea/vomiting
- abdominal pain/discomfort
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)
- dark urine, clay-coloured stool
- joint pain
- itching

Most people make a full recovery. About 10 to 15% of symptomatic persons with hepatitis A may experience relapse or prolonged illness up to six months. Sometimes the disease is severe and can be fatal (less than 1% of all cases), particularly in older people, and those with other underlying liver disease (such as infection with hepatitis B or C). It is thought to be due to the immune mechanisms rather than infection levels.

### Diagnosis

Blood tests are required to confirm the diagnosis.

### Treatment

There is no specific medication to treat hepatitis A. Medications to relieve symptoms should only be used under medical advice as they may contribute to damage of the liver.

### Prevention

Prevention is through **hygiene**, careful selection of **food and water**, and **vaccination**.

**Good hygiene, and choosing safe food and water** are important, especially in areas where hepatitis A is common:

- Maintain a high level of personal hygiene, including during sexual activity.
- Do not drink tap water. Choose boiled or bottled water from reputable sources, water that has been treated with chlorine or iodine, or carbonated beverages.
- Avoid ice, as it may have been made with unsafe water.
- Ask locally which restaurants and hotels serve safe food.
- Select food that has been thoroughly cooked while fresh and served very hot.
- Do not eat raw shellfish.

**Vaccination** is effective, widely available and generally recommended for any traveller who has not already had the vaccine (or the disease). Two doses, given six months apart, are required for lifelong immunity. All travellers should consider it,

particularly:

- If travelling to areas with high rates of hepatitis A.
- When living conditions are crowded or have poor sanitation.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Illicit drug users.
- People with liver disease.

**Postexposure prophylaxis:** After exposure, people who are not immune may be recommended Hepatitis A vaccination or immune globulin (antibodies) as soon as possible (within two weeks) to prevent infection.

#### **Risk to travellers**

Hepatitis A is common in areas with limited access to sanitation. People who live with an infected person, men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease are at higher risk in any area.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Hepatitis A Information](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [Factsheet about hepatitis A](#)

## **Hepatitis B**

Recommended for health care workers and anyone who may have a new sexual partner, share needles or get a tattoo or body piercing.

Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis B vaccination for all travellers and international assignees, regardless of destination.

#### **The Disease**

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth

Symptoms develop between 45 and 160 days after infection when the virus invades the liver causing fever, abdominal pain, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. There is no specific treatment and recovery usually takes about four weeks. Many individuals may have no symptoms but can still be infectious to others.

Approximately 1 in 10 of those infected do not recover fully and suffer ongoing liver damage called chronic hepatitis B - this can eventually cause liver cirrhosis and/or cancer. The very young and the elderly are more likely to develop a chronic infection.

#### **Vaccination**

In many countries, hepatitis B is included in the routine childhood immunizations and need not be repeated. For unvaccinated travelers:

##### *Routine schedule*

- Individual hepatitis B vaccination requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after 6-12 months.
- A combined vaccine for hepatitis A and B is available in many countries. It also requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after six months.

##### *Accelerated schedule*

Can be used for travelers who will depart before the first two doses of the routine schedule can be given:

- Use an *individual* hepatitis B vaccine
- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose required after 6 months

##### *Accelerated combined hepatitis A and B vaccine*

- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose of hepatitis B alone or the combined vaccine required after 12 months

[Watch the Hepatitis Video Podcast](#) (Vimeo)

[View Viral Hepatitis Infographic Poster](#) (PDF)

**The Disease**

Hepatitis B is a viral disease affecting the liver. It is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids of an infected person. It can cause a mild illness but occasionally can develop into a chronic illness.

**Transmission**

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids (e.g. semen, saliva) on broken skin. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected partner
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth
- Contact with wounds of an infected person

The virus remains viable outside the body on any surface for about seven days and can lead to infection. Blood spills including dried blood can be infectious.

**Symptoms**

Symptoms develop between 30 and 180 days after exposure to infection. Hepatitis B can either be acute (short term illness) or chronic (long term illness). Most people will not develop symptoms during the acute phase. Others experience fever, pain in muscles and joints, abdominal, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. Recovery may take several weeks.

Risk of chronic illness is related to age. Babies who get infected from their mothers or those that get infected before five years of age are very likely to develop chronic infection. Less than 5% of adults and about 90% of children may develop chronic infection. In chronic illness, virus continues to remain in the body although people do not have symptoms. Many individuals may appear healthy but can spread the infection to others. Life threatening conditions such as liver cirrhosis and/or cancer may develop.

**Diagnosis**

The disease can be confirmed by blood tests.

**Treatment**

There is no specific cure for the disease. Treatment is mainly supportive, consisting of rest, adequate nutrition and medications to reduce discomfort.

