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This edition of *Stay Safe in Israel* is dedicated in loving memory of Harav Binyamin Moshe Dinovitz, ה"y.

Welcome!

FRANK STORCH

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May 2019

Welcome to the third edition of *Stay Safe in Israel*. Living, learning, and traveling in Israel will be new and exciting, and with G-d's help you will grow spiritually and intellectually. You will have increased independence and many adventures. Therefore, it is important for you to improve your safety and security preparedness. *Stay Safe in Israel* provides you with simple suggestions and important tips. The handbook has many recommendations, and you may become overwhelmed by all of the details. Take your time reading through these pages. Don't try to digest all of it in one sitting.

My goal is that reading *Stay Safe in Israel* helps you address vulnerabilities before anything unfortunate occurs. Enjoy Israel and have a safe year of growth and independence!

Please share your feedback and your own original ideas and safety tips for this guide to improve future editions. I can be reached at chesedfund@gmail.com or 410-340-1000.

Sincerely,

Frank Storch

Grank Stock

P.S. Encourage your family and friends to visit StaySafeInIsrael.com to download their free copy.



The Keep Your Community Safe Initiative (KYCSI) began in 2013 with the publication of *Keep Your School Safe* in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Additional publications by KYCSI now include *Keep Your Camp Safe, A Guide to Guards, Stay Safe Abroad,* and *Personal Safety 101*. KYCSI has also provided free security assessments to American, Israeli, and British schools, yeshivas,

seminaries, and community organizations. *Stay Safe in Israel* is the first handbook written for post–high school students with a focus on safety. Ten thousand copies of the handbook are being distributed internationally to Jewish high school students planning to learn in Israel during 2019-20.

All KYCSI publications are available as free downloads at chesedfund.com.

Special Thanks

We are grateful to every contributor to *Stay Safe in Israel*. Your help and guidance made this handbook possible. Special thanks to Danielle Sarah Storch.

Paul Goldenberg, Michael Masters, Mark Genatempo, Patrick Daly, and the staff of Secure Community Network (SCN)

ZAKA International and Home Front Command

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Thank you to our advertisers!

DEDICATIONS:

This edition is also dedicated in loving memory of Rabbi Ari Neuberger, ע״ה,

Our second edition was dedicated in loving memory of Mr. Alvin Mintzes, ע"ה,

Our first edition was dedicated in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Louis and Selma Rothman, מ״ד,

Mr. & Mrs. Simon D. and Mary P. Nieman, $\pi''\nu$, and M. Leo Storch, $\pi''\nu$,

Rabbi & Mrs. Abraham P. Hirmes, מ"ע, and Justin Zemser, ע"ה, and Justin Zemser, מ"ע"ה

Our preview edition was dedicated in loving memory of Ariel Newman, איף, who died tragically on a hiking trip in Israel on September 10, 2014, Binyamin Yosef Insel, איף, and Morris H. Mishner, פייה,

The Chesed Fund is dedicated in memory of Mordechai & Rebecca Kapiloff, מָיִיה, Dr. Bernard Kapiloff, מֶיה, and Rabbi Norman & Louise Gerstenfeld, מִיה, Project Ezra is dedicated in memory of M. Leo Storch, מַיה,

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The Chesed Fund and Project Ezra are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Before Your Trip

- Make sure your passport is current and that it will not expire within six months of your return date. Otherwise, renew it with enough time to receive the updated passport well before your departure date. If necessary, use a fast track service to expedite processing.
- Contact your school to find out how to obtain a student visa, which is required for your stay in Israel. If you enter Israel as a tourist, you must update your status with the Israeli Ministry of Interior when you become a student.
- If you have dual citizenship, visit the Israeli embassy several months before your departure to obtain a draft exemption or deferment.
- If your driver's license is scheduled to expire when you are in Israel, renew it early before you leave.
- Make several photocopies of your passport and keep one at home, along with your itinerary. Save a copy in a password-protected file and in your email. Once you arrive, store the photocopies in a safe place, separate from your passport.
- Photocopy both sides of your credit cards, ID, traveler's checks, and any other important items kept in your wallet or purse. You may need them if the originals are lost or stolen. Pack photocopies separate from the originals.
- If your passport is lost or stolen, immediately report it at <u>travel.state.gov</u> to protect yourself from identity theft.
- Enroll in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) for overseas travelers, which provides security updates and enables the US embassy or consulate to contact you in the event of an emergency.
- Plan how you will have access to money before you leave. Research banks and credit card companies that don't charge foreign transaction fees (e.g., Charles Schwab Bank, Capital One).
- If you plan to use your US bank account or credit card in Israel, notify your bank or credit

- card company. Otherwise, if your account has unexpected activity overseas, it may be assumed that it is being used fraudulently and your account could be frozen without warning.
- Some credit card companies charge foreign exchange fees that may increase your purchases by an additional 7%. Check your card policy and get a new card if necessary.
- Israeli credit card readers may require chip and pin technology. Make sure to have a credit card with updated technology.
- Credit cards offer more protection against fraud and theft than debit cards.
- Traveler's checks are safer to carry than cash, but you will need to open an Israeli bank account to use them.
- Become familiar with Israeli currency. See our Getting to Know Israeli Currency, page 25
- Familiarize yourself with Israeli law and customs. Remember, you will be in a foreign country and subject to its laws.
- Many schools require students purchase medical insurance from their preferred provider. If your school doesn't offer a plan, check if your American medical insurance covers you in Israel. Alternatively, you can purchase a plan through AIM or Harel. These are American companies that offer customer service and have English-speaking doctors. Cheaper Israeli insurance options are available, but they may be challenging to use if you are not a Hebrew speaker.



