



Country Intelligence Brief

Israel

Overall Risk Rating

4.00 - High

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Ratings Overview

Security

4.00 - High

Civil Unrest
Crime
Kidnapping
Terrorism
Armed Conflict
Security Services

3.50
2.50
3.00
4.25
4.00
2.00

Infrastructure

2.00 - Low

Ground Transport
Cyber
Maritime
Air Travel
Utilities

2.50
3.50
3.00
3.00
2.00

Environment

2.00 - Low

Man-Made Hazards
Seismic
Storm Systems
Natural Hazards

2.50
2.00
2.25
2.00

Health and Medical

2.75 - Moderate

Disease and Health Threats
Medical Facilities and Services
Mental Health
Food and Water Safety

2.25
2.75
2.75
1.25

Political

2.00 - Low

Corruption
Government Stability
Rule of Law
Sanctions

2.50
2.25
2.00
2.00

LGBTQ Security

2.00 - Low

LGBTQ Legal Environment
LGBTQ Enforcement
LGBTQ Social Environment

2.00
2.00
3.00

FactBox

Location	Israel
Government Type	Parliamentary Democracy.
Population	9,974,400 (2024)
Languages	Official Language: Hebrew, Arabic. Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: English. Languages that should only be used discreetly: None.
International Country Code	+972
Time Zones	UTC+2
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink

Overview

4.00 - High

Israel faces persistent risks from Iranian and Iran-aligned missile and drone attacks, continued military operations in Gaza and the West Bank, and localized militant violence. These threats could disrupt aviation, transportation, and tourism, while political tensions ahead of the 2026 legislative elections increase the potential for protests and operational disruption.

- **Trend:** Security risks will likely remain high over the next three months, with intermittent cross-border attacks, military operations, and domestic unrest continuing. Renewed large-scale regional war remains less likely than localized or short escalation.

Current situation

The security landscape in Israel is shaped by the risk of armed conflict, notably due to threats from Iran and Iran-aligned actors and continued instability across multiple fronts. The latest escalation began on Feb. 28, 2026, when the US and Israel launched Operation Epic Fury targeting Iranian military, nuclear, and strategic infrastructure. The operation triggered coordinated retaliation from Iran and its regional proxy network, including Lebanese Hizballah (LH), Iraqi Shi'a militias, and Yemen-based Al Houthis.

Missile, rocket, and drone attacks have continued intermittently despite ceasefire discussions between Washington and Tehran and between Israel and Lebanon. Israel's layered air-defense systems remain highly capable, but projectiles and interception debris continue to cause casualties, infrastructure damage, and transport disruption.

Israel also remains engaged in sustained military operations against Palestinian militant groups in Gaza and the West Bank following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Despite ceasefire arrangements reached in late 2025, military operations continue in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and militant groups retain the capability to conduct shootings, stabbing attacks, and other forms of asymmetric attacks. Tensions regularly intensify during religious holidays, military operations, politically sensitive anniversaries, or periods of heightened regional confrontation.

Domestically, political divisions remain significant, particularly regarding national security policy, governance, and judicial reform. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government continues facing criticism over corruption allegations, judicial reforms, and management of the regional conflict environment. Israel is expected to hold legislative on Oct. 27, 2026, and political positioning ahead of the vote will likely intensify debate over security policy, military operations, and relations with the US.

Elevated risk areas

Northern Israel and communities near the Lebanese border face elevated risks from LH rocket, drone, and missile attacks. Southern Israel and areas surrounding Gaza remain exposed to rocket fire, militant infiltration, and disruption linked to Israeli military operations. Jerusalem and the West Bank face heightened risks of shootings, stabbings, clashes, and unrest, particularly during religious holidays, military operations, and politically sensitive anniversaries.

Outlook

Israel's operating environment will likely remain dominated by the risk of renewed confrontation with Iran and its regional proxies, continued instability in Gaza and the West Bank, and elevated domestic political polarization. Although large-scale regional war is not currently assessed as the most likely near-term outcome, the risk of miscalculation, localized escalation, or attacks targeting critical infrastructure and transportation networks will remain high. Israel is also likely to continue investing heavily in missile defense, civil preparedness, cyber capabilities, and regional deterrence as part of its long-term security posture.

Triggers:

- Renewed Israeli or US strikes on Iranian nuclear, military, or energy infrastructure.
- Sustained missile or drone attacks by Iran, LH, or other aligned groups.

- Major Israeli operations in Gaza, Lebanon, or the West Bank.
- High-casualty attacks on civilians or critical transportation and energy infrastructure.
- Coalition instability or widespread election or judicial reform-related unrest.

Security

4.00 - High

Israel's security environment will likely remain highly volatile through 2026 due to ongoing conflict with Iran and its regional proxies, continued fighting in Gaza, and persistent militant threats in the West Bank and along the Lebanese border. Although Israel maintains robust military and intelligence capabilities, the risk of multi-front escalation, missile attacks, terrorism, and civil unrest remains elevated.

Current Situation:

Israel's security environment has become increasingly unstable due to the expansion of direct confrontation with Iran and continued multi-front regional tensions. On Feb. 28, 2026, the US and Israel launched Operation Epic Fury targeting Iranian military, nuclear, and strategic infrastructure, triggering retaliatory missile, drone, and proxy attacks against Israeli territory. Iran-aligned groups, including Lebanese Hizballah (LH), Iraqi militias, and Yemen-based Al Houthis, continue posing a significant threat despite ongoing ceasefire discussions between Washington and Tehran. Alongside military operations, Israel and Iran continue conducting cyber operations targeting infrastructure, communications, and strategic systems.

Fighting with Palestinian militant groups also remains active despite the October 2025 Israel-Hamas ceasefire. Hamas and other armed groups continue launching isolated attacks, including rocket fire, shootings, and vehicle ramming attacks. Israeli security forces maintain extensive counterterrorism operations, raids, checkpoints, and aerial surveillance across Palestinian territories. Military operations in Gaza, extending Israel's control over the territory, continue. The risk of lone-actor attacks involving knives, firearms, or vehicle-ramming tactics remains elevated, particularly during religious holidays, military operations, or politically sensitive anniversaries.

Tensions along Israel's northern border have intensified further in recent weeks following renewed clashes between Israeli forces and Lebanese Hizballah (LH). Despite the November 2024 and April 2026 ceasefire, LH continues launching rockets, drones, and anti-tank projectiles toward northern Israel, while Israel has expanded airstrikes and ground operations targeting LH infrastructure, commanders, and weapons depots in southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs. Recent cross-border exchanges and Israeli strikes deeper into Lebanese territory have increased concerns over a broader escalation scenario, particularly as Iran-linked regional proxy activity continues affecting Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

Domestically, security concerns also include periodic unrest, particularly in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, rising settler-related violence in the West Bank, and petty crime targeting tourists and pilgrims. Political divisions surrounding the ongoing conflicts and upcoming legislative elections before October 2026 may further increase tensions and complicate security decision-making.

Looking ahead, Israel will likely continue facing persistent multi-front security threats driven by Iran, regional proxy groups, and broader regional instability. Although large-scale regional war is not currently assessed as the most likely outcome, the risk of miscalculation, localized escalation, and attacks targeting civilians or critical infrastructure will remain high.

Triggers:

- Renewed Israeli or US strikes targeting Iranian infrastructure
- Missile, drone, or rocket attacks by LH, Hamas, or other proxy groups
- Escalation of military operations in Gaza, Lebanon, or the West Bank
- Major terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians or security forces

- Breakdown of ceasefire arrangements or indirect US-Iran negotiations
- Increased unrest linked to ongoing conflicts, elections, or judicial reform debates

Civil Unrest

 3.50

Civil unrest remains frequent and can be highly disruptive in Israel, particularly in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and parts of East Jerusalem. Demonstrations linked to regional conflicts, judicial reform, military service exemptions, and broader political grievances will likely continue through 2026, increasing the risk of transportation disruptions, clashes with security forces, and localized violence.

Current Situation:

Israel continues experiencing regular demonstrations linked to political divisions, governance issues, socioeconomic concerns, and the ongoing regional conflict environment. Over the past six months, protests have focused heavily on the government's handling of the war in Gaza, ongoing military operations in Palestinian Territories, judicial reform, and criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government. Large demonstrations continue occurring in central Tel Aviv, particularly around Rabin Square, Hostages Square, Habima Square, Dizengoff Square, and the Ayalon Highway, where protesters have repeatedly blocked major transportation routes. In Jerusalem, demonstrations regularly take place near the Knesset, government ministries, and the Prime Minister's Residence.