**Prevention**

Avoid direct contact with body fluids.

**Vaccine:** This can prevent the illness and its serious outcomes such as cirrhosis and cancer. In many countries, hepatitis B vaccination is included in the routine childhood immunizations.

**Risk to Travellers**

Most travellers are at low risk unless they have contact with the infected blood or body fluids.

[CDC Hepatitis B information](#)

**Measles**

- Recommended for all travellers and international assignees.
- All travellers should be up to date with their measles vaccination (schedule differs by country). Vaccination for adults is available as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), two doses given at least four weeks apart are required.

Some individuals [cannot be vaccinated](#) due to certain health conditions.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can have serious complications.

**Transmission**

Measles spreads very easily when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes, releasing droplets into the air. If a healthy person breathes in these droplets, they can get sick. The virus can stay in the air and infect people for up to 2 hours after the infected person has left. It can also land on objects and surfaces, where it can live for several hours. If you touch these surfaces and then touch your face, you can get infected.

A person with measles is infectious from four days before the appearance of the rash until four days after it has appeared. After being exposed to the virus, approximately 90% of people who are not immune will become infected.

**Symptoms**

Measles symptoms usually start 7-14 days after being exposed to the virus. Early signs include a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. Small white spots, known as Koplik's spots, may appear inside the mouth. A few days later, a red, blotchy rash starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.

Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children, adults over 20, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems. Common complications include ear infections and diarrhea. More severe complications can be pneumonia, which is a lung infection, and encephalitis, which is swelling of the brain. These severe complications can sometimes be fatal.

Pregnant women who contract measles have an increased chance of miscarriage and pre-term delivery. Their babies may also experience low birth weights and birth defects.

## Diagnosis

This illness is usually diagnosed clinically. If necessary, a lab test can confirm measles.

## Treatment

There is no particular treatment for measles. Symptoms can be managed with over-the-counter preparations, good nutrition and adequate fluid intake. Antibiotics are required if there are bacterial complications (such as pneumonia, ear infection). Sick people should be isolated from non-immune people, and should not go out in public until at least four days after their rash appears.

## Prevention

Measles can be effectively prevented by vaccination, which many countries routinely administer during childhood. The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is highly effective and safe, providing lifelong immunity for most people after two doses. Vaccination not only protects individuals but also helps prevent the spread of the virus within communities. People who are not immune and are at higher risk for complications (such as pregnant women, unvaccinated infants and people with weakened immune systems) may be given a dose of antibodies if exposed to the virus. In addition to vaccination, good hygiene practices, such as regular handwashing and avoiding close contact with infected individuals, can help reduce the risk of transmission.

## Risk to Travellers

Measles occurs throughout the world. Outbreaks are common in areas where there is low vaccination coverage. Measles is highly contagious and can spread quickly in places where people gather, such as airports and tourist destinations. Anyone who has not been immunised, or has not previously had measles, is at risk of infection.

- International SOS article on [measles, mumps and rubella vaccination](#)
- [CDC Measles Information](#)
- See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

## Polio

All travellers are recommended to be fully immunised against polio (including a booster, if available) before they arrive in the country.

All residents and visitors who have been in the country for more than 4 weeks **must receive** a dose of polio vaccine within 4 weeks to 12 months of travel. Those undertaking urgent travel, who have not received a booster in the previous four weeks to 12 months, must receive a dose of polio vaccine at least by the time of departure.

Vaccination should be recorded on the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP).

If proof of polio vaccination is lacking, you may be **restricted** from departing the country, irrespective of the means of conveyance (road, air, sea). You may be **required** to show the proof of vaccination for entry into your next destination.

*(The above-mentioned recommendations/requirements are as stated by the World Health Organization or the Ministry of Health. However national authorities may differ in how they implement these recommendations. Consult your travel health practitioner for individualised vaccination recommendation 6-8 weeks before your trip and check with the embassy or consulate of your destination if proof of vaccination is required in your itinerary.)*

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus and is spread from person to person. People can be infected with polio if they eat or drink something that has been contaminated with faeces, particularly in countries with less-developed sanitation systems. In countries with higher levels of sanitation, respiratory droplets coughed by an infected person are an important means of transmission.

Efforts are ongoing to eradicate the disease, which remains endemic (consistently present) in two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan. The circulating strains include WPV1 (wild poliovirus type 1) and cVDPV (circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus). Most infected people show no symptoms or have only mild ones, including fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. In about one in 200 cases, the virus reaches the central nervous system and causes paralysis.

Polio prevention involves selecting safe food and water, as well as vaccination. Many countries give a primary vaccination against polio during childhood. It entails several doses of oral (OPV) or injected (IPV) vaccine. Unvaccinated people, or those whose vaccination status is unknown, should receive IPV before travelling to areas where polio is a risk.

Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious viral disease of the nervous system. It can have serious complications, including paralysis and death. It mostly infects children under five years, but can affect people at any age, including adults. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues its efforts to eradicate the disease; which remains endemic (consistently present) in two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan. The circulating strains include WPV1 (wild polio virus type 1) and cVDPV (circulating vaccine-derived polio virus).

In May 2014, WHO's Emergency Committee convened under International Health Regulations (2005) [IHR (2005)] and discussed polio in terms of international spread and eradication. Over 60% polio cases recorded by late 2013 were due to international spread of the virus and adult travellers were the main carriers of the disease. It was agreed that such spread "constitutes an 'extraordinary event' and a public health risk to other States" and the disease was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Since then WHO's IHR Emergency Committee reviews the global status of polio every three months and revises its temporary recommendations on polio vaccination accordingly. (Refer to [Travel Advice - Polio Vaccination Entry and Exit Requirements for Travellers \[PDF, 162kb\]](#) and [Location Guides for country-wise vaccination recommendations](#)).

## How it spreads

Poliovirus spreads from one person to another. An infected person has the poliovirus in their throat, nose and intestines. People can contract polio if the virus enters their mouth. This happens through direct contact with an infected person (even if that person has no symptoms), or through eating or drinking contaminated food or water. (In areas of poor sanitation, polio-containing faeces can contaminate water and food supplies). Less commonly poliovirus spreads via coughs and sneezes.

## Symptoms

Most infected people do not have any symptoms. Those who do become ill have fever, fatigue, headache, flu-like symptoms, nausea and vomiting, stiffness of the neck and back and pain in the arms and legs. Recovery usually occurs within about a week. However, about one out of every 200 people develops permanent paralysis, usually involving the legs. If the muscles involved in breathing are paralysed, polio can be fatal.

Long after recovery - between 15 and 40 years later - some patients suffer post-polio syndrome. Symptoms can include fatigue after relatively little activity, muscle/joint pain, breathing difficulties, decreased tolerance for cold and muscle weakness in limbs (regardless of whether or not the limb was affected by the initial polio infection).

## Treatment

There is no cure for polio. Symptoms are managed to make patients more comfortable as they recover on their own.

## Prevention

An effective vaccine, usually given in childhood, protects against polio. There are two types of vaccine – an oral type (OPV) which contains live but weakened virus, and an inactivated injectable one (IPV). IPV is generally only used in countries where polio has been eradicated. (See FAQ's in Travel Advice article - [Polio Vaccination Entry and Exit Requirements for Travellers \(PDF, 162kb\)](#)).

Travellers should also take care to [select safe food and water](#), especially in areas where the virus is circulating. This includes choosing bottled or boiled/disinfected water instead of tap water. Avoid ice and non-pasteurized dairy products. Choose foods that are cooked thoroughly and served hot. Do not eat any raw fruit or vegetables unless you have peeled them yourself or washed them in water you know is safe. Always wash your hands with clean water (or hand sanitiser) before eating.

## About vaccine-derived polio

Oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains a weakened form of poliovirus. When someone takes this vaccine, the virus reproduces in their intestines long enough for them to build an immune response (and thus become immune to polio.) While it is in the digestive system, this poliovirus is also excreted. If sanitation is not adequate, the excreted virus can spread among the community. Usually, if this happens, the virus that was excreted dies out in the environment.

Occasionally, an excreted poliovirus can circulate for a longer time among a community - particularly if many people in the community are not already vaccinated against polio. The lower the population immunity, the longer the virus survives. As it circulates, the vaccine virus undergoes genetic changes. Very rarely, it changes into a virus that can cause paralysis. When this happens, the resultant polio virus is called circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV). It is very rare for cVDPV to occur, and it usually takes a long time (at least a year) to develop in a community. The problem is not the oral polio vaccine itself, but rather the low immunity among the population in which it is used. Stronger vaccine coverage reduces the risk of cVDPV.

## Risk for travellers

Polio has now been eradicated from most countries. However, [risk remains](#) in endemic (consistently present) countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Several countries that were previously polio-free have had the disease re-established, and outbreaks can occur whenever the disease is imported.

[US CDC Polio information](#)

[WHO polio information](#)

## Typhoid fever

Recommended for adventurous and long-term travellers, especially those who will:

- Visit friends and relatives.
- Eat from local vendors or restaurants.
- Be exposed to conditions of poor sanitation.
- Visit smaller cities or rural areas.

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria. People are infected through ingesting contaminated food or water. Choosing safe food and water and vaccination reduces the risk of developing the disease.

Symptoms usually begin one to three weeks after exposure. Although typhoid fever is often called a diarrhoeal disease, some patients do not have diarrhoea. Persistent, high fever is typical. Other early symptoms are flu-like: body aches and pains, weakness, loss of appetite and a continuous dull headache. A rash with pink spots may appear on the chest and abdomen of some patients. In severe cases, perforation of the bowel can cause severe bleeding or infection in the abdomen, which can be fatal.

