Bought from lottery kiosks, news agents or bookshops and come in denominations of 10 units (12 NIS), 20 units (24 NIS) and 50 units (48 NIS).

To call the U.S. from Tel Aviv, dial 00 International access + 1 (U.S. country code) + area code + local number.

To call Tel Aviv from the United States or Canada, dial 011 International access + 972 (Israel country code) + 03 (Tel Aviv and Jaffa area code) or 02 (Jerusalem and the West Bank area code) + local number.

Tourist Information All Tel Aviv taxis charge by the meter, but they are still an expensive way of getting around the city. They operate according to two tariffs: one between 5:30 am and 9 pm and the second at all other times.

Transportation Double as a multistory shopping center, Tel Aviv’s recently opened central bus station is a mammoth complex where outgoing intercity buses depart from the 6th floor, where there’s also an information point.

Useful Words and Phrases

In Hebrew
Hello/goodbye • shai-LOM
Good morning • BU-kni tow
Good evening • erev tow
Thank you • to-DAH
You’re welcome • al low da-VAR

In Arabic
Hello • al-halal/mahb-ha
Goodbye • sadaam alechaim/mu-ab-salamah
Good morning • sahab-ol-kheer
Good evening • masl-aal-kheer
Thank you • sho-khran
You’re welcome • sifvan
Please • min fadlakh
Yes • ay-ah
No • ra
How much is this? • ash-desh hadlah?
To bolt • bra-t al-may
Do you speak English? • tech-kei Inglesh?

General Information Along with Gath, Gaza, Ekron and Askelon, Ashod was one of the five great Philistine cities and an important cultural and religious center. That was 3,000 years ago. Established only as recently as 1957, modern Ashdod is a planned city of uniform buildings and industrial sites. It is also a major port with a deep-water harbor that has taken much work from Haifa and caused the closure of the port at Tel Aviv. Ashdod is your gateway to Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Massada, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

History While the history of Jerusalem is a grand biblical epic, the making of Tel Aviv is a modern short story centered on drive and ambition coupled with town planning blunders. Tel Aviv was begun by small groups of Jews who wished to migrate from the cramped and unsanitary confines of long-established, predominantly Arab Jaffa. Initially they settled in two small communities Neve Tzek (1886) and Neve Shalom (1890), among the dunes on the sandy coastal plane just north of the Arab town. Before long they were joined by another 60 families who were led by Meir Dizengoff, an ambitious figure who had plans to create a major Jewish town. Several town planners were invited to submit schemes for the new town modelled after a English garden city. The plan adopted was that of Professor Boris Schaefer, founder of the Israel Art School in Jerusalem. It centered around what is now Herzl Street and the new town was given the name Tel Aviv (meaning Hill of Spring).

Progress on the new town was briefly halted when the Turks broke up the settlement and expelled the Jews from the area, but with the British victory in WWI development was permitted to continue. Arab riots in Jaffa in 1921 sent many Jews fleeing for Tel Aviv, where the population went from 550 people in 65 homes to 40,000 inhabitants. The town grew quickly to accommodate the newcomers. The 1930s saw waves of arrivals from overseas, many fleeing the threat of Nazi Germany. When war did break out in 1939, Tel Aviv played host to about two million Allied troops. In 1948, as the British pulled out, Jewish forces attacked Jaffa and after bloody fighting most of the Arab population fled, leaving the old town in Israeli hands. Tel Aviv struggled through the early years of Israel’s independence, contending with further immigration and urban expansion. It wasn’t until the 1970s and the growth of the private sector that the city experienced any kind of economic upturn.
subsequent flight of the majority of Jaffa's Arab population left the ancient Arab community and the Jews for decades and in 1948 the defeat and
since at least 1840 and by the end of the century, Jaffa had become a major working harbor. According to the old testament, the port was founded by Japheth, following the flood of his father Noah. The King of the Israelites
The legends of Jonah stepping shore from the mouth of the whale and the surprise entry hidden in clay pots. The tides of Islam swept over the port
Jaffa
Jaffa
Jaffa
PLACES OF INTEREST

4 Land of Israel (Eretz Y’Israel) Museum This actually consists of 11 small museums constructed around an archeological site, Tel-Qasile. The museum complex is made up of, among others, a glass museum, a ceramics museum, a folk-tea pavilion, a reconstruction of a medieval bazaar, a planetarium and a couple of halls housing temporary exhibitions. Open Sunday to Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm (Wednesday until 6 pm) and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm

5 Shalom Tower One block west of Nahalat Binyamin Street is the imposing bulk of Tel Aviv’s major landmark, the Shalom Tower. The lower floors of the tower are a shopping mall while higher up are the offices of the Ministry of the Interior. The 30th floor has an observation deck that is great for views of the the city and beyond. Open Sunday to Thursday from 9:30 am to 6 pm, Friday from 9:30 am to 2 pm, closed Saturday.

Jaffa

New City. The Old City is the main attraction for everyone: the religious, the historian and the more casual visitor. Within its walls you will find the holiest Jewish site, the Western Wall; the third holiest Muslim site – the Haram ash-Sharif/Temple Mount, from where Mohammed rose to heaven; and the holy Christian sites of the trial of Jesus, His crucifixion, burial and resurrection. East Jerusalem, along with the Old City, was under Jordanian control until 1967. The Old City has Arab markets, and in East Jerusalem you could be in any modern-day Arab town. The New City is cleaner, more modern and less exotically. However, here you will find some of Israel’s leading museums, the Knesset building and most of the city’s Jewish restaurants, cafes and nightlife.