Tensions also remain elevated in Jerusalem's Old City and East Jerusalem neighborhoods, particularly around the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount compound and other sensitive religious sites. Clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians periodically occur following security operations, religious holidays, or developments linked to Gaza and the West Bank. Areas including Damascus Gate, Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, Issawiya, Shu'afat, and Salah Ed-Din Street remain particularly sensitive during periods of heightened tension. Jewish ultra-Orthodox communities, including Me'ah She'arim and Bnei Barak, have also experienced increasingly violent protests related to military conscription policies following the 2025 Supreme Court ruling ending draft exemptions for parts of the Haredi population.

Although demonstrations are generally not directed toward foreign nationals, unrest can escalate rapidly and cause significant disruptions, including road closures, transportation delays, heavy police deployments, and occasional violent confrontations. The broader regional security environment, including conflict with Iran and ongoing operations in Gaza and Lebanon, continues increasing the likelihood of politically charged demonstrations and spontaneous unrest.

Looking ahead, the protest environment will likely remain highly dynamic through the 2026 legislative election period and amid continued regional tensions. Demonstrations could intensify following major military incidents, judicial reform debates, or politically sensitive religious events. Travelers and organizations should expect short-notice disruptions, heightened police activity, and rapidly changing security conditions in central Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and East Jerusalem.

Triggers:

- Escalation of military operations in Gaza, Lebanon, or the West Bank
- Developments involving military operations or ceasefire agreements
- Religious holidays or tensions at the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount compound
- Protests linked to Haredi military conscription policies
- Key political developments ahead of the 2026 legislative elections

Crime

 2.50

Crime poses a moderate threat to travelers in Israel, primarily through opportunistic theft and property crime in tourist, leisure, and urban areas. While violent crime affecting foreign visitors remains uncommon, organized criminal activity continues to generate localized security incidents, including shootings and explosive attacks.

Current Situation

Petty crime remains the most common security concern for travelers in Israel. Opportunistic theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching, and theft from unattended vehicles, affects crowded tourist sites, public transportation hubs, markets, beaches, and religious destinations. Criminals often operate in groups and target distracted visitors, particularly tourists and pilgrims. Aggressive solicitation and harassment by some vendors also continue to generate low-level security concerns in heavily visited areas.

Property crime remains prevalent in leisure destinations and residential neighborhoods. Vehicle break-ins continue to occur at beaches, national parks, and other recreational areas, including locations around the Dead Sea and Caesarea National Park. Residential burglaries remain concentrated in affluent neighborhoods and are occasionally reported while occupants are present. However, most property crimes do not involve violence.

Organized criminal networks remain active across Israel, particularly in narcotics trafficking and other illicit enterprises. Rivalries between criminal groups continue to drive periodic shootings, targeted killings, and explosive attacks, primarily in urban areas with established organized crime presence. Recent incidents, particularly in Ashkelon, Netanya, Ashdod, Kiryat Shmona, Petah Tikva, and parts of the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, underscore the persistence of these networks despite ongoing law enforcement efforts. Although such violence rarely targets foreigners, bystanders face a limited but credible risk of incidental exposure in affected areas.

Looking ahead, authorities are likely to maintain sustained pressure on organized criminal groups through targeted operations and arrests. However, entrenched criminal rivalries will likely continue to generate isolated violent incidents. Travelers are expected to remain at low direct risk from organized crime, though localized security disruptions may occur with little warning. Opportunistic theft is likely to remain the most consistent crime threat, particularly during peak tourism periods and major public events when crowded conditions create favorable opportunities for offenders.

Triggers

- Increased tourist arrivals, religious holidays, and major public events that create crowded conditions favorable for theft and fraud.
- Shootings, vehicle-borne explosive attacks, or targeted killings linked to criminal disputes that may disrupt surrounding areas and transportation routes.
- Criminal activity near tourist attractions, beaches, transportation hubs, and national parks that increases risks of theft and property crime.

Kidnapping

● 3.00

The kidnapping threat in Israel remains moderate, driven primarily by the broader regional security environment following the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks. While the risk to most foreign travelers remains low, militant groups continue to view abductions as a strategic tool, particularly in border areas adjacent to Gaza and Lebanon. Criminally motivated kidnappings and human trafficking remain limited but persistent concerns in specific locations and are unlikely to directly affect short-term foreign visitors.

Current Situation

The October 2023 Hamas-led attack, which resulted in the abduction of 251 Israeli and foreign nationals, fundamentally reshaped Israel's threat environment and reinforced the strategic value that militant groups attach to hostage-taking. The attack continues to influence military planning, border security measures, and national threat perceptions.

The highest kidnapping risk remains concentrated near the Gaza Strip and along the Israel-Lebanon border. Militant groups operating in Gaza and Lebanon have historically sought to capture Israeli military personnel and civilians to secure political concessions, prisoner exchanges, or strategic leverage. Although enhanced Israeli security measures have reduced opportunities for successful cross-border abductions, any escalation in hostilities could create conditions conducive to renewed kidnapping attempts. Security personnel remain the most likely targets, though civilians in border communities could face elevated exposure during periods of intense conflict.

Along the Israel-Egypt border, criminal networks linked to trafficking and smuggling operations in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula continue to pose a niche but credible kidnapping threat. These networks have historically targeted vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers transiting the region, using abduction, extortion, and human trafficking to generate revenue. While Israeli border security has significantly reduced irregular cross-border movement in recent years, trafficking networks remain active and could exploit any deterioration in border controls or regional instability.

Criminal kidnapping-for-ransom incidents remain relatively uncommon but continue to occur in major urban centers, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Such cases typically involve Israeli nationals with perceived financial means and are often linked to organized criminal groups. Foreign travelers are unlikely to be deliberately targeted by these networks, and the overall risk of criminal kidnapping affecting short-term visitors remains low.

Looking ahead, the kidnapping threat will remain closely tied to developments in the conflict with Hamas, tensions along the Lebanese border, and broader regional dynamics involving Iran-backed militant groups. Any expansion of military operations, cross-border attacks, or deterioration in border security conditions would likely increase the risk of attempted abductions.

Triggers

- Militant attempts to capture Israeli military personnel or civilians for leverage in hostage negotiations or prisoner exchanges.
- Security incidents that weaken border controls or create opportunities for cross-border infiltration.
- Deterioration of security conditions along the Israel-Egypt border that facilitates trafficking and smuggling operations.

Terrorism

● 4.25

The terrorism threat in Israel remains high due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, persistent militant activity, and heightened regional tensions involving Iran and its proxies. While most attacks continue to involve low-complexity tactics such as stabbings, shootings, and vehicle-ramming incidents, the threat environment remains dynamic and capable of producing both opportunistic lone-actor attacks and more coordinated militant operations. Foreign travelers are unlikely to be deliberately targeted but face a credible risk of incidental exposure, particularly in crowded public areas and locations associated with political or religious significance.

Current Situation

The security environment in Israel remains shaped by the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack and subsequent regional instability. Israeli security forces continue to launch intensive counterterrorism operations targeting Palestinian militant networks in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. These operations have disrupted numerous attack plots but have also contributed to sustained tensions that continue to motivate retaliatory violence by militant groups and radicalized individuals.

Recent terrorist incidents have predominantly involved low-complexity, high-impact tactics, including stabbings, shootings, and vehicle-ramming attacks. Such attacks require limited planning and resources, making them difficult for security services to detect and prevent. Lone actors and small cells continue to represent the most persistent threat, particularly in urban areas where attackers can exploit crowded environments and symbolic locations to maximize impact.

Recent incidents have occurred in and around Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Petah Tikva, and transportation corridors connecting major urban centers. Attacks are most commonly directed against Israeli security personnel, civilians, and locations perceived as symbolically linked to the Israeli state. However, foreign nationals remain vulnerable to incidental exposure due to the indiscriminate nature of many attack methods and the frequent targeting of public spaces.

Looking ahead, the terrorism threat is likely to remain elevated through the coming months. Ongoing military operations, tensions surrounding Jerusalem's religious sites, developments in Gaza, and broader regional confrontations involving Iran and allied militant groups are likely to sustain a heightened threat environment. Periodic spikes in violence remain likely during religious holidays, major political developments, military escalations, or incidents perceived as affecting Palestinian interests. Although Israeli security services maintain robust counterterrorism capabilities, the risk of isolated attacks and short-notice security incidents will remain significant.

Triggers

- Escalation of military operations in Gaza or the West Bank.
- High-profile Israeli military operations, arrests, or targeted killings involving militant leaders.
- Civilian casualties resulting from security operations or militant attacks that fuel retaliatory violence.
- Calls for violence by Hamas, PIJ, or other militant organizations.
- Religious holidays, anniversaries of significant conflict-related events, and politically sensitive commemorations.

Armed Conflict

● 4.00

The most immediate threat to Israel continues to stem from the risk of renewed large-scale, long-range attacks by Iran and Iranian proxies against major population and infrastructure centers.

