



**BBYO Passport to the World**  
**Pre-Trip Prep Info**

Israel Journey  
Trek Israel  
Israel Journey Plus  
Impact: Israel



**SUMMER 2011**



# BBYO PASSPORT TO THE WORLD PRE-TRIP PREP INFO / Summer 2011



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**Get ready for Israel!** It is our honor to host you on your journey in the Land of Milk and Honey this summer. You will soon discover that Israel is a country that can be experienced on so many different levels. As the birthplace of the Jewish People some 4000 years ago, Israel is an ancient land – full of archeological treasures with colorful stories to tell. Israel is also the home of a modern Jewish State – with its multiethnic society, unique democratic system, and vibrant cultural life. At the meeting point of three continents, the geography of Israel is breathtakingly beautiful – featuring alpine meadows, rocky hills, desert canyons, sandy beaches and tropical seas – all of which can be found in a relatively tiny strip of land. Finally, Israel represents the





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soul of the Jewish religion – the object of our prayers, our place of refuge in times of need, and the spiritual link connecting all Jewish people to each other.

The Torah refers to Israel as the “Promised Land”. This phrase can be interpreted literally, but it can also be understood as a Land of Promise – a beacon on the winding journey of the Jewish People towards a more perfect world. As you embark on your travels in the Land of Israel this year, it is our hope that you will form your own unique connection and make your own personal contribution towards this vision of a Promised Land.

The final section of this document contains additional material to help get you into the mindset of experiencing and appreciating all that Israel has to offer. Each teen in Israel will receive a copy of BBYO Passport’s “Israel Sources & Resources”. This document is designed to enrich our travels, and we encourage families to explore the material as well at <http://passport.bbyo.org/IsraelSources.pdf> in order to take part in the journey from home.

For 56 years, BBYO has shared the experience of Israel with Jewish teens from around the world. We are so proud that you have chosen to join us and be a part of this special tradition. See you soon and *nesiya tova* – we wish you a happy and meaningful journey!

Rabbi David Kessel  
*Chief Program Officer*

Lane Schlessel  
*Sr. Program Director*

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## I. PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION

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Please check today to make sure that you know where your passport is and that it is not expired or about to expire. Your passport must be valid for at least six months following the date you arrive in Israel. Make sure today that your passport does not expire before January 2012. If your passport expires within six months of your arrival date in Israel, you may not be granted entry. So, please start the renewal process today. Info about ordering a passport is found at <http://travel.state.gov/>

If you are traveling to Israel on a USA, Canadian, or European Union member country passport, you do not need a visa to enter Israel. If you are traveling on a passport from another country (e.g. Russia, Ukraine, etc.), you may need a visa to enter Israel. If you will be traveling to Israel on a United States Travel Document (i.e. special passport for non-citizens), you will need a visa to enter Israel. Our office is able to provide you with an official ticketing confirmation letter to assist with the issuing of any required visas or passport extensions.

We highly recommend that you carry a second copy of your passport with you at all times during the trip in Israel since we will hold onto your actual passport for safekeeping in our Israel office while you are on the road. Be sure to keep this passport copy in your wallet or backpack at all times in Israel.



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**Finally, please remember that the name you used to register must match exactly the spelling in your passport.** If you registered with a nickname your ticket will be printed using that name, and you may be denied boarding. Please take a moment to make sure that your registration account lists your name exactly as it appears in your passport.

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## II. ABOUT YOUR TRIP GROUP

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Each BBYO Passport group forms its own traveling community. The size of each group varies by trip date, and we will release exact group sizes towards the end of May. In the meantime, we encourage you to sign-up for your trip-specific Facebook group. If you are not sure where to find your Facebook group, please contact us directly, and we will re-send the invitation.

In terms of the staffing, each group is accompanied by two or three North American staffers, a senior Israeli guide, a security/medic escort (in Israel only), and a dedicated bus driver. Additional senior staff will be circulating from group to group throughout the experience. Trip staff names are posted online to your Passport registration account about 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the program, and you can expect to receive a phone call from your staff to personally welcome you in the weeks leading up to the trip. While you are on the road, you will also be meeting up with various other BBYO Passport groups at different sites and hotels, and for different activities. However, your core trip group will always stay together throughout the program.

### GROUP PLACEMENT & ROOMING

Some programs are comprised of more than one bus group for a given date – and we typically separate the bus groups by age if so. If that is the case with your trip, we will advise you and make sure that you are placed in the same group as any friends or family members who are also registered for your program. In terms of rooming, at most locations, rooming is based on three participants per room, and occasionally, it is based on four participants per room – always in individual beds and with a private bathroom in every room. Each time we move to a new overnight location, we rotate the rooming assignments to provide a better opportunity to get to know one another better and promote group bonding.

### TRAVELING ON A GROUP PROGRAM

By registering for a BBYO Passport experience you are making a commitment to fully participate in a group travel program with a demanding schedule. Each day is packed with touring, activities, and programming. In order to ensure the success of the experience for everyone, we expect you to stay on the schedule, stay with the group at all times, and contribute to the positive group dynamics of your traveling community. Although the program is intensive and has necessary limitations on free time, there is plenty of room for personal exploration, shopping, and relaxation.



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### ACTUAL PROGRAM ITINERARY

Confirmed itineraries for each trip group with all accommodations details will be posted online and emailed to you approximately four weeks prior to your departure date. Please note that even the confirmed itineraries will be subject to some change on the ground. We will do our best to notify parents and participants in advance if changes are necessary.

### EXTENSION PROGRAMS

If you have signed up for the optional 7-day Extension Program in Israel, specific programming details will be released along with the main itinerary. If you are not signed up for an Extension Program, we encourage you to consider doing so if it is applicable for your core program. The core BBYO Passport programs in Israel are designed as an intensive travel experience. The Extension Programs are campus-based and are designed to give participants a deeper view of Israeli society. Participation is subject to airline availability, and we recommend requesting to add an Extension Program no later than May 7, 2011. Please contact us if you have any questions or learn more about the extension options at [www.passport2theworld.org](http://www.passport2theworld.org).

#### Special Note for “Israel Journey Plus” Participants

The third week of Israel Journey Plus includes a elective program. Teens can choose between a “basic training” simulation on an IDF army base or a service program in Petach Tikvah – just outside of Tel Aviv. If you are signed up for Israel Journey Plus, please simply email us your elective program choice before the end of May.

### OPTIONAL TRIP CONNECTIONS

Participants on most Israel programs have the option of adding a 3-week experience in the Western USA or a 2-week experience in Europe or Costa Rica. The exact dates and details vary by trip, and you can learn more at <http://passport.bbyo.org/destinations/compare/> or by contacting us directly. If you are interested in adding on an Israel or Europe experience, please let us know no later than May 7, 2011 as space will be limited.

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## III. GROUP FLIGHTS & TRAVEL

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We have already distributed information about each group’s individual flight plans along with instructions for meeting the group. This information is also posted online as part of your BBYO Passport registration account at (login @ <https://passport.bbyo.org/destinations/tripbuilder/>). Please contact us if you need help accessing the document or if wish us to re-send it.

