

ISRAEL

An abstract graphic consisting of several thin, white, parallel lines that originate from the bottom left and extend diagonally towards the top right corner of the image. The lines vary slightly in length and position, creating a sense of motion or a stylized path.

- ▶ **Israel** is a country in the Middle East, on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has borders with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the east and west.
- ▶ Temperatures in Israel vary widely, especially during the winter. Coastal areas, such as those of Tel Aviv and Haifa, have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers. The area of Beersheba and the Northern Negev have a semi-arid climate with hot summers, cool winters, and fewer rainy days than the Mediterranean climate.



► Population

- The population of Israel was estimated in 2017 to be 8,7 million people, of whom 74.7% were Jewish, 20.8% Arab and 4.5% others.
- In 2015, the country ranked third among OECD members for the percentage of 25–64 year-olds that have attained tertiary education with 49% compared with the OECD average of 35%. In 2012, the country ranked third in the world in the number of academic degrees per capita (20 percent of the population).
- The country's Law of Return grants all Jews and those of Jewish ancestry the right to Israeli citizenship.



Economy of Israel

Currency: Israeli new shekel

Israel has the second-largest number of startup companies in the world after the United States, and the third-largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies after the U.S. and China. Israel was also ranked 4th in the world by share of people in high-skilled employment.

Major sectors of the Israel Economy:

- ▶ Hi-Tech Industries
- ▶ Diamond Industry
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Chemical industry



Landmarks of Israel

- ▶ **Jerusalem**
- ▶ Jerusalem is considered a holy city in the three major Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam sites and mind-boggling history. One of the oldest cities in the world and it holds deep religious significance for all those of the monotheistic faiths. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains one of the core issues in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict



Landmarks of Israel

- ▶ **Haifa**
- ▶ This lovely northern city's main highlight is the Baha'i Gardens which tumble down the hillside towards the sea in a series of immaculate green terraces. They're a must-do for all travelers here, but Haifa's big attraction for many visitors is that it's the perfect base to explore the north. Akko, Mount Carmel, and Caesarea are right on the doorstep, and even Nazareth and Megiddo could be easily done as a day trip from here. Hands down the most easygoing city in the country, Haifa should be part of everyone's itinerary.



Landmarks of Israel

- ▶ **The Dead Sea**
- ▶ The lowest point on earth and one of the world's most wacky natural wonders, the Dead Sea is the mineral-rich and overly salty sea where no one can sink. Locked in by the cliffs of the Great Rift Valley, this bizarre body of water (where natural buoyancy occurs due to the high salt content) has been wowing travelers for centuries.



Landmarks of Israel

- ▶ **Timna Park**
- ▶ Raw, rugged desert scenery at its best. The landscapes of Timna Park here have a visceral quality, which enchant all who visit, with towering cliffs and surreally-shaped boulders set between vast tracts of multi-hued sand. Timna's copper mining history (which stretches back to the ancient Egyptians) is also worth exploring; the area is full of ancient mine shafts and rock inscriptions.



Landmarks of Israel

- ▶ **The Western Wall**
- ▶ The Western Wall is all that remains of the Second Temple and is considered the holiest Jewish site. Jews travel from throughout the world to pray at the Western Wall.



Landmarks of Tel Aviv

► Jaffa

- A short walk south along the coast from downtown Tel Aviv brings you to the old Arab port town of Jaffa with its preserved acropolis preserved remains and well-restored stone architecture. Much of the original bazaar area is now home to restaurants and artisan boutiques. The flea market here is the major attraction for visitors, full of the hubbub of a genuine souk, while St. Peter's Monastery and the Old Port area itself are also not to be missed. Compared to the big-city hustle of Tel Aviv, Jaffa is a wonderfully tranquil place for a stroll that, despite serious ennoble, still retains its old-fashioned charm.



Landmarks of Tel Aviv

- ▶ **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**
- ▶ A leading light in Israel's contemporary art scene, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art contains works by Degas, Monet, Van Gogh, Henry Moore, Picasso, Jackson Pollock and the world's largest collection of work by Israeli artists. The ultra-modern building with its sophisticated architecture houses and highlights the artworks perfectly. As well as the permanent collection, the museum hosts regular temporary exhibits and other events.



Landmarks of Tel Aviv

► Netanya

- This popular seaside resort sits on a beautiful golden sand beach that stretches for more than ten kilometers. The shoreline is the major attraction. Tel Aviv locals flock here during sunny weekends to chill out with friends and family. Downtown is crammed with cafés and restaurants and really buzzes with energy during summer evenings. It's a quieter alternative to Tel Aviv if you don't fancy the big-city rush, and there are plenty of accommodation options here.

