

PASSPORT AND VISA

IMPORTANT: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT YOU MEET ALL PASSPORT AND VISA TO ISRAEL REQUIREMENTS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN YOUR NOT BEING ALLOWED TO BOARD THE FLIGHT, OR ENTER ISRAEL.

General Visa and Passport to Israel Information

- As is the case with many other countries, Israeli customs and immigration laws require that you have a valid passport and visa to Israel, and that your passport be valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure date.

For information on applying for a U.S. passport, go to the passport section of the U.S. State Department's website. **We strongly encourage you to pay the additional fee for an expedited passport.**

- US and Canadian Citizens do not require a visa to enter Israel, only a valid passport.

Other passport holders should contact the nearest Israeli Diplomatic Mission as soon as possible to verify whether or not a visitor's visa is needed. A complete list of Israeli diplomatic missions abroad may be found on the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website.

The Israeli embassy or consulate may require a letter confirming that you are, in fact, participating in a trip organized by Israel Experts and Birthright Israel in order to issue a visa. If that is the case, we will gladly prepare said letter and send it to you or the Israeli diplomatic mission of your choice.

Applicants born in Israel, born to at least one Israeli parent, or having lived in Israel

According to Israeli citizenship law, you are a citizen of the State of Israel if you:

- Were born in Israel OR
- Acquired Israeli citizenship by immigrating to Israel OR

- Were born outside of Israel to a parent (mother or father) who is a citizen of Israel and who acquired Israeli citizenship by birth or through immigration to Israel.

As a citizen of the State of Israel, border laws require that you enter and leave Israel using an Israeli passport. However, we recommend that you bring your other passport with you for your return into Canada or the United States. (Israeli citizenship, once acquired, is permanent, independent of the place of residence, and may only be given up through a formal request and administrative procedure.)

If you do not currently have an Israeli passport - you may apply for one by contacting the nearest Israeli diplomatic mission. A complete list of Israeli diplomatic missions abroad may be found on the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website.

Military Service - As military service is compulsory for both men and women in Israel, it is necessary for you to obtain military service deferment or exemption papers. This is a routine procedure for the overwhelming majority of applicants.

Important note: Although you can theoretically take care of these matters once in Israel, we strongly recommend that you do so before your trip. You will not have time during your 10-day trip to settle these matters. Also, it is important to resolve any army-related issues before arriving in Israel.

If the above information is unclear or if you have any further questions, please contact us as soon as possible.

Disclaimer: All of the information above was exact and valid at the time it was posted on the website and will be updated if and when we are made aware of changes. However, visa and passport requirements can change at any time and your nearest Israeli consulate or embassy is therefore the best source for the most updated information on this matter.