***NOTE: Please remember that the deadline to sign-up for the supervised airport hotel stay-over on either end of the program is April 30, 2011.***



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### IV. COMMUNICATIONS ON THE TRIP

#### RENTING A CELL PHONE

A cell phone rental service is available to all BBYO Passport participants through our partner, IsraelPhones. We highly recommend signing up for a cell phone rental in advance of the trip as a way to stay in touch on the road. Also, because our trip staff has access to all IsraelPhones cell phone numbers, it is also an important back-up communication tool for our staff.

The rates for a cell phone rental are as follows:

#### Rental Rates

FREE	Delivery of rental phone in Israel on arrival to Ben Gurion Airport
FREE	Rental fee for cellular phone
FREE	Insurance covering normal damage to your handset <i>(does not cover water damage or extreme damage)</i>
\$100	Deductible on first claims outside of covered damage and for lost/stolen phones <i>(2nd claim is \$175)</i>

#### Usage Rates: Option #1 -- Pay-As-You-Go Rates

FREE	Incoming Calls from anywhere in the world
9.9¢/min	Calls to all IsraelPhones customers
13.9¢/min	Calls within your cellular network & to local landlines
29.9¢/min	Calls outside of your cellular network in Israel
13.9¢/each	Text messages within the cellular network in Israel
29.9¢/each	Text messages out of the cellular network in Israel
29.9¢/each	Text messages to international numbers
13.9¢/min	Calls to one designated number in North America at night <i>(night calling hours are from 9:30 PM to 7:30 AM Israel time)</i>
32.9¢/min	Calls to North America other than your designated "home" number

#### Usage Rates: Option #2 – Pre-Paid Block Minutes/Text Message Rate

850 minutes - \$111.99	(priced at 14.1¢/minute)
1,500 minutes - \$149.99	(priced at 9.9¢/minute)

#### Additional Services in Israel

While it is free to receive calls on the rental cell phone, it is not free to make the calls from North America. Contact your long distance phone service provider for details. You can also reach your child by dialing a local number in the USA. With this plan, you just pay a one-time line access fee of \$10 and receive a local USA number that reaches your child on their Israel phone with excellent call



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quality. Calls will be billed at the rate of 14.9¢ per minute.

### SIM Card Only Rental

For those teens with cell phones that support interchangeable SIM cards, IsraelPhones also provides SIM card rental at the same above rates.

*All of the above rates for Israel only do not include Israel's 16% value added tax.*

### Cell Phone Ordering Information

**Please complete your reservation at least 14 days prior to departure day online at this specific link:**  
[www.israelphones.com/bbyo.htm](http://www.israelphones.com/bbyo.htm)

To receive your assigned number/s and toll free number in advance, log on to [www.israelphones.com](http://www.israelphones.com) 1-3 business days before departure date. Select "my number" and insert your confirmation number. If you have any further questions about the mobile phone rental, please call the IsraelPhones office at 1-866-8ISRAEL or email [info@israelphones.com](mailto:info@israelphones.com).

Those participants traveling in Israel will return their phones in Israel at Ben Gurion Airport at the conclusion of the travel program.

BBYO Passport has partnered with IsraelPhones in order to provide cell phone service to our participants in a manner where our staff has access to the cell phone numbers during the trip. BBYO Passport is not responsible for any lost or damaged phones, and we ask that all cell phone-related questions be communicated directly to IsraelPhones.

### ***Important Note for Participants on Connected Experiences***

If you are on a connected trip that includes "Euro-Quest Mediterranean", "Euro-Quest Western" or "Ambassador to Bulgaria", IsraelPhones provides two different phones for Europe and Israel. The European phone is delivered to your mailing address at home before the start of the program and is collected in Israel on arrival and swapped for an Israeli phone. If you are on a trip that starts in Israel and ends in Europe, the European phone will be delivered to you in Israel and will need to be mailed back to the Israel Phones office in New York after the end of the trip. The rental rates and terms are also separate for Israel and Europe and can be found online at the BBYO link for IsraelPhones (see above).

### ***Bringing a Cell Phone from Home***

Teens are also permitted to bring their personal cell phones with international coverage on the trip in place of renting a cell phone through IsraelPhones. Just keep in mind that these phones carry per minute fees for incoming calls while all incoming calls are free through our arrangement with IsraelPhones. If you chose to bring a personal phone, the program is not responsible for damage or lost devices, and we ask for a record of your personal phone number in advance.



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### ***Cell Phone Use is a Privilege – Not a Right***

BBYO Passport program staff regards cell phone use on the program as a privilege. Participants will NOT be allowed to use their phones during group programming time. Participants must exercise discretion when using the phones (i.e. respect sleeping roommates, etc.). If necessary, program staff reserves the right to suspend or even terminate a cell phone rental if usage privileges are abused. Teens taking part in the *Gadna* program will not be permitted to use phones at all while on base.

### **FRIENDS & FAMILY UPDATES DURING THE TRIP**

BBYO Passport uses “Smug Mug” to post pictures for each trip group during the summer. Anyone can access the pictures online at <http://bbyopassport.smugmug.com/> during the trip. Parents of participants automatically receive email notifications whenever new pictures are posted or whenever we have an update to share from trip. Additional friends and family members can sign-up to receive these same updates by filling out a short online form at this link:

<http://passport.bbyo.org/enrolled/group/signup>

### **HOW AND WHEN TO CALL**

For parents and friends who wish to contact a participant during the trip, keep in mind that Israel is seven hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time. Since our groups usually return to the hotel around 8:00pm each evening, the best time to call a hotel in Israel is between 1pm-4pm EDT. Hotel phone numbers will be included as part of the confirmed itinerary. However, not every hotel has a full service reception desk or phones in the individual bedrooms. If you want to make sure that your teen is reachable abroad, a cell phone rental is the ONLY reliable solution.

### **EMAIL & INTERNET ACCESS**

A handful of the hotels, kibbutzim, and guest houses that we stay at will have internet stations available which participants are welcome to use during free time – usually for an additional fee. However, often there are only one or two such stations available, and many eager customers. It is best not to expect participants to have online access during the program. We strongly suggest not bringing a laptop on the program or any expensive communication devices as the risk of theft or damage is very high.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

The BBYO Passport emergency phone number is 1-216-832-8059, and is handled by the Sr. Program Director, Lane Schlessel. The emergency phone number applies to ALL trips, regardless of location. The emergency number is ONLY meant for use in the event of a true emergency. To help alleviate any confusion about what is or is not an emergency, we have provided a few examples below:

#### Emergency Situations

- Family health emergency which requires immediate booking of a return flight home
- Urgent medical or safety situation



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### Non-Emergency Situations

- Concerns about child's fatigue or social adjustment
- Requests for flight extensions
- Fax confirmation requests
- Request for children to be featured in online photos
- Security concerns in Israel (email updates will be sent in such scenarios)

Please keep in mind that all non-emergency issues should be channeled only through the North American office. The BBYO Passport office in North America will be open throughout the summer from 9:00am EDT to 5:00pm EDT from Monday through Friday. If you have a question or wish to express any kind of general concern, feel free to call 1-800-698-1002 or e-mail us at [info@passport2theworld.org](mailto:info@passport2theworld.org). Calls and emails will always be returned promptly.

