

YOUR ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL

1. Meeting and Contact information:

Volunteers who arrive on scheduled start dates will be picked up at the airport and taken to a base. Make sure you have provided complete arrival information to your representative who must forward this information to us. The meeting place at the airport is in the Arrivals Hall to the right of the fountain as you face Exit 2, next to the Swarovski jewelry counter.

Pamela Lazarus
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Sar-El Office
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Tel Aviv/Jaffa 68151
Phone/Fax: (from outside of Israel) - +972-3-526-7513
Phone/Fax: (from inside of Israel) – 03-526-7513

Beit Oded
5 Jerusalem Blvd.
Jaffa
03-569-2848

Website Addresses: www.sar-el.org and www.sarelaustralia.org

Ben Gurion Airport – +972-3-972-3344 (automated answering and information).

2. Cash Needs and Currency Exchange Issues

- a. The local currency is New Israeli Shekels (NIS). You must exchange dollars for shekels. There are money exchange locations in each city and at the airport. (The airport charges a commission; money exchange offices do not, but the exchange rate may be different).
- b. Payment of Registration Fee - \$US90 (or \$US55, if repeating Sar-El program within 1 year, or if the participant is under 25 years of age) in cash only, to be paid to the Sar-El representative upon your arrival in Israel.
- c. ATM machines are located at the airport and all over Israel. All foreign ATM's work only with a checking account ... you cannot draw on a savings account. Check with your bank at home to make sure your bank card is accepted in Israel.

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- d. Always have extra money for an emergency or extenuating circumstance. Remember, you are traveling halfway around the world and all travelers need "mad money." You should also make sure that you have several financial options: credit cards, cash and ATM cards. Do NOT rely on one card, as you will be without funds if it does not work for any reason.
- e. Credit cards usually give you the best exchange rate. Use them for weekend hotels, shopping, restaurants, etc. **BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME, PLEASE TELL YOUR CREDIT CARD COMPANY THAT YOU WILL BE IN ISRAEL AND GIVE THEM THE CORRECT DATES.**
- f. Your weekend activities and any admissions to museums are your responsibility. Accommodation at Sar-El's hostel in Tel Aviv/Yafo on the weekends is free, subject to availability.

3. Required Identification and Documentation

Bring three (3) copies of your Application documents including: Medical form, Waiver Agreement form, passport photo page, and travel health insurance card or policy.

- 4. You **MUST** have medical insurance, but be advised that if you go to a doctor or hospital you will probably have to pay first, and then get reimbursed at home. Check with your insurance company as to its claim procedure.

5. Telephones, Mail, and E-mail

- a. There is no phone rental counter at the airport. You can bring your Australian phone and buy a local SIM card or rent the SIM card from a travel agent in Australia.
- b. Telephone cards, local and international long distance, may be purchased at post offices and various business locations.
- c. Stamps can be purchased at the airport and post offices.
- d. To call Australia using Israeli telephone cards: dial 012 or 013 or 014 to get international service, then 61, area code, and number.
- e. Internet cafes are located in most cities. There is no internet connection available on the army bases.

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6. Health, Safety, and Security

- a. Heed the advice of your madrichot (soldier guides), i.e. the right taxis to take, areas not to visit, etc.
- b. ALWAYS carry and drink plenty of water.
- c. When writing or speaking to friends, NEVER mention name of bases. You can say “We are near Ashkelon” or “in the Galilee.”

