



Interesting Facts about Israel - Geography, Polity, National Flag

Hey aspirant, welcome back to our captivating “**Know your Country**” series. This time, we invite you to join on an exploration of the remarkable country that is **Israel**. Israel is a fascinating country with a rich history and vibrant culture.

Israel known as “**Canaan, Palestine or the Holy Land**”. The word Israel comes from Abraham's grandson, Jacob, who was renamed “**Israel**” by the Hebrew God in the Bible. Israel, a Middle Eastern country on the Mediterranean Sea. Israel covers an area of the Southern Levant also known as Canaan, Palestine or the Holy Land, which is the geographical location of the modern states of Israel and Palestine. Before looking at different aspects, one must know the country symbols of the particular country.

The country symbols of Israel are:



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Israel	
Official Name	State of Israel or Hebrew Medinat
Capital	Jerusalem
Continent	Asia
President	Isaac Herzog
Prime Minister	Benjamin Netanyahu
Currency	Shekel
Language	Hebrew
Religion	Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze
National Flag	
National Anthem	Hatikvah
National Game	Association football and basketball
National Bird	The Hoopoe
National Tree	Olive
National	Red Adumim Cave

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[Source: Tourist Israel]

So now, let's move on the first aspect of the blog i.e. **History of Israel**.

History of Israel

The History! We will discuss the history of this land in some other blog. In this blog, we will only understand the dynamics after the formation of Israel as a country. In 1948, Britain allowed the Jewish state of Israel to form in the territory known as Palestine. While this may have seemed a simple response to the push for a Jewish nation-state, the situation quickly became much more complicated.

Ancient and Early Medieval Period:

The late 19th century saw the widespread consolidation of a Jewish nationalist movement known as Zionism, as part of which increased. During World War I, the Sinai and Palestine campaign of the Allies led to the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Britain was granted control of the region by League of Nations mandate, in what became known as Mandatory Palestine.

Medieval Period:

The Franks held the territory until 1291 and Mamluk conquest. The Caliphate of Cairo then held it until 1517 when crushed by the Ottoman Turks. There was no state of Israel in the Middle Ages. The only Medieval Jewish state was the Khanate of Khazaria in the modern day Russia.

Colonial Period:

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The first European Jews landed on the shores of Palestine and established early settlements in the 19th century. During World War I, the Sinai and Palestine campaign of the Allies led to the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Britain was granted control of the region by League of Nations mandate, in what became known as Mandatory Palestine. The British government publicly committed itself to the creation of a Jewish homeland.



[Source: Wikipedia]

Constantine made Christianity the main religion of Rome, and created Constantinople, which became the most powerful city in the world. Emperor Constantine reigned over a major transition in the Roman Empire and much more. He ruled during the 4th century, and some of his important accomplishments include his support of Christianity, construction of the city of Constantinople, and the continuance of the reforms of Diocletian.

Independence and Beyond:

On November 29, 1947 the United Nations adopted Resolution 181 that would divide Great Britain's former Palestinian mandate into Jewish and Arab states in May 1948 when the British mandate was scheduled to end. Before going further we will get discuss about the events of the country.

Here is the timeline of some key events in Israel.



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- **1945** - World War II comes to an end.
- **1948** - The independent country of Israel is declared. The first Prime Minister of Israel is David Ben-Gurion.
- **1956** - Israel, along with Britain and France, invaded Egypt in response to Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal.
- **1967** - The Six-Day War, which lasted from June 5 to June 10, 1967, was a brief but intense conflict in the Middle East.
- **1969** - Golda Meir is elected Prime Minister. She is the first woman prime minister of Israel.
- **1972** - The first major Palestinian terrorist attack on Israel was carried out by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September.
- **1979** - Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty, leading to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula.
- **1980** - The Shekel becomes the official currency of Israel replacing the Israeli lira.
- **1991** - The Gulf War occurs. Israel is hit by Scud missiles from Iraq.
- **2009** - Benjamin Netanyahu is elected prime minister.

The timeline showcases Israel as a rich and diverse history in a simple way. Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e. **Geographical Aspects**.

Geographical Aspects of Israel

Israel is a small country with a relatively diverse topography, consisting of a lengthy coastal plain, highlands in the north and central regions, and the Negev desert in the south. Running the length of the country from north to south along its eastern border is the northern terminus of the Great Rift Valley.



[Source: Israel mission around the World]

Demographical Aspects:

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As of March 2023, Israel's population stands at approximately 9.73 million. Jews make up the majority at 73.5%. The Arab community, spanning various religions excluding Judaism, accounts for 21%. However, the Jewish population is growing mostly thanks to one community, the haredim, or the ultra-Orthodox.

The country's populace is composed primarily of Jews and Arabs, who respectively account for 75 percent and 20 percent of the national figure; followed by other ethnic and religious minorities, who account for 5 percent.

Soil and Vegetation:

Israel's climate is characterized by hot summers and mild winters. Rainfall varies significantly across the country and from year to year. Mainly shallow brown rendzina soils with numerous outcrops of limestone or calcareous crust. Shallow to moderately deep pale rendzina soils are typical of slopes where the calcareous crust has been eroded.

Israel is a transition area from the Mediterranean forests in the northern part of the country, through bathas and herbaceous vegetation of the eastern parts of the country, to shrub-steppes of the Negev Highlands, and extreme desert areas supporting contracted vegetation in the southern Negev.

Climate and Weather:

Israel temperatures are usually in the high 80's, 90's. Tiberias will be hot and humid. Jerusalem is dryer and cooler, particularly at night. Masada & Eilat are extremely hot (possibly above 110F, but dry. The northern part of Israel is characterized by a Mediterranean climate, while the southern part is arid, with a narrow, semi-arid strip in between. Israel's climate is characterized by hot summers and mild winters. Rainfall varies significantly across the country and from year to year.

