



Israel Today

Did You Know?

1. Many bus stops in busy areas have tzedakah boxes.
2. Israeli bank notes have brail on them so the blind can identify them.
3. The Dead Sea in Israel is the lowest point on earth, at 1,315 feet below sea level at its lowest point.
4. The glue on the back of Israeli stamps is kosher.
5. Almost 1/3 of all Israelis are volunteers.
6. Sesame Street in Israel has puppets that speak Hebrew, Arabic and Russian.
7. Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East.
8. 1 in every 3 people in the country of Israel use a cell phone.
9. Israel is the 100th smallest country.
10. Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in the number of trees.
11. Voice mail and text messaging technology were developed in Israel.
12. Israel has the fourth largest air force in the world.
13. When Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel, she became the world's second elected female leader in modern times.
14. Zionism comes from the word Zion, which is the name for Jerusalem and Israel in the bible.
15. Israel is located on the continent of Asia.
16. Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.
17. Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation.
18. In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of startup companies in the world.
19. Israel has the largest fleet of aircraft outside of the United States.
20. Israel's \$100 billion economy is larger than all of its immediate neighbors combined.
21. Twenty-four percent of Israel's workforce holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrialized world.
22. Israel has the world's second highest per capita of new books.
23. Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.
24. Israel developed the first ingestible video camera - so small that it fits inside a pill.



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25. Israel has the highest concentration of hi-tech companies in the world.
26. Israel has the highest percentage in the world of home computers per capita.
27. Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce.
28. The cell phone was developed in Israel by Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.
29. Israel is one of only eight countries in the world with the capability to launch its own satellites into space.
30. Israel has often sent its emergency forces to help local populations in times of national disaster.
31. Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth.
32. Israel's population is 7,282,000 - 75% are Jews.
33. Israel has the highest number of solar-powered water heaters per capita.
34. Israelis hold more patents per person than do citizens of any other nation.
35. The size of Israel is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey.
36. The main desert area in Israel is called the Negev and it comprises 60% of Israel's territory.
37. Men and women in Israel are drafted into the military at the age of 18.
38. Men serve in the Israeli army for 3 years and women serve for 2 years.
39. Ilan Ramon was the first Israeli astronaut to launch into space. He was on the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.
40. Israel is the only country in the world where life revolves around the Jewish calendar.
41. The Macabiah Games are an Olympic-style event for Jewish athletes and is held in Israel every four years.
42. The Pentium MMX chip (a computer processing device by the Intel company) was designed in Israel.
43. It takes nine hours to travel from the north of Israel to the south of Israel.
44. The official Israeli air lines are El-Al and Arkia.
45. Rav Kook was appointed to be the first Chief Rabbi of Palestine in 1921.
46. On August 19, 1897, the first World Zionist Congress was convened in Basle, Switzerland.
47. Israel is located along the eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by



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Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

48. Israel lies at the junction of three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa.
49. Israel is about 290 miles (470 km.) in length and 85 miles (135 km.) in width at its widest point.
50. Although small in size, Israel encompasses the varied topographical features of an entire continent, ranging from forested highlands and fertile green valleys to mountainous deserts and from the coastal plain to the semitropical Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.
51. Roughly half of Israel's land area is semi-arid.
52. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth.
53. About 90% of Israel's inhabitants live in some 200 urban centers, some of which are located on ancient historical sites.
54. Tel Aviv-Yafo (population 390,100), which was founded in 1909 as the first Jewish city in modern times, is today the center of the country's industrial, commercial, financial and cultural life.
55. Israel is a parliamentary democracy with legislative, executive and judicial branches.
56. School attendance is mandatory from age five, and free through age 18.
57. The official languages of the country are Hebrew and Arabic.
58. Most of the country's waste is now concentrated in 15 state-of-the-art landfills.
59. 1.8 percent of the population lives in 268 kibbutzim.
60. There is a personal computer in nearly one out of two households, a ratio similar to that of the United States, Canada and a very few European and Far Eastern countries.
61. Most of the Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by
62. Microsoft-Israel.
63. Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and
64. technicians in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the
65. U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany.
66. With over 25% of its
67. work force employed in technical professions. Israel places first in this
68. category as well.
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world.

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74. immediate neighbors combined.

75. The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.

76. The Mount of Olives in Israel is the oldest, continually used cemetery in the world.

77. Hezekiah's Tunnel, or the Siloam Tunnel, is one of the oldest human structures still in use today.

78. In September 2003, Hezekiah's Tunnel became the first structure mentioned in the Bible to be confirmed conclusively by archaeologists. It has been carbon dated to 700 B.C.E., using organic material from the original plaster in the construction.

79. Albert Einstein was offered the Presidency of Israel in 1952