

## TRAVEL



## Tel Aviv

### STAR ESCAPES

With its unique brand of sun-soaked fun and non-stop action, this cosmopolitan city on the Mediterranean Sea will have you at 'Shalom'  
By Suzanne Wintrob



A frequent visitor to Tel Aviv, Madonna was there last month to perform at the Eurovision Song Contest.

#### EXPLORE

What started in 1909 as a sand dune on the outskirts of the ancient city of Jaffa is now Israel's financial and tech hub boasting a 24-hour party vibe and the world's largest concentration of 1930s Bauhaus architecture. Jostle the crowds in the Insta-worthy Carmel Market for souvenirs, aromatic spices and juicy pomegranates. Check out Nahalat Binyamin's twice-weekly art fair and the Neve Tzedek 'hood for jewelry, fashion and art by Israeli designers. Then head to the seaside's bustling beachfront to catch an alluring sunset.

#### TASTE

An Israeli breakfast of eggs, za'atar-topped cheeses, chopped salad and crusty bread will satiate for hours (1). At lunchtime, locals flock to Falafel Hakosem for mouth-watering falafel and lamb shawarma while discerning foodies tuck in at upscale Sarona Market's gourmet food stalls. For dinner, chef Meir Adoni of Lumina in the luxe Carlton Hotel pairs fish, veal and lamb dishes with intriguing sauces.

#### STAY

Chris Noth (Mr. Big on *Sex and the City*) was among the first guests of The Jaffa (2), a 120-room hotel combining a renovated 19th-century, neo-Roman hospital and monastery with a new modern building. Its lofty ceilings, arched colonnades, stone walls and remnants of a 13th-century Crusader's wall have guests literally walking through history. The Vera, a 39-room hip boutique hotel, boasts organic skin-care products from a nearby kibbutz and a refreshing cocktail upon check-in.

#### INDULGE

After a yoga session on the roof of City Hall (3), get stylish at Kikar Hamedina, a circular street brimming with designer labels from Prada to Gucci. Later, unwind at The Jaffa's L. Raphael Spa for an anti-aging Diamond Oxy-Peel infusing oxygen, omega 3, vitamins and pure lecithin to leave skin feeling firm and smooth. **H**



#### What To Pack



**PÜR** Out of the Blue  
Light Up High Shine Lip  
Gloss in Dream, \$24,  
[beautyboutique.ca](http://beautyboutique.ca)

Icon Azalea Reptile  
Sandal in Agave,  
\$45, [malvados.ca](http://malvados.ca)

Striped Cotton  
Dress With  
Knot, \$179,  
[massimodutti.com](http://massimodutti.com)

**TRIP TIPS:** Bring a blanket (or a surfboard!) and catch some rays – the city offers 318 days of sun and 14 km of beach • Bicycle and electric scooter rentals make getting around fast and easy • Pack a picnic and head to enormous Ganei Yehoshua Park to commune with nature and then catch a show (Bon Jovi on July 25; Jennifer Lopez on Aug. 1) • Furry fun fact: The city has the highest amount of dogs per capita, with one dog for every 17 residents and 70 public dog parks!