- Make sure your medical insurance covers mental health and emergency transportation (e.g., in the event you are injured far from a hospital).
- · Verify that your immunizations are up to date.
- Medication names, dosages, availability, and directions may be different in Israel. Ask your doctor to provide you with all of the necessary information.
- Bring your medication in its original packaging with your name on it. Also bring copies of any prescriptions you may need refilled, including medications, glasses, and contact lenses. If you wear glasses, bring an extra pair.
- Take basic self-defense, CPR, and first aid courses, and a survival course, if possible. Purchase pepper spray and learn how to use it
- Pack a small first aid kit with band aids, pain relievers, and anti-nausea medicine.
- Purchase transformers and adapters that handle the appropriate voltage to avoid fire hazards. A transformer/converter converts Israeli voltage (220 volts) to American voltage (110 volts) so you can use certain American appliances in Israel. Adapters allow you to plug American appliances into Israeli sockets, assuming your appliances can handle dual voltage.
- Label your belongings, especially valuables, with your name.





plan. Check if your school has a preferred or required provider. Some companies also offer plans with American phone numbers to avoid long distance charges. Alternatively, your US provider may have a plan you can use overseas.

- If you have a smartphone, download WhatsApp to avoid texting charges. Download an English to Hebrew translation app. Also, adding a Hebrew keyboard to your phone can be helpful.
- International phone calls require dialing the country code before the local phone number.
 Find out which country codes are applicable to you. For the US, dial 001 before the area code
- Back up any electronic devices you will be taking.
- Remember to order a kosher meal to your standards when purchasing your ticket. Pack extra food in your carry-on, just in case.
- Consider purchasing travel insurance.
 Check to see if your credit card company or parents' homeowner's insurance offers free or discounted travel insurance.
- Size limits for suitcases, carry-ons, and personal items vary. Check your airline's website for size requirements. To avoid overweight luggage fees, use a portable luggage scale to weigh your suitcase and carry-on. Also, measure your luggage, since dimensions listed are not always accurate.
- Use lightweight luggage with wheels.
- To save luggage space and weight, buy toiletries in Israel. Sheets and blankets can be purchased in Israel or ordered through companies such as Blanket Express Plus.
- Take pictures of your suitcases and their contents in case they are lost or stolen. Also, bring a copy of your packing list in your carry-on.

Flying to and from Israel



- 1. Pack this handbook in your carry-on and review it on the plane.
- Never leave your luggage unattended. Do not accept packages or luggage from any strangers, either before your trip or at the airport. If a stranger intimidates or threatens you to take a package, notify the police or airport security immediately.
- If family members or close friends ask you to take a package, let them know you will search it to ensure you are not transporting anything unlawful, including drugs or large amounts of money.
- 4. Check US and Israeli customs law for carrying large amounts of money in any form (e.g., cash, traveler's checks, bonds), valuables, gifts, and other items. Per US law, individuals and family groups must declare \$10,000 total or more of money in any form. There is no penalty for reporting \$10,000 or more, but if it is undeclared and then discovered, the penalties may be severe. Also, remember to declare any packages you are transporting for family members or friends.
- 5. You may need to prove you owned certain valuables such as electronics, jewelry, and high-end watches before you left the US. Fill out a Certificate of Registration (CBP Form 4457), available online or at the airport, including a description of the valuable items and their serial numbers.
- Remember, when purchasing merchandise at dutyfree shops, you may need to declare the items on your customs forms in case taxes apply.
- Check Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Israeli Immigration and Customs, and your airline's requirements for customs, security, and weight regulations. Regulations may be different for transporting oversized sports equipment, musical instruments, and other items (e.g., alcohol and tobacco products).
- Unlawful or undeclared items may be confiscated and/or destroyed at customs officials' discretion. In addition, travelers found with such items may be penalized, blacklisted, and thoroughly searched every time they fly.
- Standard items forbidden in carry-ons include sharp objects, pointed scissors with blades longer than 4", screwdrivers longer than 7", knives of any sort

- including penknives or army knives, or anything else that can be used as a defensive weapon. Search your belongings to make sure you are not carrying any of these by mistake. Always check with your airline for up-to-date restrictions.
- Pepper spray or mace (4 ounces or smaller) may only be transported in your checked baggage. Check with your airline to verify that the rule has not changed.
- 11. The TSA 3-1-1 rule for liquids in carry-ons is: gels, aerosols, liquids, creams, and pastes must be 3.4 ounces (100ml) or less per container, and must be in 1 quart-sized, clear plastic ziplock bag; 1 bag per passenger.*
- 12. When leaving the US, you may pack food in your carry-on or checked baggage. However, foods that are liquids or gels must comply with the TSA's 3-1-1 rule for liquids. Make sure to verify foods brought into Israel are allowed. Certain types and amounts of foods may be subject to import laws and regulations.
- Enroll in the TSA's Precheck and/or Global Entry Programs to save time when leaving or entering the US. Membership fees may apply.
- 14. Pack all your prescription medications, pain relievers, anti-nausea medicines, etc., in your carry-on in case your luggage is lost or you are delayed. Bring enough for several days, and also pack a change of clothes. Remember to pack your siddur, tefillin, and tehillim in your carry-on as well.
- Since the TSA and airlines search luggage, do not pack valuables in your checked baggage.
- 16. If you are returning with Arba Minim (Four Species for Sukkos) purchased in Israel, US customs law requires a sticker from the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture certifying legal transport. This sticker can be obtained from most established esrog dealers. Check for press releases from Agudath Israel to ensure your esrog won't be subject to fines and/or confiscation.
- 17. Pack shekels in your wallet or purse for pocket change to use immediately when you arrive in Israel. Although it's easy to exchange money at the airport, banks and professional money changers typically have better rates.

*As of 3/19/2019

http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/3-1-1-liquids-rule

- Use uniquely colored luggage, tags, or tape to recognize your luggage quickly.
 It's preferable not to put your home address on your luggage tags, but do include your phone number. Put another name tag inside your luggage in case the outer tags are lost or damaged.
- Leave valuables at home. If you must take expensive items, pack them in your carry-on and keep it in sight at all times.
- Zmanim (prayer times) can be difficult to calculate while traveling. Visit Myzmanim.com for assistance in creating a custom davening chart for free. While in the continental US, you can also call 516-796-2646. In Israel, call 02-650-ZMAN.
- Try to book direct flights to Israel and avoid stopovers in countries that have increased terror risks.
- Confirm your flight number, flight time, seat, and kosher meal; go online to print your boarding pass 24 hours before the flight.
- Provide your family with Ben Gurion Airport and Arrival information, available at 03-972-3344, 03-975-5555, and 03-972-3331 or http://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Pages/OnlineFlights.aspx.
- Check current weather in Israel and pack your carry-on accordingly. Wear comfortable clothes for the flight. Pack a sweater just in case.
- Have your school address and/or interim destination handy, especially if you are traveling alone.
- Your school may arrange transportation from the airport. Otherwise, options include taxis, sheiruts (shared shuttles), and buses. If possible, make your plans before departure.