Typhoid is treated with antibiotics. However there is a growing problem of antibiotic resistance. "Extensively drug-resistant" (XDR) typhoid is present in some locations and does not respond to many of the antibiotics which are usually used against typhoid, making preventive measures even more important. Vaccination is recommended for people travelling to locations where typhoid is consistently present.

## The Disease

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by *Salmonella Typhi* bacteria. It spreads either through intake of contaminated food

or water or close contact with an infected person. Raw fruit and vegetables, and shellfish are often associated with typhoid.

### Symptoms

The symptoms usually begin seven to 21 days after exposure. The typical feature of the disease is persistent high fevers. While typhoid fever is often called a diarrhoeal disease, not all patients have diarrhoea. Symptoms include high fever, body aches and pains, weakness, stomach ache, loss of appetite, cough and diarrhoea or constipation. Some people may develop a rash. If left untreated, symptoms worsen and life threatening complications may develop.

Some people can carry the bacteria without any symptoms ("carriers") and are a source of infection.

### Diagnosis

Lab tests done on blood, stool and urine samples help diagnose the illness.

### Treatment

Typhoid is treated with antibiotics. However there is a growing problem of antibiotic resistance. "Extensively drug-resistant" (XDR) typhoid is present in some locations and does not respond to many of the antibiotics which are usually used against typhoid, making preventive measures even more important.

### Prevention

Typhoid is prevented through careful selection of safe food and water and vaccination. Maintaining hygiene measures and choosing safe food and water is important because typhoid vaccines do not provide complete protection.

- Maintain a high level of personal hygiene; wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Drink only bottled or treated water or hot beverages.
- Select safe food. Meals should be thoroughly cooked and served hot. Avoid under-cooked or raw meat, fish or shellfish. Eat only fruit that you peel yourself.

Vaccination is recommended people travelling to locations where typhoid is consistently present.

#### Primary vaccination

Primary vaccination and booster doses for typhoid are the same. They can be either:

- A single injection.
- A series of three or four oral capsules taken on alternate days (differs country-to-country).

#### Booster

- After injected typhoid vaccination (Vi), a booster may be recommended at 2-3 years.
- After oral typhoid vaccination (three capsules), a booster may be recommended at 3-5 years.
- After oral typhoid vaccination (four capsules), a booster may be recommended at 3-5 years.

### Risk to Travellers

High-risk areas are those with poor hygiene and sanitation and limited access to safe water. The disease is common in destinations such as the Indian subcontinent and other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Central and South America.

[CDC Typhoid information](#)

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## Routine Vaccinations

### COVID-19

All travelers should ensure they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Recommendations vary between countries.

### Influenza

**Annual vaccination is recommended. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe disease, including::**

- Young children
- Pregnant individuals
- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying health conditions

### Measles-Mumps-Rubella

Vaccinations against measles, mumps, and rubella are routine in childhood, and are usually available as a combined vaccine "MMR".

Everyone should be immune to these diseases before travel.

There are outbreaks of measles in many locations.

If you are unsure of your immunity, consult your doctor well in advance of travel.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

## Polio

Vaccination against polio is routine in childhood in many countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to the disease before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or a *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

## Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis are routine in childhood.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to these diseases before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

## Varicella

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations are included in the routine childhood immunization schedule of some countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to varicella before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional.

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## Health Threats

Known health threats for this country

### Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease contracted when bitten or scratched by an infected (rabid) animal, often a dog. Once it enters the body, the virus travels along nerves and causes paralysis. As it reaches important organs like the spinal cord and the brain, it causes coma and death.

In countries where rabies is present in animals or bats, ALL animal / bat bites, scratches and licks to broken skin must be treated seriously. Rabies vaccination is very effective in preventing rabies, even after a bite/scratch by a rabid animal.

#### Rabies vaccination

Pre-exposure vaccination is often recommended for expatriates and long-term visitors to destinations where rabies is present. It's especially recommended if quality medical care may not be available after being bitten or scratched by an animal. Pre-exposure treatment can be especially useful for children, since they may not tell their parents that they have been bitten/scratched.

Pre-exposure vaccination makes it easier to treat a bite or scratch. That's important because some types of rabies treatment can be in short supply in many countries, even in cities.

#### If bitten, scratched or licked (on broken skin) by an animal:

- Immediately cleanse the wound with soap and water and a povidone-iodine solution if available.
- Seek medical advice from a qualified source or your assistance company.
- Notify local health authorities immediately. You may need *post-exposure vaccination*, even if you have had pre-exposure vaccination. (THIS CAN BE LIFE SAVING.)

### Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by a parasite that can infect humans, dogs, rodents and other small animals. It is transmitted by sandflies that bite mainly between dusk and dawn and can occur in both rural and urban environments. Sandflies breed quickly in unsanitary conditions, and the spread of the disease is exacerbated by war, chronic food shortages and urbanisation activities like deforestation and building of dams and irrigation systems, changes in temperature, heavy rainfall and population movement. The disease can manifest in one of the three forms, cutaneous (is the most common form and causes skin ulcers), mucocutaneous (is a rare form which affects the inner parts of the nose and mouth) or visceral (which is the more severe form and can lead to death). There is no vaccine or drug to prevent leishmaniasis.

#### Prevention

The only way to avoid leishmaniasis is to prevent sandfly bites.

- Minimise outdoor activities from dusk to dawn- this is when sand flies are most active.
- Use protective clothing and insect repellent.
- Consider using an insecticide-treated bed net with *fine mesh* if there are sandflies in your living quarters. The standard bed nets used to prevent malaria are not effective, as sandflies are about one-third the size of mosquitoes and can fly through

the malaria nets.

- Note that sandflies are small and do not make noise while flying. This makes it difficult to determine whether they are in your environment. Their bites cause mild symptoms and might not be noticed.

### West Nile Virus

Primarily a disease of birds, West Nile virus (WNV) can infect humans. The most common route for a human infection is via mosquitoes. The mosquito feeds on an infected bird or other animal, then bites a human and introduces the virus into their body.

Most people who get WNV develop no symptoms. Of the 20 percent who do get ill, most develop mild symptoms 3-14 days after being bitten: fever, head and body ache, nausea and vomiting. Sometimes the lymph nodes swell or a rash appears on the trunk.

In fewer than one percent of all human cases, the person develops a serious, possibly fatal, infection. Symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, tremors and paralysis. The brain and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord may get inflamed, which can cause coma and death. Patients who recover from a serious WNV infection may suffer permanent brain damage.

There is no specific treatment for the disease, or vaccine to protect against it. To avoid infection, prevent mosquito bites in areas where the virus circulates. Wear long sleeves and long pants, and use insect repellents.

### Polio

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus and is spread from person to person. People can be infected with polio if they eat or drink something that has been contaminated with faeces, particularly in countries with less-developed sanitation systems. In countries with higher levels of sanitation, respiratory droplets coughed by an infected person are an important means of transmission.

Efforts are ongoing to eradicate the disease, which remains endemic (consistently present) in two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan. The circulating strains include WPV1 (wild poliovirus type 1) and cVDPV (circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus). Most infected people show no symptoms or have only mild ones, including fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. In about one in 200 cases, the virus reaches the central nervous system and causes paralysis.

Polio prevention involves selecting safe food and water, as well as vaccination. Many countries give a primary vaccination against polio during childhood. It entails several doses of oral (OPV) or injected (IPV) vaccine. Unvaccinated people, or those whose vaccination status is unknown, should receive IPV before travelling to areas where polio is a risk.

### Travellers diarrhoea

Travellers' diarrhoea is the most common travel-related illness. It usually occurs within the first week away from home. It is spread through contaminated food and water.

Prevention is through choosing safe food and water, and paying attention to hygiene. Select food that is thoroughly cooked while fresh and served hot. Avoid undercooked or raw meat, fish or shellfish. Avoid salad and raw vegetables unless you can wash them with clean (treated) water and you peel them yourself.

Unless you are certain that the tap water is drinkable - choose bottled water and beverages, avoid ice.

### Typhoid fever

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria. People are infected through ingesting contaminated food or water. Choosing safe food and water and vaccination reduces the risk of developing the disease.

Symptoms usually begin one to three weeks after exposure. Although typhoid fever is often called a diarrhoeal disease, some patients do not have diarrhoea. Persistent, high fever is typical. Other early symptoms are flu-like: body aches and pains, weakness, loss of appetite and a continuous dull headache. A rash with pink spots may appear on the chest and abdomen of some patients. In severe cases, perforation of the bowel can cause severe bleeding or infection in the abdomen, which can be fatal.

Typhoid is treated with antibiotics. However there is a growing problem of antibiotic resistance. "Extensively drug-resistant" (XDR) typhoid is present in some locations and does not respond to many of the antibiotics which are usually used against typhoid, making preventive measures even more important. Vaccination is recommended for people travelling to locations where typhoid is consistently present.

### HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STIs

HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are spread by contact with bodily fluids (especially blood and semen).

- unprotected sex,
- needle sharing during IV drug use, or
- unsafe blood or medical/dental instruments.

Genital herpes (HSV), genital warts (HPV), gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and most other sexually transmitted diseases are spread by genital contact.

