

Recommended reading list for trips to Israel

Alex: Building a Life - Alex Singer

The story of an American who fell defending Israel. To learn more about Alex and his story, please visit the website of the Alex Singer Project.

Aliya: Three Generations of American-Jewish Immigration to Israel - Liel Leibovitz

"With a keen writer's eye and unfeigned passion for his subject, Leibovitz explores the fears, hopes, and dreams of the American-Jewish immigrants to Israel and the journey they undertook, a journey that lies at the very heart of what it means to be a Jew."

The Blue Mountain – Meir Shalev

Passionate, ribald and tender, bursting with dozens of interwoven tales, this lushly nostalgic novel records the loves, hates, infidelities, feuds and enterprises that fuel one community over three decades. It also gently laments the eclipse of the pioneer spirit in modern Israel.

Exodus - Leon Uris

A riveting story about Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

From Beirut to Jerusalem - Thomas L. Friedman

The book chronicles Friedman's days as a reporter in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War and his journey in 1984 from Beirut to Jerusalem to cover unfolding events.

History of Israel - Howard M. Sachar, v.1 1976, v.2

A history of the modern state.

In the Land of Israel - Amoz Oz

Israel's celebrated novelist Amoz Oz traveled throughout his country, recording its history as spoken by its inhabitants.

The Israelis: Founders and Sons - Amos Elon

The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land - Donna Rosenthal

"Interweaving hundreds of personal stories with intriguing new research, The Israelis presents the country the way its own people see it. Lively, irreverent, and always fascinating, it's one of the most original books about Israel in decades."

My Life - Golda Meir

The former Prime Minister's autobiography about her journey to Israel and her ascent through the ranks of the government.

O Jerusalem - Larry Collins, Dominique Lapierre

A minute by minute history of the struggle for Jerusalem and the State of Israel.

Poems of Jerusalem - Yehuda Amichai

The treasures and conflicts of Jerusalem as related by the city's poet laureate.

The Source - James Michener

A fictionalized history of Israel from ancient times through the 20th century.

The Zionist Idea - Arthur Hertzberg

A historical narrative and anthology. Hertzberg's introduction is considered to be unsurpassed.

1949, The First Israelis - Tom Segev

Reveals the lofty aspirations that guided the state's leaders as well as the darker side of the Zionist utopia.

A Child of the Century — Ben Hecht

A Death in Jerusalem — Katie Marton
A Guide for the Bedeviled — Ben Hecht
A History Of Israel and The Holy Land by Shimon Peres and Michael Avi-Yonah
A Nation Reborn — Richard Crossman
A Tale of Love and Darkness by Amos Oz and Nicholas de Lange
A Tzaddik in Our Time: The Life of Aryeh Levin — Simcha Raz
Advocate for the Dead — Joel Brand
Battleground — Shmuel Katz
Behind Prison Walls: A Jewish Woman Freed Fighter for Israel's War of Independence — Tzilla Amidror Heller
Ben Hecht: The Man Behind the Legend — William MacAdams
Blood in Zion — Saul Zadka
By Blood and Fire: The Attack on the King David Hotel — Thurston Clarke
Chronicles: News from the Past — Dr. Israel Eldad (three volumes)
Comrades, Avenge Us — Steven G. Esrati (a novel)
Crossroads to Israel — Christopher Sykes
David Raziel, The Man and The Legend — Daniel Levine
Days of Fire — Shmuel Katz
Dear Brothers: The West Back Jewish Underground — Haggai Segal
Elnakam, Story of a Fighter for the Freedom of Israel — Ezra Yakhin
Exodus by Leon Uris, (New York, 1983)
Felix Imonti & Miyoko Imonti
Free Jerusalem— Zev Golan
From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict over Palestine — Joan Peters
His Brother's Keeper: Israel and Diaspora Jewry in the Twenty-first Century by Yossi Beilin (New York, 2000)
Identity and Civilization — Mordechai Nisan
In the Land of Israel (Harvest in Translation) by Amos Oz
Israel Divided : Ideological Politics in the Jewish State — Rael Jean Isaac
Israel: The Road to Full Redemption — Dr. Israel Eldad
Jewish Statesmanship: Lest Israel Fall — Dr. Paul Eidelberg
LECHI Fighters for the Freedom of Israel (FFI) — Emmanuel Katz
Letters from Tel Mond Prison — Era Rapaport
Lohame Herut Israel — Tzvi Tzameret
Lone Wolf: A Biography of Ze'ev Jabotinsky — Shmuel Katz
Long is the Road to Freedom — Yaakov Meridor
Mafriah ha-yonim (Sifriyah la-am) by Eli Amir
Martyrs in Cairo — Leo Benjamin
Memoirs of an Assassin — "Avner"
One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate by Tom Segev
Operation Action Rescue from the Holocaust — William R. Perl
Palestine Mission — Richard Crossman
Palestine Triangle — Nicholas Bethel
Palestine Underground — Borisov
Perfidy — Ben Hecht
Promise and Fulfillment — Arthur Koestler
Psychological Warfare and Propaganda: Irgun Documentation — Eli Tavin and Yonah Alexander
Samson — Ze'ev Jabotinsky (a novel)
Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy by Shlomo Ben-Ami
Seven Portholes In Hell: Poems of the Holocaust — Asher Torren
Shake Heaven and Earth: Peter Bergson and the Struggle to Rescue the Jews of Europe — Louis Rapoport
Soldiers in Judea — Roman Freulich
Summing Up: An Autobiography — Yitzhak Shamir
Terror Out of Zion — J. Bowyer Bell
The Blue Mountain by Meir Shalev and Hillel Halkin