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## V. MONEY ON THE TRIP

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### **BRINGING EXTRA SPENDING MONEY**

The group flight, sleeping accommodations, all meals, in-country transportation, basic health insurance, and all program activities are covered by the program fees. The only spending that is your responsibility will be snacks, bottled water, laundry, souvenirs, gifts, hotel internet usage, and gratuities for the guide and driver. We estimate that \$200-\$400 is more than sufficient to cover all such expenses (not including gratuities).

### **HOW TO BRING MONEY ABROAD**

There are a number of ways to access and use money abroad. Please read this section carefully, and keep in mind that BBYO Passport will not be able to facilitate money transfers to participants during the trip, so please plan accordingly.

#### ***A) Pre-Paid Debit Cards – Payoneer***

Payoneer provides a pre-paid debit card which will be mailed to you at home prior to the start of the program. Through the use of Payoneer, participants will have the ability to withdraw funds from ATMs in Israel and around the world as well as charge items to the card wherever Mastercard is accepted. Parents can load money to the card through Payoneer's website, and can monitor/replenish the account online as necessary. Additional advantages of Payoneer are:

- No need to travel with large amounts of cash and minimal interference with the program logistics – no need to go to a bank to exchange cash and/or travelers checks.
- Trip staff carry spare cards which can be easily activated with the current balance of funds if the original card is lost



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- An umbrella organization that ensures the money – MasterCard® means that there is no personal liability for unauthorized purchases. Should unauthorized purchases be made, a call to Payoneer's customer support initiates the chargeback process from MasterCard®.
- Simple fee structure (detailed on Payoneer website)

If you plan to use a Payoneer card, be sure to complete the order within 30 days of the program start. To sign-up, go to this link and follow the online steps at [www.teentriaveldebitcard.com](http://www.teentriaveldebitcard.com)

### ***B) Other ATM / Credit Cards***

You may also choose to use your personal ATM card or credit card abroad. If so, please keep in mind the following advice:

- If your ATM card has a Visa, MasterCard, Star, Cirrus, or Maestro logo imprint, there should not be problem withdrawing money. PLUS cards will not work in Israel. Other ATM network cards may work, but we encourage you to check with your local bank if you have any doubts.
- Some participants have experienced difficulty withdrawing money from savings accounts. We strongly recommend that ATM cards be linked to checking accounts only to prevent any potential difficulties in Israel. Additionally, we recommend contacting your bank to let them know you'll be using your ATM card abroad. This will ensure that your bank does not suspect your ATM card has been stolen or its security compromised.
- Major credit cards are also accepted abroad and work well for larger purchases. Additionally holders of these credit cards may withdraw funds at the foreign currency counters of affiliated banks or at certain ATMs (expect high fees).

### ***C) Cash Money***

USA and Canadian dollars are not accepted abroad, so if you intend to bring cash with you, either plan to exchange it to local currency before you depart for the trip or at the airport upon arrival in Israel. There will be very few opportunities to exchange funds during the trip itself. Bringing some back-up cash is a good idea, but we do not recommend it as a primary solution for having spending money in Israel.

### ***D) Traveler's Checks & Israel Bonds***

Participants should NOT travel with traveler's checks or Israeli bonds. Since our staff collects participant passports at the start of the program. It is very difficult to retrieve them in order to cash traveler's checks. For the same reason, parents should not expect to be able to send money orders to Israel (e.g. Western Union) if more money is needed.

### **ABOUT LOCAL CURRENCIES**

In Israel, the local currency is the New Israeli Shekel. Each shekel is worth about 30 United States cents. Conversely, each USA dollar is worth about 3.50 shekels. Shekel coins come in units of 1 (~30



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cents), 5 (~\$1.40), and 10 (~\$2.85) as well as much smaller coin denominations. Shekel bills come in units of 20 (~\$5.70), 50 (~\$14), and 100 (~\$29) denominations. One important thing to keep in mind is that coins in Israel come in much higher values than what we are used to in North America. Practically speaking, this means you need to watch your coins carefully in Israel!

Although each Israeli shekel is nominally worth less than each US dollar, what you can buy with the shekels is a different matter altogether. As a general rule, things in Israel cost about the same as things in North America. Fresh produce tends to cost a little less than prices in North America and restaurant food tends to cost a little more. Finally, it's worth noting that the values of foreign currencies are constantly changing, and it's a good idea to check the values again right before your trip to get the most up-to-date information. Just Google "dollar shekel exchange rate" for the latest.

### **GRATUITIES FOR THE ISRAELI GUIDE AND DRIVER**

Tipping the guides and drivers is encouraged. In addition to being customary, you will soon realize that the professional in-country staff is working round-the-clock to ensure the success of the experience. Gratuities are a small way to say thanks. Please bring an envelope containing tip money to the airport – \$100 is suggested (\$130 is suggested for Israel Journey Plus participants or participants taking part in an Extension Program). BBYO Passport staff will collect this money at the start of the trip and it will be placed in a safe in our local offices for distribution at the end of the program. It is not customary to tip the North American trip staff or the security/medic escort in Israel.

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## **VI. PACKING FOR THE TRIP**

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### **LUGGAGE ADVICE**

Packing for a travel program can be a challenge. On one hand, if you pack too many things, you may get weighed down schlepping your heavy luggage on/off the bus and to/from your hotel room. On the other hand, we only schedule laundry approximately once every 7-9 days (i.e., 2x on a 3-week trip and 3x on a 4-week trip), so you definitely do not want to pack too little either. Pay attention to these simple tips when deciding how to pack for the summer:

- We highly recommend that you only bring one main piece of luggage to check onto the plane (duffel bags and rolling suitcases work best) and one full size carry-on bag or rolling suitcase.
- Be sure to bring at least one change of clothes, toiletries, and any prescription medicine in your carry-on bag in the unlikely event that your checked luggage gets delayed.
- We will be providing BBYO Passport luggage tags at the departure airport. Make sure to fill in your name, address, home telephone number, and email address. Fix it to whatever piece of luggage you check-in.
- In addition to the luggage tag, it is also a smart idea to attach some kind of easy identifier such as a colored ribbon to your checked luggage as well.



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- BBYO Passport will be providing a light-weight draw-string backpack which participants will receive at the airport before departure. This backpack is ideal way to store small items and water while we are traveling each day.
- Before packing, please review the updated restrictions listed by the TSA at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

### AIRLINE LUGGAGE RULES

Below are the luggage rules for EL AL Airlines on transatlantic flights:

- Checked Luggage: Up to two checked bags at no more than 50 pounds each and no more than 62 inches each (length + width + height).
- Carry-on Luggage: One carry-on size bag + one personal hand-held item

### ***Important Note for Participants on Connected Experiences***

If you are on a connected trip that includes “Euro-Quest Mediterranean”, “Euro-Quest Western” or “Ambassador to Bulgaria”, the luggage rules on the connecting flight from Europe to Israel are different than for the transatlantic flight. Teens on connecting flights between Europe and Israel are allowed to check one piece of luggage weighing no more than 44 pounds. Additional airline fees will apply if a teen checks luggage exceeding these normal limits.