Prevention:

- In many countries, hepatitis B is now a routine childhood immunisation and need not be repeated. All non-immune travellers should consider vaccination.
- Always use new condoms (preferably brought from your home country).
- IV drug users should not share needles.
- Avoid having tattoos or piercings done.
- In healthcare settings, make sure that needles and syringes are sterile and not shared between patients.
- Call International SOS or your corporate medical department if you are hospitalised.
- Be aware of your risk when assisting anyone with an injury. Protect yourself from contact with bodily fluids.
- Seek medical attention within 24 hours if you accidentally come into contact with someone else's bodily fluids.

## Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort, jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy.

Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

## Hepatitis B

### The Disease

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth

Symptoms develop between 45 and 160 days after infection when the virus invades the liver causing fever, abdominal pain, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. There is no specific treatment and recovery usually takes about four weeks. Many individuals may have no symptoms but can still be infectious to others.

Approximately 1 in 10 of those infected do not recover fully and suffer ongoing liver damage called chronic hepatitis B - this can eventually cause liver cirrhosis and/or cancer. The very young and the elderly are more likely to develop a chronic infection.

### Vaccination

In many countries, hepatitis B is included in the routine childhood immunizations and need not be repeated. For unvaccinated travelers:

#### *Routine schedule*

- Individual hepatitis B vaccination requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after 6-12 months.
- A combined vaccine for hepatitis A and B is available in many countries. It also requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after six months.

#### *Accelerated schedule*

Can be used for travelers who will depart before the first two doses of the routine schedule can be given:

- Use an *individual* hepatitis B vaccine
- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose required after 6 months

#### *Accelerated combined hepatitis A and B vaccine*

- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose of hepatitis B alone or the combined vaccine required after 12 months

## Measles

## Food & Water

Generally safe

### Food Risk

Food in hotels and restaurants is generally safe. Avoid street vendors.

### Water and Beverages

Tap water in most cities and towns is treated and can be directly consumed.

- In many locations water is fluoridated.
  - Some rural and remote areas may be served by untreated water sources such as wells or streams. Extra water safety precautions should be taken in these areas.
  - When drinking bottled water or carbonated beverages, ensure that the seal is intact.
  - If bottled water is not available, water that you treat yourself should be safe for consumption. (If you plan to visit remote locations, consider carrying supplies of bottled water/purification mechanisms).
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## Rabies

Avoid domestic and wild animals and bats

### Rabies

Rabies exists in wild and domestic animals.

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## Destination Guide for Israel

### Security Overview

#### Personal Security

#### STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Inbound travel to Israel can resume.
- Defer all travel to areas within four miles (7km) of the borders with Lebanon, the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories) and Syria.
- Normal travel to the rest of Israel can resume.
- Liaise with your manager to understand your organisation's evacuation plans and take all necessary personal-preparedness steps for any evacuation. These may include obtaining necessary permits, making visa arrangements and being prepared to move with little warning.
- Expect heightened security and follow all official directives following the Israel-Iran conflict. These include any local emergency and evacuation procedures, movement restrictions, curfews and road closures.
- Follow the advice and instructions from the emergency services and civil authorities. For further information on what to do during an aerial attack, download the Israel Home Front Command mobile app (access from outside Israel may not be possible).
- Shelter in place if you are in immediate proximity to ongoing air raids or if you hear an air-raid siren. Prepare to move as soon as feasible and permitted by the local authorities.
- **We do not hold information on specific flight schedules.** Reconfirm flight schedules and airspace status with the relevant airline. Residual delays may persist even after normal operations resume as airlines attempt to clear flight backlogs. In the event of any cancellations, your travel agent will be able to assist with alternative arrangements.
- Avoid all public gatherings due to a credible risk of unrest and to minimise travel disruption. Flashpoints include universities and public squares. The security forces are likely to disperse any gatherings not adhering to movement restrictions.
- Ensure you have full confidence in the security of your accommodation by selecting rooms within proximity to onsite air-raid shelters.
- There is an underlying risk of terrorism. Minimise time spent in the vicinity of likely targets, such as religious gatherings, public transport, military and government premises and personnel, and poorly secured and densely populated public areas.
- Ensure you have access to reliable back-up methods of communication, in case of disruption to internet services and other telecommunications.
- Ensure you have access to verified information provided in a timely manner to enable tactical-level decision-making.
- Understand the situation remains fluid and can escalate at short notice, requiring swift action.
- Monitor our Israel alerts for updates.

