

Subject: American Tourism in Israel Procedure – January 2025 Update

1. In July 2023, Phase One of the Reciprocal Privileges between the State of Israel and the US Government, which concerns the Visa Waiver Program for Israelis (VWP), came into effect. As part of this agreement, the State of Israel undertook to allow all US citizens, whoever they may be, to enter and exit the territory of the State of Israel for tourism or business purposes for a period of 90 days, from all the State of Israel's border crossings.
2. This procedure regulates the application submission process and the manner in which permits are issued for Palestinian American citizens.
3. Description of the update in the procedure:
 - a. Starting January 1, 2025, the requirement to use the ETA-IL system will come into effect. Starting from this date, it will not be possible to submit applications through the "Al-Munasiq" application and all applications must be submitted through the ETA-IL system.
 - b. Starting January 1, 2025, individuals carrying an American tourism permit, who own a "smart card", will have the option to proactively close their existing permit in the "Al-Munasiq" application.

Part 1 - Receiving an arrival permit to the border crossing from the ETA-IL system

1. Starting in January 2025, US citizens registered in the Israeli Population Registry as Palestinian residents of Judea and Samaria will be able to submit an application for entry into the State of Israel through the ETA-IL system. This is an Israeli system that allows citizens of countries that are exempt from visas to Israel to receive permission in principle to arrive at the international border crossings in Israel. This permit remains valid for two years and replaces the submission of applications which have so far been done through the Al-Munasiq application.
2. The resident will submit an application for an ETA permit on the Population Authority website and will be required to indicate the fact that he holds Palestinian citizenship, and to indicate his ID card number. If he fails to do so, the Population Authority and COGAT will be authorized to decline his

entry in the future due to the fact that he did not provide all the relevant details for the purpose of examining his application.

3. If the application is approved, the Population Authority will update COGAT regarding the granting of the permit and its validity.
4. Upon arrival, a Palestinian American resident who carries an ETA for internal pedestrian crossings between the West Bank and the State of Israel must go to the inspector at the crossing and present a Palestinian ID card and an American passport. Without presenting these documents, entry will not be permitted.
5. The inspector will verify the data and after this procedure, the resident's passage will be approved and a stay permit in Israel will be issued for him for a 90-day period, or for a shorter period, depending on the resident's prior entries into Israel. It should be noted that verification by the inspector will only be required once throughout the entire validity period of the ETA (two years).
6. The entry of denied residents via the ETA-IL system will not be permitted. Should denied residents arrive at the crossing, their entry will be denied, even if they carry approval from the ETA system. A resident who wishes to coordinate his entry in advance despite being denied entry will contact COGAT's Public Inquiries Center by email to have the request processed. Following is the email address: mnz@magar.co.il.
7. It should be noted that the resident's first entry will be possible only through a pedestrian crossing, due to the ability to verify the ETA approval only at these crossings. After the permit is issued, an American-Palestinian resident will be able to pass through vehicular crossings as detailed in this procedure (without driving an Israeli vehicle).

Part 2 - Entry of a Palestinian resident holding an American passport via an international crossing

1. US citizens listed in the Israeli Population Registry as Palestinian residents of the Judea and Samaria area shall be eligible to receive a B/2 Tourist Visa 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 a specific suspicion exists relating to security, immigration, criminal, or health issues.

2. Upon the resident's entry to Israel through international border crossings (except for the Allenby crossing), they will present their American passport and receive a tourist visa for 90 days, or for a shorter period as determined by border control.
3. Allenby Crossing - Upon entry through the Allenby Bridge crossing, U.S. citizens registered in the Israeli Population Registry as Palestinian residents of Judea and Samaria will have the right to choose which passport they wish to use to enter the area. If a resident chooses to enter with his American passport, he will receive a tourist visa and be issued a permit for 90 days to stay in Israel. If a resident chooses to enter using his Palestinian documentation, his entry will be permitted and he will not be eligible for a permit/visa to Israel. If the resident wishes to enter Israel (after entering the Judea and Samaria area through the Allenby Bridge Crossing), he may submit the appropriate application for approval in accordance with this procedure.

Part 3 - Driving in Israel

1. As a general rule, US citizens who reside in the Judea and Samaria area are to cross into Israel through the pedestrian crossings only. Palestinian-Americans will not be allowed to drive within Judea and Samaria, nor will they be allowed to pass as drivers through the vehicular crossings.
2. As already noted in this procedure, the first entry of US citizens, registered in the Israeli Population Registry as Palestinian residents of the Judea and Samaria area, from this area into Israel will be through pedestrian crossings only, because only there a verification process for ETA approval can be carried out.
3. A Palestinian-American will be able to pass through the Land Crossings Authority's vehicular crossings only if he arrives by public transportation or if he is traveling in a car with an Israeli or American citizen, who is authorized to drive in Israel (holding a tourist visa with an American international license). We emphasize that this type of passage will only be possible at crossings operated by the Land Crossings Authority and not at other crossings (details are attached in Appendix D).

4. It should be noted that the Land Crossings Authority reserves the right to inspect residents in accordance with procedures, and in doing so, also ask passengers to exit the vehicle.
5. A Palestinian-American resident of Judea and Samaria who holds a tourist visa, a valid American passport, and an American driver's license will be permitted to rent a car in Israel from an authorized rental company and drive within Israeli territory only .

Part D - Closing a permit/visa

1. Starting in January 2025, Palestinian American residents who hold only a "smart card" will be able to close their existing US Tourist Permit to Israel while they are staying in Judea and Samaria.
2. The permit will be closed using the "Al-Munasiq" application, taking a photo of the resident's face and sending his location, indicating that he is within the Judea and Samaria area.
3. Closing the permit/visa will allow an American-Palestinian resident to stay in Israel as a tourist while he visits Israel.