Current Situation

Israel's security environment continues to be shaped by ongoing regional tensions following the Israel-Hamas conflict and direct confrontations between Israel and Iran. Although the intensity of hostilities has fluctuated, the underlying drivers of conflict remain unresolved. Military activity continues across multiple theaters, including Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and the Red Sea region, while tensions between Israel and Iran remain elevated.

Iran continues to represent the most significant conventional military threat to Israel. Despite sustained military pressure on Iranian military infrastructure, missile forces, and proxy networks, Tehran retains the capability to conduct long-range missile and drone attacks against Israeli territory. Major urban centers, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa, remain within range of Iranian strike capabilities. While Israel's multilayered air defense systems intercept the vast majority of incoming projectiles, successful strikes and falling debris continue to pose risks to civilian populations, infrastructure, and transportation networks.

The threat from Iran-backed non-state actors remains significant despite recent setbacks to several groups. Yemen's Al-Houthis retain the capability to launch long-range drones and ballistic missiles toward Israel and have demonstrated a willingness to target Israeli territory in support of regional objectives. Although attack frequency has declined at times due to ceasefire arrangements and shifting regional dynamics, the group's capabilities remain largely intact.

Gaza-based militant organizations remain significantly weakened by sustained Israeli military operations but retain the capability to conduct rocket, mortar, drone, and other asymmetric attacks against Israel. Although the frequency and scale of attacks have declined compared to earlier phases of the conflict, periodic projectile launches toward southern Israel remain likely, particularly during periods of heightened tension

or military activity. Communities near the Gaza border continue to face the highest level of exposure, though longer-range projectiles and associated air defense activity can periodically disrupt operations and daily life in central Israel.

Along the northern border, the ceasefire framework between Israel and Lebanese Hizballah (LH) remains fragile. While large-scale hostilities have not resumed, both sides continue military activities that carry escalation risks. Israeli strikes targeting militant infrastructure in Lebanon and Syria, combined with LH's remaining missile and rocket capabilities, create ongoing potential for miscalculation. Any large-scale retaliatory attack or mass rocket barrage would likely trigger a rapid deterioration of the security environment and could result in a renewed cross-border conflict.

Tensions in Syria also remain elevated. Israel continues to conduct operations aimed at preventing the re-establishment of Iranian and proxy military infrastructure near its borders. The fragmented security landscape in Syria, combined with the presence of multiple armed actors, increases the risk of localized confrontations and unintended escalation affecting the Golan Heights region.

Looking ahead, the armed conflict threat is likely to remain high through the coming months. The most plausible scenario remains continued low- to medium-intensity conflict across multiple fronts rather than a sustained regional war. However, the risk of rapid escalation remains significant. Military strikes, cross-border attacks, failures of diplomatic initiatives, or miscalculation by state or non-state actors could quickly trigger broader hostilities. Organizations operating in Israel should anticipate periodic security alerts, localized disruptions, temporary transportation restrictions, and short-notice interruptions to business operations. Critical infrastructure, aviation, maritime facilities, and major urban centers will likely remain priority targets in any future escalation.

Triggers

- Direct military confrontation between Israel and Iran, including missile, drone, cyber, or hybrid attacks.
- Large-scale rocket, missile, or drone attacks targeting Israeli population centers or critical infrastructure.
- Escalation of Israeli military activity in Gaza, Lebanon, or Syria.
- Increased attacks by Iran-backed groups, including LH, Iraqi militias, or Yemen's Al-Houthis.

Security Services

 2.00

Israeli security services maintain excellent operational capabilities and are among the most experienced and responsive in the region. Robust intelligence gathering, extensive security infrastructure, and rapid emergency response capabilities contribute to a generally effective security environment. Travelers and organizations can expect a rapid and coordinated response to most security incidents, although heightened threat conditions may occasionally result in increased security measures, movement restrictions, and localized disruptions.

Current Situation

Israel maintains a highly capable and well-resourced security apparatus comprising the Israel Police, Border Police, Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and other specialized security bodies. Security services remain heavily engaged in counterterrorism, border security, and critical infrastructure protection operations amid ongoing regional tensions and elevated threat levels.

The Israel Police and Border Police are the security forces most likely to interact with foreign travelers and expatriate personnel. Police presence remains particularly visible at transportation hubs, tourist attractions, commercial centers, religious sites, and areas assessed as having elevated security risks. Security personnel routinely conduct inspections, identity checks, and vehicle screenings, particularly during periods of heightened threat. While these measures contribute to a strong security environment, they can also result in delays, access restrictions, and road closures.

Israeli security services continue to demonstrate strong capabilities in intelligence collection, threat detection, emergency response, and incident management. Security agencies regularly disrupt attack plots and maintain extensive surveillance and protective measures around sensitive locations. Emergency services are generally able to respond rapidly to criminal incidents, terrorist attacks, and armed conflict-related emergencies, particularly in major urban areas.

Looking ahead, Israeli security services are likely to maintain a high operational presence as regional tensions persist. Travelers and organizations should expect continued visible security deployments and periodic increases in security measures in response to evolving threat conditions.

Triggers

- Escalation of hostilities involving Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, or other regional actors.
- Religious holidays, politically sensitive anniversaries, and major public gatherings.
- Major political demonstrations, civil unrest, or high-profile court and government decisions.
- Significant cross-border security incidents or military operations.
- Visits by high-profile foreign dignitaries or major international events requiring enhanced security measures.

Infrastructure

2.00 - Low

Israel's infrastructure remains highly developed, modern, and resilient, supporting reliable transportation, utilities, and communications nationwide. However, ongoing regional tensions have increased the risk of temporary disruptions affecting aviation, transportation networks, critical infrastructure, and digital services. While large-scale infrastructure failures remain unlikely, organizations should anticipate localized disruptions linked to armed conflict, cyber threats, and emergency security measures.

Current Situation

Israel maintains one of the region's most advanced infrastructure networks, supported by significant investment in transportation, energy, water management, telecommunications, and security systems. Over the past few months, infrastructure performance has remained generally reliable despite a challenging security environment characterized by regional conflict, missile threats, and elevated cyber activity.

The aviation sector remains highly developed and resilient. Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) continues to operate as the country's primary international gateway, supported by robust aviation security and air traffic management systems. However, the operating environment remains sensitive to regional security developments. Missile launches, drone incursions, military operations, and temporary airspace restrictions have periodically disrupted flight schedules and routing decisions. While prolonged airport closures remain unlikely under current conditions, short-notice delays, diversions, and cancellations remain plausible during periods of heightened tension.

Israel's road network remains extensive and well maintained, providing efficient connections between major population centers and commercial hubs. Traffic congestion continues to represent the most significant day-to-day transportation challenge, particularly in and around Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, and major commuter corridors. Security incidents, military activity, demonstrations, and emergency response measures can also result in temporary road closures and localized travel disruptions.

Public utilities, including electricity, water, natural gas, and telecommunications services, remain reliable across most of the country. Israel's infrastructure operators maintain strong contingency planning and recovery capabilities, contributing to a high degree of operational resilience. Nevertheless, critical infrastructure remains exposed to risks associated with armed conflict, including missile and drone attacks, as well as cyber operations targeting government agencies, transportation systems, energy assets, and communications networks.

Cyber threats have become an increasingly important component of Israel's infrastructure risk environment. State-sponsored actors, hacktivist groups, and cybercriminal organizations continue to target Israeli public and private sector networks, particularly during periods of regional escalation. Government institutions, defense-related industries, transportation operators, utilities, and technology firms remain priority targets. Although most cyber incidents have limited operational impact due to Israel's advanced cybersecurity capabilities, disruption, data theft, and supply-chain compromise remain credible risks for organizations operating in the country.

Looking ahead, infrastructure resilience is likely to remain strong despite continued regional instability. The most probable disruptions will stem from temporary security measures, cyber incidents, airspace restrictions, and localized impacts from missile or drone attacks rather than systemic infrastructure failures. Organizations should maintain business continuity plans that account for short-notice transportation disruptions, communications interruptions, cyber incidents, and temporary restrictions affecting the movement of personnel and goods.

Triggers

- Missile, rocket, or drone attacks targeting airports, transportation hubs, energy facilities, or urban centers.
- Temporary airspace closures or flight restrictions resulting from military operations or security incidents.
- Major security incidents requiring road closures, movement restrictions, or emergency response measures.
- Attacks targeting energy, water, telecommunications, or other strategic infrastructure assets.
- Significant cyberattacks targeting government networks, critical infrastructure operators, telecommunications providers, or transportation systems.

Ground Transport

 2.50

Ground transportation infrastructure in Israel is modern, extensive, and generally reliable. However, traffic congestion, road-traffic accidents, security-related movement restrictions, and conflict-driven disruptions remain the principal risks affecting overland travel. Travelers should anticipate occasional delays linked to security operations, demonstrations, checkpoint procedures, and heightened threat conditions, particularly near border areas and when traveling to or from the West Bank.

