



Biblical Language Center

Learn Easily • Progress Further • Remember for Life

2018 Summer Session
at Jerusalem Hills Inn
Abu Ghosh, Israel

Student Information Packet

support@BiblicalLanguageCenter.com



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The following information packet has been put together to assist students attending our language courses. It contains information on what to expect and how to prepare. 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): 1-888-453-1416 Email:
support@biblicallanguagecenter.com
www.biblicallanguagecenter.com

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COURSE COSTS & PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tuition and Field Trips

HEB 101 Beginning Biblical Hebrew: "Jonah"

\$1,700

Room and meals

The student is responsible to make their own arrangements directly with Jerusalem Hills Inn or other nearby facility. Jerusalem Hills Inn offers Bed and Breakfast. (see below)

Course fees are to be paid in full by JUNE 17, 2018. Payments can be made by check or credit card as follows:

1. CHECKS IN US\$ is our preferred payment option and should be sent to our US address two weeks prior to the start of the course. If you are from outside 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. Please send all checks to:
BLC
3605 Kerckhoff
Ave. Fresno, CA
93702 USA
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 by June 1, 2018. If this is your preferred payment option, please contact us in advance and we will provide you with detailed instructions on how to do this through our website. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

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 receive a full refund on tuition (minus a \$300 administration fee).
2. Students who leave the course within the first week after registration 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

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unexpected circumstances. If such circumstance occurs we will assess refunds on an individual basis.

COURSE MATERIALS & PREREQUISITES

Preparation requirements: All students must come having finished the online course for *Living Biblical Hebrew Part 1*, or the equivalent in book form. Please contact us well in advance with any questions.

Please note that working through Book 1 takes time and we suggest you start now. Do not wait until you arrive in Israel to start the prerequisites. That will be too late.

NEW! Students who complete a Live Video Class for Hebrew, Level A already meet the prerequisite—and they gain 15 additional hours of instruction and human interaction that provide a vital core for effective language learning. We highly recommend this approach as it will empower you to achieve the greatest benefit from your time in the immersion class held in Israel.

Course Materials: You should have received an email with instructions about purchasing *Living Biblical Hebrew, Parts 1 & 2* and with coupon codes for BLC students only. Please refer to your emails, or contact support@BiblicalLanguageCenter.com.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

The summer program is held at Jerusalem Hills Inn (JHI), in Abu Ghosh, a village just outside of Jerusalem, Israel. Those staying on the campus of JHI will be housed in the rooms according to their chosen rooming option (with one, two, or three to a room). All rooms are equipped with AC. All linens are provided for each student. Free Internet access is available throughout JHI.

All breakfasts are prepared fresh daily and are served in the breakfast room. Breakfast is served from 7:30-9:30 AM. (Classes start at 8:45) How you receive the remainder of your daily meals is up to you. Hot lunch will be available on site at a cost of \$10. per student per lunch, *if there is a quorum of students interested*. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the meal plan for hot lunches during the course.

Guest of JHI may use the Guest Kitchenette to prepare other simple meals. There is a microwave, stove/oven, fridge/freezer, and sink for that purpose. There are fresh produce markets and grocery stores nearby. There are also local restaurants within walking distance. We will have more specifics about these options at our orientation meeting, but it may be helpful for you to know that a typical meal at a local restaurant can cost anywhere from \$10-20.

JERUSALEM HILLS INN CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

Rooms will be available for check-in at 2:00 PM. All participants must arrive to Jerusalem Hills Inn sometime prior to the first orientation class, which begins on Sunday June 17 evening, 7:00PM. Please make JHI aware of your flight information so they have an idea of when to expect you. Check support@BiblicalLanguageCenter.com



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out is normally 10:00 AM.

Please plan to check-out prior to your final exam, which ends no later than 12:30 Friday afternoon, July 13 (HEB101). You are responsible to complete the check-out process before you depart for the airport.

JERUSALEM HILLS INN FACILITIES

Laundry facilities, including detergent, are available on site (\$3.00 per load). To view images or to find out more about the facilities you can go to www.jerusalemhillsinn.com

AIRFARE AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO JERUSALEM HILLS INN

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. These interviews are intended to ensure the security of all passengers.

International flights to Israel arrive at Ben Gurion 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.

Students are required to find their own transportation to and from Jerusalem Hills Inn. After exiting the arrivals hall building you will see some shuttle vans and private taxis. If you are going directly to Jerusalem Hills Inn, there are two ways to get there.

