



## TRAVEL & MOVEMENT

Current CI S&S protocols require CD approval to travel to West Bank and Gaza, as it is High Risk CO. In order to enter the West Bank and Gaza you must travel through Israel. Travel into and through West Bank & Gaza is subject to frequently changing restrictions and regulations from the Israeli Authorities, sometimes without much advance notice, so the CO might not always have the most updated information. The CARE Safety and Security Officer will brief you on safety and security protocols after your arrival in-country. The security situation is volatile and complex and visitors are requested to carry their passport with them at all times.

**Entry/Exit Requirements:** As immigration requirements can change without much prior notice, please check requirements for your nationality on <https://israel.visahq.com/>. Passports must have at least 6 months' validity, and usually an onward or return ticket are required. A no-charge, three-month single-entry tourist visa will be issued upon arrival.

**Israeli Visas:** These fall into three categories; B-2, Entry Visas and B1.

1. B-2 Entry Visa: *Most visitors receive this visa category.* This is a single-entry visa valid for up to three months that will be issued to passport holders from the US, Canada, EU, Australia and a few other countries that have established migration relationships with Israel. Please check on the Israeli with the CARE S&S Officer. You will be able to stay but not to work in Israel. Working in the West Bank –excluding east Jerusalem-and Gaza is acceptable.
2. Entry Visa; Individuals who hold passports other than EU, US, Canadian and few other countries should obtain an entry visa from the Israeli mission in their countries prior to their travel to Israel. Processing time of this kind of Visa might take up to 40 days. An invitation letter from the CARE office in Jerusalem will usually accelerate the process.
3. B-1 Visa: This visa permits you to work in Israel and by default in the West Bank and Gaza. It is restricted to foreigners entering Israel with prior work arrangements. Foreigners entering Israel through Allenby crossing with Jordan are not eligible to this kind of Visa.

**Security Interviews (at entry or exit):** Detailed searches and prolonged questioning may take place at the time of entry and/or departure at all points of entry to Israel, including entry from the West Bank and Gaza. Travelers related to humanitarian work, unaccompanied female or young male travelers, and people with Arabic surnames, have been delayed and subjected to close scrutiny at points of entry. Security-related delays or obstacles in bringing in or departing with cameras or electronic equipment are not unusual.

From time to time computers and other electronic equipment have been confiscated from travelers leaving Israel from Ben Gurion Airport during security checks. While most are returned prior to departure, some equipment has been damaged, destroyed or lost as a result. During searches and questioning, Israeli authorities have denied visitors' access to consular officers, lawyers, or family members.

*Note: As of Mar 2017, the Knesset has passed a law that would ban entry into Israel to foreigners who support BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) activities directed at Israel or "area under its control" i.e the settlements. Please be aware that the authorities regularly scan an individual's social media footprint for any security or other issues that could result in being barred from entry. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the CO's S&S Officer or the CD.*

### **Arrival through Ben Gurion Airport (TLV), Israel**

*Tip: To minimize possibly unpleasant questioning, avoid traveling on flights operated by El Al, especially flights inbound to Israel.*

In the arrival hall you will join immigration lines prior to baggage collection, search/scanning. Passport – if your passport has stamps from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and other similar countries, please contact the CO’s S&S officer. It is recommended that you use a secondary passport if that is possible.

ONLY if you are not issued a visa based on your passport alone and you are asked about the purpose of your visit then present the letter of invitation supplied by the CO prior to arrival.

You may be asked questions about your visit. The name and address of the hotel is on your invitation letter. You may be asked if you are visiting the West Bank. Answer accurately, that you will visit the office in Ramallah and possibly other areas. Please note that if you are visiting Gaza and your permit from the Israeli authorities has been approved, this information is available to the immigration officials on their system. If asked you can certainly confirm that you intend to visit Gaza, and even provide the FN# of your permit.

You will receive a small blue and white slip of paper that is your entry visa. Do not lose this document as it can be requested upon departure.

After the immigration section, you will proceed to turn styles that open upon scanning of the entry visa slip and lead to baggage collection.

After collecting your luggage, you will exit through one common exit. Customs officials may require inspecting your luggage.

You will then exit to the arrivals halls, where a CARE designated driver will receive you.

**Departure from Ben Gurion Airport (TLV), Israel**

In the departures hall you will join a security line prior to reaching the check in counters, where you will present your passport and be interviewed on security questions. In the first line airport security personnel may ask a range of questions, to which you should respond (accurately and courteously!) along these lines:

<i>Question</i>	<i>Possible responses</i>
What nationality are you?	Australian.
What is the purpose of your visit?	I work for CARE, a humanitarian organization. I was visiting the country office to visit the agriculture projects CARE implements.
Have you been to Israel before?	You will be expected to provide the dates of your previous visits, at least the year.
Do you know any Palestinians or do you know anyone in Jerusalem?	The name of the CD and contact numbers are on your letter of invitation. If asked further, either explain that you don’t or that you do know Palestinian staff who are colleagues.
Tell me about your work.	It may be best to explain a technical aspect of your position. I am a nurse and I specialize in minimizing neonatal infant mortality and child nutrition.
Could you give me more details about your work?	- If information is in the public domain, e.g., on a website, feel free to disclose, e.g., “CARE is an international organization that works in over 70 countries and provides humanitarian assistance”. - You may be required to provide information regarding CARE’s work in OPT-WBG and the specific trip, it is best to cooperate as much as possible and to impartial and maintain a technical approach. “CARE in the West Bank & Gaza

	provides humanitarian assistance in health to families affected by the conflict in Gaza and to poor families to improve their rural agriculture practices.”
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Personal searches. Prior to checking in, or before passing through immigration control, airport security staff may ask you to undergo a personal search. By custom, any person can be asked to be searched, it is recommended to cooperate, or you could be denied access to your flight.