- Don't buy drinks before going through the security checkpoint, since you will have to dispose of them when going through the checkpoint.
- Keep passports and other valuable documentation easily accessible and as close to your body as possible. Ideally, store your cash in a money pouch worn on your body and keep some money in your wallet or purse, not in your carry-on.
- Keep an eye on your luggage at all times, especially at the check-in counter. Never leave your luggage unattended.
- Before reaching the security checkpoint, place your money pouch and loose items (e.g., keys, change, phone) in your carry-on to avoid theft. It is helpful to use a ziplock bag. Keep an eye on your carry-on and belongings while they go through security.

on the Plane

- Pay attention to the flight attendants' instructions. Read the safety information before the flight takes off, and make sure you know where the nearest emergency exits are.
- Be wary of overly friendly people. Avoid giving out personal information during the flight. If you are uncomfortable with the person sitting next to you, politely ask the flight attendant to switch your seat.
- To increase circulation during the flight, perform seat exercises and walk through the aisles when the seat belt sign is off.
- Drink frequently to avoid dehydration, which can happen easily while flying.
- Before you leave the plane, check around and underneath your seat, as well as in the seat pocket in front of you, to make sure you have all your belongings (e.g., jacket, hat, purse).





- Remove your belongings from the overhead bin. Check that nothing has fallen out.
- Count your luggage to make sure you have all of your suitcases and carry-ons.

TArrival

- Since luggage may fall off the conveyor belt, if you don't see yours, circle the area. It may have been placed off to the side or against a nearby wall.
- When you arrive at Customs, you must choose between the "red" and "green" lines. Red is for bringing in items that must be declared. Joining the green line means you have nothing to declare. Clothing and personal items do not need to be declared. It is better to declare all electronics rather than risk a fine. Make sure to choose the appropriate line to avoid problems.
- Keep your boarding passes and tickets in case you need to file a claim for missing luggage, missed flights, or delays.
- Let your family know you've landed safely.
 Maintain good communication with them
 throughout the year. If there is an increase in
 terror attacks, consider checking in with your
 family more often.
- Visit http://sos.nowforce.com to download the free SOS app for use in Israel. When used, it sends out a distress call to the police, ambulance, and your emergency contacts and tracks your location. This app is not available on phones without internet.
- · Deposit your cash in a safe or bank. If you

- do set up an Israeli bank account, be sure to specify you want a "dollar account."
- Give yourself time to acclimate to the heat.
 Avoid extensive outdoor physical exercise for the first two weeks you are in Israel.
- Israeli culture may be very different from the culture you are used to. As you acclimate, it's normal to be homesick while adjusting to being away from familiar people and things.
- Ask your rabbi or school how to best familiarize yourself with the standards of kashrus in Israel, including special laws of Israeli produce (e.g., shemittah, maaser).

During Your Year

- Follow your school's safety rules! They were instituted to keep you as safe as possible. If a specific situation dictates otherwise, follow common sense instead.
- Save all important contact information in your phone (e.g., friends, dorm, school guard, taxi companies). Memorize these numbers as well, and carry a written list in case your phone is lost or dead.
- Give the list of important phone numbers to your family members and those responsible for you.
- Request that your school host basic selfdefense, CPR, and first aid courses.
- Know where the safe rooms, miklats (bomb shelters), and fire extinguishers are. Know how to use a fire extinguisher. Keep an emergency flashlight handy to avoid using candles during a power outage.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and the people around you, even in safe areas like school. Remember: "If You See Something, Say Something™."

Personal Safety

- Create a list of adults you can trust and turn to with sensitive issues. Include at least one person in Israel who would be readily accessible in an emergency.
- Some schools designate a staff member, who may be a licensed social worker or psychologist, to deal with emotional or social issues that arise. Find out if there is someone who holds this position in your school and develop a relationship with him or her.
- Being far from home can inspire greater courage and self-reliance, but don't be overconfident. Avoid peer pressure and think before you act. Long-term goals may be ruined by one wrong decision.
- Trust your instincts. Listen to your gut feeling in uncomfortable situations.
- Rehearse possible scenarios in your mind or with a friend, and decide the best way to respond ahead of time.
- People who dress religiously may not necessarily act within religious boundaries. Pay attention to people's behavior and mannerisms. Be aware that in the past, terrorists have dressed up as Orthodox Jews.
- Limit conversations with strangers and do not be overly friendly or share personal information.
- Do not leave your drink unattended at social events, to avoid making it accessible to someone who may want to hurt you.
- Beware of people who try to be your friend in order to take advantage of you. They may pressure you into actions you would not normally commit, using gifts, guilt, blackmail, or other tactics. Politely and firmly establish boundaries.



- While you are far from home, you will develop closer relationships with extended family and friends. Be careful to maintain your boundaries, including yichud and shomer negiah (men and women avoiding seclusion and touching).
- If you are in a relationship with a friend or mentor that feels unhealthy or inappropriate, seek guidance from appropriate staff members or a trusted adult. Keep an eye out for friends as well.
- If you're in a bad predicament, even if you feel it's your fault, reach out to a trusted adult for help.
- Follow your school's guidelines on internet use. Social media has many pitfalls, and the internet is forever. Be careful how you portray yourself and what information you share about others.
- For a list of important phone numbers, see page 24.
- If you think there is nothing you can do in a situation, always remember you can daven (pray).

Health

- Memorize the following numbers for emergencies and save them in your contacts:
 - · Police. 100.
 - Magen David Adom (Ambulance), 101.
 - · United Hatzalah. 1221.
 - Fire. 102.
 - Poison Control in the US, 1-800-222-1222.
- Inform appropriate staff and dirah (apartment) or dorm mates of any relevant medical conditions. Consider wearing a medical bracelet if appropriate.
- Keep inhalers, EpiPens, and other necessary medical devices on hand.
- Make sure that you are eating responsibly. Unhealthy extremes can be signs of eating disorders, which can have serious, lifelong consequences. If you or your friends are in distress, seek help from a trusted advisor.



