



מכון טכנולוגי לישראל-הטכניון
הפקולטה להנדסת תעשייה וניהול ע"ש ויליאם משה דוידסון



Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

The William M. Davidson Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management

MBA - מגיסטר במנהל עסקים עם דגש על חברות עתירות טכנולוגיה

INFORMATION FOR THE VISITING STUDENT

MARCH 2014

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A. Welcome note from the Vice Dean for the MBA programs

Prof. Miriam Erez

Dear MBA students from Renmin, Fudan ,Hitotsubashi, FGV, PUC IE , Yale and Egade,

We are very pleased to have you as participants in the very unique "Start-UP Nation" academic program that we prepared for you as part of the global Network Week.

The objective of this program is to share with you the knowledge and understanding of the build-up process of innovation and entrepreneurship in Israel, the core considerations for founding a start-up, and supporting it and the echo-system. This includes government support and venture capital that enables Israel to become one of the world's leaders in start-ups, mostly in technology and life sciences. The one-week program consists of lectures by leaders from the academia and industry, including live case-studies, class discussions, company visits, as well as social hours of getting together and learning about each other. We hope that this program will become a memorable experience for all the participants, and that it will instigate a spirit of entrepreneurship in each one of you.



Welcome,

Prof. Miriam Erez

Vice Dean for the Technion MBA program

Schedule for March 03-07, 2014.

Please note we will have an opening session on the morning of March 03, 2014.

On March 07, 2014 we plan to end at 18:00, so if you wish to order a return flight, you can take a flight after 22:30.

A detailed schedule will be sent soon. Please note: 03-05/3/14 the course will be held in Haifa City, 05-07/3/14 the course will be held in Tel-Aviv City.

B. PRE-DEPARTURE PLANNING

1. Visas

Visa Application

For any question about visa application please contact **Bat-El**:

visas@int.technion.ac.il

To learn more about Visas to Israel please visit:

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/Consular+affairs/Visas.htm#A/2>

2. Insurance Issues

All students and academic visitors must arrange adequate health and accident insurance PRIOR to arrival & send a copy before arriving to:
mbasecr@technion.ac.il

Arranging insurance is the visitor's responsibility and is required. We recommend our Technion agent for health insurance—Harel-Yedidim. The major advantage of taking Yedidim medical insurance for students from foreign countries is the access provided to the diverse medical services offered in Israel, without additional charges.

Because the policy has a 48-hour waiting period, the dates that are required in the application form are two days before landing in Israel up to the day you leave.

For example: if you arrive in Israel on March 02 and leave on March 10 write From: February 28 until March 10

Enclosed please find the summary of coverage of the UMS policy table of premiums, application form, and payment form. Please fill out the forms and send them to anatk@yedidim.co.il. You must send the forms by February 10, 2014.

Please note:

The insurance doesn't cover the following cases:

- Existing medical conditions
- Problems due to drugs and alcohol
- Pregnancy & delivery
- Dental treatment
- Mental problems.

If you choose not to take Harel-Yedidim medical insurance, then make sure your insurance covers you completely in Israel. However, you will then be required to understand how your insurance works, how to find a doctor, etc., as our staff will be unable to help with your insurance from home. Travel insurance policies purchased in your country of origin require the policyholder to pay for medical services in Israel and then request reimbursement, which in many cases does not cover the entire expense.

Please see the relevant attached forms in appendix B.

3. Items to Bring

Haifa & Tel-Aviv boasts a Mediterranean climate, with typical winter temperatures from 5°C-17°C, while summer temperatures range between 19°C–35°C .

You can bring electrical items and a laptop for your personal use. Keep in mind that the electrical supply in Israel is 220 volts, 50 Hz (as in Europe). Plug outlets are three-pronged; a transformer will be necessary for North American appliances; and a plug-adaptor will be necessary for foreign plugs. Please make sure to bring it with you.

4. Money

The official currency of the State of Israel is the New Israel Shekel (NIS) or shekel for short (pluralized as shkalim in Hebrew or shekels in English). There are 100 agorot (agora in singular) in each shekel.

Bank notes are in denominations of NIS 20, 50, 100, and 200; coins are in denominations of NIS10, NIS5, NIS2, NIS1, and 50 and 10 agorot.

The most common way of purchasing items in Israel is by cash or credit card. There are ATM's all over the country in banks and convenience stores (most ATM's will take a surcharge).