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If there is a problem and airport security staff will not permit you to pass to the next stage, contact the CO S&S Officer or the CD, who will advise you and, if necessary, call the airport security to follow up and have the contact telephone number of your embassy at hand.

You will then proceed to the check in counter: show your ticket and national passport; the airline will need to ensure that you satisfy the entry rules of your country of destination. You will then proceed onward toward the usual electronic security screening.

*Tip: Avoid traveling with Dead Sea beauty products as they often show up as explosives.*

<b>OK</b>	<b><i>Within Israeli Security authority, but inform CO S&amp;S Officer</i></b>
Walk through a scanner	Strip Search: Security staff member of same sex requests removal of bra, lowering of trousers or removal of underpants.
Take off shoes, belt, watch, hat, coat for separate scanning and checking for explosive traces.	
Security staff member passes a metal detector wand over the body.	
Security staff member of same sex conducts manual “pat down”.	

*Tip 1: If possible, avoid wearing jeans or other trousers with metal buttons or bras with underwire.  
Tip 2: If asked to go to a private room for a search, make clear in advance that you will object to striping or removing bra, pants, underwear, etc. but you must comply if requested.*

Laptop scanning: traveling with laptop is common, but notes the following possible scenario. Avoid traveling with laptop, if possible.

<b>OK</b>	<b><i>Within Israeli Security authority, but inform CO S&amp;S Officer</i></b>
Scan computer alone	Leaving computer with airport security for detailed checking, to be sent to you later or collected on return or picked up by a colleague.
Turn computer on	
Remove battery	
Test for explosive material	
Carry in checked luggage	

*Tip 1: Travel with a hard case. If security insist that a laptop goes with your checked luggage, it will be safer.  
Tip 2: CARE laptops and mobile phones should be clearly marked as CARE property. It is recommended not to travel with laptops to Gaza.*

At passport control:  
Present your passport and entry visa slip (if received when last incoming).

If asked to submit to further questioning by police, inform the CO S&S Officer immediately. Try to insist on retaining your telephone. The practice is to consent to questioning. The golden

rule is to be truthful – security staff and police appear to become particularly upset if they identify what they consider to be inconsistencies in answers.

Will I have to miss my flight because of questioning?

In practice, no, because people generally make their flights, even if security personnel end up escorting them to the flight as it is closing.

Will the Security focal point be able to solve all problems?

No. It is particularly difficult for an organization to intervene effectively, especially outside regular business hours and on Shabbat (Saturday). CARE will be in touch with the UN Humanitarian Access Coordination Unit to support these cases. However, there are limits to which Government officials are prepared to support departures from what they perceive to be “regular” security procedures.

The best approach is to be patient and prepared for the worst. You will then likely be pleasantly surprised!

**Ports & Crossings:** The main ports and crossing points are

- Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in Israel
- Allenby Crossing Bridge with Jordan (also known as King Hussein Bridge)
- Jordan River crossing Bridge with Jordan (also known as Sheikh Hussein Bridge)
- Erez Crossing to Gaza
- Yitzhak Rabin Border Crossing to Jordan (near Eliat)
- Haifa Seaport in Israel
- Ashdod Seaport in Israel

**Israel-Jordan Crossings:** There are 2 international land crossings between Israel and Jordan, the Arava Crossing (Wadi al-'Arabah) in the south, near Eilat, and the Jordan River crossing (Sheikh Hussein Bridge) in the north, near Beit Shean. Travelers using these two crossing points need not obtain prior visas, and will pay a departure fee at the bridge.

The Allenby Bridge (also known as the “King Hussein Bridge”) crossing from the West Bank into Jordan is under the jurisdiction of the Israeli Government and the Jordanian Authorities. A separate guideline for this crossing is regularly updated and available for those who are traveling through this crossing. Jordan does not recognize the Allenby Bridge as an international border crossing. Therefore, all visitors must obtain their ***Visa to Jordan in advance***. Visitors entering Israel/West Bank from Jordan can obtain an Israeli visa at the Allenby Border. Opening hours are short and along with procedures, are subject to frequent change.

**King Hussein Bridge Normal Operation hours:**

Sunday – Thursday 08:00-21:00

Friday & Saturday 08:00-12:00

**Israel – Egypt Crossings:** The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Sinai, Egypt is not open to foreign citizens. The Taba border into Sinai is not recommended at this time.

**Entry into the West Bank and Gaza from Israel:** Foreign citizens may enter and exit the West Bank and Gaza on their passport with an Israeli entry visa, except during periods of heightened security restrictions. CARE’s Security and Safety Officer coordinates all movement in and out of the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli Defense Force.

**Transport:** CARE’s office in Jerusalem is a 45-minute drive from Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. A CARE Taxi driver will be waiting to pick you up at the airport and bring you to your hotel in

Jerusalem. Taxis are available in the OPT-WBG and Israel including service taxis that are shared, they travel a set route and have fixed fares in a similar manner to bus services.