



2011 Sessions at Kibbutz Tzuba, Judean Hills, Israel

Student Information Packet

The following information packet has been put together to assist students attending our language courses. It contains information on what to pack, what to expect, how to prepare and when and where to go once you are in Israel. We ask that you carefully read through this and if you have further questions, please contact us via email or telephone.

USA Telephone (Pacific Coast Time): 1-559-237-0527
Telephone from within Israel: 02-533-5367

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**COURSE COSTS & PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Tuition* and Field trips

HEB 101 Beginning Biblical Hebrew	\$1700
HEB 201 Intermediate Hebrew (Genesis)	\$850
HEB 210 Intermediate Hebrew (Ruth)	\$900
HEB 220 Intermediate Hebrew (Judges)	\$900
HEB 250 Intermediate Hebrew (Psalms)	\$990

Room and breakfast at Tzuba

Single Occupancy (without roommate)	\$95/night
**Double Occupancy (with roommate)	\$55/night

Course fees are to be paid in full by the first day of class. Payments can be made by check, cash or credit card as follows:

1. CHECKS IN US\$ may be brought directly to the course and submitted on the first day during orientation. If you are coming from outside of the United States, please note that in order for us to process your check without bank fees, your bank must have a branch in the United States.
2. CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS: The Biblical Language Center is currently using the PayPal system (a 3rd-party credit card company). Due to PayPal's restrictions on large payments, all tuition payments by credit card must be completed PRIOR to your arrival in Israel. Processing large payments through Paypal may require a couple days and we recommend you begin the payment process a few weeks prior to departure. If this is your preferred payment option, please contact us in advance and we will provide you with detailed instructions how to do this through our website.
3. CASH payments can be made on the first day during orientation. When paying in any currency other than US\$, your tuition due will be calculated according to international exchange rates on the day of payment. If you are paying with currency other than US\$, please inform us beforehand by email.

*Course materials, books and CDs, are not included in the price and should be purchased through our website prior to coming to the course.

**If you sign up for double occupancy, but are not coming to the program with a roommate, there is a chance that you may be placed in triple occupancy if no other roommate is available.

REFUND POLICY

We do recognize that events beyond a student's control can occur during the course. Once the course begins, however, we automatically incur basic expenses on your behalf. Our refund policy below is set to reflect these two realities.

1. Students who leave the course after the first full day of classes will be charged for their accommodations* and will receive a full refund on tuition (minus a \$300 administration fee).
2. Students who leave the course within the first week after registration will be charged for their accommodations* and will receive a 75% refund on tuition (minus a \$300 administration fee).
3. Starting with the second week refunds will not be possible – excepting unusual or unexpected circumstances. If such circumstance occurs we will assess refunds on an individual basis.

*Accommodation charges for leaving students (as well as cancellations and no shows) will be set by the Kibbutz, in accordance with their own cancellation policies.



COURSE MATERIALS & PREREQUISITES

HEB 101: *Living Biblical Hebrew, Parts 1 & 2* \$127*

Preparation requirements: All students must come having listened through *Living Biblical Hebrew Part 1*, specifically pictures lessons 1-5, AND must have learned to recognize and write the Hebrew alphabet. (The alphabet is introduced at the back of the same book, *Living Biblical Hebrew Part 1*). Please contact us well in advance with any questions.

HEB 201, 210, 220, 250 Materials will be available in class at a reduced rate.

Preparation requirements: We require all students new to our methodology to come having worked through *Living Biblical Hebrew Part 1* and highly recommend that you also complete *Living Biblical Hebrew Part 2*. It is critical to begin to open your ears up to hearing the language rather than just reading and analyzing it. Proper preparation will ensure that your time of study with us will be as effective as possible. The price for the set (Parts 1 & 2 together) is listed above. If you wish to purchase these separately, the pricing is as follows:

<i>Living Biblical Hebrew, Part 1</i>	\$52*
<i>Living Biblical Hebrew, Part 2</i>	\$83*

*All prices are at a special rate for BLC students only and do not include shipping. Please contact info@BiblicalUlpan.org to place your order.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

The summer programs are held at Kibbutz Tzuba in the Judean hills, 20 minutes outside of Jerusalem. Those staying at the Kibbutz will be housed in their “**Country Lodging Guest Suites**”. The suites contain a bedroom with twin beds, a small sitting room with a sofa and television, an adjoining kitchenette and table, bathroom and a balcony. All suites are air-conditioned/heated. A virtual tour of the rooms is available at http://www.3disrael.com/tzuba_hotel/.