#### *Jerusalem*

- Normal travel to Jerusalem can resume.
- In-country workforce should avoid public transport. If using public transport is unavoidable, business travellers should remain alert to their surroundings. When waiting for transport, business travellers should stand behind any bollards or cement cubes present and away from individuals with overt displays of religious identity.
- Exercise caution in and around the Old City. Seek the latest security information prior to accessing the site and exercise caution when entering this area through the most high-profile access points such as Herod's, Jaffa and especially Lions and Damascus gates. We advise avoiding, wherever possible, visits to the Old City on Fridays and on religious holidays.
- Larger groups should consider using the services of a security consultant/experienced local guide for the duration of the visit.
- Exercise heightened vigilance in public areas around potential militant targets. These include religious sites, security force personnel and members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, who may be specifically targeted.
- Travel to locations in East Jerusalem outside of the Old City, Sheikh Jarrah and French Hill neighbourhoods should be kept to a minimum. The Jabel Mukaber, Silwan and Abu Tor neighbourhoods – as well as Jewish settlements and areas adjacent to Salah Ed-Din Street – should only be accessed after business travellers have ensured the situation in the area is calm.

#### *Israel-occupied Golan Heights*

- In-country workforce should defer travel to HIGH-risk areas near the demilitarised buffer zone.
- Normal travel to the rest of the Israel-occupied Golan Heights can resume.
- Mines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) pose a risk in some rural areas. Be alert for signs indicating areas of danger.
- Follow all instructions issued by the authorities and be prepared for temporary movement restrictions.

## Crime

Limited to hot spots

### CRIME

Israel's most densely populated areas are prone to opportunistic crime. However, levels of street crime are low, with pickpocketing and theft posing the main concerns for business travellers, notably in touristy areas. Burglaries in affluent areas and car thefts have also been reported. International assignees should ensure that residential complexes have an effective security mechanism. While not specifically targeted, foreign nationals who do not take standard security measures are vulnerable to criminal activity.

Israel is presently experiencing a major crime wave of violent incidents in its minority Arab community. These groups frequently engage in fights over territory and for control of criminal activities. Assassination attempts – which often take the form of small-scale car bombings and other low-level explosions – are a favoured tactic in such disputes. These primarily target rival gangs and other criminal elements. Foreign nationals are unlikely to be directly impacted, though any such incident will pose incidental risks to bystanders.

## Terrorism

Moderate indirect risk to foreign nationals

### TERRORISM

Israel experiences regular terror attacks, which target both the Israeli security forces and civilians. Despite this, the threat to business travellers from terrorism is primarily incidental and the risk posed is mitigated by the level of preparedness of the security forces and low level of small arms proliferation among the general public. Increases in attacks are often heralded by an increase in Israeli-Palestinian tensions over the status of the al-Aqsa mosque on Temple Mount (al-Haram al-Sharif) in Jerusalem, among other grievances.

Such incidents usually take the form of stabbings, car-ramming attacks and shootings, although bomb attacks – both caused by suicide bombers and remote explosive devices – are possible.

Attempted stabbings constitute one of the most common forms of terror attack in Israel, with recent incidents occurring across multiple districts. Victims have included civilians off and on-duty Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officers at public transport hubs and malls. Assailants were often neutralised at the scene. These incidents underscore the ongoing threat of low-tech, opportunistic violence in crowded public areas.

Car ramming attacks are also common and are often combined with other means of attack such as stabbings or shootings. Recent incidents have involved attackers targeting civilians and security officers at bus stations, road junctions and in urban areas. In several cases, perpetrators attempted follow-up attacks with knives or improvised firearms after ramming, though some weapons malfunctioned. The security forces often responded swiftly, apprehending the attackers.

Shooting attacks are less common but are likely to affect bystanders at random. On 16 February, a gunman opened fire on bystanders at a bus station at the Re'em Junction near Kiryat Malachi (Southern), killing two people and injuring four others. Bombing attacks are increasingly uncommon, though can pose a substantial incidental risk nonetheless. On 19 July 2024, one person was killed and eight were injured following a fatal explosion at the intersection of Ben Yehuda and Shalom Aleichem streets, near the US Embassy Office in Tel Aviv.

## Social Unrest

### SOCIAL UNREST

Since the events of 7 October 2023, demonstrations related to the release of hostages, demands for the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the service of ultra-Orthodox Jews in the military have been staged regularly. These have resulted in the frequent disruption of road traffic in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Protests over socio-economic or political issues, such as corruption scandals involving political figures, are frequent in major cities. They are usually well policed and peaceful, though demonstrations over sensitive issues, such as perceived discrimination by Arabs or Ethiopian Jews, for example, can descend into unrest and result in localised travel disruption.

Gatherings have been staged outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem and at Tel Aviv's Rabin and Habima squares. Communal disturbances are common in Jerusalem, where relations between Jewish and Arab communities can be subject to tension. Communal unrest tends to spike in the wake of any move by the Israeli government perceived as discriminating against Arab communities in particular. The announcement of new settlement construction in Jerusalem, evictions of Palestinian residents, or access restrictions to holy sites can trigger protests and related unrest. Protests over a reported increase in crime-related killings in Arab-Israeli communities occurred in June 2023. Communal violence and protests can pose

indirect risks to bystanders, though any incidents are usually quickly contained and rarely affect the main urban commercial centres.

