

GEMS IN ISRAEL

*Spotlighting Israel's Lesser-Known Tourist Attractions and Travel Sites,
the Gems.*

Gems in Israel's Sample Information Gems

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**You can learn more about Gems in Israel, at
www.GemsinIsrael.com.**

Gems in Israel's e-books

Gems Geography

Which Israeli city may have derived its name from the name of Israel's currency? What was the first communal settlement in Israel? Where did British and Turkish troops battle each other in World War I? [More...](#)

Gems Links

Over 100 links about Israel and/or travel. Whether you're looking for information about spending time on a kibbutz, doing business in Israel, studying at one of Israel's major universities or want to know how to maximize your frequent flyer miles, **Gems Links** is a great starting point. [More...](#)

Gems Tips

This e-book offers practical information about dining in Israel, learn about public phones and public transportation and find out where you can get an art gallery map. The book features a list of Internet cafés, travel safety tips, a list of what you should pack, has a list of all the Field Schools, information about bird watching in Israel as well as information about free tours in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. [More...](#)

Gems Vocabulary

Do you know how to ask for directions in Hebrew or ask a shopkeeper if he/she has a particular item in a different color or sizes? Can you make plans to meet someone (in Hebrew)? If you would you like to increase your knowledge of Hebrew **Gems Vocabulary** provides you with practical Hebrew phrases and words and even gives you a glimpse of Hebrew slang. [More...](#)

Kids Virtual Tour of Israel

The Kids Virtual Tour of Israel is a fun educational activity for children. With this e-book, kids can explore the land of Israel through our virtual tour. They can keep a journal of their trip and even complete Gems in Israel's Virtual Tour Quiz, to claim their *Virtual Tour Certificate*. The e-book is suitable either as a home-activity or for a classroom setting (educators can even [More...](#)

Tavlinon© - Spice and Herb Dictionary (Hebrew)

We created this dictionary of spices and herbs especially for our Hebrew-speaking readers, as an adjunct to our [recipe section](#). If you've ever wondered how to use a particular spice or wanted to know the name of a spice in English, the Tavlinon© is the perfect e-book for you. It lists spice and herb names in Hebrew, English and Latin. The Tavlinon© is divided into four categories; Spices, Spice Mixtures, Herbs and Plants for Tea. [More...](#)

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PREFACE

This sample e-book will provide you with a sampling of the information that we have provided to our subscribers, to supplement Gems in Israel's in-depth topical issues.

This information (as well as all the information in our other e-books) is *not* available on our Web site.

The material was originally published as part of Gems in Israel's weekly emails, to provide additional nuggets of useful information for travelers and focuses on one of four themes:

Gems Geography

Brief write-ups about places in Israel (get to know the country better).

Gems Tips

Travel related tips.

Gems Links

Useful links for travelers to Israel and elsewhere.

Gems Vocabulary

Hebrew phrases for travelers.

Gems in Israel was founded on the simple premise that you cannot really get to know a country, just by visiting the major tourist attractions. Every country has the must see places that are unique to it. At Gems in Israel, we cover the lesser-known places, the Gems.

Sample Gems Geography

Degania Alef

Degania Alef was the first communal settlement (kevutzah) in Eretz Israel. The kevutzah was a smaller communal settlement than the kibbutz. Known as the "Mother of the Kevutzot", it was established in 1909, six kilometers south of Tiberias, on land which was purchased by the Jewish National Fund, from the Arab village of Umm Juni.

Its first settlers were Romanian immigrants of the Second Aliyah. The initial settlement was disbursed after a year. In 1911, Russian immigrants from the Hadera Commune resettled it. The ideological differences that once separated kibbutzim and kevutzot are remnants of a bygone era. Since two of the four kibbutz movements merged into the Takam movement – both kibbutzim and kevutzot are typically referred to as kibbutzim, even though the settlements' roots may be different. You can therefore safely refer to Degania Alef as the country's first kibbutz.

[Degania Alef](#) served as a base for the field companies (plugot sadeh), during the 1936-1939 disturbances and later for the Haganah's strike force, the Palmach. During the War of Independence, Syrian tanks attacked the Jordan Valley where a difficult battle ensued. One of the tanks advanced to the kibbutz, and was hit by a Molotov cocktail and abandoned. To this day, the tank still stands on the grounds of the kibbutz, as a memorial and symbol of the Syrians' defeat.

Beit Gordon, a small nature museum, named after A. D. Gordon is located on the kibbutz. There is also a small planetarium.

Arthur Ruppin, A. D. Gordon, Otto Warburg and a number of other of the Labor Movement's first leaders are buried in the local cemetery.

In 1920, pioneers from the Third Aliyah established Degania Bet and in 1932, part of the land was used to found kibbutz Afikim.

Major Roads: Route #90.

Sample Gems Vocabulary

Renting a Car

What's your daily/weekly rate?

Ma ha'ta'ari'f ha'yo-MI / ha'she-voeee?

מה התעריף היומי/שבועי?

Does that include insurance?

Ha'im ze ko-lel bi-TU-ach?

האם זה כולל ביטוח?

By law, which insurance is mandatory?

Ei-ze bi-TU-ach cho-va, al pi ha'ch-ok?

איזה ביטוח הינו חובה על פי חוק?

Does that include mileage?

Ha'im ze ko-LEL ki-lo-MET-raj ?

האם זה כולל קילומטרג'?

Where can I return the car?

Ei-fo a-ni ye'choLA / ya-CHOL le'hach-ZIR et ha'O'to? (f/m)

איפה אני יכול/יכולה להחזיר את האוטו?

Sample Gems Links

Accommodations in Israel

[TravelMania](#)

TravelMania offers a fast and secure way of booking your travel reservations. The site lists special deals on hotel reservations and offers surfers the ability to book car rentals, domestic flights and even tours. There's a special sections devoted to Glatt Kosher hotels as well.

[Israel Hotel Association](#)

This is a great way to identify a hotel in a given city and find out the basics, such as address, telephone, as well as the links to specific hotel Web sites. In the advanced search you can search by price range, whether the hotel has a health club, synagogue, business facilities, or by city, to name a few.

[B&B Country Lodging In Israel](#)

The site lists roughly 40 B&Bs in a standardized format, by region. It provides a description, has a photo, address, telephone number and an email address (where applicable) for each listing.

[Israel Youth Hostel Association](#)

Find out where the hostels are located and get information about the association's reasonably priced tour packages.

Sample Gems Tips

Public Phones in Israel

Almost all of the public phones in Israel now operate only with magnetic cards (called a TeleCard), which can be purchased at post offices, newsstands, and at some hotels. Most public phones only accept these cards, rather than coins or tokens.

Here are some useful numbers to note, during your stay in Israel:

144 - Directory Information

188, (and 1822, 1838, or 1848) International Directory Information

142 - To place collect calls within Israel

1-800 - toll-free numbers in Israel

Flight arrivals at Ben-Gurion airport:

03-972-3332 English

03-972-3331 Hebrew

03-972-3366 Russian

03-972-3355 Arabic

You can also rent cell phones at most car-rental agencies as well as at the airport, upon your arrival.

GEMS RESOURCES

[Gems in Israel Archive](#)

[Gems in Israel's Talking Maps](#)

[Gems in Israel e-Cards](#)

[Gems in Israel Recipes](#)

[Latest News from Israel](#)

[Israel's Travel Reservation Center](#)

[Books about Israel](#)

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