

COMING TO...



ISRAEL



CULTURAL TIPS

Greetings

Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. Notice its similarity to the Arabic word for peace, *salaam*. *Shalom* is used as a greeting, equivalent to hello as well as good-bye, and is often used as a salutation in correspondence.

Mazel Tov is the Hebrew word for good luck. It is used in many contexts to mean congratulations. It is appropriate to say at celebrations and on special occasions, including birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and graduations.

L'Chaim means "to life," and is a most famous toast and a beautiful wish. Millions are familiar with it from the song by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick in "Fiddler on the Roof." It expresses the Jewish belief in the basic goodness and value of life, despite all the travail that may occur.

Todah Rabah, often abbreviated *Todah* is Hebrew for "thank you." A written expression of thanks is appropriate for many gifts, including those for bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, birthdays, and anniversaries.

Drinking Water

You will need to buy drinking water in Israel, any of the common brands should be fine.

Toilets

You may want to consider bringing a travel roll and/or tissues for your pockets. Some toilets are completely modern; others will be very crude.

Questions to be ready for:

It's important to be able to give security at the crossing and at the airports a short and simple explanation of why you are in Israel and to know how you might respond to common questions you could be asked such as, why are you here; how do you know these people; why you were in Jordan (sightseeing as a group); have you spoken to anyone in Jordan about Israel (no). Don't be nervous, but do be prepared for quite a few questions, as Israeli security is intense. Mention that you are with Student Leadership as a group; and are here with Dr. Jay on your 4th year of training.

THE SHEMA is an affirmation of Judaism and a declaration of faith in one God. The obligation to recite the Shema is separate from the obligation to pray and a Jew is obligated to say Shema in the morning and at night. (Deut. 6:7). The first line of the Shema, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One" (Shema Yisrael Adonai eloheinu Adonai ehad) (Deuteronomy 6:4) is repeated throughout the prayer services. It is said in the morning blessing, in the musaf Amidah of Shabbat and holidays, when the Torah is taken out of the Ark on Shabbat and holidays, as a bedtime prayer, as part of the deathbed confessional, and at various other times. Please note that this page contains the name of God; if you print it out, please treat it with appropriate respect.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

Blessed be the Name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.

And you shall love the Lord the God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart.

And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 11:13-21

And it shall come to pass if you surely listen to the commandments That I command you today to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul, that I will give rain to your land, the early and the late rains, that you may gather in your grain, your wine and your oil. And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle and you will eat and you will be satisfied. Beware, lest your heart be deceived and you turn and serve other gods and worship them. And anger of the Lord will blaze against you, and he will close the heavens and there will not be rain, and the earth will not give you its fullness, and you will perish quickly from the good land that the Lord gives you. So you shall put these, my words on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them for signs on your hands, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. In order to prolong your days and the days of your children on the land that the Lord promised your fathers that he would give them, as long as the days that the heavens are over the earth.

Numbers 15:37-41

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying...
Speak to the children of Israel and say to them they should make themselves tzitzit (fringes) on the corners of their clothing throughout their generations, and give the tzitzit of each corner a thread of blue. And they shall be tzitzit for you, and when you look at them you will remember all of the Lord's commandments and do them and not follow after your heart and after your eyes which lead you astray. In order to remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God. I am the Lord, your God who led you from the land of Egypt to be a God to you. I am the Lord, your God.



Country Profile: Israel

OVERVIEW

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations... (Deuteronomy 32:7)

The birthplace of the Jewish people is the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael). There, a significant part of the nation's long history was enacted, of which the first thousand years are recorded in the Bible; there, its cultural, religious, and national identity was formed; and there, its physical presence has been maintained through the centuries, even after the majority was forced into exile. During the many years of dispersion, the Jewish people never severed nor forgot its bond with the Land. With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jewish independence, lost 2,000 years earlier, was renewed.

TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

17th-6th C. BC

c. 17th century

BIBLICAL TIMES

The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - patriarchs of the Jewish people and bearers of a belief in one God - settle in the Land of Israel. Famine forces Israelites to migrate to Egypt

c. 13th century

Exodus from Egypt: Moses leads Israelites from Egypt, followed by 40 years of wandering in the desert. Torah, including the Ten Commandments, received at Mount Sinai.