Traffic congestion remains the most significant day-to-day transportation challenge. Congestion is particularly severe in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, Jerusalem, Haifa, and major commuter corridors during peak travel periods, weekends, religious holidays, and national holidays. Delays can be exacerbated by roadworks, accidents, security incidents, or emergency response activities.

Security considerations can periodically affect ground transportation operations. Israeli authorities routinely implement road closures, checkpoints, and movement restrictions in response to security incidents, military operations, demonstrations, or elevated threat reporting. Such measures can cause significant localized disruptions, particularly near Jerusalem, border regions, and areas adjacent to the West Bank.

Travel between Israel and the West Bank remains subject to security controls. Checkpoint procedures, identity verification, and vehicle inspections can result in lengthy delays, particularly during periods of heightened tensions, religious holidays, security operations, or civil unrest. Travelers may face additional scrutiny depending on travel history, documentation, nationality, or other security screening factors. Processing times can vary considerably and often change with little notice in response to the prevailing security environment.

Local Buses

 Unrated

Israel's public bus network is extensive, reliable, and widely used, providing comprehensive connectivity between major cities and urban areas.

Public transportation services are subject to routine security measures, including visible security personnel, baggage screening, surveillance systems, and inspections at major terminals and transportation hubs. These measures contribute to a generally secure operating environment but can occasionally result in delays, particularly during periods of heightened threat reporting or major public events.

Security concerns remain a key consideration for bus travelers. Public transportation systems continue to hold symbolic and operational significance for militant groups seeking high-visibility targets. Although large-scale mass-casualty attacks against buses have become less common due to extensive security measures, recent incidents demonstrate that the threat persists. The discovery and detonation of multiple improvised explosive devices on buses in the Bat Yam and Holon areas in February 2025 highlighted the continued interest of attackers in targeting public transportation infrastructure and underscored the risk posed by low-complexity attacks.

Travel involving routes near the West Bank may experience additional delays due to checkpoint procedures, roadblocks, and security operations. Screening measures can become more extensive during periods of heightened tensions, military operations, or increased threat reporting. Processing times vary significantly depending on prevailing security conditions.

Petty crime remains a moderate concern on crowded buses and at major transportation hubs. Pickpocketing, theft of unattended belongings, and opportunistic property crime are most likely to occur during peak travel periods, particularly in large urban centers and major transit terminals.

Mass Transit

● Unrated

Urban rail infrastructure in Israel is modern, well maintained, and forms an increasingly important component of public transportation networks. Mass transit services have continued to operate reliably despite ongoing security challenges and periodic disruptions associated with regional tensions.

The Jerusalem Light Rail remains particularly sensitive to fluctuations in the security environment. As the network connects predominantly Jewish and Palestinian neighborhoods and passes through areas of political, religious, and symbolic significance, it frequently becomes a focal point during periods of heightened tension. Incidents involving vandalism, stone-throwing, harassment of passengers, and disruptions to service have historically occurred during protests, security operations, and periods of unrest in East Jerusalem.

Operational disruptions are most commonly associated with security incidents, demonstrations, police operations, or civil unrest occurring near rail corridors and stations. Such events can result in temporary station closures, service suspensions, rerouting, or delays, often with limited advance notice. However, most disruptions are localized and short-lived, allowing services to resume quickly once security conditions stabilize.

Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis and app-based ride services are widely available throughout Israel and generally provide a safe, reliable, and efficient means of transportation.

The most common traveler concern involves overcharging, fare disputes, or attempts to negotiate inflated prices, particularly at airports, transportation hubs, and tourist areas. Personal security risks associated with taxi travel remain low. Violent crime involving passengers is uncommon, and taxis are generally considered a safe means of transportation. However, travelers should remain attentive to personal belongings, particularly when traveling with luggage or during periods of heavy passenger demand.

Operational disruptions can occur during periods of heightened security, demonstrations, military activity, or major public events. Road closures, security cordons, and increased congestion may affect travel times and route availability, particularly in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and areas near major transportation hubs. During periods of armed conflict escalation, transportation services may experience temporary reductions in availability due to security concerns or movement restrictions.

Train Travel

● Unrated

Israel's rail network is modern, reliable, and generally secure, providing an efficient means of travel between major population centers.

Rail safety standards are generally high, and serious accidents involving passenger services remain rare. Infrastructure is well maintained, and operators benefit from robust safety procedures and monitoring systems. As a result, rail travel continues to represent one of the safest and most efficient forms of domestic transportation.

Security measures remain highly visible throughout the rail network. Major stations are protected by security personnel, surveillance systems, baggage screening procedures, and controlled access points. These measures contribute to a strong security environment and have helped mitigate threats targeting transportation infrastructure. Nevertheless, rail stations and passenger services remain potential targets for terrorist activity due to their symbolic value, passenger density, and economic importance.

Crime levels on trains are generally low. However, petty theft, including pickpocketing and theft of unattended belongings, remains a moderate risk at major stations, particularly during peak travel periods and in crowded transit areas. Travelers are unlikely to encounter serious criminal activity while using rail services.

The principal operational risks stem from the broader security environment. During periods of heightened tensions, missile attacks, drone incursions, security incidents, or military operations can result in temporary service suspensions, station closures, and transportation delays. Rail corridors in southern Israel remain particularly vulnerable to disruption during escalations involving Gaza, while broader regional conflicts can affect transportation operations nationwide through security measures and emergency response requirements.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Driving in Israel is generally safe and supported by a modern, well-maintained road network, but road-traffic accidents remain one of the main non-security risks to travelers. The primary challenges are aggressive driving behavior, congestion, vehicle break-ins, security-related road closures, and localized access restrictions during religious observances or periods of unrest.

Vehicle crime remains a secondary but persistent concern. Thieves may target parked vehicles, especially in tourist areas, beaches, national parks, parking lots, and urban entertainment districts. Travelers should expect the highest risk where valuables are left visible or vehicles are parked in isolated areas. Most incidents involve theft from unattended vehicles rather than violent confrontation.

Security-related disruptions can affect road travel with limited notice. Authorities may close roads, establish checkpoints, or restrict access in response to terrorist attacks, military activity, demonstrations, rocket or missile alerts, or visits by high-profile officials. These measures are most likely to affect Jerusalem, areas near the West Bank, communities near the Gaza and Lebanon borders, and major transportation corridors during periods of heightened tension.

Localized road closures may also occur during Shabbat and Jewish holidays in ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods, particularly in parts of Jerusalem and other religious communities.

Cyber

● 3.50

Geostrategic Concerns

Israel presents a high level of cyber risk, reflecting its position as a leading Middle East cyber power and a primary target in Iran-linked regional competition. Israel faces sustained cyber espionage from state-linked actors, especially against government, defense, diplomacy, technology, media, academic, and civil society targets connected to national security or regional policy.

Within the broader Middle East, Israel's cyber risk rises during escalation involving Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or regional partners with security ties to Israel. Hostile actors use cyber operations for espionage, disruption, data leaks, and influence activity in support of political and security goals without openly escalating into direct military conflict with Israel. Spillover can affect multinational firms, defense suppliers, telecoms, energy, healthcare, and cloud service providers.

Domestic resilience is high in regulated sectors, led by the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), which in 2025 issued a strategy calling for a wider, more integrated national response. Israel also has a mature governance regime with effective enforcement capability; Privacy Protection Law Amendment No. 13 took effect in 2025, further tightening privacy enforcement and aligning the regime more closely with EU standards.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime is high-volume and primarily financially motivated, led by phishing, credential theft, account takeover, business email compromise, ransomware, and data extortion pressure. Israel's wealthy, highly-connected economy makes individuals, startups, cloud-heavy firms, healthcare providers, law firms, and small suppliers attractive targets, even when campaigns are not Israel-specific.

Conflict adds a political layer to ordinary cybercrime. Criminal, hacktivist, and state-supported activity can overlap, resulting in producing data leaks, intimidation, false claims of infrastructure compromise, and disruptive attacks designed as much for messaging as for financial gain.

Law enforcement and response capacity are strong by regional standards, supported by the Israel Police National Cyber Crime Unit, the State Attorney's Office Cybercrime Department, the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), and the national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). Israel's membership in the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime facilitates cross-border cooperation and evidence-sharing, which is important because many financially motivated attacks involve foreign infrastructure or overseas actors. However, investigations remain hampered by underreporting, attribution challenges, encrypted communications, and high caseloads. Smaller firms, civil society organizations, and local service providers remain less protected than defense, finance, and national infrastructure.