### PACKING FOR THE WEATHER + OTHER TIPS

When deciding what to bring on the trip, the most important thing to keep in mind is the weather. In Israel during the summer, temperatures range from hot to hotter. Daytime temperatures range from the 80's to the 100's – and is especially hot when we travel in the desert regions and Eilat. The good news is that in most areas of Israel the heat is dry – there is very little humidity. So the higher temperatures may feel more comfortable than what you are used to at home. The other good news is that the chance for rain in Israel during the summer is practically zero percent. So no need to worry about rained out activities and no need to pack an umbrella. Finally, in Israel, the evenings tend to get chilly quickly – frequently as low as the 50's. With all of this in mind, here are some practical packing tips to consider:

- The clothing that you pack should be light weight and comfortable in hot temperatures – and easily hand washed for repeat use between scheduled laundry pick-ups.
- Whenever we plan to be outside for an extended period of time, participants will be **required** to wear a hat, a shirt with sleeves, and sunscreen. You will also be required to carry 2-3 liters (100 oz) of water on days with outdoor activities. Over exposure to the hot Middle Eastern sun can cause heatstroke, dehydration, and sunburns. So this rule is an important one and strictly enforced. *NOTE: Since the Dead Sea is so far below sea level, the sun is even stronger than you would normally think.*



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- Because the evenings turn cool quickly, and we will not always be able to return to the hotel to change before an evening activity, it's important to always bring a day-pack with you on the bus with a windbreaker, long-sleeved shirt, or light sweater.
- Pack comfortable walking shoes. We will be doing a lot of walking, and having comfortable shoes will go a long way. Wearing flip flops is fine for down time, but not when we are on the move. While athletic sandals like Tevas or Chacos are fine most days, they are NOT appropriate for days when we have hikes/nature walks on the itinerary. Finally, it is not necessary to bring hiking boots. Comfortable walking shoes or very lightweight hiking shoes are more than sufficient for any hiking that we do on the program *NOTE: Lightweight hiking shoes are recommended for participants on Trek Israel).*
- We will be visiting some religious sites such as the Western Wall in Jerusalem and Tsfat in the Galilee where "modest" clothing is more appropriate. As long as your shoulders and midriff are covered at these sites, you will be fine.
- Finally, to create a more special Shabbat atmosphere on the trip, it is tradition to wear clothing on Friday nights and Saturday days that is nicer than what we wear the rest of the week. Of course, Israel is a casual country, so we are talking about nothing more than "casual dressy" clothing.

### **SAMPLE PACKING LIST**

Everyone travels differently, and while we do not require that you follow this list exactly, please use it as a guideline for deciding what to pack.

#### **What we highly recommend**

- 9-12 t-shirts
- 5-6 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of jeans or khakis
- 10 pairs of underwear & socks
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 1 windbreaker or lightweight sweater/sweatshirt
- 2-3 bathing suits
- 1 beach towel
- 1-2 nicer outfits for Shabbat and special occasions  
(*khakis and polo shirts or casual button-down shirts for boys; skirts & blouses, casual dresses or nice slacks for girls*)
- 1 pair of sneakers/walking shoes or lightweight hiking shoes for walking and outdoor activities  
(*lightweight hiking shoes are strongly recommended for Trek Israel*)
- 1 pair of close-toed water shoes or old sneakers for water hikes  
(or sneakers if you do not mind getting them wet)



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- 1-2 full hats for protection from the sun (no visors)
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) – You will be using this daily
- Toiletry bag with enough of what you need for the whole trip (including prescription medications)
- Travel-side shampoo/conditioner (available at most hotels, but best to have a back-up)
- Photocopy of passport (inside cover page with photo/passport numbers)
- Extra copy of any prescriptions in case medicine is lost during trip
- Small flashlight
- Digital camera\*

### **What we suggest**

- Sunglasses
- Travel pouch for carrying passport copy, wallet, etc. when we are on the move
- Bug spray
- Small bottle of Woolite and stain remover for personal washing in between scheduled laundry days
- Frisbees, cards, etc.
- MP3 player\*
- Camelback water carrying device (or similar) – Recommending 2-3-liter water pouch
- Travel journal
- Various sized zip lock bags for holding valuables on water hikes or in wet clothing
- Electric converter and adapter for anything that needs to be plugged into a wall (more info below)
- Kippah for Shabbat

### **What we do not recommend**

- Linens and pillows
- Luggage that is not easily schlepped
- Expensive jewelry or other valuables
- Heavy backpack
- Heavy hiking boots
- Laptop or expensive electronics

*\*While we encourage you to bring an MP3 player and basic digital camera, please remember to bring appropriate electricity converting devices so that you do not “fry” your devices. Also please pay special attention to keeping such valuable items in a safe place at all times. BBYO Passport and its tour providing partners are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Participants are responsible for their possessions and valuables at all times.*



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### LAUNDRY ON THE TRIP

A laundry service will be pre-scheduled approximately every 7-9 days (i.e., 2x on a 3-week trip and 3x on a 4-week trip). Participants will be given a laundry bag to fill, and your cleaned clothing will be returned in those same bags. The cost of the laundry service is typically according to weight and ranges from \$7-\$10 per bag (25-40 shekels). We encourage participants to pair up as a room when doing laundry so that whites and colors are combined in separate loads. Finally, participants should be sure to label clothing in advance that will be sent to the laundry service. BBYO Passport and its tour providing partners are not responsible for any clothing lost or damaged by the laundry service.

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## VII. OPTIONAL HOST FAMILY WEEKEND

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If you are participating in "Israel Journey" or "Trek Israel", the second Shabbat is scheduled as an optional Host Family Weekend. If you are participating in "Israel Journey Plus", the Home Hospitality Weekend is scheduled for the third Shabbat on the program. This weekend is the perfect opportunity to visit with relatives or family friends while you are in Israel.

*NOTE: The "Impact: Israel" program does not include a Host Family Weekend option*

### HOST FAMILY WEEKEND LOGISTICS

If you wish to take part in the Host Family Weekend, please arrange for your host to pick you up at our scheduled accommodations on Thursday evening no earlier than 8:00pm and return you to our scheduled accommodations no later than 10:00pm on Saturday night. *NOTE: There will be a scheduled program on Saturday evening for the group, so we encourage teens to return by no later than 8:30pm in order to take part.*

The exact dates for each Host Family Weekend are as follows:

- Israel Journey #1: Thursday, June 30 - Saturday, July 2
- Trek Israel: Thursday, July 7 - Saturday, July 9
- Israel Journey Plus: July 7 - Saturday, July 9
- Israel Journey #3: Thursday, July 14 - Saturday, July 16
- Israel Journey #4: Thursday, July 21 - Saturday, July 23
- Israel Journey #5: Thursday, July 28 – Saturday, July 30

The hotel for pick-up and drop-off will be in the Jerusalem/Tel Aviv region, and the exact location will be released with the confirmed itinerary in May.

### HOST FAMILY PERMISSION FORM

To take advantage of the optional Home Hospitality Weekend, parents must submit a release form online as part of your registration account (<https://passport.bbyo.org/destinations/tripbuilder/>). You will be asked to provide us with the name / cell phone number of the person(s) responsible for pick-up on Thursday evening and drop-off on Saturday night. This person must be at least 21 years of age



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and must carry a form of identification. No participant will be allowed to leave for the Home Hospitality Weekend on public transportation or a taxi. We ask that you submit the completed details NO LATER than May 30, 2011.

