

# Arrival Notes

## 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, 12 days long, etc.
- Have the name/address of the hotel handy: Gilgal Hotel, Nes-Ziona Street. Tel Aviv.
- There are bathrooms along the way once you exit the plane, on your way to passport control.

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

- 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—it is your visa.**
- There are normally free 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. It is not at all uncommon to exit without having your luggage checked.

## 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 per person (or the equivalent if a different currency) changed into shekels while at the airport.** There will be very little time or ATM availability for the initial days of our trip, and you will need to have cash on hand to pay for your transportation from the airport and your lunches once we begin touring.
  - Taxi for 2 plus luggage from airport to hotel will be between 160-180NIS (this is a rough estimate)
  - 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 50NIS/person/day)

## TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FROM BEN GURION AIRPORT

Taxi:

From the Greeters Hall, exit at Gate #3 and turn left at the sidewalk. Follow the signs to taxis, immediately outside the arrivals area, where an official dispatcher will put you into a government regulated taxi. Have the address for the Gilgal Hotel ready to give to the taxi driver:

7 Nes-Ziona St, Tel-Aviv / hotel phone: 03 511 1000

- 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 9:01pm – 5:29am (from 4pm 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 Gilgal is approximately a 30 min. drive and should cost around 160-180NIS (\$45-\$50) depending on time of day and amount of luggage.
- Link to calculate your approximate taxi fare:  
<http://www.iaa.gov.il/en-US/airports/bengurion/Pages/TaxiFareCalculator.aspx>  
(type the date as: day/month/year and enter time in military time)

Pre-Arranged Shuttle:

- [www.israel.airport-shuttle.com](http://www.israel.airport-shuttle.com) – a pre-paid service (you will be asked to pre-pay by credit card, a voucher will be sent you via e-mail, and the driver will be waiting for you in the reception hall at Ben-Gurion Airport with an appropriate sign). The price is approximately \$65 for 2 people plus luggage. Check prices on the website as they are subject to change.

#### ARRIVING AT THE GILGAL HOTEL

- When you arrive, check in at the front desk and let them know you are with the Joel Kramer Study Trip
- The Gilgal Hotel is about a ten-minute walk from a very nice Mediterranean beach.
- There are restaurants, pharmacies and convenience stores within easy walking distance

If you would like to have a day to recoup from travel before the study trip begins, you are welcome to arrive a day (or more, for that matter) early. The hotel will be alerted that some travelers may choose to arrive early, but you must make those arrangements yourself.

The contact information is as follows:

The Gilgal Hotel  
Nes-Ziona St. Tel Aviv 63904  
<http://www.hotelgilgal.net>  
[reception@hagilgal.com](mailto:reception@hagilgal.com)  
+972 3 5111000 // Fax: +972 3 5167291;

- Mention that you are with the Joel Kramer Study Trip

#### GROUP ORIENTATION

Dinner on the night of your arrival (which is covered in your cost) will be served at the hotel beginning at 6pm. We will meet for a brief orientation around 7pm. 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.
- 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. We will be carrying cell phones and will be accessible at any time. If you experience a delay or miss a connecting flight, notify us as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements to get you to the group wherever we may be.

email: Joel Kramer    [contact@sourceflix.com](mailto:contact@sourceflix.com)  
Cathy Kramer    [contact@sourceflix.com](mailto:contact@sourceflix.com)

Israel cell phone: Joel Kramer    054 659 6619 (if dialing from U.S. – 011 972 54 659 6619)  
(while on the trip) Cathy Kramer    054 683 6011 (if dialing from U.S. – 011 972 54 683 6011)