Now, let's look at the **political aspects of Israel**.

Political Aspects of Israel

Ancient Israel was a monarchy that was run as both a political and religious entity. The king ruled on behalf of Yahweh and was supposed to uphold the religious covenants. Politics in Israel are dominated by Zionist parties. They traditionally fall into three camps, the first two being the largest: Labor Zionism, revisionist Zionism, and religious Zionism.

- **Legislature:** The Knesset is the country's legislative body. The Knesset took its name and fixed its membership at 120 from the Knesset Hagedolah, the representative Jewish council convened in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah in the 5th century BCE.
- **Judiciary:** The Judicial Authority consists of the Israeli court system headed by the Supreme Court, as well as the Labor Courts. There are three judicial levels in the court system: the Supreme Court, the District Courts and the Magistrate Courts.
- **Executive:** The Judicial Authority consists of the Israeli court system headed by the Supreme Court, as well as the Labor Courts. There are three judicial levels in the court system: the Supreme Court, the District Courts and the Magistrate Courts.



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[Source: The times of Israel]

The Israeli system of government is based on parliamentary democracy. The Prime Minister of Israel is the head of government and leader of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in the Knesset.

So now, let's look at the **Culture of Israel**.

Culture of Israel

Israel contains a collectivist society in which the group, especially the family, is value more than its individual members. Israelis enjoy sharing life with their family and friends and are quick to offer help to those in need. Israelis are generally dedicated to their culture and state.

Language:

Hebrew is the country's official language, and almost the entire population speaks it either as native speakers or proficiently as a second language. Its standard form, known as Modern Hebrew, is the main medium of life in Israel.

Cuisine:

It incorporates many foods traditionally included in other Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisines, so that spices like za'atar and foods such as falafel, hummus, msabbha, shakshouka and couscous are now widely popular in Israel.

Festivals:

The festivals of Israel, Passover, also known as the feast of unleavened bread is the most important time of the Jewish calendar.



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Performing Art:

The performing arts range from traditional vocal and instrumental music, folk dance and theatre to pantomime, songs and beyond, including rituals, festive events or oral traditions.

Sporting Culture:

The most popular sports in Israel have traditionally been Association football (mainly) and basketball (secondly) – with the first being considered the national sport – in both of which Israeli professional teams have been competitive internationally.

Art and Craft:

In addition to painters and sculptors, the country's artistic life comprises a host of talented craftspeople ceramicists, silver and goldsmiths, weavers, calligraphers, glass blowers, etc many of whom specialize in modern interpretations of traditional Jewish ceremonial objects.

Cultural values:

Israel contains a collectivist society in which the group, especially the family, is value more than its individual members. Israelis enjoy sharing life with their family and friends and are quick to offer help to those in need. Israelis are generally dedicated to their culture and state.

Multiculturalism:

Israel's multicultural condition is unique in another respect as well: As the struggle over the shaping of Israel's culture has never been resolved, Israel, despite being a liberal democracy, provides massive funding to institutions of the ultra-Orthodox and religious-Zionist groups that do not accept the state's

Indigenous Heritage:

The Israelites and their culture, according to the modern archaeological account, did not overtake the region by force, but instead branched out of the indigenous Canaanite peoples that long inhabited the Levant through the development of a distinct monolatristic later cementing as monotheistic.

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[Source: Rosen school of Hebrew]

Education of Israel

The education system in Israel consists of three tiers: primary education, middle school and high school. School attendance is mandatory from age 5 to 16 and free through age 18. Academic High School (matriculation certificate - Bagrut, awarded by the national Ministry of Education), Vocational Technical High School, Comprehensive High School.

Economy of Israel

The economy of Israel is a highly developed free-market economy. Field labor and craft production was of central importance in the lives of ancient Canaanites and Israelites. The economy of both the Bronze and Iron Age populations was dependent on the harvest and the production of valuable trade goods such as metals worked into jewelry or weapons, and ceramics.

The economy of Israel is based on a mixed economy. The country's economic system combines elements of a market economy and a planned economy. The tech industry, the engine of Israel's economic growth, started bleeding even before the war began.

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[Source: Wikipedia]

Now, let's check out some interesting facts about Israel.

Interesting Facts about Israel

Israel, a Middle Eastern country on the Mediterranean Sea, is regarded by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the biblical Holy Land. Its most sacred sites are in Jerusalem. Within its Old City, the Temple Mount complex includes the Dome of the Rock shrine, the historic Western Wall, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Israel's financial hub, Tel Aviv, is known for its Bauhaus architecture and beaches.

1. **Dead sea** : The sea is called "dead" because its high salinity means no macroscopic aquatic organisms such as fish or water plants can live in it, though minuscule quantities of bacteria and microbial fungi are present.
2. **Jerusalem**: For Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Jerusalem is considered as the holiest land in the world and certainly one of the best places to visit in Israel. Frequented by the religious folks from all over the world. Solomon built the temple Jerusalem.
3. **Haifa**: Israel may be a Jewish state, but it is another religion that draws visitors to Haifa, the country's third largest city. Located on the Mediterranean, this pretty city's biggest tourist attraction is the Baha'i World Center with its shrine of the Bab and beautiful gardens.



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[Source: Viator]

Israel is a beautiful country, there's no denying that fact. With its diverse landscapes and scenery, ranging from desert in the south to lush green hills in the north, that beauty is incredibly varied. While traveling in Israel you are almost certain to gasp in awe at the beauty this land has to offer.

So, this is all for today. If you like this blog, do check out our blog on the country [England](#) . We will meet again with some another interesting facts about some other countries. Till then stay tuned!