- If you have food allergies, alert your school (including kitchen staff), read labels carefully, and beware of cross-contamination.
- Drinking bottled or filtered water is best, especially if you have a sensitive stomach. Minerals in Israeli water can cause sickness if you're not accustomed to them. Consider investing in a SteriPEN or a water bottle with a built-in filter and replacement filters.
- If you have a physical disability or handicap, know that Israeli accommodations may differ from those required in the US (e.g., handicapaccessible bathrooms, elevator accessibility).
- When going to a hospital or clinic, bring your passport, money, and insurance card.

In Your Dorm/Dirah

- Follow your school's dorm/dirah safety and security procedures.
- Make sure your dorm/dirah is equipped with working door and window locks, alarms, and fire extinguishers. Keep exterior doors locked as well.
- Store all valuables safely out of sight, even in your own room.
- Only allow visitors into the dorm/dirah if they can be vouched for. Do not assume that if they are religious, they are trustworthy.
- Do not allow delivery men inside the dorm/ dirah. Instruct them to leave deliveries at the door.
- Have a "last person out" policy: the last person leaving makes sure all doors and windows are locked.
- Never leave lit candles unattended. Unplug electrical appliances when not in use (e.g., irons).

- Be cautious with hot plates and blechs (a metal sheet designed to cover the stovetop for Shabbos). Some can get dangerously hot.
- If you are in a building or house when an earthquake begins, immediately leave the building and go outside to an open space. If you cannot leave the building easily, enter a secure place such as a stairwell. If you can't get to a secure space, take shelter under a heavy table or corner of the room.
- If you hear an emergency siren, you must find shelter within 15 seconds – 3 minutes. See Map and Secure Spaces on pages 21 and 22.

On the Street

- The Israeli sun is very strong! Israel is on the Mediterranean, close to the equator, and can get very hot. People from milder climates may get exhausted easily. Avoid being outside for too long between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., especially during the summer. Wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are outside.
- If you are planning strenuous outdoor activities, make sure you are fully acclimated to the heat. Drink often.
- Keep water with you at all times even if you are not on a tiyul (trip). You may become dehydrated without being aware of it.
- Keep tissues and hand sanitizer with you, since rest rooms in Israel don't always have toilet paper or soap.
- Israel has a large feral cat population. Don't try to befriend or interact with them.
- When crossing the street, always look both ways, cross only at designated areas, follow street signals, and do not jaywalk. Look out for scooters, motorcycles, and bikes.
- Car ramming attacks have increased in Israel.
 Sometimes even construction vehicles have been used. Walk on the sidewalk, facing oncoming traffic if possible. Be alert to vehicles driving erratically; not yielding to street signs, barriers, or crosswalks; swerving; or speeding.

- Ask a reliable individual about the safety of your destination before traveling. Do your best to have clear and precise directions to your destination, and walk only in welltraveled, well-lit areas.
- Create a buddy system with your friends. Always inform each other where you are going and when you expect to return. If plans change, it is crucial to keep your travel buddy updated.
- Keep a well-charged cellphone on you at all times. If your school has a nocellphone policy during the zman (semester), borrow or rent one during Bein Hazmanim (semester break).
- Don't lend your phone or give your phone number to people you don't know. Your phone can be used for criminal activities and you may be implicated.
- Refrain from using your phone on the street.
 Wearing earbuds, anything that displays your name, or ostentatious clothing can make you a target. If you are dressed up for an occasion, be extra vigilant.
- When you enter a shul, shopping mall, or other large building, identify the exits in case of emergency.
- Discerning who can be trusted can be very challenging. There are a lot of missionaries in Israel, many of whom speak perfect Hebrew. Yad L'Achim, an anti-missionary organization, can be reached in Israel 24/7 at 1-800-620-640.
- Never leave bags or packages unattended.
 They may be mistaken for a chafetz chashud (abandoned or suspicious package or suitcase), which could cause a bomb scare.

- Be alert to any chafetz chashud. If you see a chafetz chashud, notify the police immediately and do not touch it. Move a considerable distance from the object before calling the police, since some explosives can be triggered by a cellphone signal.
- Do not enter an area closed off by police.
 Leave the area immediately to stay safe.
- Avoid attending hafganot (demonstrations) that are not approved by your school. If you can't take another route to avoid a hafganah, don't take pictures or get involved. Innocent people have been arrested for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- Follow your school's travel guidelines. Be especially cautious during holidays, large festivals, and events.
- In times of heightened security, whenever possible, avoid travel, large crowds, and high-profile areas (e.g., Rechov Ben Yehuda, Machane Yehuda shuk). In general, since large crowds can be more dangerous, use extra caution when attending funerals or other large events.
- If you are on foot or in a taxi entering the Old City in Jerusalem, use the Sha'ar Yaffo (Jaffa Gate) entrance. Always go with a friend. Avoid the Arab shuk when walking to the Kotel.
- While it is best to stay in your dorm at night, if you do go out, go with a friend.
- Avoid unfamiliar neighborhoods, alleyways, and unlit areas. Be mindful of your surroundings and walk purposefully.
- If you are going out at night, leave plenty of extra time to be back for curfew. Keep in mind that the later the hour, the more dangerous it can be.
- Remain alert and be prepared to defend yourself in a hostile situation if necessary. Carry pepper spray at all times, if possible. Think strategically and use whatever is easily accessible to protect yourself (e.g., keys, pens, chairs).



