U.S. EMBASSY TEL AVIV
February 20, 2018

Take Ten!

Please take ten minutes now, and avoid hours of frustration later!

You may be ready for your trip to the United States, but what about your U.S. passport?

As we enter the busy season for passport renewal, now is the time to find your U.S. passport and check its expiration date (and the passports of everyone traveling with you). **Please do not wait until the night before you fly or while you are checking in at the airport to find out your U.S. passport is missing or expired**. Airlines will not allow you to board a flight to the United States if you do not have a valid U.S. passport. And, the Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate General in Jerusalem cannot issue emergency passports when we are closed (after hours, weekends, or holidays).

If you are looking to renew your U.S. passport soon or need to apply for a new one, now is the time to do it. On average, it takes 3-4 weeks to receive a passport in the mail once we receive the application (whether you apply in person or send it in by mail). However, as we enter the busy season, appointment times are filling up quickly, and travelers may need to budget extra time to apply for and receive their new passports.

I am a dual Israeli/U.S. citizen; can I just board a plane to the U.S. with my Israeli passport?

According to U.S. law, American citizens must use their U.S. passport to enter and depart the United States. You cannot enter the United States on an Israeli passport (with or without a visa) or with a passport from a Visa Waiver Program country (with or without ESTA authorization). U.S. citizens are ineligible to receive visas.

Not sure you should get one now?

Many times, travelers think they don't need a renewal or are not aware of passport guidelines in other countries. The Department of State recommends that travelers have at least 6 months validity left on their passport when they travel overseas. Entry requirements differ from country to country. Many

countries, including those in the Schengen zone in Europe, require a passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the time of the traveler's trip, even for those transiting only.

What about an Emergency Passport?

While we can issue emergency passports in true emergencies, it is a lot of extra work for you. Emergency Passports have a limited validity of no more than one year, which means having to reapply for your full validity replacement passport after your trip; this takes more time for you! This process includes completing another application form, providing new photos, and often making another trip to the Embassy. **So why not take ten minutes now and check the validity of your passports?**

You can renew your passport at the following locations:
- The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv is located at 71 HaYarkon Street and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays and certain local holidays). Its telephone number is (972) (3) 519-7575.
  By online appointment only
- The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem is located at 14 David Flusser Street in the Arnona neighborhood and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays and certain local holidays). Its telephone number is (972) (2) 630-4000.
  By online appointment only
- The Haifa Consular Agency is located at 26 Ben Gurion St. and is open Sunday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., (except U.S. federal holidays and certain local holidays). The Haifa Consular Agency cannot issue emergency passports.
  Schedule appointments by telephone: (972) 04-853-1470

For more information on how to renew a passport, check our website: https://il.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/how-to-renew-a-passport/

Remember, **Take Ten!**