

Tel Aviv



This year marks Tel Aviv's 100th birthday, Israel's liveliest city. The daily scene is a blend of long sandy beaches, warm Mediterranean climate, a mix of old and new, and citizens who welcome the world and who enjoy life.

Tel Aviv was founded in 1909 by 60 Jewish families who had previously lived in the ancient port city of Jaffa. The new city was built on previously unsettled sand hills ("tel" means "hill" and "aviv" means "spring") on the outskirts of Jaffa. By the 1930s, the population had grown to some 50,000. Tel Aviv and Jaffa were merged into a single municipality in 1950, two years after the establishment of the State of Israel. Now it has over 1 million inhabitants, including its many suburbs. Having absorbed so many different people from so many parts of the world, the city is renowned for its cultural diversity. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, over 12 per cent of the population are now of Russian origin. Tel Aviv's 'White City', designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the world's largest concentration of Modernist-style buildings.

Where to go in Tel Aviv

The beach:

The sparkling clean water of the Mediterranean makes Tel Aviv one of the most attractive seaside destinations that also has a big-city character. The sandy strip is 5km long right in the center of town and stretches from Hilton Beach to Jaffa. Here you'll encounter joggers, beachball players and surfers, along with numerous beach cafés and hookah bars.

The Carmel Market is the city's biggest market, offering fresh fruits, vegetables, fish meat spices, flowers and clothing. It draws large crowds, wide selections and low prices.

Nachlat Benyamin Street This pedestrian zone, which is close to Carmel Market, is the venue of a colorful bazaar, open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30am onwards, featuring handicrafts, souvenirs, street musicians and fortune tellers.

Jaffa:

Free tours of Old Jaffa are offered in English every Wednesday at 9:30am. The tour includes the flea market and numerous archaeological sites in this 4,000 year-old city, which is one of the oldest ports in the world.

Neve Tzedek This neighborhood in the south of the city, the first Jewish settlement outside Jaffa's walls, is regarded as the SoHo of Tel Aviv, and has become extremely popular. With its cafés, small shops, galleries and restaurants, it's an excellent place for a stroll.

Museums Tel Aviv is home to some 30 art galleries.

The Ilana Gur Museum displays Israeli and international art and features the work of Ilana Gur, an African collection and further works by Dr. Yossef Sapir. As an added attraction, the museum is housed in a typical old Jaff dwelling.

Address: Mozal Dagim Street 4 (Jaffa)

Phone: +972 3 683 76 76

Open: Sun-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-6pm

Diaspora Museum

The museum, located on the university campus in the northern quarter of Ramat Aviv, depicts the global history of the Jewish Diaspora, from their exile from Israel 2,500 years ago up to the present day. The photos, the visual and audio exhibits, the portraits of Jewish individuals and the depictions of the sheer diversity of Jewish life at the end of the 20th century all add up to an impressive and informative museum experience.

The Tel Aviv Museum of Art:

Some of the best Israeli paintings and sculptures from the 1920s until today, 16th to 19th – century European art, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, 20th – century European and American art.

Address: Shaul HaMelech Ave. 27

Phone: 972 3 696 12 97

Open: Mon, Wed, Sat 10am-4pm; Tue, Thu 10am-10pm; Fri 10am-2pm

For more information on Tel Aviv and Jaffa, including a calendar of events, please click on www.tel-aviv.gov.il 