- If you are ever concerned for your safety, call someone and stay on the phone until you feel secure.
- If you become lost, be wary of the person from whom you ask directions. Try to find a policeman or soldier to help you. Call someone rather than attempting to get to your destination by yourself.
- Avoid hitchhiking. If you have no choice but to hitchhike, do not enter a car unless the driver can answer a *Torah*-related question to verify that he or she is Jewish (e.g., what *Parsha* it is).
 Of course, "stranger danger" still applies.
- If someone in a car asks you for directions or help, don't get too close. Even if a driver pressures or threatens you, do not enter the car. Run away and get help.
- Avoid anyone who is acting suspiciously. Notify the police if you observe someone exhibiting several of the following behaviors and/or signs: darting eyes, excessive sweating or other signs of nervousness, being overdressed, wearing bulky clothing, or carrying large packages.
- If you are attacked or grabbed, scream for help and run away if possible. Activate your SOS app, alert the police immediately, and file a report.

If someone tries to attack you with a knife, run
in the opposite direction if possible, or hide
behind a car. Try to create a barrier between
you and the attacker. Use a backpack, table,
or chair, etc. If you have no choice but to
fight the attacker, try to defend yourself and
block the knife as much as possible with your
forearms.

Money

- It is better to only carry small amounts of cash. Use a credit card or debit card for larger purchases.
- Be aware that not all Israeli ATMs accept American ATM cards.
- Avoid using ATMs at night. When using an ATM, make sure no one is standing too close or loitering nearby to obtain your personal information or steal your cash. When entering your PIN, cover the keypad with your hand. Check to make sure you are logged out before walking away.
- Find out if your school has a safe for students to store money or valuables. If not, store your valuables at a trusted friend's house or rent a safe deposit box at a bank.

- When exchanging money, know that money changers usually have better exchange rates than banks. Make sure the money changer you are using is reputable. Count your money before you leave.
- After changing large amounts of money, immediately bring the cash back to your school's safe or your dorm before continuing your errands. If you have no choice and must keep your cash with you, store it securely on yourself.
- Keep your wallet or purse close to your body at all times. If you must place it in a backpack, don't put it in an outer pocket, since it can easily be pick-pocketed.
- Pay attention to your surroundings, especially when taking your wallet or purse out to make a purchase.
- If someone tries to rob you, if possible throw your wallet or purse far away and run in the opposite direction. Notify the police and file a report.
- If you are approached by someone collecting tzedaka, don't feel obligated to donate if you are doubtful of his or her need or intention.
 Find out your school's tzedaka policy.
- Check your credit card and bank statements regularly for fraudulent charges or mistakes (e.g., due to the exchange rate).
- Your credit card information and personal data can be easily stolen when making payments online. Only use secure websites and wifi.

Transportation Safety

Taxi

- Use your school's list of reputable taxi companies and always try to order, rather than hail, a cab. If you have no choice but to hail a cab, make sure the cab driver is Jewish. Beware of taxi companies whose names are confusingly similar to reputable Jewish companies. Never enter a taxi that has no ID.
- Buckle up. Always ask the taxi driver to use the moneh (meter) and give you a receipt. Do not allow him to haggle you into a "bargain rate" or convince you his meter is broken. Ask the driver to take only main roads even if there are supposed shortcuts that will save time and reduce your fare.
- Beware of taxi drivers who offer unreasonably cheap fares to distant places, such as Chevron (Hebron).
- Keep your cellphone and/or wallet or purse close to your body while in the taxi. Never leave them in the luggage you place in the trunk.
- Be mindful of your surroundings as you travel. If the route seems unsafe, try to ascertain your location by looking at street signs and asking the driver. Call someone who is familiar with the area to make sure your route is safe. Stay on the phone until you reach your destination.
- Try not to take taxis alone, especially if traveling to other cities. Avoid sitting in the front seat. Do not be overly friendly with the driver, give him personal information, or discuss personal information if you are on the phone while in the car.







 If the driver makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, take down his license plate number, taxi company name, and any other pertinent information and report him to the police or his company.



- If the driver is driving dangerously, insist that he drive responsibly. If he persists, exit the cab as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Before exiting the taxi, count your change.
 Make sure you have all your belongings, especially if you placed items in the trunk.

Bus & Light Rail

- Well-lit and well-traveled buses and light rails are generally safer than taxis.
- To save money, purchase a rav kav (transit pass) at the Tachana Merkazit (Central Bus Station). You will need to show ID and a passport unless you are an Israeli citizen. A rav kav offers bulk discounts on bus and light rail fare
- Avoid bus and light rail routes that travel through Arab neighborhoods. Sit in an aisle seat if the route you are traveling is prone to rock-throwing attacks.
- Avoid staying on a bus alone with the bus driver; get off the bus and wait for the next one.

- Check relevant schedules before departing to ensure that the bus or light rail you need will be available (e.g., late at night, Erev Shabbos, Erev Shabbos Chanukah, and Erev Shabbos before Lag B'Omer).
- At many stations, there is no barrier between the train tracks and pedestrians. Don't get too close to the tracks, and remember to look both ways before crossing.
- Avoid isolated bus and light rail stations, and prolonged waits. If someone drops you off (e.g., from a Shabbos visit) and the station looks isolated, ask them to wait with you till the bus/train arrives, especially at night. Don't travel in an empty bus or light rail car.
- If you're at a station, be alert to any oncoming vehicles veering too close. Terrorists have targeted bus and light rail stations with car ramming attacks.
- Don't board the bus or light rail unless you know its route and your stop. If you are already on board and are concerned that you are going in the wrong direction, ask the driver for assistance.
- Buses and light rails can stop suddenly. Hold on tightly to avoid injury.
- Keep your backpack or luggage with you at all times. When you are seated, secure belongings between your feet. Items left beside you on a vacant seat can easily be forgotten or stolen.
- Do not discuss personal information with friends or fellow passengers, or while on the phone.
- When traveling to an unfamiliar area, sit in the closest available seat next to the driver. If you are unsure where to get off, ask him to alert you to your stop so you don't mistakenly exit in a dangerous area.
- If you notice something suspicious or feel threatened, alert the driver and exit as quickly as possible.
- Try to sit in an aisle seat so you can move easily. Don't be afraid of offending someone by getting up and switching seats quietly. Safety comes before courtesy.