Parents are responsible for arranging Home Hospitality Weekend plans for their teens and for communicating all pick-up and drop-off instructions. If your Host Family Weekend plans change, we ask you to re-submit the online form as well as notify us if the change happens after May 30th.

***Finally, please note that all BBYO Passport rules apply during the Home Hospitality Weekend.***

### **SUPERVISED PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE**

Participation in the Host Family Weekend is by no means mandatory, and the itinerary during this weekend is fully programmed like any other for those teens staying with the group. If you would like to make alternate plans to see Israeli family and friends during the trip, they are welcomed to visit **at our accommodations** during Shabbat or on an evening week night – so long as it is coordinated and approved through your trip staff in advance. Teens can not be “checked out” of the program by friends or family under any circumstances outside of the designated Host Family Weekend.

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## **VIII. MEDICAL & TRAVEL INSURANCE**

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### **ABOUT COVERAGE DURING THE TRIP**

BBYO Passport program fees include basic medical insurance covering treatment and medication for of any non pre-existing medical conditions. What this means is that the policy covers teens in the event of a stomach bug, a sprained ankle, dehydration, etc. – without any out-of-pocket expenses or paperwork. The policy does not cover any medical conditions for which a participant is already being treated for or for which treatment has been received in the past. This exclusion rule also applies to all psychological care as well as care for any medical matter stemming from a pre-existing condition. For this reason, participants are required to come on the program with their own medical insurance policy which includes coverage for short term travel abroad. **In the event that a participant needs to be treated for a pre-existing condition during the program, the parents of the participant will be solely responsible for any associated costs.** Additional details available online at <http://www.authenticisrael.com/documents/harel.pdf>

### **EXTENDING YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE**

If a participant is planning to extend their stay in Israel after the end of the supervised program, it is possible to have the program insurance policy extended for the duration of a teen’s personal stay in Israel. The cost of the local health insurance policy is \$2.50 per day, and it is only valid within Israel. A confirmed insurance number with coverage instructions will be issued in advance of the group program. To order extended health insurance, please contact the BBYO Passport office directly.

### **TRAVELERS INSURANCE**



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We strongly encourage all BBYO Passport participants to purchase travelers insurance in advance of the program. Travel insurance is valuable for situations such as:

- Last minute cancellation due to personal illness or family illness. Note: Some policies also allow for any-reason cancellation coverage.
- Cancellation of connecting flight due to weather delays, etc.
- Medical insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions. Note: Passport programs do not cover pre-existing conditions
- Lost luggage and other services

BBYO Passport recommends Travel Insured International as a reputable provider of travel insurance. A negotiated group discount policy is available to BBYO Passport participants. To learn more and purchase insurance, go to: <http://passport.bbyo.org/enrolled/insurance/>

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### IX. GENERAL PRE-TRIP TIPS

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#### ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The electrical current in Israel is 220 volts, which is twice the voltage used in North America. The electrical plugs also are different, with two rounded prongs that are separated slightly further apart than their two North American flattened counterparts. Therefore, you will need a voltage converter if you are bringing electronic or electrical items (unless they have a built-in one) as well as an adapter for plugging in your items. If you are unsure of which plugs to purchase, check with your local electronics or travel store.

#### FREE TIME

Each BBYO Passport program is relatively short, and you will find that each day is jam-packed with must-see's and must-do's. Typically, free time during the day is limited and is allowed only in certain areas that are deemed safe. In Israel, many of the hotels that we stay at are located on kibbutz campuses, and participants will often have free time in the evenings on the campus. If you have family or friends that you would like to have visit you during the program, the best times for visits are on non-scheduled evening at the hotel. Saturday afternoons during free time hours is also an appropriate time for a visit. Please coordinate any such visit with your trip staff leaders in advance. Under no circumstances will you be allowed to leave the group or the hotel with friends or families for any reason except during the Host Family Weekend. If you need extra time to visit family and friends in Israel, you should consider extending your plane ticket!

*NOTE: Please keep in mind that availability on return flights this summer may be limited and there are airline-imposed limitations on how many participants may extend their tickets. Booking a last-minute extension may be impossible or may result in large changes in fare. Please plan ahead. For more information, email Batya Lebinger at [batya@authenticisrael.net](mailto:batya@authenticisrael.net).*



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### **KASHRUT & SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS**

All meals provided by the program in Israel, including those aboard the flights to and from Israel, are kosher as certified under the supervision of Israel's official local Rabbinate. People with special dietary situations (i.e. lactose intolerance, vegetarian, etc.) should contact us in advance to make proper arrangements for the flight and during the program.

### **MEDICATION AND CONTACT LENSES**

If you are taking prescribed medication, bring enough for the duration of the program as well as an extra written prescription record in case you misplace/lose your medicine. Take all medication on the plane with you in your carry-on luggage. Do NOT pack any medication with your checked-in luggage. The same is true for contact lenses and prescription glasses. Be sure to check TSA's restrictions on traveling with medication and liquids at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

Participants are responsible for taking their own medication during the trip. Keep in mind that while staff has a list of all medications taken by participants, staff members will not legally be allowed to assist in administering any medication for participants. If you have special requests (i.e. refrigeration requirements), please note them on your health forms and feel free to contact the office as well to confirm. Finally, please be advised that participants are never allowed to share, dispense, or sell medication. Violation of this policy is grounds for program dismissal.

### **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

If you are musically inclined and willing to bring your instrument to Israel (with all of the hassle and risks involved in flying with it), by all means, feel free to do so. There will be plenty of occasions to show off your skills.

### **SHABBAT PROGRAMMING**

Shabbat is a special time on the BBYO Passport program. Since there is no driving on Shabbat, it is our best chance to sit back as a group and reflect on the prior week's activities. Friday nights and Saturdays will include plenty of time for informal discussions and some much needed rest. Where ever possible, we try to include visits to local synagogues to give you a flavor of how Judaism is observed in different parts of the world. Often times our best or only option is a traditional orthodox service. Even if it is not what you are accustomed to, it is an opportunity for a rich cultural experience and can be a very meaningful way to celebrate Shabbat.

The BBYO Passport program also provides a number of alternative options for the celebration of Shabbat, and participants are encouraged to take a leadership role in planning these programs. As a general rule, nothing in the BBYO Passport program will oblige or encourage participants to violate the rules of Shabbat. At the same time, what participants do during non-programmed Shabbat time is a personal decision so long as it is within the overall rules of the program. We only ask that participants be mindful and considerate of the various levels of religious practice of everyone around



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them. It is very important that everyone feel comfortable on Shabbat regardless of Jewish background.

### VALUABLES

Theft is not uncommon in any place where a large number of tourists congregate, and there have been many instances in the past. Accordingly, we encourage you to leave items of value at home and to carefully keep track of anything valuable that you do bring on the program. As a general rule, hotel rooms should always remain locked. However, even a locked hotel room should not be considered a secure area unless a locked safe is available. If it is possible to bring a locking suitcase, we recommend it, although it is not a solution by itself. Ultimately, participant property is the sole responsibility of the participant.

### VACCINATIONS

There is no need for vaccinations or immunizations against diseases prior to visiting Israel beyond the normal vaccinations routinely received against childhood diseases in North America. Please ensure that you have up-to-date tetanus shots.

