

# Arrival Notes

March 4-16, 2023

## BEN GURION AIRPORT PASSPORT CONTROL / BAGGAGE CLAIM / CUSTOMS

Once you exit your plane, you will enter Ben Gurion airport. Simply move forward, following the flow of passengers, and you will come to passport control. There you will present your passport and receive an entry visa. The agent will not put a stamp in your passport but will give you a small slip of paper, slightly smaller than a business card. **THIS IS YOUR VISA. DO NOT LOSE THIS PAPER!** 😊

- Be prepared to answer general questions about the nature of your visit: arriving as part of a study trip, staying in Tel Aviv, the Galilee, Jerusalem, etc.
- Have the name/address of our first hotel on hand: Crowne Plaza Tel Aviv Beach, 145 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv 6345313, Israel, +972-03-520-1111 (or another hotel if you are arriving early and have made other arrangements)

After finishing with the passport agent, you will move on to the baggage claim area

- First, you will come to a turnstile where you will scan the small paper you received to enter the baggage claim area.
- After scanning the paper, store it safely away. **DO NOT LOSE THIS PAPER — THIS IS YOUR VISA.**
- There are carts near the luggage carousels to help you transport your bags outside.

Once you have collected your luggage, you will see the exit doors leading to the Greeter's Hall, where people wait to pick up passengers. Customs is in the area just before that exit.

- If no one motions for you to stop, you are free to exit without having your luggage inspected.

## MONEY EXCHANGE /ATM/ SIM CARD

After exiting through the baggage area, you will enter the Greeter's Hall. There you will find: bathrooms, money exchange stalls, snack machines, and booths where you can purchase a local SIM card if you desire.

- You should plan to get money at the airport, either exchange cash or withdraw from an ATM.
- **We recommend getting a minimum of apx. \$250 - \$300 per person (or the equivalent if a different currency) changed into shekels while at the airport.** There will be very little free time or ATM availability in the first few days of the trip, and you will need to have cash on hand to pay for your transportation from the airport to the hotel and for your lunches once we begin touring.
  - Taxi for 2, plus luggage, from airport to hotel will be between 170-190NIS (apx. \$50-\$60)
  - Some of our lunch locations will take credit cards, but you should always plan on having cash available in case they don't. Lunches tend to run around 50-70NIS/person /day (apx. \$15-\$20/person /day). Some places will take foreign currency, but not all do.

## TAKING A TAXI FROM BEN GURION AIRPORT

**Taxi:** From the Greeters Hall, you will exit the airport, following the signs to the taxi area. A dispatcher will assign you to a government-regulated taxi. Have the address for the hotel to give to the taxi driver: Crowne Plaza Tel Aviv Beach, 145 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, +972-03-520-1111

- Taxi drivers are required by law to use the meter on all trips. Unless you know the accepted rates, do not be tempted to set a price beforehand. For long trips, the driver must charge passengers according to the Ministry of Transport price list posted in all taxis. Further, a 25% surcharge for night trips is in effect from 9:01 pm – 5:29 am (from 4 pm on Fridays & holiday eves). Trips out of Ben Gurion Airport are charged an additional NIS 5.00, and passengers pay approximately NIS 3.00 for each suitcase.
- The taxi ride from Ben Gurion to the Crowne Plaza is approximately 30 mins. and should cost around 170-190NIS (\$50-\$60) depending on the time of day and amount of luggage.

### ARRIVING AT THE CROWNE PLAZA TEL AVIV BEACH HOTEL

- When you arrive, check in at the front desk and let them know you are with the Joel Kramer Group
- Gordon Beach is at the hotel's doorstep, and Tel Aviv Marina is next door
- There are restaurants, pharmacies, and convenience stores within easy walking distance

If you would like to have some time to rest from travel before the study trip begins, you are welcome to arrive early. However, you must make hotel arrangements for yourself at the Crowne Plaza or at any other hotel of your choosing. The contact information for the Crowne Plaza is:

Crowne Plaza Tel Aviv Beach, +972-03-520-1111

<https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/tel-aviv/tlvil/hoteldetail?>

### GROUP ORIENTATION

Dinner on the night of your arrival (which is covered in your trip cost) will be served at the hotel beginning at 6 pm. After dinner, we will meet for a brief orientation around 7 pm. You'll be informed of the exact time and room # of our meeting when you arrive and check in.

- If your flight has you arriving too late for dinner, please alert us so that we can have the hotel prepare a dinner box for you and leave it in your room.
- If you do not arrive in time for the orientation meeting, we will make sure that you receive all the necessary instructions for the next morning's departure.

### TRAVEL DELAYS

Please make sure to have our contact information with you as you travel so that if you experience travel delays you can let us know. If you experience a delay or miss a connecting flight, notify us as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements to connect you to the group.

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Israel cell phone: 054 683 6011 (if dialing from U.S. – 011 972 54 683 6011)