Maritime

● 3.00

Recent developments

Since the outbreak of hostilities between Israel, the US, and Iran on Feb. 28, 2026, Israel's maritime environment has become more exposed, though the main threat has so far been to port-linked and energy infrastructure rather than a sustained pattern of ship strikes off Israel itself. Iranian missiles have hit Haifa's refinery and energy infrastructure near Ashdod, highlighting the vulnerability of major maritime-industrial nodes tied to imports, refining, and cargo handling, even as Israel's main ports have remained open. The assets most likely to be targeted are major port and refinery complexes - especially around Haifa and Ashdod - as well as offshore energy infrastructure and other facilities seen as supporting Israel's military or economic resilience. The ships most at risk are Israeli-owned, Israeli-managed, Israeli-flagged, or otherwise clearly linked to Israel, particularly if the war expands to draw in the Houthis and increase the threat to Israel-linked shipping around the Bab el-Mandeb, Red Sea, and approaches to Eilat.

Port overview

Israel has three major seaports: Haifa, Ashdod, and Eilat. Haifa is the country's leading cargo port and remains comparatively efficient, while competition from newer privately operated terminals has improved capacity nationally. Ashdod is strategically important but more prone to

delay, with documented congestion, long dwell times, and slower service under pressure; security checks and manpower constraints can further extend waiting times. Overall, Israeli ports are generally secure but conflict-vulnerable; efficiency is mixed rather than uniformly poor; and governance is generally capable, though bureaucracy and customs-related controls can slow cargo flows. Corruption and criminal facilitation are not the dominant national maritime problem, but a major Ashdod customs investigation showed that contraband smuggling, bribery, and fraud can penetrate port-adjacent processes. Cargo theft and opportunistic crime exist, but they are secondary concerns compared with conflict disruption and customs-linked smuggling.

Ferries

Ferry transport is not operationally significant in Israel. Passenger sea movement is limited and is centered mainly on Haifa's passenger/cruise terminal rather than a broad domestic or international ferry network. Any ad hoc passenger sailings would face the same security screening, conflict exposure, and possible operational disruption affecting other port activity.

Maritime threats

Conflict is the primary maritime threat. Ports and ships face exposure to missile, rocket, and UAV attack, as well as collateral damage from broader military escalation. Haifa is most exposed to spillover from Lebanon, Ashdod and Ashkelon to conflict linked to Gaza, and Eilat to threats emanating from the Red Sea. Beyond the port perimeter, Israeli-linked shipping can face elevated risk in Red Sea transit and on approaches to the Bab al-Mandab, making route disruption one of the most significant operational consequences.

Electronic interference is a significant secondary threat. GPS/GNSS disruption has been observed in regional conflict zones and can degrade position reporting, routing confidence, and collision avoidance. This risk compounds the normal pressures of dense commercial traffic approaching Haifa and Ashdod. Vessels engaged in illicit activity may also operate with degraded or absent AIS, further complicating traffic awareness.

Smuggling and customs fraud are the main criminal maritime risks. The clearest concern is concealment of contraband in commercial cargo streams, facilitated by bribery or corruption in customs-related processes, rather than piracy or organized violent cargo hijacking at sea. This risk is most credibly associated with Ashdod.

Air Travel

● 3.00

Airlines could temporarily suspend flights to and from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) on short notice in response to conflict-related developments.

Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) is located 14 km (9 miles) from Tel Aviv city center and is approximately 50 minutes by car from Jerusalem. The airport serves as a hub for El Al, Israir Airlines, and Arkia Israeli Airlines. El Al is Israel's national airline and has a reputation for extremely stringent security. Long security delays are common for travelers entering or departing Israel with electronic equipment, including laptops and cameras.

Travelers that Israeli authorities suspect are of Arab or Muslim origin may face intensive questioning and may be denied entry. People born in the West Bank or Gaza, or with grandparents that were born in the West Bank or Gaza, may be denied entry or required to enter and exit the country using a Palestinian Authority (PA) passport. Travelers with the stamps of any Arab country other than Jordan or Egypt in their passport should expect comprehensive and time-intensive questioning upon arrival.

Small buses and taxis run from the airport to virtually any destination in Israel, and they are generally considered to be safe and efficient. Rental cars are widely available.

Utilities

● 2.00

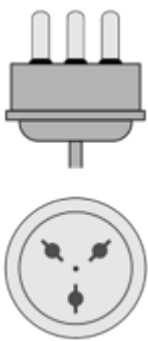
Israel's utilities and telecommunications infrastructure is highly developed, reliable, and resilient, supporting stable electricity, water, gas, mobile communications, and internet services nationwide. While widespread service disruptions remain unlikely, utilities and communications networks face increasing exposure to cyber threats, conflict-related disruptions, and localized infrastructure incidents during periods of regional escalation.

Electricity

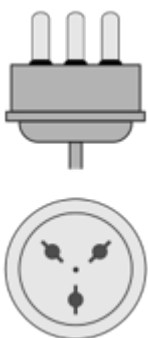
● Unrated

Electricity in Israel is supplied at 230 V, 50 Hz. Israel uses Type H plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Israel maintains a highly developed and reliable telecommunications environment with widespread access to high-speed internet and mobile communications. Connectivity disruptions are uncommon, but organizations should account for cyber threats, potential government security measures, and conflict-related disruptions that could affect communications infrastructure during periods of heightened regional tensions.

Users should also be aware that communications and online activity may be subject to lawful monitoring and data collection by Israeli authorities in accordance with national security and law enforcement requirements. Businesses handling sensitive information should maintain appropriate cybersecurity and data protection measures when operating in the country.

Environment

2.00 - Low

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines are present in selected parts of the country, including the border areas with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, military training zones, and areas surrounding active or former military installations. Minefields are generally well marked. Earthquakes are typically minor in strength. There are sand and dust storms during drier months in the spring and early summer.

Man-Made Hazards

 2.50

UXO and landmines are present in some areas, including border areas with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, military training zones, and areas surrounding active or former military installations. Minefields and contaminated areas are generally well marked.

Seismic

 2.00

Israel is located in an active seismic zone. Most quakes are minor in strength, although strong quakes are possible, particularly in the north of the country and along the Jordan Valley. Urban centers in seismically exposed areas include Safed and Jerusalem.

Storm Systems

 2.25

During spring and early summer, hot and dry air masses—commonly referred to as Sharav or Hamsin events—can produce rapid temperature increases (often by more than 10°C, or 50 F, within hours), very low humidity, and high concentrations of airborne dust and sand. These conditions are most pronounced in southern and inland regions, including the Negev and around Eilat.

Natural Hazards

 2.00

Israel's Mediterranean climate enjoys long, warm, dry summers (i.e., April-October) and generally mild winters (i.e., November-March). Weather can be drier and cooler in hilly regions, such as Jerusalem and Safed. Rainfall is relatively heavy in the north and center of the country, and nearly negligible from the southern Negev to Eilat. Due to the arid nature of the region and the soil's inability to absorb precipitation, downpours can trigger flooding and flash flooding in coastal and riverine areas.

Air Quality

 Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas, especially in Ashkelon, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Modi'in, and Haifa. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress.

Health and Medical

 2.75 - Moderate

Medical facilities in Israel are of good quality and modern medical care and medicines are available. However, due to current security events in Israel; healthcare services have been compromised. Some hospitals in more rural areas fall below Western standards. Pharmacies are well supplied and prevalent in major city centers. They may be more difficult to find in rural areas. Tap water is safe to drink.

Disease and Health Threats

 2.25

Major Health Threats

- **Avian Influenza H5N1:** Transmitted through direct contact with poultry, birds, and bird droppings. Symptoms of human H5N1 are usually severe, including high fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The risk of human infection from avian influenza H5N1 is generally low, but it is greater for individuals with frequent, close contact with wild birds and/or live or recently dead poultry.
- **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during daytime hours. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash. People usually develop symptoms three to seven days after being bitten. Most people recover within a week, but joint pain can sometimes persist for months.
- **Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF):** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick or through exposure to contaminated blood or tissue from infected animals or humans. Prevention of tick bites is essential. Symptoms appear one to nine days after exposure and include fever, neck pain, eyes sensitive to light, severe headache, nausea, confused or aggressive behavior, abdominal pain, and bleeding into the skin, mouth, and internal organs. There is no vaccination to prevent CCHF infection.
- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Israel.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids, and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Israel.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of *Leishmania* infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years.
- **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS):** Believed to be transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Susceptibility appears to be highly variable individually. Camels may also be a source of infection in humans. Symptoms of MERS most commonly include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Most cases have been linked to countries near or in the Arabian Peninsula. There is no cure or vaccine available for MERS.
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- **Rift Valley Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of a mosquito, contact with infected animals, or ingestion of contaminated livestock products, primarily unpasteurized milk. Most cases are asymptomatic or mild, causing influenza-like illness two to six days after exposure. However, a small percentage of people develop severe disease, including hemorrhagic fever, encephalitis, ocular diseases, coma, seizures, and death.

- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. Intermediate risk in Israel.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Low risk in Israel.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters may be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **West Nile Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly between dusk and dawn. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of West Nile virus include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. Most people experience no symptoms.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Israel. There is no risk of yellow fever.

HIV Testing

HIV testing may be required for tourist, work, and/or residence permits. Contact the local embassy for more information.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Israel

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting

prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. Israel has notably reported rabies in domestic animals. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.

- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, especially those staying with friends or relatives in endemic areas or visiting smaller cities or rural areas. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Booster vaccination is required every two or five years depending on the formulation. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

 2.75

Modern medical care and medicines are available in Israel, especially in Jerusalem. Some hospitals in more rural areas fall below western standards. Ambulance services are widely available. Medical and hospital services are expensive, and travelers are required to have health insurance. Supplemental insurance covering medical evacuation in the event of unforeseen medical complications is an option. Due to current security events in Israel; healthcare services have been compromised.

Medications and Pharmacy

 Unrated

Pharmacies across Israel are readily available. Supply of most essential medicines needed by travelers is variable. Prior to travelling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of Israel in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

Mental Health

 2.75

Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

 1.25

Drinking water is safe in Israel. In rural areas, use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

 2.00 - Low

Israel remains a stable democracy with strong institutions and a resilient political system. However, deep political polarization, ongoing debates over governance and judicial authority, and divisions stemming from the conflict with Hamas continue to generate frequent protest activity and political volatility. While a breakdown of institutional stability remains unlikely, demonstrations, political disputes, and security-related developments will likely continue to shape the operating environment over the coming months.

Current Situation

Israel's political system remains functional and institutionally robust despite a prolonged period of political polarization. Over the past 3-6 months, political discourse has continued to be dominated by issues related to national security, the conflict in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran, civil-military relations, judicial reform, and the future governance of Palestinian territories. These issues continue to generate significant divisions within Israeli society and across the political spectrum.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government remains under sustained political pressure from both coalition and opposition groups. Public debate continues regarding the government's management of the conflict, the fate of hostages held by militant groups, military strategy, and broader questions surrounding national security policy. Political disagreements have contributed to a highly charged domestic environment, although government institutions continue to function effectively. Legislative elections should be held before the end of October 2026.

Large-scale demonstrations remain a recurring feature of the political landscape. Protest activity is most common in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other major urban centers, where demonstrators regularly mobilize around issues including government policy, judicial reform, military operations, conscriptions exemptions for the Haredi community, and broader governance concerns. While the vast majority of demonstrations remain peaceful, some events have resulted in road closures, transportation disruptions, localized confrontations with police, and short-notice operational impacts.

Governance and regulatory frameworks remain generally predictable and supportive of business activity. Public institutions continue to operate effectively, and the rule of law remains well established. Although corruption risks are relatively low by regional standards, allegations involving public officials and political figures periodically generate public scrutiny and political controversy. Such issues are unlikely to pose a significant operational risk for most foreign organizations operating in the country.

Looking ahead, political tensions are likely to remain elevated as security developments continue to influence domestic politics. Protest activity is expected to persist, particularly in relation to the conflict, military operations, and future governance reforms. While significant policy disputes and political volatility will likely continue, Israel's institutional resilience and democratic processes are expected to prevent major disruptions to government continuity or overall political stability. The most likely operational impacts for organizations will stem from demonstrations, transportation disruptions, and short-notice security measures rather than systemic political instability.

Triggers

- Escalation or expansion of military operations in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, or elsewhere in the region.
- Judicial reform initiatives or other controversial governance-related legislation.
- High-profile corruption investigations, court rulings, or political scandals involving senior officials.
- Elections, coalition disputes, leadership challenges, or government reshuffles.
- Decisions relating to the future governance of Gaza, Palestinian statehood, or Israeli settlement policy.

Corruption

 2.50

Israel maintains relatively strong governance institutions, an independent judiciary, and robust anti-corruption enforcement mechanisms. While systemic corruption remains limited compared with many regional peers, investigations involving senior political figures, public officials, and politically connected individuals continue to attract significant public attention and regulatory scrutiny. Organizations operating in Israel face a generally low corruption risk but should maintain strong compliance controls when engaging in public procurement, regulated sectors, and government-facing activities.

Current Situation

Recent investigations involving individuals connected to senior political figures have reinforced public debate regarding transparency, lobbying practices, conflicts of interest, and foreign influence within political and policymaking circles. In particular, allegations involving individuals close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and their purported links to Qatari interests generated significant political and media attention during 2025. Investigations and legal proceedings related to these allegations remain ongoing, and no final judicial determinations have been reached.

The primary corruption risks for organizations are concentrated in sectors characterized by extensive government interaction, including public procurement, infrastructure, defense, technology, healthcare, energy, and regulated services. While bribery and facilitation payments are not common features of the Israeli business environment, organizations may encounter heightened compliance risks associated with lobbying activities, conflicts of interest, procurement processes, third-party intermediaries, and politically connected counterparties.

Enforcement authorities continue to demonstrate a willingness to investigate allegations involving both public and private sector actors. Regulatory oversight, judicial independence, and media scrutiny create a relatively transparent operating environment compared with many countries in the region. As a result, reputational and legal risks arising from compliance failures often pose a greater threat to organizations than direct exposure to corrupt practices.

Looking ahead, corruption-related issues are likely to remain a recurring feature of political discourse, particularly as investigations involving senior officials, advisors, and politically connected individuals continue to progress through judicial processes. However, Israel's institutional framework is expected to remain effective in investigating and prosecuting alleged misconduct. For most organizations, corruption risk will remain manageable provided that appropriate due diligence, third-party screening, and compliance procedures are maintained.

Triggers

- New corruption investigations involving senior political figures, government officials, or politically connected individuals.
- Judicial rulings, indictments, arrests, or prosecutions related to high-profile corruption cases.
- Allegations of foreign influence, lobbying irregularities, or conflicts of interest involving public officials.
- Regulatory reforms affecting transparency, procurement oversight, or anti-corruption enforcement.

Government Stability

2.25

Israel's government remains stable, supported by strong democratic institutions, an independent judiciary, and established electoral processes. However, persistent political polarization, coalition pressures, and disagreements over security, governance, and the Palestinian issue continue to generate political volatility. While government continuity is likely to be maintained, political disputes and public opposition are expected to remain significant features of the operating environment.

Current Situation

Israel continues to demonstrate a high degree of institutional resilience despite prolonged political polarization and recurring governance disputes. Over the past 3-6 months, the political environment has remained dominated by issues related to the ongoing conflict, national security policy, judicial reform, and the future governance of Palestinian territories. These issues continue to shape political discourse and influence coalition dynamics.

Executive authority remains concentrated within the prime minister and cabinet, while the presidency continues to serve a largely ceremonial and unifying role. Government institutions, including the judiciary, civil service, military, and security services, continue to function effectively despite sustained political tensions and public debate regarding the balance of powers between branches of government.

Political divisions remain pronounced across Israeli society. Debates surrounding judicial authority, the role of religion in public life, military service exemptions, governance reforms, and long-term approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continue to generate friction between political blocs. These divisions have contributed to recurring demonstrations, political confrontations, and periods of heightened public scrutiny of government decision-making.

Coalition politics remain an important source of uncertainty. As in previous years, the government's ability to maintain parliamentary support depends on balancing the priorities of diverse coalition partners, particularly on issues relating to security policy, religious affairs, judicial

reforms, and budgetary matters. While coalition disagreements periodically generate speculation regarding elections or government reshuffles, no immediate threat to constitutional order or democratic governance exists.

Looking ahead, Israel is likely to remain politically stable despite continued volatility within the political arena. Public demonstrations, contentious legislative initiatives, and coalition disputes are expected to persist, particularly as security developments continue to influence domestic politics. While changes in coalition composition, cabinet structures, or election timing remain possible, the risk of systemic political instability remains low. The most likely impacts on organizations will stem from policy uncertainty, demonstrations, and transportation disruptions associated with political activity rather than disruptions to governance continuity.

Triggers

- Judicial reform initiatives or legislation affecting the balance of governmental powers.
- Coalition disputes involving security policy, budget negotiations, or religious issues.
- High-profile court rulings involving government officials or politically sensitive issues.
- Large-scale demonstrations in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other major urban centers.

Rule of Law

 2.00

Israel maintains a strong rule-of-law environment supported by an independent judiciary, effective law enforcement institutions, and established legal procedures. While the legal system generally provides a predictable operating environment for businesses and travelers, national security considerations can result in enhanced enforcement powers, expanded detention authorities, and stricter security procedures compared with many Western jurisdictions.

