

Practical Information

GETTING FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT

Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main airport, is located around 15 km from Tel Aviv. It has two main terminals: Terminal 3, designated for international flights, and the smaller Terminal 1, designated for domestic and low-cost international flights. There are several ways to travel from and to the airport, including train, bus, and taxi.

BUS

The bus stations are located at gate 01. Bus line 445 takes passengers to and from the airport to central Tel Aviv. It drives and stops along Dizengoff, Burgashov, HaYarkon, Ben Yehuda, and other central streets in the city. The bus operates every hour excluding Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening).

PRICE: 9.30 NIS (≈ 2.7 €)

SCHEDULE: Sun-Thu: 24 Hrs
Fri: 4am-5pm
Sat: 9pm-3am

*The bus doesn't operate on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening).

ACCESSIBILITY: Bus companies Dan and Metropoline have a wheelchair accessible ramp as well as a designated spot for wheelchairs. For more information, visit Israel's accessibility website.

HELPFUL APP: «Moovit» | Available on App Store and Google Play
«Google Maps» | Available on App Store and Google Play

TAXI

The taxis at Ben Gurion Airport operate under the supervision of the Israel Airports Authority. Taxis are available outside the arrival hall, however, it is recommended to use the taxis found on Level 2 outside of Terminal 3 (take the escalators to your left after you pass through customs). The taxis departing from Level 2 have a flat rate of 150 NIS and there will be a taxi sorter to assist you. Please ask the sorter for assistance. Culturally, Israelis do not tip taxis, please do not tip your driver.

PRICE: Flat rate - 150 NIS (≈ 44 €)

SCHEDULE: 24 Hrs

TRAIN

The train station is located at the lower level of Ben Gurion's Terminal 3. There is a direct route from the airport to Tel Aviv and vice versa. The train from Ben Gurion to Tel Aviv generally leaves from Platform 1. You can take a train back to the airport from any train station in Tel Aviv.

STATIONS:

Tel Aviv - HaHagana (Southern Tel Aviv), Tel Aviv - HaShalom (Central Tel Aviv), Tel Aviv - Savidor Center (Central Tel Aviv), and Tel Aviv - University (Northern Tel Aviv).

*After midnight, the train stops only at Tel Aviv-HaHagana and Tel Aviv-Savidor Center.

PRICE: 13.00 NIS (≈ 3.8 €)

SCHEDULE: Sun-Thu: 24 Hrs

*Please Note: the train doesn't operate from Friday morning to Saturday evening.

ACCESSIBILITY: The train from Ben Gurion Airport to Tel Aviv is accessible to persons with wheelchairs - there is no need to notify in advance of your arrival. However, if you would like personal assistance (a team waiting for you at the entrance), it is recommended to notify the station 24 hours prior to your scheduled journey. For more information, visit Israel's accessibility website.

HELPFUL APP: "Israel Railways" | Available on App Store and Google Play

ISRAEL VISA POLICY

Please check this website regarding the Israel Visa Policy:
<https://www.onlinevisa.com/visa-policy/israel/>

Don't hesitate to contact [Hagar Saad](mailto:saad_h@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il) at saad_h@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il if you have any question/help needed with regards to visas.

MONEY

NATIONAL CURRENCY: Israel's national currency is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS or ILS), more commonly known as the Shekel. If paying in cash, most places will accept only Shekels. To exchange foreign currency, visit a local bank, post office, or licensed currency exchange shop (which can be easily located via Google Maps).

As of September 8, 1 EUR = 3.432 NIS / 1 NIS = 0.291 EUR

Check this website for updated exchange rate: <https://visit.tel-aviv.gov.il/info/money>

ATM MACHINES: There are ATM machines scattered throughout the city. You can choose between bank ATMs and privately owned ones. Both are considered legitimate, however, privately owned ATMs charge higher commission.

*Please check prior to your visit that your credit card is accepted in Israel. If needed, you can transfer money from your home country to Tel Aviv's Western Union branch.

TIPPING POLICY: Tipping is customary in sit-down waiter services and usually means adding 10-15% to your bill. Taxi drivers do not expect tips, but will appreciate it if you round up the fare. For guided tours, a 10-20 NIS tip per guide is considered fair.

WEATHER

The average minimum temperature (usually the minimum temperature is noted during the night) in Tel Aviv in October is 19.0°C (66.2°F). The amount of rain in October is normal with an average of 34mm (1.3in). It rains on average a total of 6 days. The average maximum daytime temperature lies around 27.0°C (80.6°F). If you enjoy looking at a blue sky and love the sun than this is a great time to go to Tel Aviv with 279 hours of sun.

SHABBAT

Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest, begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday. Starting early Friday afternoon - businesses, shops, and some restaurants begin to close and remain closed during Shabbat. The same holds true for Jewish holidays.

HOW DOES SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV AFFECT ME?

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation does not operate on Shabbat. However, a free weekend transportation system (<https://visit.tel-aviv.gov.il/move/in-tel-aviv>) is offered in the city. In addition, private taxis, «share-route» taxi lines, bicycle and scooter rental services, and car sharing services are not affected and available as usual.

WEEKEND TRANSPORTATION

- The buses run approximately every half hour. On Fridays between 5pm and 2am and on Saturdays between 9:30am and 6pm.

- Real-time information and schedules in English can be found at the BuSofash website (<https://busofash.co.il/home-en/>) as well as at the following transportation apps: «Moovit,» «efoBus,» «Bus Nearby.» Please note: electronic signs at bus stations don't present bus hours.

- The buses and relevant stations are branded accordingly and feature dedicated maps.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Some cultural institutions such as museums and galleries may be closed during Shabbat. Usually big institutions remain open while smaller ones tend to be closed. It's recommended to check opening hours ahead of time. Here is a list of events and attractions available on Shabbat:

<https://visit.tel-aviv.gov.il/Pages/Shabbat%20in%20Tel%20Aviv.aspx>

BARS, RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS

In Tel Aviv, most bars, restaurants, and cafes are open on Shabbat, while shops and supermarkets remain closed. However, many 24/7 mini-markets are available throughout the city.