Students will receive breakfast everyday in the Kibbutz Dining Room. Students will have the option of purchasing other meals from Kibbutz Tzuba (approximately \$15-16 per meal), buying food from the on-site mini-market, or traveling into town to the local mall. Meals are served in a large dining room buffet style and are kosher (according to Jewish dietary laws). You can expect the following foods to be available:

Breakfast: A large variety of fresh vegetables and fruits, soft and hard cheeses, yogurt, cereal, fresh bread, eggs, smoked fish, jams, honey, fruit juice, coffee and tea.

(Daily menus may vary at the discretion of the Kibbutz.)



TZUBA CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

Tzuba Rooms will be available for check-in starting at 3:00PM except on Saturdays. Tzuba check in on Saturdays can not be guaranteed until after the Shabbat (Sabbath) ends and the rooms have been cleaned (approx 10:00PM). The Reception Desk at Kibbutz Tzuba is open from 7:00 AM until midnight. For late night arrivals (between midnight – 7:00 AM) special arrangements must be made to have room keys available. If you have questions concerning your arrival time please be in contact with us. Tzuba check out is at 11:00 AM. Since many students will be checking out on the final day of class, it is recommended to check out prior to class or during the long class break.

BLC has been very pleased Tzuba's facilities and service. Likewise Tzuba's staff has expressed gratefulness for our students' polite and mindful behavior. As a side note to this, customer service does not have the same value in the Israeli culture as it does in most North American and European countries. So your patience (when needed) is appreciated. Tzuba has been very good in the past to do all they can to accommodate our students.

TZUBA FACILITIES

Laundry service will be made available on a weekly basis for about \$4 a kilogram (2.2 lbs). It is a drop off and pick-up laundry service. More details will be given on arrival.

There is a mini-market at the kibbutz with a variety of food, drink and gift items.

The reception building also houses a lounge with food and beverage service.

Kibbutz Tzuba has full wireless network access which is available to guests free of charge. Reception is weak in some areas though there is a lounge in the lobby where access is excellent. There is also one public computer available for guests, though time may be restricted by the management when demand is high.

There is a community pool on the Kibbutz for Kibbutz members and guests during the summer.

Kibbutz Tzuba is situated in the Judean Hills just out side of Jerusalem. The Kibbutz is surrounded by vineyards and even boasts some archeological remains. The area is ideal for walks, hikes and exploring outdoors.

Car rental is available in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Reservations can be made online. Most foreign drivers' licenses are valid in Israel for 3 months.

EARLY ARRIVAL AND LATE STAYS

Many students plan to arrive before the course or remain after the course. There are a variety of good youth hostels and hotels in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. You are responsible for your own accommodations prior to and after the course dates. If you would like to stay at Tzuba before or after the course dates make sure you include the extra nights you would like to stay at Tzuba on your registration form, and we will try and accommodate your request though we cannot guarantee a room before or after the course dates (June 19-July 29, 2011).



GETTING THERE

Students are required to arrange for their own flights to and from Israel.

Many direct flights into Israel and all El Al flights have additional specialized security. This will include an interview with a security agent who will ask a variety of questions, often repetitively. It is important to answer honestly and remain patient. These interviews are intended to ensure the security of all passengers.

International flights to Israel arrive at the new Ben Gurion 2000 airport (TLV). It is a modern airport with excellent facilities and well marked information. After landing you will first be processed through Passport control, then you must claim your baggage, walk through customs (generally they do not even stop tourists at customs) and proceed to the Arrivals hall.

After exiting the arrivals hall building, you will see a number of mini-van shared taxis (pronounced Shay-root) and private taxis. If you are going directly to Kibbutz Tzuba there are 2 ways to get there.

1. Either take a mini-van shared taxi (Shay-root) to Jerusalem and then a private taxi from there to Kibbutz Tzuba. This is only an option if you are arriving during regular business hours, otherwise finding a taxi once in Jerusalem may be difficult. Note: The shared taxi will not leave for Jerusalem until all the seats are filled. The price is around \$15/passenger to Jerusalem and you must provide the driver with your destination in Jerusalem (Central bus station, Mevasseret Mall etc) Please ask for more detailed instructions if you plan on using this.
2. Or you can take a private taxi directly to Kibbutz Tzuba from the airport. Unlike the rest of the country private taxis from the airport operate with standard rates. You can expect to pay between \$50-\$70 for a ride to Kibbutz Tzuba. Prices may increase for late night or Shabbat service. Most taxi drivers will know where Tzuba is. Still, it is a good idea to have Tzuba's reception desk phone number with you so they can direct the taxi driver if needed, (02-534-7090).