The Brigade : An Epic Story of Vengeance, Salvation, and World War II — Howard Blum
 The Case for Israel — Frank Gervasi
 The Case for Israel by Alan Dershowitz
 The Conquest of Acre Fortress — Jan Gitlin
 The Deed — Gerald Frank
 The Four Front War: From the Holocaust to the Promised Land —William R. Perl
 The Hill of Life: The Story of Joseph Trumpeldor — Roman Freulich
 The Holocaust Conspiracy : An International Policy of Genocide — William R. Perl
 The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land by Donna Rosenthal
 The Jewish Revolution— Dr. Israel Eldad
 The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul — Yoram Hazony
 The Lady was a Terrorist — Doris Katz
 The Magicians — Paul Gropman (a novel)
 The Mideast Peace Process: An Autopsy — by Neal Kozodoy (Editor), Mark Helprin (Afterword)
 The Political and Social Philosophy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky: Selected Writings— Ze'ev Jabotinsky, ed. Mordichai Sarig
 The Rape of Palestine — William Ziff
 The Revolt — Menachem Begin
 The Stern Gang: Ideology, Politics and Terror, 1940-1949 — Joseph Heller
 The Story of the Jewish Legion — Ze'ev Jabotinsky
 The Tenth Prayer — Steven G. Esrati (a novel)
 The War and the Jew— Ze'ev Jabotinsky
 They Came Up From Blood — Elimelech
 Thieves in the Night — Arthur Koestler
 To Whom Palestine — Frank Gervasi
 To Win or to Die: A Personal Portrait of Menachem Begin — Ned Temko
 Toward a New Israel : The Jewish State and the Arab Question —Mordechai Nisan
 Triumph on the Gallows — Yitzhak Gurion
 Violent Justice: How Three Assassins Fought to Free Europe's Jews —
 Voices of Israel: Essays on and Interviews With Yehuda Amichai, A.B. Yehoshua, T. Carmi, Aharon Applefeld, and A
 Jewish Literature and Culture) by Joseph Cohen
 Wanted — Yaacov Eliav
 What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response —Bernard Lewis
 White Nights — Menachem Begin
 Why Jews Should Not Be Liberals — by Larry F. Sternberg
 With all Their Might — Chaim Applebaum (Elimelech)
 Woman of Violence — Geulah Cohen (Voice of Valor)
 Years of Wrath: Days of Glory — Yitshaq Ben-Ami

Great movies to rent

- *Walk on Water* by Lior Ashkenazi, Knut Berger, Caroline Peters, and Gideon Shemer
- *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* by Oshri Cohen, Arie Elias, Esti Zakheim, and Aya Steinovitz
- *Turn Left at the End of the World*
- *Broken Wings* by Orly Silbersatz Banai, Maya Maron, Daniel Magon, and Nitai
- *Nina's Tragedies* by Ayelet Zurer, Yoram Hattab, Alon Abutbul, and Aviv Elkabeth

News

- Ha'aretz Daily
- YNet