

Driving in Israel

You can drive in Israel with a valid foreign license for a period of up to **one year** from the date of your first entry to Israel. After the year ends, you must convert your foreign license.

You will be required to pass a driving conversion test if:

5 years have passed since your **first** arrival to Israel (even for a short period), **or** if you have held a driving license for **less** than 5 years before entering Israel. Tests are coordinated through a driving Instructor.

English Speaking Driving Instructors:

- Dror Ben-Ami, Mobile: 052-251-5527
- Zamir, Mobile: 054-434-5300

Converting a driving license with a validity of 5 years at least:

1. **Visa** – Your Israeli driving license will be valid as long as your visa is valid. To start the process, you must hold a visa issued at the Ministry of Interior in Israel (not abroad) and valid for 3 months at least.
To extend your visa please send an email to io@weizmann.ac.il for instructions.
2. **Foreign driver's license** - Your driver's license must have a validity of 5 years at least before the date you entered Israel and must be in English. If the license is not in English, it will need to be translated by a certified translator (ask your embassy for a list of certified translators). European Union licenses do not require translation.
3. **Obtain an ID number from the Ministry of Transportation** - Bring your driving license and passport with a visa/digital visa valid for 3 months at least. Note that the visa must be issued at the Ministry of Interior **in Israel**. No fee is required. Also, bring your student card since they will need to type your name in Hebrew. You will receive a document with your ID number and details. See example on the last page. **You can obtain the ID number at any branch of the Ministry of Transportation. Location and opening hours in Rehovot:**
<https://www.gov.il/en/departments/bureaus/licence-bureau-rehovot>

You do not need to set an appointment for this step. Tell the guard that you do not hold an Israeli ID and that you came to obtain an ID number in order to convert your driving license.

You can show the guard your passport and the following:

שלום,
אין לי תעודת זהות ישראלית ולכן אין באפשרותי להזמין תור.
הגעתי כדי לקבל מספר תעודת זהות (89) על מנת להמיר את רישיון הנהיגה.

Translation: Shalom, I don't hold an Israeli ID thus I couldn't make an appointment online; I came to obtain an 89 ID number to convert my driving license.

4. Entries and exits form - A record of your entries and exits to/from Israel.

You can obtain this from the Ministry of Interior in Rehovot or elsewhere.

You will need the following:

- Your passport
- A copy of your current visa and
- A copy of apartment contract (The address your license will be sent to)

The Ministry of Interior in Rehovot is located at 10 Moti Kind st., 3rd floor.

Opening hours: Sun, Mon, Tue, Thur: 8:00-12:00

The Ministry opens at 8:00, however, we recommend arriving earlier.

Note that you cannot make an appointment for this service.

Please show the following to the representative at the queue ticket machine:

שלום,

אני סטודנט/ית במכון ויצמן. אבקש אישור כניסות ויציאות מהארץ.
מאחר ואין לי תעודת זהות לא יכולתי לתאם תור מראש. אשמח לקבל מספר בבקשה.

Translation: Shalom, I am a student from the Weizmann Institute; I need to issue an entries and exits form. Since I don't hold an Israeli ID, I couldn't make an appointment online; please give me a number.

You will then be referred to the fast queue at the Information desk (window 3 מודיעין 3)

Ask the clerk to make sure your address is accurate.

Complete an online medical questionnaire - once you have the ID number, go to the following website (open with Google Chrome and use the translate option):

<https://govforms.gov.il/mw/forms/RishumTheory@mot.gov.il#!requestDetails>

- The first page includes your personal details and contact information. You can only insert your name in Hebrew – copy it from the ID form that you received on step 3.
- After inserting your details, you will be asked for the “license type” (in Hebrew דרגה):
 - B – Private
 - C1 – commercial (up to 12,000 kg)
 - A1 – a motorbike (up to 47.46 horsepower)
 - A2 – a motorbike (up to 14.916 horsepower)
 - A3 – electrical bicycle
- Next, you will be asked for your contact info. Make sure your phone can receive text messages (SMS), as this is how The Ministry of Transportation will communicate with you.
- Insert your mobile number again and choose ‘message’. You will receive a verification code, which you will need to insert.
- The last part is a medical self-declaration. Please, make sure to fill it out correctly. If you are taking any medication that may have side effects possibly influencing your driving skills, write it down. Concealing information may only harm you during this process.
- Based on your declaration, you may be required to submit additional medical paperwork.