Shabbos and Yom Tov Safety

- 1. Make sure your host's home is safe and appropriate for you to visit. Ask your school and/or friends who have stayed there before.
- 2. Let your host know if you have food allergies or sensitivities.
- 3. Check that the area and route to your host's home is safe, especially when security is heightened.
- 4. Tell vour dorm counselor. travel buddy, and family what your Shabbos plans are and keep them updated.
- 5. Be sure to leave plenty of extra time to get to your destination! Keep in mind, buses stop approximately 1 hour before candle lighting. Carry cash with you in case

- vou miss the last bus before or after Shabbos and need to take a cab.
- 6. If you can't get to your destination before Shabbos, get to a safe place. Try to contact your hosts and inform them. If you can't reach anyone, call emergency services and let them know you are safe to avoid a search party and chillul Shabbos (desecration of Shabbos).
- 7. If you're lighting candles, tea lights are safer. Light in a safe location and don't leave flames unsupervised. Be mindful of your hair. sleeves, and scarves. Have a fire extinguisher nearby.
- 8. Know your boundaries. Offer

to help your hosts but don't



be afraid to politely say no if they ask you to do something you are not comfortable with.

- 9. Find out your school's policy if you plan on staying overnight in an apartment unsupervised, even if you are with a group of friends.
- 10. Inform appropriate staff members if anything inappropriate occurs.



🚨 Individual Tiyul Safety

Planning

- Do not travel outside the country without approval from your school and parents. Travel only with an organized group and a reputable tour company that uses security escorts. Make sure someone in the group speaks the language of your destination country.
- · Avoid unnecessary risks (e.g., don't travel alone).
- When planning a tiyul (trip) with friends, check with appropriate staff to ensure that your plans are safe (e.g., location, communication, supplies) and that the trip complies with school rules. Inform staff when you expect to return. If your plans change, keep them updated.



- · Get advice from people who have gone on that tiyul or similar type of tiyul before.
- At least one medically skilled person with first aid and CPR training, and survival training if possible, should accompany your group. It's preferable to have a security escort as well.
- Designate a group leader who is clear-headed and experienced. Follow his or her directions.

- If you are planning strenuous outdoor activities, make sure you are fully acclimated to the heat.
- To rent a car in Israel, you must be 21 or older and have a valid license and appropriate insurance.
- Review main roads and paths of the tiyul area to avoid getting lost. Take a map with you and find out which areas are safe.
- If you use a GPS, Waze, or another driving app to navigate the trip, review driving directions with someone who knows the area well to avoid driving through dangerous neighborhoods.
- Use a reputable, licensed tour company or tour guide who utilizes appropriate safety and security precautions.
- Pack a fully charged cellphone, charger, extra food and water (at least 2 liters extra), appropriate clothes, and emergency supplies.
 Don't count on being able to buy water, food, etc. at your destination. Pack your list of emergency phone numbers.
- Pack nutrient-rich foods that have high caloric values. Healthy trail mix is the ideal food for a tiyul.
- If you have any health conditions that require daily or emergency medication or medical devices, bring them with you (e.g., antibiotics, asthma inhaler, EpiPen, insulin). Make sure all tiyul participants know how to administer the medication or use the devices.
 - Pack a first aid kit with
 Band aids
 Thermometer
 Ace bandages
 Antiseptic wipes
 Pain relievers
 Antihistamines/Benadryl
 Oral rehydration salts
 Flashlights
 Multi-tools or knives

- Dress appropriately for the type of tiyul you have planned. When outdoors, always wear a hat with a brim no matter "how it looks." In the desert, don't expose any skin to the sun.
- Use a cotton or polyester scarf for shade in the sun and warmth at night. Bring reflective clothing for night trips as well.
- For hikes, wear loose clothes with long sleeves and long pants/skirts for increased circulation and airflow. Flip up your shirt collar to cover your neck.
- · Wear proper foot gear for climbing.
- Do not wear loose clothing on a biking trip.
- Everyone should wear a whistle for emergency purposes.
- If you are renting a hotel or motel room, or an apartment, research it beforehand to make sure it is safe and bedbug-free. Confirm reservations before leaving for the trip.
- Check the weather forecast and temperature before you leave, and postpone the tiyul if it will be too hot or there will be severe rain or flooding.
- Check before, during, and after a trip to ensure that you have all your belongings.

During Your Tiyul

- When arriving at the trip destination, share your itinerary with someone who will notice your absence if you do not return. Let them know expected travel times, routes, and contact information.
- Check news websites regularly to stay informed about any new security concerns.
- Be extra cautious when visiting popular or prominent locations (e.g., museums, religious or historical sites).
- Designate an assembly point for your group for emergencies (e.g., someone goes missing).



- Take a head count of your group often and remain aware of your surroundings at all times. Take a head count before leaving the tiyul area.
- Be prepared to end the *tiyul* early to ensure everyone's safety if necessary.
- If someone goes missing, alert the authorities immediately. Use your SOS app to get help.
- Drink water (not soft drinks!) often, even if you are not thirsty. Keep in mind that the urge to drink is delayed. Drinking between one half to one full quart or liter per hour is a good rule of thumb.
- Listen and pay attention to your body. Your body stores water better than your water bottle can, and it is difficult to overhydrate. You should need to use the bathroom often.
- Be alert to anyone, including yourself, who may be exhibiting symptoms of dehydration, heat stroke, etc. Even mild dehydration can lead to heat stroke, which can be fatal. If someone is not feeling well, notify the medically skilled person immediately.



- Dehydration symptoms include:
 - profuse sweating
 - dry mouth
 - dark-colored or no urine
 - tiredness
 - dizziness
 - headaches or light-headedness
 - fever
 - impaired judgment
 - moving oddly and stumbling
- Heat stroke symptoms include:
 - temperature greater than 104°F (40°C) and dizziness
 - headaches, confusion, or feeling "out of it"
 - nausea/vomiting
 - diarrhea
 - loss of muscle function, balance, or staggering
 - no sweating
 - weakness
 - dehydration
 - rapid pulse and/or quick breathing
- If someone exhibits dehydration or heat stroke symptoms, is ill, or is injured, call for help and use the SOS app. If there is no cellphone coverage, have the medically skilled person stay behind with the sick or injured person while a team of two seek help. Make sure to keep the sick or injured person hydrated and sheltered, and monitor his or her airway, breathing, and pulse. Control bleeding with direct pressure.
- If you go biking or hiking, check to see that the trail is well maintained, has appropriate signage, and is well lit. Always wear a helmet when biking, and make sure it fits correctly. Wearing a reflective vest or belt at night is recommended.