Current Situation

Israel's legal system is generally regarded as independent, effective, and capable of reviewing executive and legislative actions. Over the past 3-6 months, courts have continued to play a prominent role in adjudicating disputes involving government policy, security measures, civil liberties, and constitutional questions. Judicial decisions remain an important mechanism for resolving politically sensitive issues and maintaining institutional checks and balances.

The broader legal and regulatory environment remains stable and predictable for businesses, investors, and foreign visitors. Contract enforcement, property rights protections, and regulatory oversight are generally strong by regional standards. Legal institutions continue to function effectively despite ongoing political debates regarding judicial authority and governance reforms.

National security considerations continue to shape aspects of the legal environment. Israeli authorities possess extensive powers to investigate, detain, and prosecute individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism, espionage, national security offenses, or activities deemed to threaten public security. As a result, legal procedures in security-related cases may differ from those commonly encountered in other democratic jurisdictions. Foreign nationals subject to security investigations may experience enhanced scrutiny, movement restrictions, prolonged questioning, or other security-related measures.

Security personnel remain highly visible throughout the country. Police officers, Border Police units, military personnel, and private security staff are commonly present at transportation hubs, government facilities, shopping centers, and locations assessed as vulnerable to attack. The visible presence of armed security personnel, including off-duty military personnel carrying service weapons, forms a routine component of Israel's security environment and does not generally indicate an elevated threat level.

Looking ahead, Israel's rule-of-law environment is expected to remain strong despite ongoing political debates surrounding judicial authority and governance reforms. The most likely impacts on travelers and organizations will stem from security-related enforcement measures,

enhanced screening procedures, and legal responses to terrorism or national security incidents rather than deterioration in judicial independence or law enforcement effectiveness.

Triggers

- Major terrorist attacks or national security incidents prompting expanded enforcement measures.
- Legislative initiatives affecting judicial authority, detention powers, or national security frameworks.
- Large-scale demonstrations resulting in increased police deployments and enforcement activity.
- Heightened threat levels leading to expanded security screening, identity checks, or movement restrictions.

Sanctions

 2.00

Israel is not subject to comprehensive sanctions imposed by the UN, US, UK, or EU, and the country remains fully integrated into the global financial and trading system. However, increasing international scrutiny of certain Israeli policies and military activities has resulted in targeted measures against specific individuals and entities in some jurisdictions. Organizations should monitor evolving sanctions, export controls, and diplomatic restrictions that could affect compliance obligations, business operations, and international travel.

Current Situation

Israel continues to maintain broad economic, financial, and diplomatic relations with most major international partners. The principal compliance risks stem from targeted sanctions, travel restrictions, and administrative measures imposed by individual governments against specific Israeli individuals, organizations, or entities. Such measures have generally been linked to concerns regarding regional security developments, settlement-related activities, human rights issues, or broader diplomatic disputes. While these restrictions remain relatively narrow in scope, they reflect growing international scrutiny in certain jurisdictions and may create additional due diligence requirements for organizations engaging with politically exposed persons or sanctioned entities.

Diplomatic restrictions also continue to affect travel and business operations in certain markets. A number of countries either do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel or impose restrictions on Israeli passport holders and travelers with evidence of travel to Israel. Although these measures do not directly affect operations within Israel, they can complicate regional business travel, personnel mobility, and multinational project planning.

Looking ahead, comprehensive sanctions targeting Israel remain unlikely in the near term. However, additional targeted measures against individuals, organizations, or specific sectors could emerge if regional conflicts intensify or international political pressure increases. Organizations should expect sanctions and compliance risks to remain highly dynamic and should maintain ongoing monitoring of developments across relevant jurisdictions.

Triggers

- Escalation of conflict involving Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, or other regional actors.
- New sanctions, travel restrictions, or asset-freeze measures imposed by foreign governments.
- International legal proceedings, investigations, or rulings involving Israeli individuals, entities, or government actions.
- Diplomatic disputes resulting in restrictions on trade, investment, or official engagement.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Israel are subject to local laws which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried in absentia depending on the nature of the offense. Home-country consular officers are not typically systematically informed of a detention but are permitted to provide support services at the request of their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 101

Fire 102

Police 100

Embassies and Consulates

● Unrated

British Embassy

Address 192 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv 6340502

Fax +972 3 524 9176

Email webmaster.telaviv@fcdo.gov.uk

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-tel-aviv>

German Embassy

Address 2 HaShlosa Street, Building C, Tel Aviv 6706054

Fax +972 3 696 9217

Email info@tel-aviv.diplo.de

Web Site <https://tel-aviv.diplo.de>

Austrian Embassy

Address Sason Hogi Tower, Abba Hillel Silver Street 12, 4th Floor, Ramat Gan 5250606

Fax +972 3 751 0716

Email tel-aviv-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Web Site <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oeb-tel-aviv/>

US Embassy

Address 14 David Flusser Street, Jerusalem 9378322

Phone +972 2 630 4000

Email JerusalemACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://il.usembassy.gov>

US Embassy - Branch Office Tel Aviv

Address 71 HaYarkon Street, Tel Aviv 6343229

Phone +972 3 519 7575

Email TelAvivACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://il.usembassy.gov>

Australian Embassy

Address Bank Discount Tower, 28th Floor, 23 Yehuda Halevi Street, Tel Aviv 6513601

Fax +972 3 693 5002

Email telaviv.embassy@dfat.gov.au

Web Site <https://israel.embassy.gov.au/tavv/home.html>

French Embassy

Address 112 Promenade Herbert Samuel, BP 3480, Tel Aviv 6357231

Fax +972 3 520 8340

Email diplomatie@ambafrance-il.org

Website <https://il.ambafrance.org>

Canadian Embassy

Address 3/5 Nirim Street, 4th Floor, Tel Aviv 6706038

Fax +972 3 636 3383

Email taviv@international.gc.ca

Web Site https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/Israel/tel_aviv.aspx?lang=eng

Delegation of the European Union

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Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Terrorism and conflict present the most prominent threats, and travelers should undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment and should have undertaken annual travel security training.

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- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from Israel, and should ensure that detailed contingency operations, business continuity, crisis management, and evacuation plans are in place should the situation in country deteriorate significantly.
 - Where practicable, the travel itinerary should avoid sensitive areas, symbolic places, and locations of frequent unrest or common targets.
 - Travel to, or within, the West Bank or Gaza Strip will likely require additional security measures, such as the use of an on-site security coordinator.
 - Travelers should provide friends and family a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and, if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodations, relevant embassies, and trusted local contacts easily accessible. Travelers should seek to register the trip and maintain regular communications with the appropriate diplomatic missions in country.
 - Travelers should implement a comprehensive suite of IT security measures for electronic devices, such as traveling with “clean” devices, ensuring that all personal identity information and sensitive files are sanitized, and implementing a Full Disk Encryption (FDE). Travelers should also not check business or personal electronic devices with their luggage at the airport.

On Arrival

● Unrated

- Travelers should have a meet-and-greet procedure in place, proceed through arrivals in a timely manner, and depart as soon as practicably possible.
- Travelers should continually reassess the security and threat environment through a range of multi-source intelligence advisories.
- Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.
- Business travelers should be aware that luggage is vulnerable to clandestine searches and hard drives may be secretly copied. Maintain updated antivirus software and do not upload any software or access computer files unless the source is fully trusted. Refrain from discussing sensitive information as listening devices can be employed in a variety of locations.

In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid using street taxis and should instead utilize low-profile, locally vetted transport providers which have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in the vehicles should be at least half full. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travelers should verify the identification of the driver before commencing any trip.
- Travel to the Gaza Strip or West Bank will also likely require the use of an Executive Protection Agent or a security coordinator.
- Travelers should only travel with minimal nonessential valuable items, and valuables should not be publicly displayed.
- Travelers should vary routes and travel times and should minimize road movements after dark where possible.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

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- Travelers should stay at a reputable hotel with good standards of international-level security. Ideally, hotels should be away from choke points and not surrounded by other high-profile targets (such as foreign embassies, other well-known hotels, or restaurants known to attract large numbers of Westerners).
 - Secure transportation should be available between the hotel and airports. The hotel should have emergency power generators in good working condition and adequate access to a fuel supply and emergency communications.
 - On arrival at the hotel, ensure the driver stays on-site until your check-in has been confirmed. Similarly, before departing for the airport when leaving the hotel, ensure your driver waits until your flight check-in is confirmed.
 - Travelers should leave any electronic equipment at the office or with your hosts and, before retiring, secure valuables and confidential documents.
 - Travelers should monitor their airline's flight schedule and status.