13th-12th C.

Israelites settle the Land of Israel

c. 1020

Jewish Monarchy established; Saul, first king

c. 1000

Jerusalem made capital of David's kingdom

c. 960

First Temple, the national and spiritual center of the Jewish people, built in Jerusalem by King Solomon

c. 930

Divided kingdom: Judah and Israel

722-720

Israel crushed by Assyrians; 10 tribes exiled (Ten Lost Tribes).

586

Judah conquered by Babylonia; Jerusalem and First Temple destroyed; most Jews exiled

THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

536-142

Persian and Hellenistic periods

538-515

Many Jews return from Babylonia; Temple rebuilt

332

Land conquered by Alexander the Great; Hellenistic rule

166-160

Maccabean (Hasmonean) revolt against restrictions on practice of Judaism and desecration of Temple

142-129

Jewish autonomy under Hasmoneans.

129-63

Jewish independence under Hasmonean monarchy.

63

Jerusalem captured by Roman general, Pompey.

63 BC-313 CE

ROMAN RULE

63-4

Herod, Roman vassal king, rules the Land of Israel; Temple in Jerusalem refurbished

c. 20-33

Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth

66

Jewish revolt against the Romans

70

Destruction of Jerusalem and Second Temple.

73

Last stand of Jews at Masada.

132-135

Bar Kokhba uprising against Rome.

c. 210

Codification of Jewish oral law, Mishnah, completed.

FOREIGN DOMINATION

313-636

Byzantine rule

c. 390

Commentary on the Mishnah, the Jerusalem Talmud, completed.

614	Persian invasion
636-1099	Arab rule
691	On site of First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, Dome of the Rock built by Caliph Abd el-Malik
1099-1291	Crusader Domination (Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem)
1291-1516	Mamluk rule
1517-1917	Ottoman rule
1564	Code of Jewish law, Shulhan Arukh, published.
1860	First neighborhood built outside Jerusalem's Old City
1882-1903	First Aliya (large-scale immigration), mainly from Russia.
1897	First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland; Zionist Organization founded.
1904-14	Second Aliya, mainly from Russia and Poland.
1909	First kibbutz, Degania, and first modern all-Jewish city, Tel Aviv, founded.
1917	400 years of Ottoman rule ended by British conquest
1918-48	British Foreign Minister Balfour pledges support for establishment of a "Jewish national home in Palestine"
1919-23	Third Aliya, mainly from Russia
1920	Histadrut (Jewish labor federation) and Haganah (Jewish defense organization) founded.
1921	First moshav, Nahalal, founded.
1922	Britain granted Mandate for Palestine (Land of Israel) by League of Nations; Transjordan set up on three-fourths of the area, leaving one-fourth for the Jewish national home. Jewish Agency representing Jewish community vis-a-vis Mandate authorities set up.
1924	Technion, first institute of technology, founded in Haifa.
1924-32	Fourth Aliya, mainly from Poland.
1925	Hebrew University of Jerusalem opened on Mt. Scopus.
1929	Hebron Jews massacred by Arab militants.
1931	Etzel, (Irgun) Jewish underground organization, founded.
1933-39	Fifth Aliya, mainly from Germany.
1936-39	Anti-Jewish riots instigated by Arab militants.
1939	Jewish immigration severely limited by British White Paper. 100,000 maximum.
1939-45	World War II; Holocaust in Europe. British Navy curtails emigration from Europe.
1941	Lehi underground movement formed; Palmach- strike force of Haganah, set up.
1944	Jewish Brigade formed as part of British forces.
1947	UN proposes the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land. Arabs rejected it.