7. Weekend Activities and Transportation

- a. Your weekend activities and any admissions to museums are your responsibility. Make sure you always ask for Sar-El discounts; show your Sar-El ID card (you’ll get this at your base). Many museums, hotels, & tourists sites give discounts.
- b. Taxis – Hire only cabs clearly marked with yellow license plates registered in Israel. Ask for the meter or negotiate a rate upon entering.
- c. “Sheruts” are vans similar to taxis. They follow the same routes as buses in the cities & have the same numbers as the buses. They are the same prices as buses (sometimes less), but do not have as many stops. They also travel between cities and often are more comfortable.
- d. Pick up a weekly guide from a hotel for information on what’s going on in Israel while you’re here. It includes info on museums and sites. You can also get maps from the hotels.
- e. Your madrichot have information regarding hotels and rates.
- f. Keep your bus and train tickets until the end of your ride – you need your train ticket to exit the station.
- g. Travel to certain areas is not permitted while on the Sar-El Program. You must have permission from Sar-El for weekend travel. Egypt (including Sinai) and Jordan (including Petra) are off limits during the program.

8. Weekend Tours

Sar-El can provide you with information about tours on the weekends provided at a substantial discount to Sar-El volunteers. Please contact the program coordinator, Pamela Lazarus for complete details.

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9. Other useful Information

Museums/Tours- Call ahead to confirm hours.

Check weekly T.A. guides for all museums- Fri-Sat

Belt Hatefutsoth Diaspora Museum

Ramat Aviv near the Tel Aviv University, bus 25. 03-745-7800

Tel Aviv Museum of Art (Fri. 10 am-2 pm, Sat. 10 am - 4 pm) 27 Shaul Hametech Blvd., 03-607-7020

Ben Gurion's House - (free; 17 Ben Gurion 03-522-1010)

IDF Museum (Osef Zahal)-Tahana Palmach Museum - Visits must be pre-arranged. Ramat-Aviv, 03-643-6393. Independence Hall—16 Rothschild Blvd. 03-517-3942

Bialik House-22 Bialik-03-5254530 Beit Hair (old city hall>Biallk

Square Reuven Rubin Museum - 14 Bialik Eretz Israel Museum- Ramat Aviv-03-

6415244; open every day Jabotinsky Museum - 38 King George-03-6210642

Bible Museum - 16 Rothschild

Walking Tour in TA on Fri. & Sat.-052-3267277 (Yona)

Photo Archives of Israel-30 Allen by Yitzak Rabin Center-Ramat Aviv (03-745-3313; open Fridays)

Yair's Tours 054-4231736 Ben Harim Tours- 03-546-8870 (10% discount for Sar-El if you book directly) Pamela Levene – guide - group walking tours & private tours—03-741-9762

Safed (Tzfat) - spiritual weekends; www.ascentofsafed.com 1800-30-40-70

HOTELS....These hotels these give Sar-El discounts. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Supplements in July/August. Call for prices and policies.

TEL AVIV

Maxim 86 Hayarkon 03-517-3721 (\$87 - 120 & seasonal rates)

Renaissance 121 Hayarkon 03-521-5555 (\$175/200/270). (\$70 supp. Pesach, summer)

Carlton Hayarkon St.-03-520-1845 (\$210 +)

Beit Oded 5 Jerusalem Blvd, Yafo 03-569-2848

Ann's B & B Shai Agnon 20/1, Raanana 077-210-3230 annhlevin@hotmail.com

JERUSALEM

Beit Shmuel 6 Shama St. 02-620-3473 (dorm & private rooms; \$85/149-tess 10%)

Eldan 24 King David 02-567-9777 (\$140/190)

King Solomon 82 King David 02-569-5555 (\$195-210 less 10%)

Jerusalem Inn 7 Horakanos-02-625-2757 (\$80/120)

Jerusalem Hostel - 44 Jaffa Rd-02-6236092 (207-252 NIS; dorm 63 NIS)

Palatin Hotel 4 Agripas-02-623-1141 (380-480 NIS less 10%)

Little House in Bakha-02-673-7944: 1 Yehuda; \$99/119 (less 10%)

Kaolan Hotel 1 Havazelet; 02-625-4591 (\$75)

Lev Yerushalavim 18 King George 02-530-0333 \$120-165 less 10% discount)

HAIFA

Haifa Port Inn 34 Jaffa Rd 04-852-4401 (265-550 NIS; dorms-75 NIS)