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should be aware of the national culture and behavioral expectations. Dress conservatively and respect Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religious and social traditions to avoid offending locals.
 - Same-sex sexual activity is legal in Israel, and the country is generally considered liberal on LGBT+ issues. However, attitudes may be more conservative in areas outside major cities or areas with a large Palestinian population. Travelers should exercise vigilance while in country.
 - Travelers should keep a low profile and should not become involved in local political issues; avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public.
 - Travelers should be aware that photographing government buildings, military facilities, checkpoints, or other security-related facilities may result in detention by authorities.
 - Do not venture near any border areas or near military facilities.
 - Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests, or rallies which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile environment. During periods of heightened tensions, travelers should avoid symbolic places (such as police stations, government buildings, fast food restaurants, and banks), locations of previous protests, and security forces.
 - If caught unexpectedly in a demonstration or altercation, immediately leave the area. If this occurs in an area with limited exits, such as Jerusalem's Old City, seek safety inside a shop or restaurant until the event is over and the situation deemed safe.
 - Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewelry, or valuables and maintain a low profile. Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or purse contents, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships, and accounts.
 - Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Also, carry your ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
 - Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
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- In crowded situations, travelers should be vigilant for jostling as it may be a ploy for pickpockets. Travelers should also avoid people who are loitering. Additionally, be aware that would-be assailants may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

- Travelers should ignore verbal "bait" from passers-by, avoid getting into an argument, and refrain from making eye contact with strangers.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation:

Business: Sunday-Thursday, 08:00-16:00; Friday mornings, 08:00-13:00

Government: Sunday-Thursday, 08:00-17:00

Banking: Sunday-Thursday, 08:30-12:30 and 14:30-18:30

Business attire is generally formal or business casual.

Appointments are best scheduled Sunday-Thursday, 08:30-15:00. Arriving on time to meetings or social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically end on time. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay. Alcohol taken during lunch or dinner meetings is considered appropriate. Many Muslim Israelis do not drink alcohol.

English is commonly used for business purposes. Arabic and Russian are also widely understood. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well received. Business cards are often used. Always use Mr./Ms. until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to their official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning a meeting, shake hands with everyone. Other physical contact, such as a pat on the shoulder, is also common. Some religious people may not touch members of the opposite sex. When departing, shake hands with everyone.

Gestures

Unrated

Business cards are rarely used and can be presented in any manner.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with everyone at the meeting. When departing, shake hands again with everyone.

Use direct communication and phrasing when speaking with people from Israel. It is common to make direct eye contact when speaking to someone at a business meeting. When addressing someone at a meeting, use their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Pointing at someone or something.
- Showing someone the thumbs up or thumbs down sign.
- Placing the thumb between the index and middle finger while clenching a fist.
- Showing someone the sole of your foot.

Religions

Unrated

Jewish 75%, Muslim 18%, Other, including Christian and Druze, 7%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

Jewish 75%, non-Jewish (mostly Arab) 25%

Significant Dates

● Unrated

2026 Significant Dates

March 2-3 Purim

March 30 Land Day

April 1-9 Pesach (Passover)

May 1 Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Independence Day)

May 15 Al-Nakba (Catastrophe Day)

May 14-15 Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)

May 21-23 Shavuot

June 5-10 Six-Day War Anniversary

Sept. 11-13 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

Sept. 20-21 Yom Kippur

Sept. 25-26 First Day of Sukkot

Oct. 3-4 Simchat Torah

Dec. 25 Christmas

Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

Currency

● Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Israel is the new shekel (ILS). One ILS is made up of 100 agorot.

Currency Convertibility

For buying ILS, US dollars, EUR, and other major currencies are the most readily acceptable currency. Israel allows foreigners to exit with local currency.

Credit Card

● Unrated

Major credit cards are accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Taxes and Tipping

● Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel who provide personnel services. Wait staff in restaurants appreciate a 10-15 percent tip, particularly if there is no service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

● Unrated

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Sunday to Friday in the mornings from 08:30 to 12:30, and from Monday to Thursday in the afternoons from 16:00 to 18:00. Cash advances on major credit cards are not allowed from foreign banks.

LGBTQ Security

2.00 - Low

The overall threat environment for the LGBTQ community in Israel remains low, due largely to the existence of pro-LGBTQ laws and policies. Since the late 1980s, the Israeli government has abolished laws that prohibit same-sex sexual acts and enacted some pro-LGBTQ legislation. However, government support has outpaced societal support, and social intolerance poses a moderate threat to LGBTQ individuals in Israel. Instances of social discrimination and violence still occur, and staunch government support has occasionally led to hostile confrontations between the LGBTQ community, its allies, and anti-LGBTQ activists. Additionally, social tolerance varies by region in the country.

LGBTQ Legal Environment

● 2.00

The legal environment in Israel poses a low threat to LGBTQ individuals. Same-sex sexual acts are legal, and there are no laws in place that explicitly outlaw nontraditional gender expression. Gender affirmation surgery is permitted with the approval of the Gender Reassignment Board of Sheba Medical Center in Ramat but is not required for legal gender recognition. Marriage in Israel can only be officiated by religious bodies, none of which formally recognizes same-sex marriage. However, same-sex couples may attain common-law status, a designation the government assigns to cohabiting couples, which carries some of the same rights as marriage. In 2006, the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that same-sex marriages performed abroad are registerable in Israel and render civil (legal) status from the Civil Union 1994 Law. Despite no legalization of same-sex marriage, the Israeli government recognizes marriages and unions officiated overseas, and as of 2022, recognizes unions officiated online by the US state of Utah. Additionally, the state recognizes and permits same-sex couples to adopt children. As of late 2023, LGBTQ individuals in the armed forces are permitted to pass veterans' benefits to a partner of the same sex in the event of death. Advocacy groups are still lobbying the government for full recognition of same-sex marriages in the country. Additionally, Israeli legislation includes several laws directly aimed at protecting LGBTQ individuals from discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in civil matters, employment, and housing.

LGBTQ Enforcement

● 2.00

Authorities' enforcement of laws poses an overall low threat to the LGBTQ community in Israel. According to a US DoS study published in March 2023, Israeli law enforcement is likely to enforce laws against discrimination and hate-motivated violence. Despite this, there were instances when police failed to adequately act on reports of these crimes, such as in February 2022, when authorities charged, but then later dismissed two assailants who had attacked a transgender woman. In another incident in April 2022, police arrested an Israeli transgender woman who came to police to report an assault. Instead of pursuing the reported crime, police arrested the victim and held her in solitary

confinement, where she was verbally and physically abused for several days. This was not an isolated incident, as at least one Israeli LGBTQ advocacy group has spoken out about police abusing multiple transgender detainees, including holding them unfairly in solitary confinement. While such instances are rare, unlawful detainment and mistreatment while in custody cannot be ruled out for the Israeli LGBTQ community.

LGBTQ Social Environment

● 3.00

The social environment poses a moderate threat to the LGBTQ community in Israel, due to mixed societal tolerance. Despite protective legislation for LGBTQ individuals from discrimination, some Israelis remain intolerant of the LGBTQ community. However, a June 2023 poll from Channel 13 found that 61 percent of Israelis surveyed supported equal rights for the LGBTQ community. A 2021 UCLA study ranked Israel 44th out of 175 countries for LGBTQ tolerance, higher than its neighbors, but ranked below North America and Europe. As of February 2024, Israel ranked 38th out of 193 countries for LGBTQ rights, tied with Greece and South Africa, according to Spartacus. Additionally, in recent years, Israel has seen a notable uptick in anti-LGBTQ crimes. Transgender individuals were 3.5 times more likely to experience incidents compared to the broader LGBTQ community. In the past two years, reported hostilities rose from 134 to 259 cases. These incidents included violence, property damage, blackmail, and threats. The highest number of reports came from Tel Aviv and Haifa, likely due to the availability of support services, whereas areas with fewer resources, like Jerusalem, had lower reporting rates. Additionally, 38.5 percent of all incidents took place in public spaces. Most incidents occurred in March and June, March coinciding with Purim, a holiday that has celebrations and higher alcohol consumption, and June is Pride Month in Tel Aviv and across the country. According to the Aguda, a nonprofit LGBTQ rights organization, Israel reported a record number of 3,309 instances of violence and hate speech targeting LGBTQ individuals in 2022, an 11 percent increase from the previous year. Despite this, Israel hosts the largest pride event in the Middle East, garnering over 150,000 participants in 2023. Social attitudes are more accepting in Tel Aviv, which generally has more progressive views in contrast to Jerusalem. Among 29 cities, Jerusalem ranked 22nd, the lowest of Israeli large cities, for LGBTQ tolerance. The city does not organize LGBTQ events due to more traditional values. Despite this indifference, local activists organized a large Pride Parade in 2024.

Active Alerts**Warning Alert - Middle East - Conflict, Disruptions Update 35**

Aviation, maritime, and energy disruptions likely across the Middle East through late October amid ongoing conflict. Further attacks likely.

12 October, 2026 06:05 UTC

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