C. Arriving in Israel, Haifa

Ben-Gurion Airport

Israel's international airport is your gate to enter the country. Ben Gurion International airport is located approximately 20 km (16 miles) from Tel Aviv, and offers reliable train and taxi transportation.



1. Transportation to the hotel –Haifa:

From the airport take the train to Haifa, Hof- HaCarmel (40 NIS ~ 10-12 \$).
From the train station you have several options to get to your hotel:

1. Near the train station in Haifa, you'll find the Central Bus Station. Take bus no. 133 from Platform 14 to Carmel Center, or bus no. 3 from Platform 11 to Carmel Center (6.60 NIS ~ 1.5 \$). It's a short walk from there to the Dan Gardens Hotel/ Beth-Shalom Hotel. To Marom Hotel, you'll need to take another bus from Carmel Center, bus no. 5a or bus no. 136 to "Old Romema", It's a short walk from there to the Marom Hotel.
2. Take a taxi from the train station to the Hotel (around 60 NIS ~ 15 \$).
3. In case the train doesn't work you can take Amal taxi – **04-8662324**.
AMAL service taxi takes passengers directly to/from your desired address in Haifa and/or from/to the airport. The price is NIS 87 on weekdays or 100 on Shabbat; it operates 24/7, even during weekends and holidays.

For more details – rail: www.rail.co.il.

***Note:** No trains are available during the weekend (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset)
There is also an application for Smartphone called רכבת ישראל for those who speak and read in Hebrew.

Buses – www.egged.co.il.

2. * Recommendation to Accommodation during your stay in **Haifa**- 03-05.03.14 (Subject to Availability)

Please make your hotel reservation soon

1. **Marom Hotel** (***) , 90\$ for 2 in a standard room or 75\$ for individual in a standard room (including breakfast).

<http://maromhaifa.hotelasp.com/>

Address: 51 Palmach St. Haifa

For more info please contact Marina: htlmarom@gmail.com

Please be sure to write - **Guest of Global Network Week- Technion**

2. **Beth-Shalom Hotel** (***) , 120\$ for 2 in a standard room or 92\$ for individual in a standard room (including breakfast).

<http://www.beth-shalom.co.il/>

Address: 110 Hanassi Ave, P.O.B 6208, Haifa 31061

For more info : info@beth-shalom.co.il

3. **Dan Gardens Haifa Hotel** (****), we got for you a special rate - \$50 per person, 2 in a standard room or 85\$ per individual room.

<http://www.danhotels.com/HaifaHotels/DanGardensHaifaHotel/index.htm>

Address: 124 Yefe Nof St. Haifa

In order to make a reservation please contact Svetlana -

Svetlana.Zebnizki@danhotels.com

Please be sure to write - ***Guest of Global Network Week- Technion***

* **Recommendation to Accommodation during your stay in **Tel-Aviv-**05-07.03.14 (Subject to Availability)**

Please make your hotel reservation soon

1. **27 Montefiore Hotel** (****), 60\$-87\$ for 1 in a double room.

<http://www.27montefiorehoteltelaviv.com/>

Address: Montefiore 27, Tel-Aviv

In order to make a reservation please contact Liad-

27motefiore@gmail.com

Please be sure to write - ***Guest of Global Network Week- Technion***

2. **Ophir Hotel** (***) , 75\$ for 2 in a standard room (including breakfast)

<http://www.hotel-ophir.com/>

Address: 43 Dizengoff St. Tel- Aviv

In order to make a reservation please contact Avi-

Ophir43@gmail.com

D. At The Technion

1. About the Technion

In 1912, the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's first university, opened its doors and began the historic task of preparing young men and women to build a new nation. Today, the Technion is Israel's top institute of science and technology and the largest center of applied research. The Institute's 13,000 students (annually) can choose from 18 faculties, and from 49 undergraduate and 65 graduate programs in engineering, science, architecture, medicine and management.

A hundred years since its inception, the Technion is ranked among the top technological universities in the world. Recently the Technion was ranked 6th in the world by a survey conducted by MIT. The study evaluates entrepreneurship and innovation in higher education institutions worldwide. The study also placed the Technion first in the category of universities that create or support technological innovation.

The Technion has a distinguished faculty of over 600 that includes three Nobel Prize-winning scientists (in the past 7 years). These faculty members collaborate with leading scientists on research projects worldwide. The Technion campus in Haifa houses 40 research institutes and centers and nine interdisciplinary centers of excellence. Visiting academics and some 400 overseas graduate students provide an international atmosphere.