1. Take a "Nesher" shuttle van

They are yellow and white and are located directly out front and to the right of the Arrivals hall building exit. They say in English, "Shuttle to Jerusalem" on the side of the vehicle. You will see a crowd of people and several drivers asking where you want to go. Tell them Abu Ghosh, just outside Jerusalem. They will direct you to a specific van and you will wait until your van is full (10 seats) before you leave. You can expect to pay around \$20 per person (they accept USD cash and Israeli shekels). Please have Jerusalem Hills Inn's address and phone number available for the taxi driver if needed.

2. Or you can take a private taxi directly to Jerusalem Hills Inn from the airport. Private taxis from the airport operate with a standard rate. You can expect to pay around \$75 for a ride to Jerusalem Hills Inn. Prices may increase for late night or Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) service. Make sure to finalize the price before starting your ride. Please have Jerusalem Hills Inn's address and phone number available for the taxi driver if needed.

When you arrive to Jerusalem Hills Inn, please ensure that the driver takes you to the top of the hill. There are clear signs. Abu Ghosh is notorious for winding alleyways, and drivers occasionally have been known to leave people at the main road. While it is not a very long walk (3-5 minutes), it is uphill and with heavy luggage it can be cumbersome. If the driver is convinced there is space for him

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to turn around, he will be willing to go off the main road.

The exact address is **Rehov HaToot 9 רחוב התות 9**. The phone number is: **972-77-557-0948**, in Israel dial **077-557-0948**.

If you are not going directly to Jerusalem Hills Inn, please email us if you need advice on how to get to where you will be staying. Google maps can also be useful with the exact address.

VISA AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

Make sure your passport is valid 6 months prior to your entry into Israel, otherwise you may not be allowed entry.

If you are a passport holder of a country outside of North America you may be required to have an entry visa to Israel prior to your arrival. Please check your embassy's requirements for entry into Israel. Or go to the following link for more information. <http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism>

CLASSES AND STUDY TIME

The course begins with an orientation session Sunday evening, June 17, at 7:00 PM. The place for the meeting will be in the classroom. Classes take place Monday through Friday in the mornings (8:45 am to 12:45 pm), with homework and free time in the afternoon/evening. Saturdays and Sundays are always free.

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN JERUSALEM AND ISRAEL

Buses are the primary mode of transportation in Israel, both within the city and for travel outside of Jerusalem. Superbus is the company that serves Abu Ghosh and the corridor neighborhoods running up to Jerusalem. Bus number 185 runs right near JHI facilities, on the main road, "HaShalom". After several stops in Abu Ghosh, the bus continues straight to Jerusalem central bus station (normally 15 to 20 minute drive). Some hours of the day it does an extra stop in Mevasseret, a suburb neighborhood of Jerusalem that has several malls. The bus company within Jerusalem is Egged. A bus ride costs \$1.60 USD, or if purchasing a RavKav multiple fare card, it goes down by 15%, and each ride is transferable to multiple buses or light rail within 90 min.

Car rental is an option for longer distance excursions you may want to take.

At orientation, we will provide you with more details about these transportation options, and can answer questions you may have.

WEATHER FORECAST

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During this summer season, HOT and mostly dry 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 of the country. However, in the evenings Jerusalem and its environs are usually breezy and comfortable, if not cool. Layered, comfortable cotton dress is recommended, with a light jacket/windbreaker for evening.

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.

PACKING AND PREPARATION

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” and without restrictions on dress. 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. At these sites, you will need to wear sleeves to the elbow and trousers/skirts past the knee (see below).

PACKING LIST IDEAS:

- Comfortable clothes appropriate for a hot summer
- Modest clothing 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, but such places will offer you a disposable paper “Kippa” (head covering) if one is needed.
- In these situations, modesty codes are determined by how much skin you cover, (color and or how tight the clothes are is irrelevant).
- Comfortable shoes for walking
- Sunglasses
- Hat or sun umbrella and sunscreen
- A small backpack for day excursions
- A laptop or other device that can play mp4 files with earphones
- Any medications you take regularly together with a copy of the prescription
- Swimsuit (for those wishing to visit the Dead Sea or Mediterranean, or other swimming locations)
- Reusable water bottle

ELECTRICITY AND APPLIANCES

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Israeli voltage is 220. 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. Most computers and most digital cameras have a built-in converter and will only require a plug adapter. Adapters can be purchased here cheaply.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Israel requires all entering tourists to have health insurance. Please check with your current health insurance provider to make sure you have traveler's insurance. If not, there is a local company Har'el that gives tourist coverage (around \$2.00 a day). Please contact Sharon.alley@biblicallanguagecenter if you would like to sign up for this option.

Contact Information:

If Jerusalem Hills Inn cannot be reached, or some other urgent issue arises, you may reach your course administrator/teacher at the following number:
Sharon Alley **058-710-2008 (972-58-710-2008 outside Israel)**.