The Old City. A bazaar of living history, the Old City is a densely packed labyrinth of more than 100 streets, 1,000 shops and stalls, and 3,000 years of human experience. As you walk along the Via Dolorosa you are treading on the same paving stones that were there at the time of Christ.

Walls & Gates. The walls as they exist today are the legacy of Suleyman the Great, who oversaw their construction between 1537 and 1542. Damascus Gate One of the most impressive structures of Islamic architecture in Jerusalem, Damascus Gate is also the busiest and most photogenic of the Old City gates. Herod’s Gate It was just 128 feet (100m) east of this gate that the Crusaders breached the city walls on July 15, 1999.

St. Stephen’s Gate This is the gate that gives access to the mount of Olives and Gethsemane, and from their positions on that biblically famed hillside, Israeli soldiers fought their way in through this gate on June 7, 1967 to capture the Old City.

Golden Gate The gate was probably sealed by the Muslims in the 7th century to deny access to the Haram ash-Sharif/Temple Mount to non-Muslims. A popular alternative theory is that the Muslims sealed it to prevent the Jewish Messiah from entering the Haram.

Dung Gate Presently the smallest of the city’s gates, at one time it was even more diminutive. The Jews widened it during their tenure in the city in order to allow cars through.

Zion Gate This gate had to be punched through to give access to the Franciscan monastery left outside the walls by Suleyman’s architects. During the 1948 War Israeli soldiers holding Mt. Zion also tried to burst through here in a desperate attempt to relieve the besieged Jewish Quarter. A

memorial plaque to the fallen is inset within the gate while the bullet-eaten facade gives some indication of how ferocious the fighting must have been.

Jaffa Gate The actual gate is the small block through which the doglegged pedestrian tunnel passes (the dogleg was to slow down any charging enemy forces) the breach in the wall through which the road now passes was only made in 1898 in order to permit the visiting Kaiser Wilhelm II and his party to ride with full pomp into the city.

New Gate This is the most modern of all the gates, opened in 1887 by Sultan Abdul Hamid to allow direct access from the newly built pilgrim hospices to the holy sites of the Old City’s Christian Quarter.

Ramparts Walk One of the best ways to see the Old City and its surroundings is to walk around the top of the walls. The walls are surprisingly high in parts, and the views across the Old City rooftops are a treat. Such a walk will also enable you to make some kind of sense of the layout of the place.

The Citadel (Tower of David) This is one of the country’s most impressive restorations. The Citadel is a major museum complex. Museum of the History of Jerusalem. The museum and its numerous rooms contain some impressive dioramas and artifacts, holograms and videos employed to tell a version of the city’s story.

Haram ash-Sharif/Temple Mount Dominating not just the Old City but in some ways the whole country, this vast esplanade has become a spiritual keystone to the Jewish and Muslim faiths and something of an obstacle to peace between the two peoples.

Dome of the Rock Enclosing the sacred rock upon which Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son and from which, according to Islamic tradition, the Prophet Mohammed launched himself heavenward to take his place alongside Allah, the Dome was built between 688 and 691.

Western Wall (Wailing Wall) In stark contrast to the gaudy magnificence of the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall is nothing but a bare stone wall. However, it still manages to be one of the most captivating places in all of Jerusalem, and indeed Israel. The wall is regarded as the most holy of all Jewish sites and gave as a place of pilgrimage during the Ottoman period where Jews would come to mourn and lament their ancient loss.

Mt. Zion This compact area contains some of the most important sites in Jerusalem, including the possible site of the biblical Last Supper and a less probable Tomb of David. Also here is the grave of Oskar Schindler, the man with the list.

Bethlehem

Bethlehem was actually well-known long before the arrival of Jesus. Rachel the Mariarch died here and Ruth and Boaz romanced here which, down the line, resulted in David, local shepherd and future king of Israel. Despite being the birthplace of Christ, for almost two centuries after his death, Bethlehem was a center of paganism. It wasn’t until May 31, 339 that the town’s first church was dedicated by Queen Helena on the site of the present-day Church of the Nativity, built over the accepted birthplace of Jesus.

Church of the Nativity Built like a citadel over the cave where it’s believed that Jesus was born, this is one of the world’s oldest working churches.

Milk Grotto Chapel Tradition has it that on their way to Egypt the Holy Family took shelter at this Franciscan chapel. While Mary was breast-feeding her baby, so the story goes, some of the milk dripped to the floor, causing the rock slab beneath it to harden as a memorial to the birth of the Messiah.

Bethlehem Museum On Paul VI Street, just up from Manger Square and on the north side, this small museum has exhibits of traditional Palestinian crafts and costumes. Open Monday to Saturday from 10 am to noon and 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

King David Cinema & King David’s Well On Star Street, about 1/2 mile (.8 km) north of Manger Square, the King David Cinema presents a film, Jesus, which is a virtual word-for-word dramatization of Luke’s gospel. The three restored water cisterns in the car park outside the cinema are associated with St. Simon who relates the tale of the thirsty David offering the water to God as a sacrifice.

Rachel’s Tomb One of Judaism’s most sacred shrines, also revered by Muslims and Christians, this is the tomb of the mariarch Rachel, wife of Jacob and mother of Benjamin.

Shore Excursions To make the most of your visit to Ashdod we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised that extra items such as souvenir items are not available on board.

Local Customs: Bartering: Bargaining is not always the fun it is made out to be. Mostly limited to Arab markets it can be time-consuming and frustrating. The shopkeeper usually attracts your attention and gives you a price three to 10 times above the realistic going rate. If you are genuinely interested you pull a face and state your offer and take it from there. This should be substantially below the amount you are actually willing to pay. Whatever, stick to your guns and do not be bullied or coerced into paying too much. Turning away from a bargaining session can often eat a price in half.