If you are not going directly to the Kibbutz, please contact us if you need advice on how to get to the Kibbutz from where you will be staying.

While there is bus service from Jerusalem to Kibbutz Tzuba it is not recommended when arriving for the first time with luggage.

CLASSES AND STUDY TIME

All courses begin with an orientation session on the Sunday evening proceeding the first day of class. Unless otherwise noted, the orientation session will take place after dinner in the reception building at Tzuba. Classes take place Monday thru Friday in the mornings (8:30 am to 12:30 pm), with homework and free time in the afternoon/evening. There will be two teachers for each class. Scheduled field trips are a significant part of the lessons. Depending on your course/s, there are half-day trips, full-day trips, and even some overnight trips. Saturdays and Sundays are always free.

WEEKENDS

In Israel, the work week runs from Sunday to Thursday. On Friday many places are open for a half day. Shabbat (the Sabbath) begins on Friday a few hours before sunset and continues thru Saturday until just after sundown. During this time it may seem that the entire world comes to a complete stop. There is no bus service. Shops, banks, most restaurants and public places are closed.

So what does stay open? In West Jerusalem there are a few coffee shops and non-kosher restaurants open as well as the main museum, two cinemas and a bowling alley.

Parts of the Old City in Jerusalem and Arab east Jerusalem remain open during Shabbat. Most national parks and touring sites outside Jerusalem close early on Friday and re-open for a regular day Saturday.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Buses are the primary mode of transportation in Israel and city to city bus service is very frequent, fast and in-expensive. All city to city buses go between central bus stations which have shopping and food arcades. Many internal city lines also begin and terminate at the central bus station.

Bus #183, operated by SuperBus, runs from Kibbutz Tzuba to the Jerusalem central bus station about every other hour. On Friday, bus service ceases a few hours before Shabbat starts (roughly 2:00pm) and remains shut down until about an hour after sundown on Saturday night. There is a late bus returning from Jerusalem on Saturday at midnight. It is about a 20 minute ride into Jerusalem by bus. A current bus schedule will be available to you once you arrive at Tzuba.

Private taxis are available 24 hours, 7 days a week. You can request a taxi from the reception desk at Kibbutz Tzuba.

“Shay-root” (shared taxi) service is available to many places in the country. These taxis are mini-buses and very inexpensive. They hold 10 passengers and often have set routes. In Jerusalem, Sherut service is available to Tel Aviv on Shabbat. In Tel Aviv, Sherut service is available to Jerusalem and to most points north of Tel Aviv along the coast.

HEALTH COVERAGE

By law, students are required to have health coverage. If your home coverage does not extend for your trip to Israel, a local coverage may be purchased on the first day at the orientation session. Please contact us if you would be interested in this service. You can expect to pay \$1-\$2 USD per day.

WEATHER FORECAST

Israel has 2 main seasons; a rainy, cold season and a dry, hot season.

The Summer Forecast:

The dry season usually begins in April and runs through November. During this season HOT is the forecast. It will not rain. From May through October temperatures average 30 to 38 Celsius (85 F-100 F) in most of the country and 40 to 45 Celsius (104 F-113 F) in the desert and south. In the evenings Jerusalem is usually breezy and comfortable.

Summer humidity in Tel Aviv and along the coast can reach as high as 65%. Humidity drops as you move east. Jerusalem is located between Mediterranean hills and the desert, so its humidity varies.

The Winter Forecast:

The rains usually begin in mid-November and run through mid-April. January and February generally bring torrential rains and low temperatures. The rainy season can be very cold. It is highly advisable to bring a good winter coat and water-proof winter foot wear. A good selection of sweaters and warm socks are recommended.



WHAT TO PACK

Fashions in Israel are very casual. Light cotton clothes, tee shirts, shorts, cotton skirts, light jeans, cotton pants, sandals and light, breathable shoes are worn throughout the summer – both for formal and regular occasions.

Most places in Israel are “secular”¹ and without restrictions on dress or male/female relationships. Holy sites and some religious communities have dress restrictions for both males and females as well as restrictions on public contact between men and women. You will be told in advance when visiting sites with specific requirements. Please bring along a “modesty kit” for these occasions.

Modesty kit for certain holy sites and religious areas:

Women: must be covered from the neck down to the ankles, including shoulders and elbows. Bring a wrap-around skirt and light long-sleeved shirt that can be carried with you and put on before entering a holy site or religious area.

