



Procedure for entry of Palestinian-American tourists into Israel

1. This document details the manner in which entry is to be arranged for US citizens who are also registered in the Israeli population register as Palestinian residents of the Judea and Samaria area and who wish to come to Israel for the purpose of tourism and to pass through Israel's border crossings.
2. As part of its candidacy for participation in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) that would exempt Israeli from visas for entry into the US, the State of Israel undertook to allow any and all US citizens to enter and leave the territory of the State of Israel for purposes of tourism or business for a period of up to 90 days, through all the border crossings of the State of Israel.
3. It must be emphasized that this agreement applies to US citizens who hold a valid US passport and a Palestinian identity card and who are registered as residents of the Judea and Samaria area according to the Israeli population register.
4. This procedure is effective as of 20 July 2023.

Part A – Definitions

- א. VWP – The Visa Waiver Program
- ב. Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA-IL), a future program now under development at the Population and Immigration Authority to integrate it with the Israeli border control in order to properly arrange for the



reception of visa-exempt foreigners into Israel in accordance with Government Decision 451.

- א. US citizen – The holder of a valid US passport, including a US citizen who, along with the US passport, holds an identity card testifying to residency in the area.
- ב. US tourist approval to Israel – An approval allowing the Palestinian holder of a valid US passport to be present in Israel, with an effective term of up to 90 days. This approval allows exit and entry through all the Israeli border crossings, except the Erez Crossing.
- ג. Israeli border crossings – The international terrestrial, aerial, and marine border crossings, staffed by border control agents of the Population Authority. Passage across a border requires inspection by the border control agents and presentation of a valid passport. **This procedure does not include the Erez Crossing in its definition of an international border crossing.**
 - i. **Aerial border crossings** – Haifa Airport, Ben Gurion Airport, and Ramon Airport.
 - ii. **Terrestrial border crossings** – The Allenby Bridge Crossing, Jordan River (Sheikh Hussein) Crossing, Taba (Menachem Begin) Crossing, Jordan Valley (Yitzhak Rabin) Crossing.
 - iii. **Marine border crossings** – Haifa Port, the Herzliya Marina, Eilat Port, the Ashkelon Marina, Ashdod Port.

Part B – Entering through an international border crossing



1. US citizens listed in the Israeli population register as Palestinian residents of the Judea and Samaria area shall be eligible to receive a B/2 Admission Paper for a visit to Israel (for tourism or business) covering a period of up to 90 days, upon entry into Israel through an international border crossing with their US passports, unless they specifically raise suspicion relating to security, immigration, crime, or health. In addition, the Unit for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) shall automatically issue for them a "US Tourism Approval in Israel" covering 90 days or any other term defined in the issuance of the Admission Paper. That approval will cover continuous presence in Israel plus exit through any of Israel's international border crossings.
2. In any case of specific suspicion relating to security, immigration, crime, or health, the resident shall be denied entry but shall retain the option of entering the Judea and Samaria area through the Allenby Bridge Crossing in the manner that was customary preceding the enactment of this procedure.

Part C – Entry from the Judea and Samaria area into Israel for US tourism

1. US citizens listed in the Israeli population register as Palestinian residents of the Judea and Samaria area shall be eligible to receive a "US Tourism Approval in Israel" even if they have not passed through an international border crossing but are present in the Judea and Samaria area.



2. A US citizen who holds a valid Palestinian identity card may submit a request to input his or her biometric US passport through the Al-Munassiq app in order to receive a confirmation of eligibility in principle. The request will be examined, and if the resident's details match the passport that he or she holds, the request for eligibility in principle will be approved within 3 to 7 workdays. Such eligibility will enable the resident to request a "US Tourism Approval in Israel" covering a term of up to 90 days, until the expiration of the passport, provided no security block and no disqualification on criminal, immigration, or health grounds applies to the resident.
3. If a block or disqualification on security, criminal, immigration, or health grounds does apply to the resident, the matter will be examined in consultation with the office responsible for the block or disqualification. If the resident's request is denied after such examination, he or she shall be entitled to submit an appeal through the Al-Munassiq app. The appeal shall be answered within 60 workdays of the request's submission.