- Once you submit the online form, you will receive an SMS or a voice message in Hebrew, advising you have completed this step and now need to visit an optical store licensed by the Ministry of Transportation. Upon receiving this message, you can proceed to the next step.
5. **Go to an optical store** (details below) with your passport and the ID form you received. The clerk will take your photo, and you will undergo an eyesight test. There is no need for a family doctor examination.

Optical stores in Rehovot:

Optical Center – Bilu St. 2 (next to the main entrance of the Rehovot Mall)

<https://goo.gl/maps/Lj91E9DiJcBQy1YJ9>. For opening hours, check online or call directly at 08-855-0026.

Meir optics - Derech Yerushalaim 2 <https://goo.gl/maps/ktirTgnbYb42>

For opening hours, check online or call directly at 08-941-0733.

6. Once you complete the process at the optical store, you should receive an SMS in Hebrew. Please ignore the content of the message, it is not correct. Just proceed to the next step.

Get your Israeli driving license (Almost done...)

Make an appointment online at the Ministry of Transportation:

<https://govisit.gov.il/en/authorities/authority/29>.

For your appointment at the Ministry of Transportation please bring:

- Your Passport.
- Your visa (issued in Israel and valid for 3 months at least).
- Your foreign driving license (and translation if required) with a validity of 5 years at least.
- The entries and exits form.
- The SMS you received.
- The ID number you received.

You will receive a temporary paper license that becomes valid upon stamping the payment at the post office. The Ministry of Transportation will then send the Weizmann Institute a permanent plastic license, which is supposed to arrive within a month. The plastic license is valid for 5 years, subject to holding a valid visa. If you have not received notice from us to collect your license within a month, please contact us.

Remember: driving with your foreign driver's license after a year in Israel is illegal. In case of an accident, you will not be insured.

Extension of Israeli driving license

If you haven't received your permanent plastic driving license, your temporary paper license will need to be renewed every 6 months at the Ministry of Transportation (make an appointment online).

Bring with you:

- Your Passport.
- Your visa (issued in Israel and valid for 3 months at least).
- Your temporary paper license.

Citizens of South Korea and Italy

Citizens of South Korea and Italy can convert their license without taking a driving test even if they have held a driving license for **less** than 5 years by handing it to the Ministry of Transportation. The license will then be transferred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to their country of origin.

Buying/Selling a car

In order to buy or sell a car you will need:

- the buyer and seller's IDs/ Passports
- a valid vehicle license
- an ID number form the Ministry of Transportation (see step 3)

You will have to transfer the ownership in person at a licensing office, by appointment.

For further information: <https://www.gov.il/en/service/ownership-vehicles-transfer>

משרד התחבורה
אגף הרישוי

מספר מזהה באגף הרישוי
89 000000 0 LICENCING DEPARTMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

שם משפחה
AAAA SURNAME

שם פרטי
Your name in Hebrew will appear here FIRST NAME

מספר דרכון
00000000 PASSPORT NUMBER

באגף הרישוי נקבע לך המספר המזהה הנייל - נא לציין בכל פניה לאגף הרישוי
PLEASE QUOTE THE ABOVE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IN ANY INQUIRY

מומלץ לשמור צילום דרכון ישן בכל החלפה, כדי להקל על איתור נתונים בעתיד
WE RECOMMEND KEEPING A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR OLD PASSPORT ON ITS REPLACEMENT, TO FACILITATE ANY FUTURE DATA SEARCH.

בכבוד רב

רשות הרישוי
31/10/2019