



Dear conference participants,

This is a very detailed information sheet that is meant to offer information and advice, designed to facilitate the planning of travel and stay in Israel for the RS&PS conference. Please read it thoroughly before you fill out the registration form.

Safety

1. Many people ask us about safety in Israel. We all know that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not yet been resolved. In the last few years, however, there has been no violence anywhere in Israel as a result of that conflict. Haifa, specifically, is a mixed Arab-Jewish city. Thirty percent of the University's student body is comprised of Arab students. It is absolutely safe to walk the streets of Haifa, even at night. At the University gates, as well as at the gates of all the buildings within the campus, there are security guards who check all that enter the premises. This is an interesting ritual that is an integral part of Israeli culture.

Registration

1. The conference registration fee is \$150.00 U.S. if paid by November 30, 2010. After that date, between December 1st – 19th, the fee will amount to \$200.00. The registration fee will cover the cost of the opening reception, a dinner in a Druze village near Haifa, the four performances and the field trip to Acco.
2. Students, who wish to attend the conference lectures only, are welcome to do so for free. For performances presented during the conference, student tickets will be sold for 30.00 NIS per performance. Students who wish to register, receive the conference folder and attend the performances, will be charged 150.00 NIS for the entire conference, or 50.00 NIS per day of attendance.

Travel

1. All international flights arrive in Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv. We advise you to book your flights as soon as possible because flights to Israel, especially during the month of December, tend to be fully booked. In addition, when searching for flight information, you will find that most flights from Europe to a Tel Aviv are direct flights. From other countries, search for either direct flights or flights through connecting airports.
2. From Ben Gurion Airport, there are three options for ground transportation to Haifa.
 - a. Service Cab (Sherut, in Hebrew). These large vans wait directly outside the terminal, by the main exit. You should look for the cabs to Haifa. The cab will take you from the entrance of the airport directly to the hotel. The fare, as of August, is 68.00 NIS per passenger. You should know that the cab drivers will generally wait for the entire cab to be filled. If you are arriving on a large, full flight, this should not require a very long wait. Either way, the cab driver is allowed to wait



- for passengers for a full hour after the arrival of the first passenger but not any longer. You are allowed to require that he depart after that hour. We highly suggest this option of transportation. It is both the cheapest and the easiest mode of transportation.
- b. Train- Trains leave regularly from Ben Gurion Airport to Haifa. The ride takes about an hour and half. The fare is approximately 38.00 NIS. You should get off the train at Haifa Hof HaCarmel (the first Haifa station). Cabs are waiting at the train station and the fare to the hotel is approximately 50 shekels. Make sure the driver turns on the meter. Israel Railways Link- <http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>
 - c. Special Cab – As with Service Cabs, special cabs will be waiting outside the exits of the terminal. The fare for the ride to Haifa will be between 400-500 NIS. In addition, the University can order you a cab for the discounted price of approximately 350 NIS. You can request that we do so on the registration form. If you arrive with a few other conference participants, this might be a feasible option for you, though it is the most expensive.
3. Planning Your Trip- If this is your first time in Israel, we advise you to stay here a few extra days prior to- or past the conference. Israel is packed with attractions; however, since the country is small, it does not take too long to visit most of them. As a part of the conference, we will be traveling to Acco for one day, and there is an optional trip to Jerusalem on the December 24th, which includes a Christmas midnight mass in one of the churches. We recommend at least one more day for further exploration in Jerusalem, as well as a few days to visit the Dead Sea and Massada in the south, Tel Aviv in the center of Israel and the Sea of Galilee in the north.
 4. Trip to Jerusalem- The trip is optional and will cost an additional payment. The fee will be determined according to the number of people who register. Please fill out and return the registration form as soon as possible so that we may save you a place in the Christmas Mass.
 5. Accommodations- the University of Haifa has booked 20 rooms for conference participants at the Nof Hotel (see link below). The rooms are double rooms for single participants. If you would like to share a double room with other participants, please mention this on the registration form and we will assist you in finding a partner for accommodations. The "Superior" rooms we have booked for the participants are on the higher floors of the hotel, providing a breathtaking view of Haifa. The University has booked these rooms for a special price offered exclusively to the University. The price for a single occupant is \$77.00 US and for two occupants the price is \$91.00 US. Of course, there are other hotels in Haifa. Below is a full list of relevant hotels. The prices listed are special rates for University of Haifa. Let us know in which hotel you would like to stay and we shall book the room for you. Hotel Nof is located in the Carmel Center, a bustling center of Haifa with restaurants, cafes, pubs and other attractions. The University of Haifa is only 20 minutes away. The other hotels on the list are also at the same approximate distance from the University and the Carmel Center.
Nof Hotel Link- <http://nofhotel.co.il/en/>



6. Transportation from the hotel to the University- The University of Haifa will provide and pay for transportation by cab once a day, in the morning, for the conference participants. The cabs will leave from Nof Hotel and, if necessary, pass by other hotels to pick up participants.

The Jerusalem Fieldtrip

1. We will leave for Jerusalem from Haifa early in the morning on December 24th. The trip will last the entire day and conclude in a midnight mass in one of the churches in Jerusalem.
2. Therefore, in the case that you should not wish to fly from Jerusalem that night, you should reserve hotel accommodations in Jerusalem for the night of December 24th. Attached is a link to a website that concentrates most of the hotels in Jerusalem. You may find a hotel that is most suited to your needs. <http://www.jerusalemhotelsinisrael.com/> Please book a room as soon as possible. Christmas time in Jerusalem is a very busy time of year and hotels fill up quickly.
3. Transportation from Jerusalem to the airport is rather simple. You may either take a bus, a special cab, or a service cab of the kind that we suggested as transportation from the airport to Haifa on your arrival. In the event that you chose to join the trip to Jerusalem and wish to travel from there to the airport, we will assist you during the conference to choose your preferred mode of transportation and receive all the necessary information to arrive simply and safely to the airport.



Hotels in Haifa, as of 30/08/2010

At all Israeli hotels, there will be an additional tax added to the price below. These prices do not include holiday prices. The prices may rise slightly in the upcoming months.

Dan Carmel Hotel:

\$130 US per night/single; \$175 US per night/ double

<http://www.danhotels.com/Deluxe-Hotel-Haifa>

Dan Panorama Haifa:

\$120 US per night/single; \$155 US per night/double

<http://www.danhotels.com/Hotel-Haifa>

Dan Gardens Haifa:

\$76 US per night/single; \$91 US per night/double

<http://www.danhotels.com/Moderate-Hotel-Haifa>

Crown Plaza Haifa:

\$145 US per night/single; \$175 per night/double

[http://www.afi-hotels.com/Crowne Plaza Haifa](http://www.afi-hotels.com/Crowne_Plaza_Haifa)

Nof Hotel (up to 31/12/2010):

Standard Room (floors 1-3, 5) - \$60 US per night/single; \$70 US per night/double

Superior Room (floors 4, 6-7) - \$77 US per night/single; \$91 US per night/double

Nof Hotel (from 01/01/2010):

Standard Room (floors 1-3, 5) - \$68 US per night/single; \$80 US per night/double

Superior Room (floors 4, 6-7) - \$77 US per night/single; \$91 US per night/double

<http://nofhotel.co.il/en/>

Mount Carmel Hotel:

\$85 US per night/single; \$130 US per night/double

(No Available English Link)

Beth-Shalom Hotel:

\$80 US per night/single; \$100 US per night/double

<http://www.beth-shalom.co.il/>

Villa Carmel Boutique Hotel:

\$120 US per night/single; \$135 US per night/double

<http://www.villacarmel.co.il/?categoryId=35888>