### WATER

Proper hydration is essential during a trip of this nature. Expect to be drinking two large bottles of water a day (more in the desert!). You can expect that the staff will be constantly reminding you to drink, drink, drink!! But ultimately you must take this responsibility on your own shoulders. The water in Israel is properly treated and is perfectly safe to drink. Some North Americans find that it has a "taste." Bottled water is widely available and inexpensive, and you will have many opportunities to purchase it. Similarly you will be able to refill your own water bottles with tap water frequently. If you would like to get fancy, you can always bring a Camelback type hydration device. If you do, make sure it is the kind that can hold at least 2-3 full liters water. Participants will not be allowed off the bus without full water bottles!

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## X. PROGRAM RULES & EXPECTATIONS

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As a Jewish leadership organization, BBYO sets a high standard and expects a great degree of self-discipline. While our staff is professionally trained to deal with issues relating to individuals and to the group as a whole, please remember that we also place trust and responsibility on the shoulders of our participants. By signing the program waiver form each teen has agreed to abide by the BBYO Code of Conduct, which we encourage teens and parents to review prior to the start of the program at <http://passport.bbyo.org/BBYOCODE.pdf>. These rules go into effect at the airport prior to the departure of the group flight and extend throughout the program, including the Host Family Weekend.

For the sake of creating safe and successful program experience, BBYO Passport has established a series of rules and disciplinary guidelines. Each disciplinary situation is evaluated individually, but as a



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general rule, infractions related to physical violence, drugs/controlled substances, alcohol, and leaving the group without authorization are dealt with on a zero-tolerance basis. A single infraction will result in immediate separation from the group and dismissal from the program. BBYO Passport staff reserves the sole right to make these decisions, and there may also be further consequences for BBYO members within their local regions after returning to North America. In the event of a program dismissal, the parents of a dismissed participant will be solely responsible for all associated fees, including the cost of special transportation to the airport, a flight chaperone if necessary, or an airline change fee. No portion of the program fees will be refunded. Given the international nature of the program, the consequences of dismissal are extremely serious, very embarrassing, costly, and disruptive to the rest of the group.

**It is our sincere hope that no one will need to be expelled from a BBYO Passport program this summer, and accordingly, we encourage parents and teens to discuss this matter carefully together before the start of the program.**

There is also a range of other behavioral matters which are dealt with on the program through a series of steps -- which may involve a staff-teen conversation, a formal warning, loss of free time or other privileges, program probation, and ultimately dismissal. Again, BBYO Passport staff reserves the sole right to make decisions related to behavioral conduct and disciplinary consequences. Any specific follow-on questions related to disciplinary rules and regulations should be directed to the BBYO Passport's Sr. Program Director, Lane Schlessel ([lane@passport2theworld.org](mailto:lane@passport2theworld.org)).

The following is a very partial list of our expectations for teen behavior on the program:

### Curfew & Rooming Rules

To fully appreciate the program, a good night sleep is essential. A curfew will be enforced at the discretion of trip staff. Participants are expected to abide by these curfew rules. Hotel rooms are assigned on a single-gender basis, and participants of the opposite sex are not allowed to be in the same hotel room at any time during the program.

### Drugs & Alcohol

Possession, consumption, and/or purchase of drugs and/or alcohol will not be tolerated on any BBYO Passport program and will result in immediate dismissal. Moreover, it is the policy of BBYO Passport to allow the police and justice departments of the respective countries visited to prosecute when infractions have occurred without intervention by BBYO Passport.

***NOTE: BBYO Passport staff reserves the right to administer a breathalyzer test and/or search any participant's belongings or room at any time and for any reason during the course of the trip.***

### Leaving the Program without Authorization



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As part of our general approach to safety and security, participants on all BBYO Passport programs are not allowed to leave the supervision of the program at any time. There will be occasions for limited free time with travel buddies in specific areas that are deemed secure by program staff. However, the general rule is that there is no leaving the program at any time and for any reason whatsoever during the day or at night. Leaving the program without specific staff authorization is grounds for immediate dismissal.

### Smoking

BBYO Passport policy does not allow for smoking of any kind by participants regardless of age – including purchasing and/or possession. This policy includes water pipes (i.e. hookah pipes). The purchase or possession of smoking paraphernalia is not allowed on the program for any reason and will result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program.

### Tattooing & Piercing

Such activities are forbidden during the program, including during the Host Family Weekend. Tattooing and piercing can be unsafe in foreign countries, and any resulting medical complications would not be covered under the program medical insurance policy. Any piercings or tattoos that are acquired during the trip will result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program.

### Respect for Property

It is the expectation of BBYO Passport that participants will behave responsibly and with respect regarding belongings and property throughout the program. Should property be damaged or defaced by a fellow participant, those responsible will be held accountable for payment of damages.

### Social Cohesion

BBYO Passport treats each trip as an individual traveling community. We believe in the unique power of a group experience as opposed to a collection of individual experiences. As a member of a traveling community, each participant has a responsibility to treat his/her fellow participants with respect and decency. Our aim is to create an atmosphere where everyone on the program is made to feel welcomed and comfortable, and each participant plays a role in making this possible.

### Timeliness & Cooperation with Program Staff

Behind the scenes of each BBYO Passport program is a complicated logistical plan which requires us to keep to an exact schedule. Staying on schedule requires the cooperation of every participant. It means waking up in the morning on time, not wandering from the group, and respecting the overall schedule of the program. The consequence of being late is that elements of the program will be cancelled. It is our goal to share as much of Israel and the world with you as we can, and we need every participant's cooperation to enable the program to be fully experienced.

### Cell Phone & Communication Device Use



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BBYO Passport program staff regards the use of a cell phone or any communications device on the program to be a privilege. Participants will NOT be allowed to use their phones/devices during group programming time. Participants must exercise discretion when using the phones (i.e. respect sleeping roommates, etc.). If necessary, program staff reserves the right to suspend or even terminate a cell phone rental if usage privileges are abused.

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## **XI. GETTING READY TO EXPERIENCE ISRAEL!**

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### **WHY ISRAEL?**

You could spend your summer traveling through Europe, hiking across America, hanging out with your friends from home. So why Israel? Year after year, thousands of Jews from all over the world make their way to Israel, again and again and again.

For our ancestors, love of Israel was ingrained in their daily lives. Each day, they would face Jerusalem, and pray for the return to Zion. More recently, after the Holocaust, our parents and grandparents saw the immediate need for a Jewish home. But this generation has the great fortune to live in a world where the Jewish state is a living, thriving entity – a home to both its inhabitants, and Jews all over the world. How does this pertain to you? This summer, BBYO Passport encourages you to explore that very question.

### Roots of Israel

The origins of the Jews as a people are in the land called Israel. The historical, cultural and religious roots of Jews are as the "children of Israel" who lived in the Land of Israel (the word "Jew" comes from the word "Judea:" the largest of the tribes of Israel in Biblical times). Everything that is at the core of the early history of the Jews is linked to Israel. The Bible and its early heroes (patriarchs and matriarchs, Moses, David and Solomon) are rooted in the Land of Israel. The great prophetic ideas such as justice, equality and peace, which have shaped world history, were formulated in the Land of Israel. The roots of the Jews as a historical people are in the soil of Israel and our culture teaches us of the yearning to return to that land when we were exiled from it.