The Technion has recently expanded its presence to central Israel, with its new campus in Tel Aviv Sarona Park.



Technion Campus

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

09:00-15:00

Friday

09:00-11:00

Address:

The faculty is located at the Bloomfield building.

Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management

Technion City

Haifa 32000

Israel

Tel. 972-4-8294448/4248

Fax 972-4-8294453

Web: <http://ie.technion.ac.il>

Contact Person: Mor Levkovich morlevko@gmail.com

Office: 972-4-8294448 , Cell Phone: 972-052-6464190

MBA Staff

Academic staff:

Prof. Miriam Erez

Vice Dean of MBA programs

Email: meretz@ie.technion.ac.il

Prof. Dov Zohar

Student Consultant

Email: dzohar@tx.technion.ac.il

Administrative staff:

Dr. Avital Regev-Siman Tov

Managing Director of MBA programs

Email: avitalr@ie.technion.ac.il

Mrs. Hanna Shapira

MBA Students Coordinator

Email: mba@ie.technion.ac.il

Mrs. Adi Hertz

MBA Teaching Coordinator

Email: ahertz@tx.technion.ac.il

Mrs. Mor Levkovich (Temporary replacing Mrs. Michal Glassner who is on maternity leave)
MBA Programs Coordinator
Email: mbasecr@technion.ac.il

2. Transportation to the Technion

The Technion, located in the coastal city of Haifa, is adjacent to the Neve Sha'anani residential neighborhood on Mount Carmel.

The Faculty of Industrial Engineering & Management is located at:

Bloomfield Building

Technion City, Haifa 32000

Bus - to the Technion:

From Carmel Center, Hanasi Ave., take bus no. 31

The bus runs between 07:50-18:50, once an hour: 07:50, 08:50, etc. + 2 extra buses in the morning: 07:20, 07:40. Is a 30- 40 min ride.

Getting from the Technion to the Hotel:

Take bus no. 31 to Carmel Center.

It runs between 06:30-19:30, once an hour: 06:30, 07:30, etc.

****You can also refer to their website at: <http://www.egged.co.il/Eng.>****

You can call for a taxi to the Technion (referred to as 'special'). City taxi services include:

'Naveh' - Nave Shaanan, Tel: +972 (0)4 822 2222

'Horev' - Tel: +972 (0)4 888 8888

'Carmel' - Carmel Center, Tel: +972 (0)4 838 2626, +972 (0)4 838 2727

Note: Public transportation in Israel **does not** operate on the Shabbat and on Jewish Holidays. Intercity public transportation stops before sunset on Fridays and holiday eves, and resumes after sunset on Saturdays and holidays. Taxis operate all week. Within Haifa, public transportation buses do not run on Friday evenings but **do** operate on Shabbat. Within the campus there are no buses on Shabbat and on Jewish holidays.

In case you decide to arrive directly from the airport to the Technion there are several transportation services to use.

3. Transportation within the Technion

Internal Technion Shuttle

An Internal shuttle operates by the TSA free of charge for students.

Shuttle is a white minivan with a windshield sign that says "הסעה פנימית."

It operates from Sunday to Thursday, only when classes are in session.

The shuttle takes a circular route as follows:

Technion Main Gate →

Canada Building →

Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management →

East "Mizrach" Dorms →

Northern (Nesher) Gate →

Mechina (Pre-Academic) Unit →

"Handasa'im" School (Practical Engineering) →

Chemistry Faculty →

Agricultural Engineering Faculty →

Canada Dorms →

Sports Center →

Technion Main Gate

Shuttle can be boarded at any bus stop or at any of the above stops.

Shuttle leaves main gate every 20 minutes, between 07:40 AM and 17:20.