STATE OF ISRAEL

1948	End of British Mandate (14 May) State of Israel proclaimed (14 May) Israel invaded by five Arab states (15 May) Israel Defense Forces (IDF) established War of Independence (May 1948-July 1949)
1949	Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Jerusalem divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule. First Knesset (parliament) elected. Israel admitted to United Nations as 59th member.
1948-52	Mass immigration from Europe and Arab countries.
1956	Sinai Campaign
1962	Adolf Eichmann tried and executed in Israel for his key part in the Holocaust.
1964	National Water Carrier completed, bringing water from Lake Kinneret in the north to the semi-arid south.
1967	Six-Day War, Jerusalem reunited.
1968-70	Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel
1973	Yom Kippur War
1975	Israel becomes an associate member of the European Common Market.
1977	Likud forms government after Knesset elections, end of 30 years of Labor rule. Visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem.
1978	Camp David Accords & framework for comprehensive peace in Middle East and proposal for Palestinian self-government. Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed.

- 1979 Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1981 Israel Air Force destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor just before it is to become operative.
- 1982 Israel's three-stage withdrawal from Sinai completed. Operation Peace for Galilee removes PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) terrorists from Lebanon.
- 1984 National unity government (Likud & Labor) formed after elections. Operation Moses, Immigration of Jews from Ethiopia. Itzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres alternate PM.
- 1985 Free Trade Agreement signed with United States.
- 1987 Widespread violence (intifada) starts in Israeli-administered areas.
- 1988 Likud government in power following elections, Itzhak Shamir PM.
Four-point peace initiative proposed by Israel.
- 1989 Start of mass immigration of Jews from former Soviet Union.
- 1991 Israel attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during Gulf war. Middle East peace conference convened in Madrid; Operation Solomon, airlift of Jews from Ethiopia. President Bush major assistance.
- 1992 Diplomatic relations established with China and India. New government headed by Yitzhak Rabin of Labor party.
- 1993 Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians signed by Israel and PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people.
- 1994 Implementation of Palestinian self-government in Gaza Strip and Jericho area. Full diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Morocco and Tunisia interest offices set up.
Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty signed. Rabin, Peres, Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1995 Broadened Palestinian self-government implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Palestinian Council elected. Prime Minister Rabin assassinated at peace rally. Shimon Peres becomes prime minister.
- 1996 Fundamentalist Arab terrorism against Israel escalates. Operation Grapes of Wrath, retaliation for Hezbollah terrorists' attacks on northern Israel. Trade representation offices set up in Oman and Qatar. Likud forms government after Knesset elections. Benjamin Netanyahu becomes prime minister. Omani trade representation office opened in Tel Aviv.
- 1997 Hebron Protocol signed by Israel and the PA.
- 1998 Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary. Israel and the PLO sign the Wye River Memorandum to facilitate implementation of the Interim Agreement.
- 1999 Ehud Barak (left wing One Israel party) elected prime minister; forms coalition government. Israel and the PLO sign the Sharm-el-Sheikh Memorandum.
- 2000 Visit of Pope Paul II. Israel withdraws from the Security Zone in southern Lebanon. Israel admitted to UN Western European and Others Group. Renewed violence (Second Intifada). Prime Minister Barak resigns.
- 2001 Ariel Sharon (Likud) elected Prime Minister; forms broad-based unity government. The Sharm-el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee report (Mitchell Report) issued. Palestinian-Israeli Security Implementation Work Plan (Tenet ceasefire plan) proposed. Rechavan Ze'evy, Minister of Tourism, assassinated by Palestinian terrorists.
- 2002 Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks. Israel begins building the anti-terrorist fence to stop West Bank terrorists from killing Israeli citizens. Prime Minister Sharon disperses the Knesset, calling for new elections to be held on January 28, 2003.
- 2003 Right-of-center coalition government formed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Israel accepts the Roadmap.
- 2005 Israel carries out the Disengagement Plan, ending Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip.
- 2006 After Prime Minister Sharon suffers a stroke, Ehud Olmert becomes acting prime minister. Following elections on March 28, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert forms new government led by the Kadima Party. Israel carried out the military operations against Palestinian terrorists in Gaza after kidnapping of Israeli soldier. The Second War in Lebanon, during which Israel carried out military operations against Hizbullah terrorism from southern Lebanon, following missile attacks and kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.
- 2007 Shimon Peres elected President by the Knesset. Israel declared Gaza "hostile territory" following Hamas violent takeover of Gaza Strip.