Part D – Exit abroad, by a Gazan US resident, through the Allenby Bridge Crossing

1. US citizens listed in the Israeli population register as Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip may exit abroad and return to the Gaza Strip through the Allenby Bridge Crossing. They shall cross by means of a shuttle organized by the Palestinian Authority.



2. Such applications must be submitted to the Palestinian Authority and must be passed to the Israeli side at least 45 workdays before the requested date of exit. It must be noted that such applications will be examined and their acceptance is subject to security approval.

Part E – Entry into the Gaza Strip for visits to first-degree family

1. US citizens shall be entitled to apply, once a year, to visit first-degree relatives who reside in the Gaza Strip.
2. US citizens are to submit their requests to the Public Inquiries Office of the Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) for Gaza, together with details of the request and details of the relatives whom they wish to visit. The request will be examined, and if no relevant security block is in effect, the US citizen will be permitted into the Gaza Strip for a term of 90 days once a year. Such requests must be submitted 45 workdays before the visit's requested date.
3. A US citizen holding a Palestinian identity card may submit a request for a family visit in Gaza via the Al-Munassiq app, accompanied by details of the request and details of the relatives whom he or she wishes to visit. The request will be examined, and if no relevant security block or criminal disqualification is in effect, the US citizen will be permitted into the Gaza Strip for a term of 90 days once a year. Such requests must be submitted 45 workdays before the visit's requested date.



Part F – Driving in Israel

1. As a rule, US citizens who reside in the Judea and Samaria area are to pass from that area into Israel through the pedestrian crossings only.
2. A resident with a valid US tourist approval is not authorized to drive through the vehicular crossings but may be driven by a US citizen who holds a valid US driving license and a B/2 tourist visa (that is, not a US tourist approval) or by an Israeli citizen. Such passage is permitted only at the land crossings of the Land Crossings Authority (as detailed in appendix A).
3. A US citizen holding a Palestinian identity card is entitled to ride on public transportation from the Judea and Samaria area into Israel.
4. A US citizen holding a Palestinian identity card living in the Judea and Samaria area and holding a B/2 tourist visa, a valid US passport, and a US driving license may rent a vehicle in Israel from a licensed car rental company and may drive it in the territory of Israel only.

Part G – Points of emphasis

1. Queries regarding this procedure may be addressed to the COGAT call center at tel. 074-7642828. A response will be sent within 7 workdays of the query's submission.
2. Exit will not be permitted for a US citizen's relatives if they do not have valid US passports.



3. For Palestinian residents who possess a "US Tourism Approval in Israel", exit abroad will be allowed under the US passport only.
4. A US citizen to whom no security block and no criminal, immigration, or health disqualification applies, who is also a resident of the Judea and Samaria area, and who chooses to identify himself or herself as such at the Allenby Bridge Crossing by means of the Palestinian documents in his or her possession, may enter the Judea and Samaria area in that way and may stay there. In such a case, the US citizen shall not be entitled to a B/2 Admission Paper that covers a period of up to 90 days. If the US citizen wishes to enter Israel (after entering the Judea and Samaria area through the Allenby Bridge Crossing), he or she may submit the appropriate application for approval in accordance with this procedure. Needless to say, such a US citizen is entitled, if he wishes, to identify himself by means of a US passport at first when passing through the Allenby Bridge Crossing, as at any other international border crossing, and to take advantage of a B/2 Admission Paper that covers a period of up to 90 days.
5. If during the term of the approval new security-related information is discovered regarding a resident whose presence in Israel has been approved, the permit that was issued to the resident will be canceled and the resident will be notified, by means of the Al-Munassiq app, of the cancellation.



6. When a Palestinian resident with a US Tourist Approval to Israel passes from the Judea and Samaria area into Israel, the resident will be required to have his or her Palestinian identification card at hand as well as their American passport for the purpose of identification at the crossing.

Appendix A – List of crossings authorized for vehicular passage

Northern Jordan Valley

Gilboa (Jalame)

Reihan

Te'enim

Eliyahu

Hotze Shomron / Cross-Shomron / Cross Samaria

Ha-Lamed Heh

Tarqumiya

Meitar

Hashmonaim