## Conflict

### CONFLICT

#### Israel-Iran conflict

The Israel-Iran conflict escalated on 13 June 2025, when Israel launched an attack on Iranian military and nuclear sites. Senior Iranian military leaders and nuclear scientists were assassinated in the first phase of this offensive. This followed stalled US-Iran talks over the Iranian nuclear programme.

Iran launched retaliatory airstrikes, inflicting casualties and damage in Central, Haifa, Northern, Southern and Tel Aviv districts. These hostilities prompted the closure of airspace and Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV, Central), as well as the implementation of a state of emergency (SoE). Following a ceasefire on 25 June, Israeli airspace was reopened and the SoE was lifted. However, the situation remains volatile and a risk of fresh hostilities persists.

#### Hamas in the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories)

Hamas carried out a complex attack in Israel on 7 October 2023. The assault involved high-volume rocket barrages fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel and kidnappings of and attacks on civilians in Southern district. More than 1,400 people, including foreign nationals, were killed and more than 3,300 others injured in the attacks, which targeted a music festival and multiple residential communities. Hundreds of people were also taken hostage.

This attack caused an escalation of conflict between Hamas and Israel, with Israel responding with consistent aerial strikes and ground assaults. A first ceasefire was reached on 19 January 2025 between Hamas and Israel, though on 18 March the Israeli army resumed strikes and expanded ground operations. Over 55,000 people have been killed since the conflict began. Hamas' capabilities have since been significantly diminished and extensive destruction has been caused across Gaza. While some rocket attacks persist into Israel, they occur in isolated incidents.

Prior to the conflict, Hamas and other Gaza based militant groups carried out operations against Israel in response to political tensions between Israel and Palestinians. Most notably, there was an outbreak of conflict between militant groups and Israel resulting in over 200 deaths in Gaza in 2021.

#### Hizbullah in Lebanon

Conflict intensified between Hizbullah in Lebanon and Israel in September 2024. Hizbullah launched attacks on Israel claiming their operations were carried out in response to Israeli operations in Gaza. Israel retaliated with large scale attacks in September 2024 on areas in Lebanon including Beirut. On 27 September, an Israeli airstrike on Beirut killed Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who had led the group since 1992. An Israeli ground incursion into areas within southern Lebanon was announced on 1 October 2024. A ceasefire was reached on 27 November 2024 with agreements for Israel and Hizbullah to move out from positions in southern Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces moving in. Hizbullah's capabilities remain significantly diminished due to Israeli operations against their resources. Nonetheless, Israel maintains a presence in southern Lebanon.

#### Houthis in Yemen

The Houthis in Yemen have continued to carry out missile and drone strikes against targets in Israel following the outbreak of conflict on 7 October 2023. Israel has responded to Houthi aerial strikes by carrying out attacks on Houthi positions in Yemen.

#### Other regional actors

Pro-Iranian militant groups in Syria and Iraq have also launched rocket and drone strikes against Israel since the outbreak of conflict between Hamas and Israel. Israel regularly carries out aerial strikes targeting pro-Iranian militant positions in Syria.

#### East Jerusalem

The status of the Old City in East Jerusalem continues to be a controversial issue, with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claiming sovereignty over it. The disputed Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount complex witnesses periodic localised unrest, usually involving Palestinians and the Israeli security forces. Such unrest typically occurs after Friday prayers or during times of heightened communal or political tensions. The disputed status of Temple Mount, recurrent IDF interventions in Arab areas as part of anti-terrorist operations and the construction of homes for Jewish settlers are all expected to continue fuelling sporadic unrest in East Jerusalem.

#### Golan Heights

Since 1967, Israel has occupied the Golan Heights, having annexed the territory in the Six Day War. An agreement of disengagement was signed between Israel and Syria in 1974, ending the Yom Kippur War that began in 1973. The agreement established an area of separation between Israel and Syria and put in place the UN Disengagement Observer Force to supervise the maintenance of the ceasefire.

Israel took control of the Golan Heights demilitarised buffer zone with Syria during Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's transition to governance in Syria in December 2024. Israel has resourced further deployment of equipment and personnel into the area since they assumed control.

#### Arab, Muslim state relations

Israel has diplomatic relations with several regional neighbours, including Jordan and Egypt. In December 2020 under the US president Donald Trump's administration, Morocco signed a normalisation agreement with Israel. Bahrain, the United Arab

Emirates, and Sudan also signed normalisation agreements following this. Saudi Arabia and Israel normalisation discussions were paused amid the Hamas-Israel conflict.