### The Bible

Israel is the land of the Bible and as one scholar says, "the Bible is the original super story!" It is a book that has shaped the art, music, thought and behavior of millions of peoples and religions throughout world history. Israel is the place where the Bible was written and in it is told the saga of the Jewish people who lived there.

### Memories and Dreams

Throughout history Jews developed an ongoing and life-long love affair with Israel. Amazingly, whether in Israel or not, Jews never forgotten the Land of Israel. They referred to it in their prayers, in their weddings and even when building a new home. Jews continue to face towards Jerusalem in



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their synagogues and have continued to give money to the Jewish community in Israel throughout the ages. It became part of the memory and dreams of Jews.

### The Pillars of Judaism

Israel was turned into one of the key pillars of Judaism - along with the God of Israel, the Torah of Israel and the People of Israel. With a few exceptions, Israel was not seen as a replacement for Judaism but rather as an integral part of it. The Jewish religion made Israel a religious idea and collective vision and turned it into one of the cornerstones of Jewish religious civilization.

### Jewish Pride and Renewal

In modern times, Israel has become a remarkable statement about the ability of the Jewish people to renew itself after the nightmare of the Holocaust. Israel made Jews proud because it served as a haven for Jews, renewed Jewish cultural creativity and study and represented Jewish values. Israel became a daily reminder that Judaism as a religion is alive and well and that Jewish nationalism and culture are equally important in the definition of the "New Jew." Israel represents the ideological revolution in which Jews became the "subjects" of history rather than the "objects." Jewish national pride has been inspired by the actions of farmers and soldiers, high-tech wizards and social reformers, who have labored to create a just and healthier society.

### The Old and the New

Modern Israel is striking proof that a very old religion can survive in a very modern world. Israel is the Western Wall of old and art galleries and coffee houses of today. It is the holiness of Shabbat in Jerusalem and the beat of Saturday night in Tel Aviv. It is archeology of the past and high tech and business of the future. Israel shows that Judaism can be old and new at the same time.

### About Jews

Israel is about Jews. It is about saving Jews; it is about Jews being able to live regular lives. It is about Jews learning how to live with each other. It's about a Jewish state that sometimes makes mistakes and is not perfect, but that still strives for social justice and protects democratic values. Ultimately, maybe it's not philosophy, theology or history - it's about real live people who are our brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and family.

So, back to our original question: Why Israel?

It's a central part of Jewish history, culture and religion.

It's part of our family.

It's part of the general culture in which we live.

It's a part of you.

This trip is about your own very personal conversation with this most ancient land and most modern state. Our goal is simple – let you explore and discover your connection to Israel and the Jewish people.



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### ISRAEL 101: SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Official Name: State of Israel (*Medinat Yisrael*)

Independence: Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948. The country celebrates Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzma'ut) according to the corresponding date on the Hebrew calendar - the 5th day of the month of Iyar.

Flag: White with a blue hexagram known as the Magen David (Shield of David) centered between two equal horizontal blue bands.

Location: In southwest Asia along the eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, bordering Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Area: 20,770 sq. km (slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey); includes the Golan Heights and disputed territories of the West Bank

Population: The State of Israel had population of approximately 7,684,000 inhabitants as of November 2010. About 75% of them are Jewish and about 20% are Arabs. About 91% of Israel's inhabitants live in some 200 towns and cities, largest of which are Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Beersheva. About 5% are members of rural cooperative settlements known as kibbutzim and moshavim.

Languages: Hebrew and Arabic. English is frequently used as a second language, and Russian is spoken by more than one-fifth of the population.

Military: Israel has mandatory conscription for Jewish, Druze and Circassian citizens; however, the majority of full-time yeshiva (religious seminary) students are exempt. Men typically serve three years, and women two, usually beginning at the age of 18; men also serve compulsory reserve duty until the age of 51. Muslim and Christian Arabs are exempt from service, although some, especially Bedouin, volunteer.

Capital: Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1949, although practically all countries maintain embassies in Tel Aviv. During the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel annexed the eastern part of the city, including the walled Old City, into the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem. The annexation is not recognized by the UN and most countries.

Government: Israel is a parliamentary democracy with legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The duties of the President are mostly ceremonial. The Knesset, Israel's legislative body, is a 120-member unicameral parliament whose members are elected every four years in universal, nationwide elections. The Government Coalition must have the support of a majority of Knesset Members to survive. The Cabinet of Ministers, charged with administering internal and foreign affairs, is headed by the prime minister and is collectively responsible to the Knesset.

### ISRAEL: A BRIEF HISTORY

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was preceded by more than 50 years of efforts by Zionist leaders to establish a sovereign nation as a homeland for Jews. The desire of Jews to return to what



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they consider their rightful homeland was first expressed during the Babylonian exile and became a universal Jewish theme after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. and the dispersal that followed.

It was not until the founding of the Zionist movement by Theodore Herzl at the end of the 19th century that practical steps were taken toward securing international sanction for large-scale Jewish settlement in Palestine--then a part of the Ottoman Empire.

The Balfour declaration in 1917 asserted the British Government's support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This declaration was supported by a number of other countries, including the United States, and became more important following World War I, when the United Kingdom was assigned the Palestine mandate by the League of Nations.

Jewish immigration grew slowly in the 1920s; it increased substantially in the 1930s, due to political turmoil in Europe and Nazi persecution, until restrictions were imposed by the United Kingdom in 1939. After the end of World War II, and the near-extirmination of European Jewry by the Nazis, international support for Jews seeking to settle in Palestine overcame British efforts to restrict immigration.

International support for establishing a Jewish state led to the adoption in November 1947 of the UN partition plan, which called for dividing the Mandate of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state and for establishing Jerusalem separately as an international city under UN administration.

Violence between Arab and Jewish communities erupted almost immediately. Toward the end of the British mandate, the Jews planned to declare a separate state, a development the Arabs were determined to prevent. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was proclaimed. The following day, armies from neighboring Arab nations entered the former Mandate of Palestine to engage Israeli military forces.

In 1949, under UN auspices, four armistice agreements were negotiated and signed at Rhodes, Greece, between Israel and its neighbors Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The 1948-49 war of independence resulted in a 50% increase in Israeli territory, including western Jerusalem. No general peace settlement was achieved at Rhodes, however, and violence along the borders continued for many years.

In October 1956, Israel invaded the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula at the same time that operations by French and British forces against Egypt were taking place in the Suez Canal area. Israeli forces withdrew in March 1957, after the United Nations established the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Gaza Strip and Sinai. In 1966-67, terrorist incidents and retaliatory acts across the armistice demarcation lines increased.

In May 1967, after tension had developed between Syria and Israel, Egyptian President Nasser moved armaments and about 80,000 troops into the Sinai and ordered a withdrawal of UNEF troops from



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the armistice line and Sharm El Sheikh. Nasser then closed the Strait of Tiran to Israeli ships, blockading the Israeli port of Eilat at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba. On May 30, Jordan and Egypt signed a mutual defense treaty.