The schedule is as follows: 07:40, 08:00, 08:20, 8:40, 9:00, 9:20, 9:40, 10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:00, 11:20, 11:40, 12:00, 12:20, 12:40, 13:40, 14:00, 14:20, 14:40, 15:00, 15:20, 15:40, 16:00, 16:20, 16:40, 17:00, 17:20

4. Technion Map



5. CAMPUS LIFE

a. Opening hours

For a list of the opening hours of many different Technion offices and stores, see: http://www.ise.technion.ac.il/category/Campus_Facilities

b. Restaurants: Snack Bars, Cafeterias, & Café's

There is no shortage of places to eat on campus, and all-but-two have kashrut certification. There are several cafeterias that serve hot meals and many cafes that serve salads, sandwiches, and coffee. The following is a list of these facilities:

Senate Building	Faculty of Physics
Student Union Building	Civil Engineering
Aerospace Engineering	Ulmann Building
Mechanical Engineering	Amado Building
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry
Swimming Pool*	"Junta" Pub, in the Student Union Building*

* The Swimming pool restaurant & the Junta Pub are the only non-kosher restaurants.

c. Sports Facilities

Extensive sports facilities are available on campus, including a gymnasium, fitness center, an Olympic swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, and a basketball court. For information on registration at the sports center contact: +972 (0)4 829 2278.

- Use of the tennis courts and fitness center requires a one-time nominal fee.
- If you wish to work out at the gym, you must have a doctor's certificate in English or Hebrew (from a doctor who is familiar with your medical history) stating that you are in good health and are able to use the fitness center. Please make sure to bring this document with you from your home country.

d. Religious Services

The Technion on-campus synagogue holds regular daily services, throughout the year. Information on prayer times and study groups can be obtained at Tel: 04-8292459. There are several synagogues off campus in Neve Shaanan that are within a walking distance (15-20 minutes) of the dormitories.

Below is a list of churches and mosques in Haifa. It can be obtained also from the Haifa Tourist Board (Tel: 04-8535610).

e. Groceries

There are several minimarkets situated on campus. There is a large Supersol supermarket within walking distance (10-15 minutes) from the Technion campus.

f. Book Store –" Michlol"

The campus store is located beneath the Churchill Auditorium. Its opening hours are:

Sun. – Thurs.	08:00 - 18:00
Fri.	08:30 - 12:30

g. Post Office

The Technion post office is situated below the Central Library, across from the Student Union Building. Opening hours are: Sunday – Thursday 08:00 – 15:30.

h. Security at the Technion

The Technion takes the safety and well-being of its students seriously. The Technion has a 24-hour guard network; a security guard is stationed at the entrances at all times; and there are units patrolling the campus.

The student's security is our top priority. In the event of an emergency, we will contact our students as soon as possible to make sure they are safe.

Technion Security Office: +972 (0)4 829 2222 (for emergencies) and +972(0)4 829 4242 (for non-emergency issues).

i. Computer Facilities & Wireless Internet

There are numerous computer facilities (rooms) located in various areas around the Technion including the dormitories (New East Complex) and the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

In addition, the Technion has Wi-Fi internet coverage in vast areas on campus, including the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering (classrooms and cafeteria). As part of your orientation week, you will get an access code to the Wi-Fi service.

Wireless Internet throughout Campus.

E. USEFUL INFORMATION

1. Currency Exchange

Foreign currency can be exchanged immediately upon your arrival at Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Israeli Shekels can be withdrawn from the Automated Teller Machine ("Kaspomat"), adjacent to most banks. Major credit cards are accepted by most ATMs.

For exchange rates, see: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Banks

There is a branch of Bank Leumi on campus, situated next to the Student Union Building. Banking hours are:

Sun., Tues., Wed.	08:30 - 13:30
Mon., Thurs.	08:30 - 12:30; 15:00 – 17:00
Fri.	08:30 - 12:00

At the Technion there is an ATM in 'Beit Hastudent'. There is also an ATM near your hotel.

Below are the addresses of some main bank branches, of which the Nave Shaanan branches are the closest to the Technion:

Bank "HaPoalim" www.bankhapoalim.co.il	
Branch Name	Branch Address
Haifa Main	18 HaNeviim St.
Nave Shaanan	47 Trumpeldor Boulevard
Ahuza	15 Horev St.
Har HaCarmel	HaNassi Blvd. 105

Bank "Discount" www.discount-bank.co.il	
Branch Name	Branch Address
Haifa Main	47 Derech Ha'Atzmaut
Nave Shaanan	53 Trumpledor Boulevard St.
Moriya	128 Moriya Blvd.

ATM's at Carmel Center – near your hotel

1. **Bank Hapoalim** - near Dan Panorama Center & Hotel. –Hanassi Blvd.
105 - *2407
2. **Bank Leumi** – 107 HaNassi Blvd. **04-8350333**

2. Transportation within Haifa

Buses from/to the Technion:

Getting to the Technion:

From Carmel Center, Hanasi Ave., take bus no. 31

The bus runs between 07:50-18:50, once an hour: 07:50, 08:50, etc. + 2 extra buses in the morning: 07:20, 07:40. Is a half-hour ride.