Men: must also be covered from the neck down to the ankles including shoulders. Bring a pair of light cotton trousers and a light cotton long sleeved shirt for visiting holy sites and religious areas. HEAD COVERING is required for men in all Jewish holy sites and synagogues. Most such places will offer you disposable paper “Kippa” (head covering). Hats/Caps are also acceptable.

PACKING LIST:

- Clothes appropriate for summer/winter
- Modesty Kit (summer months)
- Warm Clothes/Winter Jacket (winter months)
- Comfortable shoes for walking and hiking
- Sunglasses
- Hat or sun umbrella and sunscreen (minimum SPF 20)
- A small backpack for day excursions
- MP3 player (1GB free space recommended), or Portable CD player (a laptop with earphones is also acceptable but can be bulky on a field trip)
- Any medications you take regularly together with a copy of the prescription
- Toiletries (also available in Israel but tend to be pricy)
- Swimming clothes (for those wishing to swim in the summer months)

*Towels and bedding are provided by the Kibbutz

ELECTRICITY AND APPLIANCES

Israeli voltage is 230 and compatible with 220 to 240 – commonly found outside of North America. If you are bringing electrical appliances that are NOT dual voltage you will need to bring a compatible converter/transformer.

Dual voltage appliances require a PLUG-ADAPTER – which can be purchased in nearly every hardware store in Israel for \$1 - \$2 USD. Laptop computers and most digital cameras have a built in converter and will only require a plug adapter.

¹ “Secular” in Israel refers to persons not formally associated with an orthodox religious group. The majority of Israeli’s (Arab, Jewish, Christian and others) are considered secular. This is more of a reflection on lifestyle and dressing habits than internal religious convictions.



SAFETY ISSUES

Every year thousands of first time tourists land in Israel – not really knowing what to expect. International media networks paint a very bleak picture. Within a couple hours, first timers are usually left wondering if news programs are filming in some other country! In a way they are. Below, the 3 major divisions of the land today are described and what you can expect with each.

1. Israel proper

This consists of any area under full Israeli civilian government and comprises most of what you see on a map of Israel (including the Golan Heights and Arab-Israeli villages). While life itself is unpredictable – and no place on earth is free from danger or threat, Israeli areas are among the safest places in the western world. There is an almost unnaturally low civil crime rate and a very high level of visible national security in populated areas. Most first time visitors are quite amazed at how normal and peaceful life here really is and many North Americans and Europeans comment that Israel is much safer than their own cities and towns.

2. Mixed Palestinian/Israeli areas

These are areas within the “west-bank” map with a mix of Palestinian towns and Israeli villages (often referred to as settlements). Many of the areas are under military government and their situation is usually but not always stable. If you do travel to a Palestinian area within Israel you will pass through an armed roadblock where IDF soldiers will advise you on whether to continue.

3. Areas under the Palestinian Authority

This includes the Gaza Strip, Jericho, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jenin. These areas are not under Israeli civilian or military control and, for the purpose of travel, constitute the equivalent of an international border where passports (and often special permission) are required to enter and exit. Following the election of Hamas into the Palestinian government, there are restrictions to entering Palestinian controlled areas.

Gaza, in particular, is highly dangerous and volatile and many governments around the world advise their citizens to refrain from visiting. The images shown on news networks around the world are usually from this area – which is closed and does not affect daily life in most of Israel, particularly Jerusalem.

During orientation we will provide any relevant and up-to-date information on the situation in mixed and Palestinian areas, particularly Bethlehem.

BORDERING COUNTRIES

Israel currently has peace treaties with two bordering neighbors – Jordan and Egypt. There are land crossings in Israel to both countries and both Israeli and foreign tourists cross over frequently. If you would like to extend your time here and see the pyramids, swim in the red sea or explore the hidden city of Petra, you can book excursions in Israel at very good prices and find a variety of deals on the internet. There are also excellent packages available for visits to Turkey, Greece and Cyprus from Tel Aviv.

PASSPORTS

If you are a passport holder of a country outside of Europe or North America you may be required to have an entry visa for Israel. For such persons, you will need to apply for an Israeli visa before your arrival in Israel. Two or three months are necessary to ensure adequate processing time.

Several Muslim countries will not allow visitors who have ISRAEL stamped anywhere in their passports. If you plan on traveling to a Muslim country in the near future, check with your local embassy for restrictions. When passing through “ISRAELI PASSPORT CONTROL” at the airport, you may request that your visa and entrance stamp be made on a separate piece of paper.

**SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US BY PHONE OR EMAIL!**