In response to these events, Israeli forces struck targets in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria on June 5. After 6 days of fighting, by the time all parties had accepted the cease-fire called for by UN Security Council Resolutions 235 and 236, Israel controlled the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the formerly Jordanian-controlled West Bank of the Jordan River, including East Jerusalem. On November 22, 1967, the Security Council adopted Resolution 242, the "land for peace" formula, which called for the establishment of a just and lasting peace based on Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 in return for the end of all states of belligerency, respect for the sovereignty of all states in the area, and the right to live in peace within secure, recognized boundaries.

In the 1969-70 war of attrition, Israeli planes made deep strikes into Egypt in retaliation for repeated Egyptian shelling of Israeli positions along the Suez Canal. In early 1969, fighting broke out between Egypt and Israel along the Suez Canal. The United States helped end these hostilities in August 1970, but subsequent U.S. efforts to negotiate an interim agreement to open the Suez Canal and achieve disengagement of forces were unsuccessful.

On October 6, 1973--Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement)--Syrian and Egyptian forces attacked Israeli positions in Golan and along the Suez Canal. Initially, Syria and Egypt made significant advances against Israeli forces. However, Israel recovered on both fronts, pushed the Syrians back beyond the 1967 cease-fire lines, and recrossed the Suez Canal to take a salient on its west bank, isolating Egyptian troops, who eventually surrendered.

The United States and the Soviet Union helped bring about a cease-fire between the combatants. In the UN Security Council, the United States supported Resolution 338, which reaffirmed Resolution 242 as the framework for peace and called for peace negotiations between the parties.

The cease-fire did not end the sporadic clashes along the cease-fire lines nor did it dissipate military tensions. The United States tried to help the parties reach agreement on cease-fire stabilization and military disengagement. On March 5, 1974, Israeli forces withdrew from the canal, and Egypt assumed control. Syria and Israel signed a disengagement agreement on May 31, 1974, and the UN Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF) was established as a peacekeeping force in the Golan. Further U.S. efforts resulted in an interim agreement between Egypt and Israel in September 1975, which provided for another Israeli withdrawal in the Sinai, a limitation of forces, and three observation stations staffed by U.S. civilians in a UN-maintained buffer zone between Egyptian and Israeli forces.



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In November 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat broke 30 years of hostility with Israel by visiting Jerusalem at the invitation of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. During a 2-day visit, which included a speech before the Knesset, the Egyptian leader created a new psychological climate in the Middle East in which peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors seemed a realistic possibility. Sadat recognized Israel's right to exist and established the basis for direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

In September 1978, U.S. President Jimmy Carter invited President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin to meet with him at Camp David, where they agreed on a framework for peace between Israel and Egypt and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It set out broad principles to guide negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. It also established guidelines for a West Bank-Gaza transitional regime of full autonomy for the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories and for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The treaty was signed on March 26, 1979, by Begin and Sadat, with President Carter signing as witness. Under the treaty, Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in April 1982. In 1989, the Governments of Israel and Egypt concluded an agreement that resolved the status of Taba, a resort area on the Gulf of Aqaba.

In the years following the 1948 war, Israel's border with Lebanon was quiet, compared to its borders with other neighbors. After the expulsion of the Palestinian fedayeen (fighters) from Jordan in 1970--and their influx into southern Lebanon, however, hostilities on Israel's northern border increased. In March 1978, after a series of clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, Israeli forces crossed into Lebanon. After passage of Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israeli withdrawal and the creation of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon peace-keeping force (UNIFIL), Israel withdrew its troops.

In July 1981, after additional fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in Lebanon, President Reagan's special envoy, Philip C. Habib, helped secure a cease-fire between the parties. However, in June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon to fight the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In August 1982, the PLO withdrew its forces from Lebanon. With U.S. assistance, Israel and Lebanon reached an accord in May 1983 that set the stage to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon. The instruments of ratification were never exchanged, however, and in March 1984, under pressure from Syria, Lebanon canceled the agreement. In June 1985, Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon, leaving a small residual Israeli force and an Israeli-supported militia in southern Lebanon in a "security zone," which Israel considers a necessary buffer against attacks on its northern territory.

By the late 1980s, the spread of non-conventional weaponry--including missile technology--in the Middle East began to pose security problems for Israel from further afield. This was evident during the Gulf crisis that began with Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.



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When allied coalition forces moved to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait in January 1991, Iraq launched a series of missile attacks against Israel. Despite the provocation, Israel refrained from entering the Gulf war directly, accepting U.S. assistance to deflect continued Iraqi missile attacks. The coalition's victory in the Gulf war opened new possibilities for regional peace, and in October 1991, the Presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union jointly convened an historic meeting in Madrid of Israeli, Lebanese, Jordanian, Syrian, and Palestinian leaders which became the foundation for ongoing bilateral and multilateral negotiations designed to bring lasting peace and economic development to the region.

On September 13, 1993, Israel and the PLO signed a Declaration of Principles (DOP) on the South Lawn of the White House. The declaration was a major conceptual breakthrough achieved under the Madrid framework. It established an ambitious set of objectives relating to a transfer of authority from Israel to an interim Palestinian authority. The DOP established May 1999 as the date by which a permanent status agreement for the West Bank and Gaza Strip would take effect. Israel and the PLO subsequently signed the Gaza-Jericho Agreement on May 4, 1994, and the Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities on August 29, 1994, which began the process of transferring authority from Israel to the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat signed the historic Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on September 28, 1995, in Washington. The agreement, witnessed by the President on behalf of the United States and by Russia, Egypt, Norway, and the European Union, incorporates and supersedes the previous agreements and marked the conclusion of the first stage of negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

The accord broadens Palestinian self-government by means of a popularly elected legislative council. It provides for election and establishment of that body, transfer of civil authority, Israeli redeployment from major population centers in the West Bank, security arrangements, and cooperation in a variety of areas. Negotiations on permanent status began on May 5, 1996 in Taba, Egypt. As agreed in the 1993 DOP, those talks will address the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, final security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with neighboring states, and other issues of common interest.

On October 26, 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a historic peace treaty, witnessed by President Clinton. This was followed by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat's signing of the historic Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on September 28, 1995. This accord, which incorporated and superseded previous agreements, broadened Palestinian self-government and provided for cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians in several areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated on November 4, 1995, by a right-wing Jewish radical, bringing the increasingly bitter national debate over the peace process to a climax. Subsequent Israeli governments continued to negotiate with the PLO resulting in additional



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agreements, including the Wye River and the Sharm el-Sheikh memoranda. However, a summit hosted by President Clinton at Camp David in July 2000 to address permanent status issues--including the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, final security arrangements, borders, and relations and cooperation with neighboring states--failed to produce an agreement. The struggle to reach a peace agreement between Israel and its neighbors is still ongoing today.

### **BACKGROUND READING**

Once you arrive in Israel, you will start asking a great many questions. To prepare you for all those questions, and to give you a much better understanding of Israel prior to your departure, we suggest you do a little reading before your trip.

#### Books

Exodus (Leon Uris)

The Source (James Michener)

My Life (Golda Meir)

In the Land of Israel (Amos Oz)

#### Online Newspapers & Resources

To track the daily news in Israel, check out:

Haaretz / [www.haaretzdaily.com](http://www.haaretzdaily.com)

Jerusalem Post / [www.jerusalempost.com](http://www.jerusalempost.com)

Israel 21c / [www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org)