

Beaches

National Geographic recently ranked Tel Aviv among the Top Ten Beach Towns in the World. The city's beaches stretch over 14 kilometers of white sands that attract thousands of visitors throughout the year.

Lifeguard services are available during seasonal timing. In 2011, the season opens officially on May 4th and ends in October.

Each of the beaches has a special character and offers services including lifeguard stations, kiosks and restaurants, play facilities and outdoors gyms, and more.

- On the Dolphinarium beach on Friday afternoons, for instance, you can join an improvised percussion festival, and the Brazilian martial arts/dance/music combination called capoeira.
- Go to Gordon beach for beach volleyball.
- The religiously observant will find gender-segregated swimming close to the Tel Aviv port.
- The gay-lesbian community will gravitate to the stretch near the Hilton, which has earned the unofficial title of Tel Aviv's gay-friendliest beach.
- The narrow strip of sand near the Marina is less crowded and more peaceful; at the yacht basin, you can rent windsurfers, surfboards, sailboats, motorboats and diving equipment.
- Surfing at Hilton Beach. Recently a special light system was installed to allow night surfing.
- Kite Surfing is popular at Aviv Beach
- To windsurf, go to Dolphinarium Beach
- Volleyball can be found at Aviv and Gordon Beaches

Tel Aviv's beaches are well-equipped with changing rooms, showers and toilet. On the beaches and at major tourist centers, tourist police provide security, as well as assistance and information services.

Fun Facts:

8,500,000 bathers enjoy the beach yearly.

The official bathing season is May-October.

There are 13 beaches along Tel Aviv-Yafo.

4 beaches are accessible to people with disabilities: Tzuk, Northern Tzuk, Metzizim and Hilton (all in the northern part of the city).

The Tel Aviv-Yafo beaches are considered very clean and rank high in tests run by the Israeli Ministry of the Environment.

A special beach for the religiously observant offers separate days for men and women swimming near the Metzizim Beach.

The favorite sport along the beach is Matkot – an Israeli version of racketball (watch your head!).

The most popular beach food is a plate of watermelon with feta cheese. Artikim, or popsicles, are also very popular with banana-chocolate topping most people's list.

Beach Guidelines

- Bathers must comply with the lifeguard and rescue guards;
- Bathers must refrain from damaging beach property;
- Bathing is prohibited when there is no lifeguard on duty;
- Sea bathing is prohibited when the black flag is raised;
- NO motor sports (jet skis, boats) are allowed;
- Motorized vehicles are forbidden on beaches and boardwalk;
- Building a fire is prohibited on beaches;
- Parties are prohibited on the beach;
- Ball games and games involving flying objects are relegated to specific areas;
- Water sports are permitted only in specific areas;
- Dogs are only permitted on certain beaches.

Bathing Beach Water Quality:

<http://www.health.gov.il/pages/default.asp?maincat=26&catId=400&PageId=4238>

<http://www.telaviv4fun.com/beaches.html>