Getting from the Technion to the Hotel:

Take bus no. 31 to Carmel Center.

It runs between 06:30-19:30, once an hour: 06:30, 07:30, etc.

11 - Horev, Haifa mall, the beach, Hof HaCarmel CBS (central bus station) & Train. Usually at 25 minutes past the hour.

19 - Ziv, Halissa, Hadar market, every 10-15 min.

17 - Ziv, Batgalim, every 20 min.

142 - Lev Hamifratz mall, cinema, north CBS & train (to the north).

784 - Special bus for the Technion students only, operates during the semester.

It operates only on Thursday afternoons from the Technion direct to Tel-Aviv and on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings from Tel-Aviv to the Technion.

The above 5 lines stop at all Technion stations, both during pick-up from the Technion and during drop-off when returning.

76/77 - Grand Canyon, ~once an hour.

From the Technion - stops only in the northern stations,

To the Technion - stops only in the southern stations.

200 - Night bus through the pub area to/from universities.

From Ziv - (switching buses is usually required, ask for the right direction)

123 - Horev, Haifa mall, Beach, Hof HaCarmel CBS & Train. Every 15 min.

Opposite direction - to Lev Hamifratz mall, cinema, CBS & train (to the north).

Make sure you take the right direction!

28 - Merkaz HaCarmel (museums, pubs, night life), Near the Baha'i gardens.

For more details:

<http://mslworld.egged.co.il/EggedTimeTable/WebForms/wfrmMain.aspx?width=1024&language=en&company=1&state=2>

When using buses, always ask for a “**transfer ticket**” (Hebrew: **KARTIS MA'AVAR**) which allows you to switch buses as much as you want within a 90-minute period for the price of a regular ticket (6.60 NIS).

3. Shabbat

Saturday (Shabbat) is the day of rest for Jews. Most shops and transportation services close down from before sundown on Friday until after sunset on Saturday. The same applies for Jewish holidays. By contrast, Sunday is a normal working day in Israel, and public services and shops are open. In Israel, students study Sunday - Thursday (sometimes Friday) and the weekend is from Friday to Saturday.

4. Government Offices

Government Offices are usually open in the mornings, Sundays through Thursdays. Please call ahead to confirm their office hours.

Tel. 04-8631010

5. Haifa Tourism Office

The city of Haifa is at the end of the Carmel range, where the mountain projects into Haifa Bay. The city is divided into three distinct levels: the Lower City (encompassing the port and commercial center); Hadar, with its residential and commercial centers; and Har HaCarmel, which is mostly residential.

The Haifa Tourism Office is located at 48 Ben Gurion Ave.
Opening hours: Sunday–Thursday 9:00-17:00, Friday 9:00-13:00,
Saturday 10:00-15:00,
Tel. 04-853-5606, Fax: 04-853-5610, Email: info@tour-haifa.co.il

For further information about tourist sites and activities in Haifa, see the Haifa Tourism Association website at www.tour-haifa.co.il.

6. Attractions in Haifa

1. **Events in Haifa:** You can find a calendar of Haifa events below.

<https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ogvdkqrttqfiigo02htm11jgd4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia/Jerusalem>

2. **Holy Sites**

The World Center of the Baha'i Faith – Tours of the gardens should be arranged in advance through the Reservation Center, open Sunday - Thursday 9:00- 17:00, Tel. 04-831-3131

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/israel/haifa-bahai-shrine-and-gardens.htm>

Stella Maris Church and Monastery – This is one of the most beautiful spots in Israel, with a church and monastery belonging to the Carmelite order. Free entrance, open all week, 6:00- 12:30, 15:00-18:00. Located at Stella Maris Way. Tel. 04-833-7758

Elijah's Cave – A pilgrimage site for followers of the three monotheistic religions. Entry only in modest dress. Allenby St. Sunday - Thursday 8:00- 16:45, Friday 8:00-12:45, Tel. 04-852-7430

3. **Houses of Worship**

Synagogues

Or Hadash – Reform Synagogue
Orthodox Synagogue
55 Hantke St.
Tel: 04-834-3905

Ramot Remez –
Borokhov 47
Tel:

Moria – Conservative Synagogue

7 Horev St.

Tel: 04-825-1495

Churches

Stella Maris Church and Monastery

Stella Maris Way

Tel: 04-833-7758

Latin Orthodox Church

Hameginim 80

Tel: 04-852-4346

St. John's Church

Yonatan Hakadosh 23

St. Lucas Church Center

4 St. Luke Haifa

Tel: 04-852-3370

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Ehad Ha'am 911

Tel: 04-825-4326

Carmelite Monastery

2 Tchernichovsky

Tel: 04-833-7384

St. Elias Greek Orthodox Church

23 Ein Dor st.

Tel: 04-85203012

Russian Church

Hatishby 55

Tel:

The House of Grace (Beit Ha'Chesed)

Catholic Church

10 Pal Yam Haifa

Tel: 04-866-6235

The Maronite Church

5 Simtat Rubin Haifa

Tel: 04-864-3427

Beit Eliyahu (Lutheran Evangelical) Messianic

Congregation

43 Meir St.

Tel: 04-852-3581

St. Anne's Daughters Convent

11 Meir Haifa

Tel: 04-853-3028

Mosques

Ahmadiyya Mosque

University of Haifa

Mosque

Kababir Village

On the Haifa University

Campus

Al Istiqlal Mosque

11 Kibbutz Galuyot Street, Corner of Pal Yam Avenue

7. Useful Links

Local Graduate Student Organization: gso@tx.technion.ac.il (Tel: 04-8292142)

Tourist information:

http://www.goisrael.com:80/Tourism_Eng

Haifa Tourist Office:

<http://www.tour-haifa.co.il/eng/>

(Tel: 04-8535610)

Bus Service (Egged):

<http://www.egged.co.il/Eng>

Train service (Israel Railways):

<http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

F. Welcome to Tel- Aviv

1. Buses

Every day approximately 550,000 people travel by bus throughout the city. The main public bus company that operates in Greater Tel Aviv is "Dan", which has improved its local services and is renewing its urban bus fleet with an emphasis on environmentally friendly buses.

The main public bus company that operates in Greater Tel Aviv is Dan- www.dan.co.il/english .

The national bus operator is Egged- www.egged.co.il/eng

Tickets and Fares

You can buy single rides, monthly subsections, or an all-in-one public transportation pass. Tickets and passes can be purchased on the bus, or at central bus stations. One ride ticket cost 6.90 "Shkalim" (2\$).

2. Service Taxis

Service taxis called "moniyot sherut" run along the main roads in the city and throughout the country. Sheruts are in essence minivans that operate as shared taxis; they are generally yellow, with numbers on the windshield indicating their route, and they can transport about 10-12 people at a time. Pricewise, sherut taxi fares are a set price and similar to bus fares. They usually reach their destination faster and tend to be less crowded. Sheruts operate both inter and intra-city routes and can be easily accessed from right outside the Central Bus Station.

Intra-city sherut fares cost between 6-8 NIS per person; by simply raising your hand, you can flag down a sherut and ask the driver to drop you off at any point along the route. You can hand the driver your fare as you get on the taxi, or you can take your seat and pass your money down to the driver. Not to worry-your change will be passed back to you. Note that while sheruts operate on Shabbat (Friday night and Saturday), fares will increase by 2-3 shekels

Sherut taxis generally follow public bus routes within the city, and are identified by numbers that signify their routes. The most common sheruts are the 4 & 5.

- 4- Runs from Tel Aviv Central Bus Station through Allenby and Ben Yehuda Streets all the way up to the Reading Power Plant.
- 5- Runs from Tel Aviv Central Bus Station through Rothschild Blvd., Dizengoff Center and Dizengoff St. up to Weitzman St. in the north. (Notice that the Sherut doesn't go all the way to Arlozorov train station, as does the number 5 bus).

Inter-city sheruts leave from the Central Bus Station and take you to various locations throughout the country. These sheruts fill up right outside the Central Bus Station and drop off at the Central Station at your

destination. Note that on Shabbat, when public busses do not run, intercity sherut fares increase by about ten shekels.

3. Trains

Each year, 14 million passengers commute to Tel Aviv-Yafo by train. The municipal policy for increased train travel is designed to reduce pollution and to promote inter-city access.