- If you are traveling in a car, don't pick up hitchhikers. No matter what they look like, you don't know who they really are or their true intentions.
- Only stop at well-lit gas stations in safe areas.
- Stay alert for changing speed limits, which are measured in km/hour. Always lock your car doors and wear your seat belt. Insist your friends wear seat belts, too.
- When traveling in areas prone to flash floods, especially in southern Israel, check frequently for weather warnings to avoid unnecessary risk to life. Severe weather changes can happen suddenly and rapidly (10 students were tragically killed during a flash flood in April 2018). If you are caught in a flash flood, move to higher ground immediately.
- It is usually safer to be on foot rather than in a vehicle during a flash flood. Do not walk through moving water or touch electrical equipment.

Water Safety

- Check the weather. Do not go swimming in bad weather conditions (e.g., lightning, thunderstorms, or heavy currents).
- · Wear waterproof sunscreen.
- Swim only in designated, guarded swimming areas. Never swim alone; have a buddy system. Make sure everyone can swim.
- Open bodies of water may have undercurrents that can tire or drown even a strong swimmer.
 Get out of the water if you start to feel tired or cold, or experience muscle cramps.
- Never dive or jump into the water, since you can't know how deep the water is or where underwater rocks are. In addition, jumping into a cold body of water is dangerous and can cause shock or severe muscle cramps.
- Avoid swallowing water while swimming, and dry your ears out thoroughly afterward.
- If you receive a deep cut or puncture wound while in the water, immediately get out. Clean the affected area with bottled water, use antibiotic ointment, and bandage the

- wound. If it becomes infected, see a doctor immediately.
- When boating or doing any water sports, always wear a life jacket and water shoes with good traction.
- Unless you are a lifeguard, do not attempt to rescue someone who is drowning. More deaths are caused by amateur rescue attempts. Summon a lifeguard immediately, use your SOS app, and call for help.

Hiking

Please note that additional precautions are necessary for overnight trips beyond those listed here.

- Never hike alone. Go as a group (minimum 4 people) and do not split up. An experienced hiker should lead the group in front, and a responsible person should follow in the back, to ensure no one is left behind.
- It is preferable that all group leaders be equipped with two-way radios. Additionally, they should also have a satellite emergency notification device (SEND). Make sure at least two people in the group have the SOS app on their phones.
- Take head counts often, and remain aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Establish a buddy system. Check in regularly during your hike and before it finishes.
- Ensure the hike's level of difficulty is appropriate for all participants. Don't overestimate your abilities.
- Sleep at least 6-8 hours before the hike. Two
 or more nights in a row of inadequate sleep
 is dangerous, especially if the hike will take
 more than one day.
- Consider the season when you begin the hike; if you are hiking in the winter, start earlier to make sure you're done well before dark.
- Avoid mid-day hiking or, at a minimum, greatly extend the length and frequency of rest periods during the hottest part of the day. Always rest in the shade when possible.

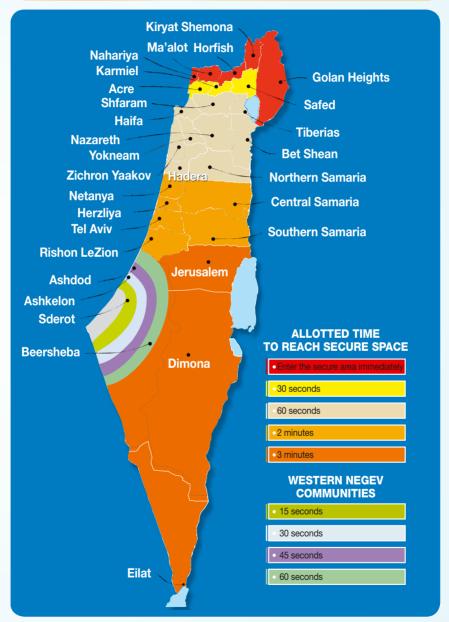
- Don't begin a hike in the late afternoon; sunset falls very quickly in Israel and it's easy to get lost or injured. Allow for extra time to return.
- Pack a flashlight with extra batteries, a change of clothing, waterproof matches, a tarp, and a first aid kit, see page 17. Bring your cellphone, even if there is no signal. GPS can be used to locate you if you become lost.
- Drink often; one half to one full quart or liter of water every hour.
- Know how to use a map and compass and bring them along. National parks may have general maps, which show the local trails and list emergency numbers. Everyone should take a copy.
- If you are hiking outside a national park, it is very important to have a mapat simun shvilim (extremely detailed map of the region). This can be invaluable for general navigation, avoiding getting lost, and finding your way back if you lose your way.
- Stay on marked paths, which are designed for safety, and obey posted signs. Do not take shortcuts. Do not enter minefields (generally marked clearly), which can be found throughout Israel.
- When arriving at a fork in a path, one hiker should stay in place to tell the remaining hikers which direction to go.
- Even if all hikers are in good shape and no other risk factors are present, stop for 5-10 minutes for every 60 minutes hiked. Rest in the shade, eat, and drink.
- Additionally, stop for at least 30 minutes every 2-3 hours. Rest in the shade, eat, drink, and stretch.
- When resting, sit on the ground rather than hot rocks, which can reach 150°F, and further dehydrate you.
- Never move rocks with your hands, as snakes or scorpions could be underneath. If someone is bitten, don't take chances — seek immediate medical attention and/or go to the nearest hospital.

- Taking selfies or posing for pictures near cliffs is extremely dangerous.
- Practice fire safety by only making bonfires or campfires in approved areas, and never close to plants or trees. Make sure to extinguish the campfire thoroughly.
- It is preferable to go camping with a security escort.
- Camping tents should be set up only in a chenyon layla (night camping area). Only sleep in a tent — do not sleep outside unprotected.
- Most dangerous animals are active at night.
 If you leave your footwear outside the tent,
 check before putting them on to make sure
 no animals or bugs have crept in.
- If anyone is missing, even for a short time, contact the authorities immediately for instructions. Use the SOS app to get help.