Israel Railways runs train services within Israel. Over the last decade, train service has improved considerably throughout the country. Today, trains are a fast and comfortable alternative to buses for many destinations. Train routes connect Tel Aviv-Yafo to Haifa and Beer-Sheva, as well as to numerous smaller towns and to Ben-Gurion airport. There is also a train route to Jerusalem that follows the 19th century path; while this route is scenic and worth taking at least once, taking the bus on the modern highway takes half the time. A new high-speed line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has recently started operating, with expected travel time of only 28 minutes.

Tel Aviv-Yafo has four train stations, all of which are located along the Ayalon highway. All trains to Tel Aviv-Yafo stop in all four stations. For best access to the city center, use either "Tel Aviv Merkaz" (also known as Arlozorov), or "Hashalom" (located in a large shopping mall). "Tel Aviv Ha-Hagana" Station is close to the New Central Bus Station, though most inter and intra city buses also leave from the terminal outside "Tel Aviv Merkaz" ("Arlozorov") train station..

Note that trains tend to be crowded during rush hours, especially on Sunday morning, when soldiers return to their bases and students to their universities. Train service stops on Friday afternoons, and resumes on Saturdays after sunset, in observance of the Jewish Sabbath.

4. Restaurant

Not long ago the most common food outlet seen on Tel-Aviv streets was the falafel or shawarma take-away stand. But today you're more likely to find sidewalk cafes and classy bistro-like cafes serving light meals and coffee.

The classic Middle Eastern falafel or shawarma joint is still prominent in Tel-Aviv and they often stay open late offering night owls great humus, pita bread and fresh salads with the Middle Eastern falafel balls and shawarma (gyro).

Tel-Aviv's range of cuisines comes from the many immigrants who have made the city their home. There are the Eastern and Middle Eastern cultures which have brought Tel-Aviv spicy Yemeni soups, malauach and hawayej; Moroccan couscous, lamb and Tajine prepared in the traditional Berber dish and delicious Persian rice and kebabs. From the Far-East you'll find quality sushi, Thai and Chinese food although of these the

Japanese kitchen is the most prominent. You can also find Indian restaurants and restaurant serving traditional Ethiopian food introduced to Israel by Ethiopian immigrants.

Those who prefer European style food can find sophisticated French restaurants, hearty Western dishes like roasted meat, potatoes and cooked vegetables as well as traditional European Jewish dishes. Of course American fast food is well represented in Tel-Aviv and you can't go far without seeing a MacDonald's, Burger King or Pizza Hut sign.

One unique side of dining in Tel-Aviv is that you'll come across Kosher and non-kosher restaurants. This means that some restaurant will serve only meat or only milk based dishes, and kosher restaurant are not open on Friday nights or Saturdays.

5. Nightlife

The City that Never Stops will keep night owls busy with its trendy bars, dance clubs and diverse nightlife. Tel-Aviv tends to come alive late in the evening, at about 11pm and places of entertainment can stay open until the morning hours.

In Israel the weekend starts on Thursday night and Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are the most active. Sunday is not a "day of rest" in Israel so you can go out and party on Sunday night as well. The usual age for admission to bars and clubs is 18 and the legal drinking age in Israel is 18, although there are some clubs which advertise that they are for under 18s or over 21s, 35 or 40s. Tel-Aviv has a dynamic gay scene and many straight revelers enjoy the gay clubs as they are some of the best in the city.

For mellow low-key romantic evenings head down to the beachfront cafes and restaurants. Tel-Aviv has plenty of cafes and restaurants to start your evening off before hitting the clubs and bars. The bars in Tel-Aviv include English style pubs and Irish pubs as well as more Israeli bars where the music is local. You'll find many bars and clubs along the beachfront, HaYarkon Street and in "Little Tel-Aviv". Down by the port you'll find places like Galina, Gazoz, Liheman Brothers and Chin Chin. Another trendy nightlife area which is not as well known to tourists is the Florentine neighborhood. Trip Advisor lists the top Tel-Aviv bars as Malan 18; Radio E.P.G.B.; TLVnight and Nevee'm.

6. Museums

For Museums in Tel-Aviv and surroundings region-

<http://www.ilmuseums.com/srch.asp>

7. Useful Links

Tourist information:

http://www.telavivguide.net/Tel_Aviv_Overview/Useful_Information_A-Z/Tourist_Information_Offices_20060118281/

Bus Service (Dan):

www.dan.co.il/english

Train service (Israel Railways):

<http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

We wish you a pleasant and joyful stay in Israel!