If You Are Lost

- Do not panic; stay calm and try to think logically. Find shelter from the sun or cold.
- Breathe through your nose, slowly and calmly.
- Use your whistle to attract attention. If you don't have a whistle, shout for help intermittently.
- Use your phone's SOS app and/or call emergency contacts for help. Stay in the same location so you can be found more easily.
- If you don't have a cellphone, or it's not working, and you are able to spot trail markers (e.g., spray-painted trees, rocks, cement), follow them to safety.
- Look for a stream. In summer, streams dry up, so look for a very sandy path with indentations that run in a flowing motion. If you find even a small stream or path, follow it. Often they lead to larger streams or paths, which may be close to roads. Once you find a road, seek help.
- If it is getting dark and you are still lost, if practical climb a tree to be out of reach of wild animals. Don't try to seek help at night due to the many dangers.





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Choose your secure space based on the amount of time you have to get there from the time the alarm is sounded, in the following order of priority (from most preferred to least preferred option):

- A reinforced secure room in a house/apartment (mamad) or reinforced secure room on the same floor in an apartment building (mamak) are the preferred options.
- Bomb shelter
 - Bomb shelter in a multi-dwelling building A shelter inside a building that
 can be reached through an interior stairwell without concern for the warning
 time limit, since the surrounding stairwell walls provide protection.
 - Public bomb shelter A shelter that can be reached within the warning time limit, according to the map of regions by warning time.

If you do not have a reinforced secure space in your home, on your floor, or quick access to a bomb shelter:

- If you are on the top floor of a building that does not have an internal bomb shelter, go down one flight of stairs and remain in the stairwell.
- If you are not on the top floor, select an internal secure space in which there are few external walls, windows, or openings/doorways.

Do not choose a kitchen, bathroom or shower because of the risk that porcelain, ceramic, mirrors, and glass will shatter as a result of shockwaves from the blast.



RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH:

Residents of communities that directly border Gaza and have a 15 or 30 second warning time should choose a secure space in the part of the house that is furthest from the source of the attack (the Gaza Strip

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Before Returning to the US



- Ensure your passport is current. If it is not, renew it at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv (03-519-7475), which has very helpful staff, or at the American Consulate in Talpiot (02-622-7230).
- Be especially careful if you will have stopovers in countries with unusual regulations. Some countries do not allow travelers to carry fruits, vegetables, and certain dairy products. Check local laws. US Customs is particularly strict regarding nuts and flower seeds from other countries.
- Although most import taxes don't apply to items purchased in Israel, you must declare anything purchased or acquired outside the US upon your return.

- 4. Review "Flying to and from Israel" on page 7.
- Recheck security, customs, weight, and size regulations with TSA and your airline.
- Under American customs law, all food items and anything else obtained or purchased during your trip must be declared upon arrival.
- 7. When you return, even if you are an American citizen, you and your belongings may be searched without a warrant or probable cause. The Fourth Amendment (prohibiting unreasonable searches and seizures) does not apply at international borders.

Emergency Contact Information

Fill out and keep in your wallet or purse.

Name	
	Cell
Email	
Parents' Names	
	Cell
Email	
School Name	
Contact Name	
Address	Cell
Email	
Emergency Contact in Israel	
Cell	Email

TEAR OUT AND KEEP WITH YOU

Important Phone Numbers IN ISRAEL

PoliceEmergency: 110Emergency: 100		
Magen David Adom (Ambulance)101		
United Hatzalah1221		
Fire102		
Emergency services on mobile112		
ZAKA (rescue and recovery)1220		
Home Front Command1207		
Sexual Assault/Rape Hotline Male: 1203 Female: 1202		
Terem Urgent Care Centers 1-599-520-520, www.terem.com		
Locations in Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Beit Shemesh, Bnei Brak/Ramat Gan, Carmiel, Eilat, Jerusalem, Kiryat Gat, Maaleh Adumim, Modiin, Nahariya		
US Embassy – Tel Aviv03-519-7475 or 03-519-7575		
US Embassy – Jerusalem02-630-4000 or 02-622-7230		
Emotional Crisis Hotline1201		
Poison Control04-777-1900		
Tahel Crisis Center for Religious Women & Children 02-673-0002		
English-speaking		
Maier Solomon054-583-4413		
Medical referrals and emergency medical evacuation. (24/7)		
Ezra L'Marpeh (Rabbi Firer)03-577-7000		
Medical Referrals		
Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (S.T.E.P.) www.step.state.gov		
A service of the US Department of State. Provides the latest security updates and enables the US embassy to contact you in case of emergency. Requires registration online.		
Tvunot Family Resource Center 072-273-9488		
Available 24/7 for English speakers in Israel dealing with emotional and educational issues		
Israeli Shortcut 073-744-3853		
Assist visitors and olim as they wade their way through Israel's bureaucracy.		
Oleh Pay02-374-1212		
Easy and convenient way to send money to and from Israel without bank fees.		
Zmanim 02-650-ZMAN		
IN THE US		

Getting to Know Israeli Currency

Below is a guide to Israel's bills and coins, which are in

New Israeli Shekel (NIS), with denominations in shekalim and agorot.

The exchange rate, which changes daily, will determine how many shekalim you will receive for every dollar you exchange.

The rate is generally between 3 and 4 shekalim per dollar.

The approximate values in US currency below will reflect this range.



200 Bill ■ 200

(Value: \$55-60)

Largest bill in circulation.

Shown: old and new bills, both currently in circulation



■ 100 Bill (Value: \$27-30)



₪50 Bill

(Value: \$13-15)

Shown: old and new bills, both currently in circulation



■ 20 Bill (Value: \$5-6)



■ 10 Coin (Value \$2.70-3.00)



□ 5 Coin (Value \$1.30-1.50)



№ 2 Coin (Value 55-60¢)



■ 1 Coin (Value 28-30¢)



■ **Half Coin** (Equal to 50 Agorot: Value 14 -15¢)



10 Agorot Coin (Value 2.5 -3.3¢)

Value as of March 19, 2019: 3.61NIS = \$1.00.









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